

BELLA VISTA NEWS

SPRING/SUMMER 2021

BELLA VISTA NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

a Registered Community Organization

Bella Vista Neighbors Association (BVNA) serves residents of Bella Vista, which is bounded by 6th and 11th 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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WE LOVE LOCAL

By Terry Marchetti

2020 was a year of struggle and survival for many small businesses. Not only do these businesses provide local revenue and jobs, they're also critical to making our community a great place to live. BVNA will be featuring an ongoing series highlighting small businesses in our community. This edition focuses on new women-owned businesses to Bella Vista. BVNA sat down with each of these business owners to learn about their business, what brought them to Bella Vista, and what it's like to be a female running a small business.

Biederman's Specialty Foods

Lauren Biederman sat on the floor in the middle of her empty store planning her

vision. Opening a business during a pandemic is risky, opening a store on a calculated whim is even more so. Within a matter of weeks, she went from waiting tables and bartending to creating a vision and signing a lease for her business.

Lauren moved to Philadelphia four years ago, also on a whim. She was visiting her brother and signed a lease that same visit. She never dreamed of being an entrepreneur, choosing to study Spanish Literature and International Relations in college. The pandemic created an opportunity for Lauren to refocus her energy into filling one of Philly's gaps, a store providing the comforts of Jewish food and traditions.

See **SHOP LOCAL**, page 2

#LITTERFREEBV

By Ali Perelman

Bella Vista Neighbors Association is thrilled to announce the belated launch of #LitterFreeBV, our renamed (well, named) neighborhood-powered sidewalk and curb sweeping program.

Bella Vista sidewalk sweeping rolled out in April of 2018. Since then, we've swept 300 miles, filled over 3500, 40-gallon bags with litter, and removed 45 tons—yes, tons—of garbage from our neighborhood streets.

Along with our partners at Acam, we're excited to share that #LitterFreeBV was able to sweep at least once every month of 2020. We had monthly sweeps in January, February, and March, and swept weekly or every-other week April through mid-December. This was a first for our neighborhood program, and it's a testament to our community that we were able to stretch our goals during an incredibly challenging time.

Today, we're in our fourth year of sidewalk sweeping. We kicked off our sweeping program at April's citywide Spring Cleanup, and hope to match the sweeping benchmarks that we set last year. In order to do this, we'll

need the continued support of our generous contributors. If you'd like to help us maintain a #LitterFreeBV, please donate online or via a check (see page 12).



Look for Litter Free BV posters throughout the neighborhood, designed by local artist Martha Rich. To get a poster, email info@bellavistaneighbors.org

SHOP LOCAL, continued from page 1

When deciding where to open shop, Lauren felt Bella Vista was most fitting, noting, "tradition and family are long standing practices in the Italian Market." Strategically located on Christian St., between 8th and 9th St, Biederman's offers a variety of smoked salmon, tuna, caviar, pickles, olives, Jewish bagels, and other items.

Biederman's instincts were spot on. Her energy and drive are incredibly inspiring and several weeks after opening, business is doing well. She's selling out her weekend brunch boards days in advance



and there's often a line of people outside the shop.

When asked about her keys to success, she listed a couple of things, "ask a lot of questions, trust your instincts and rely on your resources." Another bit of advice she had for women entrepreneurs was "learn how to use power tools." Outside of the electrical and plumbing, Lauren was her own contractor assembling cabinets, doing the tile work, and creating her design. Regarding the future, Biederman is working on a slight store reconfiguration that will allow her to offer even more delicious options as well as adding online ordering.

The Pet Snobs Boutique

Interviewing Dara and Jaci, the owners of The Pet Snobs Boutique, I was somewhat distracted by the adorable freshly groomed dogs. A desired dog owner but self-proclaimed cat lady myself, I recognize the responsibility the staff of the Pet Snobs Boutique have, caring for members of our family.

Dara and Jaci met while working in the industry. Although neither had previous business experience, they were inspired to do things differently, so they went into business together and opened their Boutique. To expand their business and tap into new clientele, they moved from Queen Village to 9th Street in Bella Vista.

The Pet Snobs Boutique provides grooming services for dogs and cats as well as high quality food and products.

Both Dara and Jaci work in a male dominated industry. When asked about challenges they said, "things are getting better, but we were often ignored." As a result, they had to fight harder to be heard. Determined to be successful, they focused on finding the right types of partnerships for their business. They also found support in other women owned businesses in the industry.

Dara and Jaci have worked through other challenges. The construction of their shop was delayed heavily due to COVID and finding the right mix of staff was crucial to their success. "Finding the right staff is important. You need a specific type of person that can work well with both people and animals." Meeting some of their all-female staff, you could tell there was a strong family dynamic.

When asked what advice they'd give other female entrepreneurs they said, "ask a lot of questions to a lot of different people." Most of what they learned was by asking for help or through experience. Dara and Jaci are looking forward to continuing to grow their business. They plan to offer additional services including doggie daycare.



Want to get involved in Bella Vista Parks?

Love Your Park Week is May 8-16. Each neighborhood park will host a service day

1. **Cianfrani Park, 8th & Fitzwater St**
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Also, join the Facebook group www.cianfranipark.com
cianfranipark@gmail.com
2. **Palumbo Park, 723 Catharine St**
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3. **Bardascino Park, 10th & Carpenter**
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NEIGHBORHOOD BUSINESSES BOUNCE BACK

By Emily Schulman and Scott Welden

Our beloved neighborhood is partially defined by its thriving yet intimate food and commerce scene. A place where, in just a few steps from your front door, are top-notch meats, cheeses, tacos, dumplings, collard greens, naan, and produce (just to name a few). And when your belly is full, you can find anything else you might desire, from the necessary (like toothpaste) to the unique (like an obscure 1972 CCR record). The pandemic has undoubtedly challenged our neighborhood's vendors, store clerks, and purveyors, and now on the verge of emerging from a cold and snowy winter, we wanted to hear how they had persevered and what they look forward to with the warming temps.

From our sample, clear trends emerged. Of note, is the paramount importance of flexibility for survival; the ability to move from indoor full-service dining to take-out only, to somewhere in between, on a dime. Both Ilisha from Frannie Nicks and Ben from South Philly Barbacoa identified remaining flexible as necessary to their survival this past year. Similarly, stores also found salvation in agility. Molly's Records owner, Joe said they were nervous about closing the store but

quickly switched to an online model, facilitated by Instagram, in which patrons could buy online and pick up through an established partnership with Comfort and Flloyd. Another key to survival has been the continued support of loyal customers who have adapted along with them, Javier of Mole Poblano explained.

Another inspiring trend that emerged is the guttural reaction to give back to the community even with their own businesses in flux. Frannie Nicks, for example, has been cooking up 150 meals a month for kids in the neighborhood, in order to replace meals typically provided by their schools; they hope to continue to keep up this pace. South Philly Barbacoa also contributes to the community by working with Peoples Kitchen, a food security and employment survival project.

Of course, we wanted to know how the community could help. The overwhelming response from neighborhood restaurateurs and business owners was "be a patron;" order, eat, and tell friends. For Molly's, while their customer cadence has been strong, neighbors can help them address their largest problem—supply chain. The influx of used books and records has

slowed through the pandemic, and they kindly request donations of used records and classic literature. Businesses close to the Italian Market acknowledge the helpful pull of shoppers looking for a safer, and often more cost-friendly alternative to area supermarkets for produce. Those south of Washington praised the temporary pedestrian-only setup and hope that will happen again. The anticipation of warmer temperatures and the vaccine offers a sense of hope among businesses for the near future.

Special thank you to those neighborhood establishments who contributed to this article. Please help us to thank them by following them on Instagram, and most importantly, being a patron.

Molly's Records

@mollysbooksandrecords
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Frannie Nicks
@frannienicks
824 S 8th St

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1144 S 9th St

South Philly Barbacoa
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1140 S 9th St

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OUR EVER-IMPORTANT PUBLIC SPACES

By Eugene Desyatnik and Claudia Archer

Bella Vista visitors and neighbors of all ages have always cherished our public spaces, but the pandemic has elevated them to even greater importance. Whether it's gathering with neighbors for a masked distanced chat on the bench; or catching up with school friends on the playground after a day of virtual learning, or unfurling a picnic blanket to enjoy takeout from a local restaurant; from dogs to frisbees to cartwheels; from area preschools enjoying some safe outdoor play; and even the occasional pop-up fitness or musical performance—our parks and recreation center have truly helped us stay active, reconnect with friends, and support local businesses in ever-important ways.

Behind the scenes, our parks are maintained primarily by volunteer groups. This year, due to COVID-19 pandemic-related budget cuts, some parks have lost their seasonal maintenance assistants, and all parks have had to do without the typical city and grant financial support for programming and operating expenses. At the same time, signature events which typically provide park groups with an opportunity to connect with new members, have been curtailed due to the necessary safety restrictions.

Yet park maintenance needs have only increased, along with the number of users. From pruning trees, painting over graffiti,

picking up trash, bagging and recycling leaves, installing signs, watering plants, and fundraising for larger repairs and renovations—the Friends of Parks groups have tried to rise to the challenge of bridging the gap between what the city can provide, and what a healthy, vibrant public space needs.

Our three Friends of Parks groups, Bardascino, Cianfrani, and Palumbo Parks, welcome your support, whether volunteer or financial. Join the mailing list, become a member, come out to a cleanup, so we can all continue to enjoy our public spaces for many years to come.







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OUR CIVIC IS DOING MORE FOR THE COMMUNITY

By Ali Perelman

Over the past six years, BVNA has weathered some challenging storms with the pandemic proving to be especially difficult. But looking back on the last year, we can see all the ways our neighbors stepped up to take care of one another. Likewise, BVNA was committed to being a resource to our neighborhood's residents, businesses, and community groups. Everything looked different, but the spirit remained the same! Since it's been a little while, we thought it might be helpful to "reintroduce" BVNA and the way our association impacts the Bella Vista neighborhood and our community.

History. BVNA was founded in 1992 as the Bella Vista Town Watch, an all-volunteer effort to address crime rates, blight, and the lack of basic city services. The Town Watch ran active patrols, undertook neighborhood improvement projects, and generally worked to make our neighborhood a safer place to live, work, and visit.

Over time, the concerns of the Bella Vista neighborhood changed; in 2014, the organization was reconstituted as a neighborhood civic organization and renamed Bella Vista Neighbors Association. Our mission continues to evolve to better serve the Bella Vista community.

Organization. BVNA serves the community principally through the work of the all-volunteer board of directors and its seven standing committees. Most of our work happens in our committees: Beautification, Communication, Events (aka Bella Vista Social Club), Historic Preservation, Public Safety, Transportation, and Zoning.

The board meets monthly to discuss ongoing projects and emergent issues, with a focus on the work done at the committee level. Some neighbors might not know that our board meetings are open to the public; feel free to attend (or "attend," as it may be) a BVNA board meeting!

Activities. The board coordinates a number of annual events, most notably pumpkin painting and pumpkin carving, night at the Phillies, our annual membership meeting, pottery painting, as well as bi-annual classical music concerts in neighbors' homes and nonpartisan candidate forums. We're already planning fun and safe ways for neighbors to reconnect in the not-too-distant future.

Additionally, BVNA hosts general meetings on topics of relevance and interest to the Bella Vista community. Information about board, committee, and general meetings can be found on our website (<http://www.bellavistanighbors.org/>) and Facebook page. Helpfully, both platforms also provide information about events hosted by other neighborhood groups.

Most of our work happens in our committees, all of which made a significant impact in 2019.

Our **Beautification Committee** focused on funding and administering our neighborhood-powered curb and sidewalk sweeping program, please see the #LitterFreeBV article on page 1. There's a lot to celebrate, but our biggest accomplishment

in 2019 was clearing over 16.44 tons (yes, 16.44 actual tons!) of litter from Bella Vista's curbs and sidewalks. The committee also coordinated the annual Spring Cleanup, conducted monthly cleanups in the summer months, and co-hosted workshops on relevant topics, such as protecting our trees from Spotted Lanternflies.

The **Communications Committee** produced a weekly email newsletter and zoning notice email blasts. (nb. You can sign-up for our emails on the BVNA website!) The committee also updated our website content, created dozens of social media posts, and hung posters for special events. The Communication Committee also published three print newsletters—our bi-annual newsletter plus the special edition Green Issue—which were delivered by volunteers to every household and business in the neighborhood. Both the email and print newsletters were sponsored by local businesses, making these publications a source of income for BVNA.

Our **Events Committee**, also known as BV Social, has held 15 Happy Hour events since January 2018. These events filled our neighborhood restaurants and bars to capacity, and most were generously sponsored by local businesses like Al Zaytouna, Philly Home Connection, Philly Foodworks, and Hale & True, as well as local breweries such as Flying Fish and Yards. To make the most of these popular events, proceeds from our Happy Hours have gone toward fundraising efforts for groups like The Rescue Express, our sidewalk cleaning initiative, Women Against Abuse, and Families Behind the Badge.

The **Historic Preservation Committee** is our newest committee, having come online in 2019. The focus of the committee is recognizing historically and culturally significant locations in our neighborhood. We have recently begun featuring "Property of the Month" articles on social media which provide historical summaries of local buildings. Our committee meets monthly and has several plans and ideas coming! Please read more about our historic preservation efforts and one of the featured sites on page 8. Also, keep an eye on the BVNA weekly e-newsletter for updates on meetings and specifics on how to participate.

The **Public Safety Committee** represented BVNA at monthly meetings with police in our Police Service Area, where we served as a liaison between the Police Department and our community. We also represent BVNA at monthly Police District Advisory Committee meetings, where we built ties between our neighborhood and others in the 3rd Police District. The Committee helped organize a National Night Out event, a Halloween event, the annual Police Memorial Bike Ride, a Kids Movie Nights, and an Annual Holiday Party, which included students from Nebinger. See more on page 10.

The **Transportation Committee** has continued to advocate for better infrastructure that made Bella Vista safer and more accessible to navigate, particularly for the most vulnerable road users. The committee, in partnership with schools and other groups, championed the successful installation of new crosswalks and stop signs around our neighborhood schools.

See OUR CIVIC, page 11

LANTERN FLY HUNTING

By Amy Cornelius

Last year, an intrepid group of hunters gathered in Cianfrani Park for a Lantern fly Scrape 'n Learn. The group talked about how to identify egg cases, tricks on how to find them, and received a demonstration of how to scrape them off a tree. Armed with plastic tubes, scraping cards, and take-out container, the group fanned out around the park finding and scraping over 40 egg cases. At 30-40 eggs per case, that is a whopping 1200-1600 lantern flies!

The spotted lanternfly can cause serious damage to local trees, vines, crops, and various types of plants. In addition to damaging trees and affecting quality of life, the spotted lanternfly is a huge threat to the Pennsylvania agriculture industry. We need everyone to protect their properties and their community from this invasive insect. Join the effort to control and prevent the spread of Spotted Lanternfly!

Want to be a Lantern Fly hunter?

Here are some hints for success:

- They lay their eggs on any smooth surface that is near a food source—tree, wall, window, furniture, so keep your eyes open.
- They love Ailanthus trees, Grape vines, Figs, and Maples but they are quite indiscriminate and can be found just about anywhere.
- Look at the underside of the branches or vines (they seem to like to keep the cases dry).
- Look at the lee side of the tree - away from the wind (they seem to want the cases to not dry out).
- Look above the waist line.
- Look in the crooks of the trees.
- The cases will look like rectangular dirt splotches that can be white, silver, greyish, or brownish. Early in the season (late fall, early winter) they will look smooth and elastic like Silly Putty. Later (late winter into April) they will look dry and can be cracked.
- Keeping in mind that the bark needs protecting, gently scrape the cover and the underlying eggs into a container.
- Destroy them by covering them with alcohol or by burning them in a small fire.

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BARDASCINO PARK GETS A NEW SIGN

By David Lukmire



**New Sign
in Bardascino Park**

Friends of Bardascino Park recently installed a new park sign at 10th and Carpenter—well-timed for the arrival of the warm days that draw residents and visitors alike to the park's amply shaded benches. Led by longtime members Carla Puppini and Jon Snyder, Friends of Bardascino Park updated the

sign in December of 2020 with new research and fascinating maps that explain more of the history of the park site and surrounding neighborhood.

Before Bardascino Park opened in 1978 (it is named after Carpenter Street resident and Italian Brass Band founder Giuseppe Bardascino), there was a large four-story building on the site (demolished 1968), then known as Community Hospital, which until 1942 was known as the Philadelphia Italian Hospital. But as the new sign explains, there is more to the story: Snyder's research showed that the building was originally Touro Hall, built in 1891 by the Hebrew Education Society to provide resources for the neighborhood's Jewish community, which included new immigrants who needed language and vocational instruction to participate in Philadelphia's bustling industrial economy. Touro Hall even offered classes in cigar-making. (Perhaps not coincidentally, in the early 1900s the American Cigar Company employed hundreds of people just a few blocks away on Washington Avenue).

Before 1891, Alexander Parker (from whom the Hebrew Education Society purchased the land) operated a well-known botanical garden on (or near) the site of the current park. An 1845 watercolor displayed on the new sign shows a structure that stood near 10th and Carpenter from approximately 1820. As Puppini observed, revealing this complex history was like "peeling back layers of an onion."

The 1875 and 1910 maps on the new, double-sided sign reveal more of the neighborhood's history, including railroads, factories, cemeteries, churches, and other buildings, some of which still stand today.

More information about Bardascino Park, including how to support Friends of Bardascino Park, is available:

- Online: bardascinopark.org,
- Facebook and Instagram: @bardascinopark
- Email: bardparkfriends@gmail.com.

THE CIANFRANI PARK LITTLE RED FREE LIBRARY

By Lauren Burrell

The Friends of Cianfrani Park recently added an enhancement for all neighbors to enjoy, a Little Red Free Library. Please keep best pandemic sanitary practices in mind at all times when handling the books it contains.

What is it? A way to share good things to read—favorite books from your childhood or books you would recommend to friends; books that teach, intrigue, and engage you. All of us can help by keeping this collection stocked with good reading material.

Whose Library is this? It belongs to everybody—neighbors, friends, and all Cianfrani Park visitors.

Take a book: If you see something you'd like to read, take it. You don't have to give a book at the same time.

Share a book when you can: Leave a book in the Little Free Library—but only if there is room.



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BVNA HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMITTEE

By Scott Welden

2020 was a year unlike any other. With the backdrop of a global pandemic, social unrest, and a tumultuous election period, our community was forced to find new and creative ways to conduct business and stay close with our friends, family, and neighbors. From extended alfresco dining and increased use of our public parks, to new outdoor music and theater opportunities and a repurposing of spaces like the DiBruno Brothers lot on 9th Street, our neighborhood's creativity helped us adapt to the challenges of the last year.

The Bella Vista Preservation Committee similarly had to adapt during the pandemic, revamping and rethinking our goals and aspirations for 2020. Plans for walking tours about local abolitionists had to be postponed, while thoughts of trivia nights at local bars were

abandoned. Yet, despite the challenges, the Committee also experienced a number of achievements, the most significant of which was the nomination in June of the Church of the Crucifixion at 8th and Bainbridge to be added to the Philadelphia Register of Historic Places. Built in 1884, the church provided a safe haven and refuge for the local Black community at a time when Bella Vista was ripe with racial discord, poverty, and violence. The building is now preserved and the Committee is working with the diocese to find new ways to re-engage with the space.

The Preservation Committee also continued to produce Property of the Month articles to inform the community of the history all around them and recently developed a self-guided walking tour comprised of some of the most

historically interesting locations in the neighborhood! We are all feeling a bit cooped up these days, so hopefully this walking tour will provide our neighbors with an excuse to get outside and learn more about our neighborhood. The Committee plans to add more properties to the tour in the next few months.

Looking ahead to 2021, the Preservation Committee is planning a "People of Bella Vista" feature that will feature stories from people who live and work in our community. We look forward to launching this project on the Bella Vista website soon, so stay tuned! And, as always, the Committee remains dedicated to highlighting, supporting, and preserving the unique qualities of the neighborhood that we love.

FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER HOUSE

By Janet Elfring



Frances Ellen Watkins Harper House

Bella Vista had a thriving African-American community in the early 19th century which nourished the abolition movement and Underground Railroad. Among the many abolitionists in Philadelphia, Frances Ellen Watkins Harper, known as "the mother of African-American journalism," was a resident of Bella Vista. She was a writer, poet, novelist, lecturer and civil rights leader

who was widely published and traveled throughout the states lecturing on abolition, civil rights and reform.

Her home at 1006 Bainbridge Street, a State and Federal historic site, was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1976. Between 10th and Alder Streets on Bainbridge it is a classic three-story row house with a brick front. Frances Harper lived here from 1870 until her death in 1911.

Originally from Baltimore, Frances Harper was born in 1825 of free African-American parents. After being orphaned at a young age she was raised by her aunt, a seamstress, and her uncle who ran the Academy for Negro Youth where she received her education. As a teen she worked for a Quaker book store owner and was, again, able to read widely; she began writing in the 1830s. Her first book of poems was published at age 20 in 1845, making her one of the first African-American published writers.

The fugitive slave act passed in 1850 upset this path and prompted a move to Ohio where she would be safer. Her experience with fugitive slaves during this time inspired her to devote her life to abolition and civil rights and provided material for her poetry, novels and lectures. She joined William Still at the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and began helping escaped slaves. Also at this time she toured through the states as a lecturer for the Maine Anti-Slavery Society, reading her poetry and fighting for civil rights.

After the war, she also lectured throughout the southern states representing the Women's Christian Temperance Union, highlighting the struggles of the freed slaves, opposing lynching and supporting reconstruction. With the advent of Jim Crow laws after reconstruction, she fought for civil rights and women's suffrage, and was widely published on these issues.

In 1875 at the Centennial Anniversary of the Pennsylvania Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery she lectured of The Great Problem To Be Solved:

"Whether or not there is strength enough in democracy, virtue enough in our civilization, and power enough in our religion to have mercy and deal justly with four millions of people but lately translated from the old oligarchy of slavery to the new commonwealth of freedom; and upon the right solution of this question depends in a large measure the future strength, progress and durability of our nation."

You can learn more about the Frances Ellen Watkins Harper House and other historical Bella Vista sites on the BVNA website.



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‘INNOVATION LIGHTS THE WAY’ NEW MURAL AT THE DA VINCI ART ALLIANCE

By Lauren Burrell

Over the summer, you may have noticed a new mural installation on Catharine Street between 7th and 8th. With the diverse South Philadelphia community at the core of the design, “Innovation Lights the Way” pulls imagery, textures, and ideas from many different sources and sews them together into one design, created in the style of collage.



Innovation Lights the Way, by Sammy Kovnat and Maria Roman at Da Vinci Art Alliance.

The mural pays respect to the scientific approach of expanding on ideas that have come before and focuses on the connectivity that the Da Vinci Art Alliance strives to create within the community. The design features a blown-up page from Da Vinci’s notebook, an old street map of the Bella Vista neighborhood, a drawing of the Baptist church on Christian street, remnants of the stained glass seen at the Fleisher Art Memorial, lanterns common to Vietnamese culture, an homage to the neighborhood’s steel industry roots, and a decoration of papel picado in honor of the nearby Mexican community.

This new art installation by muralist team Sammy Kovnat and Maria Roman solidifies the Da Vinci Art Alliance as a hub for arts and connectivity by merging the fields that Da Vinci spent his lifetime exploring with local history and landmarks.

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KEEPING AN EYE ON CRIME

By Joseph Alkus

The Bella Vista Neighbors Association is an active participant in two crime prevention programs that enable communities to interact with the Philadelphia Police Department District leadership. We participate in the Police Service Area (1) meetings, including Bella Vista and parts of Queen Village and Hawthorne. The PSA meetings are held monthly on the first Wednesday of each month. They are currently being held on Zoom, so keep an eye on the BVNA weekly e-newsletter for the Zoom meeting link.

Our public safety chair is also represented on the 3rd District Police Advisory Council (PDAC). The PDAC is a vital part of the community policing and problem-solving programs of Philly Police. The PDAC also sponsors Senior events, Back to School Supply Giveaways, and an Annual Community Day for neighbors. We also support kids' bike safety programs and outreach programs to reduce violence and prevent gang affiliation. To contact our public safety representative, email JosephAlkus@gmail.com



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OUR CIVIC, continued from page 5

Additionally, the committee coordinated municipal lot revitalization to improve turnover and optimize layout, supported two neighborhood slow zone applications, and assisted the city with the implementation of larger planned repaving and restriping projects.

The **Zoning Committee** continued to faithfully fulfill BVNA's RCO obligations by hosting monthly meetings to hear zoning, cafe seating and liquor license cases referred to us by the city and PLCB. In 2019, the Committee held 10 such meetings for projects large and small. The volunteer committee also flyered neighbors in cases where applicant notification is not required, and submitted a meeting summary form and detailed advisory letter reflecting the discussion of each case.

How has BVNA been able to accomplish all this? Through the time and talent of our committed volunteers, and the essential financial support of our community. Impressively, our annual budget has grown considerably over the past 10 years.

How have we grown so much in fundraising capacity? We can identify three key reasons. First, we received an outpouring of support following the significant threat we faced as a result of insurance issues and our subsequent ability to stabilize the organization. Additionally, more of our neighbors have become aware of BVNA as our programming calendar has expanded to include many more events, happy hours, and partnerships with local businesses. And finally, our sidewalk sweeping program—by far the largest program BVNA has ever operated—has generated significant contributions from businesses and community members.

If you're interested in volunteering for BVNA, send us an email at info@bellavistaneighbors.org. And if you'd like to support our efforts financially, contributions can be made by check (see page 12) or through our website. Onward and upward!



BVNA's Beautification Committee reminds us: to avoid causing a "trashnado" wait until garbage/recycling collection morning to set out refuse when the weather is windy, or rainy, or any combination of the aforementioned. Thanks!



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OUR RECORD SPEAKS FOR ITSELF

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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.

YES! I support Bella Vista Neighbors Association, Inc.

I am interested in helping as (please check all that apply):

- ☐ Newsletter Sponsor \$ _____ ☐ Contributor \$ _____
☐ Sidewalk/Curb Sweeping Sponsor \$ _____ ☐ Anonymous Donor

Enclosed is my check in the total amount of \$ _____
Please make check payable to BVNA, Inc.

Mail check and this portion to: **BVNA, PO Box 63955, Philadelphia, PA 19147**



Save postage by donating via PayPal!
Please visit BellaVistaNeighbors.org



A MESSAGE FROM THE BVNA BOARD PRESIDENT

Eugene Desyatnik

Thank you for reading our first print issue since the pandemic has befallen us. No doubt, the past year has been a year of loss, struggle, and adjustment. It has had a profound, and at times devastating impact on many of us. Yet, it was inspiring to see neighbors come together and offer help, support, or simply companionship. In a way, through our shared struggle, and in part, spending more time at home, we have grown closer as a community; something that we can hopefully carry forward as we emerge thanks to continued vaccine rollout.

In the meantime, a quick note: most of our standing meetings and events remain either suspended or virtual. For Zoom links to our Board, Zoning, General or PSA1 meeting, please see our emails, website, social media channels, or call 215-627-0057.

Amazon shopper?

You can make a local impact while you shop online!

Before your next online shopping trip, make sure you visit smile.amazon.com. Once logged in to your Amazon account, select the Bella Vista Neighbors Assoc. Inc. from the list of eligible charities.

Each time you shop, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchase to BVNA!

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Reach 3,000+ homes in Bella Vista

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Do you get Bella Vista news delivered to your email inbox? No?! Well then . . .

Sign up for our weekly eNewsletter
BellaVistaNeighbors.org/News

BVNA Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, meetings are being held virtually until further notice. Check our website and social media for details and updates:

BellaVistaNeighbors.org



@BVNeighbors

BVNA BOARD

Board of Directors' business meetings are open to the public.

ZONING

Open meetings for community input on building and renovation projects requiring variances of the zoning code.

PSA 1

First Wednesdays at 4:00 pm

Meeting between police leadership and stakeholders in Police Service Area 1 of the 3rd District. Review of monthly crime statistics.

Doing some spring cleaning?

Recycle your clothing and electronics through a city partnership with Retrievr. Residents can schedule on-demand doorstep pickup of unwanted clothing and electronics for recycling. The company will pick up clothing and small electronics for free. While Retrievr charges a small fee for large electronics like TVs, microwaves, and air conditioners, residents are still able to recycle these items for free at sanitation convenience centers. Visit retrievr.com for more details.