

Cedar Park Neighbors Newsletter



President's Message: **Back to Business**

**By Monica Allison,
President, Cedar Park Neighbors**

Happy New Year, everyone! I hope that you enjoyed your holiday season with family and friends. Sadly, it doesn't last long — and we are back to business.

In December, we held our community meeting which focused on the 50th anniversary of Cedar Park Neighbors (CPN) and the 100th anniversary of Cedar Park itself. We discussed several ideas for a year of celebration beginning in the fall of 2010. There's still time to get involved! We need the input of the entire community. We need your pictures. We need your stories. We need trivia. This is an opportunity for everyone to have a share in something special. Feel free to submit ideas on how we can celebrate these two anniversaries to any of the board members. Send an email, drop off a letter, or leave a message. I am excited about reviewing your ideas.

Also, in December, we had our Holiday Basket event. Thanks to Victoria Iannotta, Joanne Pham and many volunteers, Cedar Park Neighbors was able to

provide baskets for nearly 150 families. (See article on page 3.)

Looking ahead, we are very excited about bringing together community residents, businesses and organizations for a conversation about Baltimore Avenue between 49th and 52nd Streets. We hope many of you will participate. You can read more about this community conversation in this newsletter. You can also help the project by returning the important questionnaire included as an insert. We want to know what you are thinking.

In January, we lost one of the major icons of the Philadelphia political scene, Senator Hardy Williams. We offer our condolences to his family. Senator Hardy Williams not only helped to shape the political landscape of Philadelphia but he also had a way with the youth in his community. I went to school not far from his home. He was always mentoring and guiding the youth of Philadelphia. He will be missed.

Check out our new and improved website, patronize the businesses in our neighborhood, and remember:

There is always something good happening in Cedar Park!

Register, Recycle, Reap Rewards: How To Earn Points That Can Be Redeemed at Local and National Retailers or Donated to Nonprofits

Five years after the launch of the RecycleBank pilot in Philadelphia, the city has announced a full launch of the Philadelphia Recycling Rewards program in partnership with RecycleBank. This victory is due in large part to the efforts of the 13,000 residents who signed the RecycleNOW petition during the Mayor's race urging for recycling improvements. Give yourself a pat on the back!

Based on the total amount of recyclable materials collected in their neighborhood, residents will earn points that can be

redeemed to use at local and national retailers, or donated to nonprofits. This encourages residents to urge their neighbors to recycle as well. Residents can also earn points for trash reduction.

The program will begin in February of 2010 in North Philadelphia, and will roll out in an additional section of the city each month, making the program citywide by July. Residents can sign up at www.phillyrecyclingpays.com/ and register to receive a sticker to be placed on any bin. You can help by encouraging your friends and neighbors to sign up today!



Help Us Brew Some Fun! 3rd Annual Fundraiser for Cedar Park Scholarships

**Laura McHugh,
Scholarship Committee Chair**

Join the Cedar Park Neighbors Scholarship Committee as we brew up fun at DOCK STREET in support of our 3rd Annual Fundraiser for Youth Scholarships in Cedar Park!

Looking for something fun to do on a cold March afternoon? Grab your friends and family and join your Cedar Park neighbors at our 3rd annual scholarships fundraiser — at Dock Street Brewery and Restaurant, 701 S. 50th Street (at Baltimore Avenue) on **Sunday, March 7, 2010 from 4 to 7 p.m.!** Tickets for this special event are just \$35 and admission includes all you can eat pizza and all you can drink beer from 4-6 p.m. Then, there will be a cash bar for one hour, from 6-7 p.m.

Our now annual fundraiser helps raise money every year to offer local students financial assistance to further their education after high school. Scholarships are awarded yearly to high school graduates who live in the Cedar Park neighborhood and who have been accepted to an institution of higher education.

Over the last 21 years, CPN has provided scholarships to local students to help defray the cost of books, fees, travel, or other needs. Established in 1988, the CPN Scholarship Program has made 116 awards for a total of \$58,100 to more than 51 young neighbors. Scholarships for the 2010-2011 college academic year will amount to approximately \$600/student. Scholarships are renewable from year to year.

In addition to refreshments and entertainment, there will be a silent auction and a 50/50 drawing. This year's silent auction items include tickets to Philadelphia area attractions, certificates to local businesses and restaurants, and other fun, desirable items. Come to help others and you may go away an even bigger winner!

CPN is a volunteer-driven organization. We must raise additional funds each year in order to continue the operation of our Scholarship Program. We need your help to support our young people today!

For more information or to purchase tickets in advance please contact Laurie Friedman at lauriefr@msn.com or 215-747-1910. Hope to see you there!

Cedar Park Centennial; Cedar Park Neighbors Semi-Centennial: **How to Celebrate?**



We are getting ready to mark some significant milestones. Cedar Park Neighbors will celebrate 50 years of community advocacy this year in 2010. Our community green space and namesake, Cedar Park, will turn 100 in 2011. Preliminary ideas for anniversary activities were discussed at a recent membership

meeting. A committee is needed to take these ideas forward. If you would like to get involved in this short-term CPN project by contributing your interests and talents, let us know. Please contact President Monica Allison at 267-531-4147 or contact@cedarparkneighbors.org as soon as possible.

**Cedar Park as it
appeared in 1934**

Cheer Delivered: Holiday Baskets Reach Increasing Numbers of Families in Need

Victoria Iannotta, Holiday Baskets Co-Chair

Saturday, December 19, 2009 marked two important events in Philadelphia: what *was* the second biggest snowstorm in our city's history and the annual distribution of Cedar Park Neighbors holiday baskets.

On Friday, the weather prediction for the following day was very bleak. The optimist in me kept hoping that the forecasters were mistaken or that somehow the snowstorm would magically bypass Springfield Avenue in the morning. We needed at least three hours to pack and distribute our 148 holiday food baskets, ideally without the help of a fire truck or reindeer. By 6 a.m., however, the optimist had been replaced by the worrier. I watched Cedar Avenue disappear in a blurry haze of snow. I knew we were facing a challenging morning.

Thankfully, I am blessed with a project partner who is able to maintain an enviable sense of calm in the face of apparent disaster. As I contemplated how we were going to pack 148 baskets on our own, Joanne Pham assured me that everything would be fine. Of course, she was right.

Exactly at 9 a.m., our first two volunteers, Cindy and Sophia, arrived. Soon, they were followed by two others, then four, then six, and more. So many generous members of our community left the warmth of their homes to help us pack the food. So many, in fact, that we finished our task a half hour earlier than expected.

At 11 a.m., right on schedule, the first representative from the organizations we support arrived to collect the baskets, and as the day progressed, everything was distributed despite the weather and my

worrying. It was a morning that made us very proud to be part of such a giving and compassionate community of people. In my opinion, it was one of Cedar Park's finest hours.

To every volunteer who braved the weather to help others, Joanne and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts. We also thank the representatives of our sponsored organizations who, themselves, defied the storm to pick up the baskets so that those in need would have a holiday meal. A special note of appreciation goes to the Philadelphia Credit Union, Trader Joe's, ShopRite, Fresh Grocer, Senator Anthony Williams and Yaya, fruit and vegetable vendor extraordinaire, for their generous donations.

We thank every single person who donated to the project and would like to let you know that you fed 637 of your neighbors this Christmas.

The snow of that day has since been surpassed by what is now the second largest snowfall in Philadelphia's history, and Christmas has come and gone, but the kindness and good that was demonstrated by our community is a gift that will be remembered throughout the year.



**Volunteers help to pack
148 Holiday Baskets for
Families in Need.**

Campaign for Working Families Free Tax Sites

Each year the Campaign for Working Families operates free tax sites throughout the city. The following tax sites will be open from January 25th to April 15th. You can access information about their tax sites by dialing the city's Informational phone line at 311.

The Campaign files both federal and PA state income taxes for working families.

Ebenezer Temple Community Center

5552 Baltimore Avenue
Monday & Tuesday 3:30-6:30 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Mt. Pisgah Church

428 N. 41st Street (at Spring Garden Street)
Monday 2-7 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Wheelchair Accessible

Let's Have a Conversation... CPN Launches Baltimore Visioning Project

Maureen Tate, Property Housing Task Force

CPN is proposing a conversation about Baltimore Avenue between 49th and 52nd Streets, and we hope you'll participate. We have been working hard with others on neighborhood improvements. We now have an opportunity to revitalize this once vibrant center of community and economic life for Cedar Park. Are you interested? Many local businesses, churches and organizations have already been contacted and will participate.

CPN submitted a proposal to the Community Design Collaborative, a volunteer-based community design center that provides *pro bono* preliminary design services to nonprofit organizations. We are pleased the Collaborative will work with us, listening to community residents, businesses and organizations about what we would like to see on Baltimore Avenue between 49th and 52nd Streets. The Collaborative provides a team of architects and planners who will listen to input from the community in order to generate a consensus on priorities for improvements for these three blocks. Then they will develop these ideas into preliminary designs which are brought back to the community for further review and discussion. The Collaborative previously worked with neighbors in a similar process to develop a design for the newly renovated Cedar Park at 50th Street, which is once again a much-enjoyed community green space.

The Process

There will be an information meeting, two open community workshops and a final presentation of results. CPN volunteers are actively reaching out to the community, inviting broad participation of businesses, organizations and residents in the vicinity of the target area. CPN is also circulating a Baltimore Avenue Visioning Questionnaire to get further community input. The Collaborative team will listen to ideas from neighbors, business and organizations, then take our ideas and produce a set of conceptual designs. The designs are only for the purpose of envisioning and clarifying possibilities, imagining what could be. These designs could involve ideas for new businesses, use of vacant land, housing, streetscape or other thoughts that come

from participants. This is only a listening process. There are no investors or funding sources to implement the concept design that we come up with. However, once neighbors get talking, there may be interest in forming a group to make some parts of the community's vision a reality. If there is wide agreement on the concept design, the plans can be used in a variety of ways to generate interest for further public and/or private investments.

We Invite Your Participation In This Creative Visioning Process.

What are we asking of you? Participate in one information meeting and two community workshops.

Fill out the Questionnaire insert and return it to one of the named locations by February 15th. Provide contact information so we can keep you informed.

Begin talking now with neighbors about what you imagine as improvements to these three blocks — the buildings, the land, stores, streetscape, etc.

Meeting Timeline:

All meetings will be held at Peoples Baptist Church, 5039 Baltimore Avenue.

Wednesday, February 10th, 7 p.m.

Information Meeting about process.

Sign-up for community workshops.

Wednesday, February 24th, 7 p.m. OR

Saturday, February 27th, 10 a.m.

First Community Workshop

Voice your hopes and concerns to the Community Design Collaborative. This is the time and place for your voice to be heard.

Wednesday, April 21st, 7 p.m. OR

Saturday, April 24th, 10 a.m.

Second Community Workshop

The Collaborative will present their draft design(s) for comments and feedback.

June/July dates TBA

The Collaborative will write a final report. CPN will host a community presentation.

Join us on Facebook or sign up for our email list at www.cedarparkneighbors.org to be kept informed of upcoming dates.

For more information, contact: Monica Allison, Cedar Park Neighbors at 267-531-4147 or contact@cedarparkneighbors.org

Go West: (One Block West, That Is) Mariposa Food Co-op to Expand in New Location

Daniel Flaumenhaft
Convener, Mariposa Food Co-op

Mariposa Food Co-op's shopper-owned grocery store has operated out of a tiny storefront at 4726 Baltimore Avenue for more than 35 years, and it has grown — from a weekly buying club of a few dozen people to a storefront open seven days a week serving more than 700 households.

Two years ago, lack of space forced the co-op to start a waiting list for new members. Supported by strong member interest in a larger space, indicated in a member survey and recommendations from the Wharton Small Business Development Center, Mariposa began seeking a larger building that would enable them to continue to build cooperative economic democracy and improve access to healthy, local, sustainable food in West Philadelphia.

In December 2009, Mariposa signed an agreement of sale for Beulah Tabernacle's former bank building at 4824 Baltimore. This site, almost five times the size of the current location, will enable Mariposa to:

- accept every household now on the waiting list
- actively recruit new members for the first time in their history
- expand guest shopping for non-members.
- place larger orders and operate more efficiently, allowing lower prices and reduced or eliminated member work requirements
- host community gatherings, workshops, classes, seminars related to our mission

While part of the cost of the move will come from the sale of the current building, from current members, and from grants, many of the costs must be financed. While increased sales should be more than enough to pay back debt, the more community support received, the sooner the move will happen. For more information on how to make a loan or donation, please contact Financial Manager, Dan Ohlemiller, at finance@mariposa.coop or 215-729-2121.

More about Mariposa: www.mariposa.coop

More about the expansion project:
www.mariposa.coop/growth.

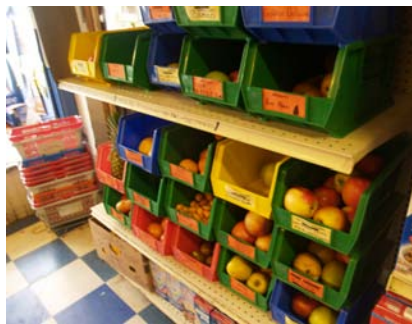
Contact author Daniel Flaumenhaft at:
daniel@philadelphia.coop



Current storefront



Storefront-to-be!



Current cramped quarters



Is moving westward to wide-open spaces in the picture? Bank on it!

It's Your Neighborhood — **Jump in!**

CPN Seeking Nominees to Serve on Board

The Cedar Park Neighbors Board is a group of volunteers committed to making sure that our neighborhood remains a great place to live and work. We are looking for nominations of great neighbors to join in! Come to our next Board Meeting on February 22nd to find out what it's all about or email contact@cedarparkneighbors.org for more information.

UNIVERSITY CITY DINING

A thriving nexus of international cuisine, University City is one of the most adventurous dining destinations in Philadelphia. Here, you can experience the best in Thai, West African, Laotian, Mexican, Indian cuisines, and much more. From intimate BYOBs and posh nightspots to romantic sidewalk cafes and inexpensive eateries, the neighborhood's dining scene features a marvelous representation of ethnicities and experiences.

The New York Times ¹



Dock Street Brewery and Restaurant
701 South 50th Street, 215-726-2337

"Local flavor is the drive behind Dock Street Brewery and Restaurant." Located in "a former firehouse, it draws counterculture types and students from the University of Pennsylvania with esoteric drafts like Man Full of Trouble Porter, named for the city's only extant colonial tavern."



3025 Walnut Street ²
215-222-1400

A recipient of *Philadelphia Magazine's* Best of Philly™ award, World Cafe Live has introduced us to many internationally-acclaimed artists. Come for the entertainment and stay for the food! Simply put, this is the place where the "music cooks and the food rocks!"

DISTRITO

Mexican tapas



3 ³ 3945 Chestnut Street, 215-222-1657

"I wanted to be in a neighborhood that is full of life, youthful exuberance and is still respectful of the many lessons we can learn from each others' cultures. University City was the clear choice, and it has been a wonderfully welcoming home."

— Iron Chef Jose Garces, Distrito

MIDATLANTIC

RESTAURANT & Tap Room

⁵

3711 Market Street 215-386-3711

Urban and Rustic. Past and Present. Tradition and Renewal. This is the essence of MidAtlantic, Chef

Daniel Stern's latest culinary surprise. MidAtlantic celebrates the best of what was and what is to come, with a focus on reinterpreting the roots of traditional Philadelphia foods and Pennsylvania Dutch flavors.

Ethnic Cornucopia: Baltimore Avenue Dining ⁴

"There's only one place in Philly where you can travel to Ethiopia, Vietnam, Laos and India, drink fair-trade coffee and local beer and catch a jam session, all in the scope of seven blocks. That place is Baltimore Avenue in Cedar Park, a neighborhood on the west side of University City in West Philly."

⁶ Pod

3636 Sansom Street, 215-387-1803

"A sleek and extraordinary Asian-fusion restaurant owned by the trendsetting Stephen Starr," said Martha Stewart on a recent visit to the restaurant.

Originally founded by Judy Wicks, recipient of the James Beard Foundation Humanitarian of the Year award and one of *Oprah Magazine's* "5 Amazingly Gifted and Giving Food Professionals," the White Dog Cafe is still known for its unusual blend of award-winning cuisine and social activism.



4333 Spruce Street, 215-222-BEER
Extensive draught beers from around the world alongside delicious pub-grub menu items.



university city district®

3940 Chestnut Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215.243.0555
www.universitycity.org



Cedar Park Neighbors Membership Application/Renewal



New Member
 Renewal
 Multi-year (max. 3 years)
of years _____

\$10 Individual
 \$15 Household (2 persons or more)
 \$ 7 Senior/Student/Unemployed
 \$30 Business
 \$40 Sponsor (one free CPN t-shirt!)

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

Additional contribution: (Write \$ amount)

_____ Holiday baskets
_____ Scholarships
_____ Jazz Series
_____ Other, specify _____

- 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 contact@cedarparkneighbors.org
Website www.cedarparkneighbors.org
Phone 267-531-4147

CPN t-shirt: (Write \$ amount if not Sponsor and circle size)

_____ Short Sleeve Adult S, M, L, XL,
2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL, 6XL (\$15)
_____ Short Sleeve Kids S, M, L, XL (\$15)
_____ Long Sleeve Adult S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL (\$20)

Return form with check to:

Cedar Park Neighbors
Calvary Community Center
4740 Baltimore Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19143

_____ **TOTAL ENCLOSED**

Check your areas of interest for potential participation:

- Block Organizing:** Maintain list of Block Leaders, organize forums etc.
- Block Improvement Grants Committee:** Review applications, help awardees implement projects etc.
- Board of Directors:** CPN leadership and decision-making body.
- Cedar Park Fair:** Publicity, children's activities, vendors, entertainment, etc.
- Cedar Park Garden Tenders:** Plant and maintain gardens at Cedar Park.
- Clean-up Committee:** Promote participation in block clean-up days and Tire Round-up.
- Education Committee:** Interaction with local schools and parents on issues.
- Fundraising:** Special events, grant writing.
- Holiday Baskets:** Coordinate and assist distribution to needy Cedar Park families.
- Hospitality:** Provide refreshments for community meetings and special events.
- Membership Committee:** Promote membership to residents and businesses.
- Newsletter:** Writing, publishing, photography, distribution.
- Property/Housing Task Force:** Strategize/respond to issues of deteriorated property.
- Scholarship Committee:** Raise funds, promote program, and select awardees.
- Website:** Technical support, maintenance, updating info/pictures etc.
- Zoning Committee:** Monitor & communicate issues to residents; appear before Zoning Board of Adjustment, coordinate meetings.



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

Maureen Tate & Judy Lamirand

Newsletter Design

Judy Lamirand, Parallel Design

To Contact Cedar Park Neighbors or submit Newsletter items:
contact@cedarparkneighbors.org
www.cedarparkneighbors.org
267-531-4147

Fill Out and Return the Enclosed Questionnaire!

We need to hear from you! Your opinion matters.



What would YOU Like Baltimore Avenue from 49th to 52nd Streets to look like? Speak up!

- **What would you like to see?**
- **What would you NOT like to see?**
- **Residential use?**
- **Row homes or multistory?**
- **Small businesses?**
- **Large chain store?**
- **Mixed use – stores with housing above?**



SAVE THE DATE!	
Thursday, March 23	CPN Meet & Greet 6–8pm Elena’s Soul Showcase 4912 Baltimore Avenue Cash bar with Appetizers and blues band.

CPN Board

President

Monica Allison

1st Vice-President

Naomi Fiordimondo

2nd Vice-President

Sean Dorn

Secretary

Dorothy Welch Berling

Treasurer

Karen Allen

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