

# Friends of Schuylkill River Park



## Summer 2011

[www.fsrp.org](http://www.fsrp.org)

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### Announcements

June 22, 2011, 7pm: Friends of Schuylkill River Park Annual Meeting. Held at the Markward Recreation Center (400 S. Taney St). All current members are invited.

June 27, 2011, 7pm: Schuylkill Banks to Schuylkill River Park Connector Bridge Community Meeting to be held at the Trinity Center for Urban Life (22nd and Spruce). Come learn about the construction process.

FSRP Board of Directors  
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## Oh What a Night, 2nd Annual EDBG

FSRP's **Eat Drink and Be Green** fundraiser built on last year's momentum and was an outstanding event. One of the highlights of the evening was a visit from Philadelphia Mayor, Michael Nutter. "We were thrilled that Mayor Nutter was able to attend Eat Drink and Be Green. FRSP is very fortunate to have support from The City as both Susan Slawson, First Deputy Commissioner of Recreation and Programs and First Deputy Commissioner Parks and Facilities, Mark Focht **were also at the event,"** remarked Lynne Hopper, President of FSRP.

The committee, formed late in 2010, was **hard pressed to top last year's party.** This year, we added some additional features and the outcome was a fantastic night in support of the park. Keeping with the "green" theme, **Jt Christensen** magically transformed the outdoor recreational space. His Studio:Christensen, on 20<sup>th</sup> Street, has quickly become the place for design consulting. We were fortunate to have him leading our décor team and designing the event. Screaming Broccoli returned this year and provided the music. In addition to repeating the fun from last year, they did an acoustic set for the pre-dancing, welcome hour.

We especially want to acknowledge and thank our Gold Sponsors: Energy Plus, Penn Medicine, and Turnersville Automall, our Silver Sponsors: PECO, Brandywine Reality Trust, Manning Street Capital, Lauren

Wylonis and Joe Zebrowitz, Cristina Hanganu-Bresch and David Bresch, and Rich and Krista Pinola, our Bronze Sponsors 2000delancy.com, Bartlett Tree Experts, and Honeys Sit and Eat and our Generous Guests: Donna and David Gerson, Bonnie and Jay Eisner, and Bridge Legal Funding. Their support and the support of everyone who attended the event will allow us to continue to improve the park throughout 2011 and beyond. The drinks for the event were donated by Moore Brothers Wine, Roosevelt's, Drinker's Philadelphia and Magners Irish Cider and South Square Market donated the ice and mixers. With these in-kind gifts, we kept everyone's thirst quenched and had a great party.

Finally, we would like to thank the Markward Recreation Center Staff for their invaluable assistance.

Save the date for next year, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2012. **You'll know where to find your friends** the first Saturday night in June. Dancing under the stars in support of Schuylkill River Park.



Mayor Nutter at the 2011 EDBG



*The Friends of Schuylkill River Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The official registration and financial information of The Friends of Schuylkill River Park may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## Bicycle Safety Lesson and Rodeo

On Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, the Friends of Schuylkill River Park, in partnership with the Bicycle Coalition and Safe Routes Philly, organized a two hour Bicycle Safety Lesson and Rodeo Program (bike skills obstacle course). After a week of rain, Saturday turned out to be a fantastically beautiful day, which brought people to the park in droves. It was a full house event with 25 child participants and 10 volunteers to help run the show. All the benches alongside the bicycle rodeo court were filled with parents eager in anticipation.

In addition, The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Safety Van was very popular. Crowds

approached the van to buy bicycle helmets for toddlers, children and adults at cost to the general public. The Safety Van Program donated helmets to all bicycle safety lesson and rodeo participants.

The feedback was tremendous. Hands down, the children loved the event.



## Take Me Out to the Ball Game!

On a beautiful spring day in April Taney Youth Baseball Association held their 11<sup>th</sup> opening day of recreational baseball. This year a record 950 children registered for the league. 22 Pee Wee teams were formed consisting of 3 and 4 year olds proving that many parents are choosing to stay in the city and raise their children. Kids were treated to breakfast from Tastebuds and a visit from the Phillie Fanatic. Players were given their jerseys and proudly paraded around the field. Soon the field was cleared to make way for the first game, a

showdown between Triple AAA teams the Ocelots and Panthers.

The number of kids enrolled in TYBA as well as other recreational leagues makes the work of Friends of Schuylkill River Park all the more vital. Many may recall the barren field that children played on for years at Markward. You were guaranteed to come home covered with dust and with more than a few scrapes from the unforgiving surface.

On a request from former Markward Recreation Center Director Joe Fagan to FSRP for money to improve the conditions a major project grew. With a great deal of work by FSRP Vice President Derek Freres and former board member Janet Harrington a whole new laser graded field with sod was installed complete with an irrigation system. Recently the Department of Recreation bought a riding mower to keep the grass maintained. Those players and parents who remember the old field can't help but marvel at how lovely Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field is, so named in honor of veterans from the neighborhood.

The FSRP board is committed to continuing to improving the space at Markward for the next generation of children who will be learning the fine art of fielding, pitching and hitting as well as the spirit of teamwork.



The Phillie Fanatic at TYBA Opening Day

## Pedestrian Bridge Construction to Begin

**It's coming! It's coming!** The latest news from the SRDC is that the bids have been received on the Pedestrian Bridge. PennDOT and the City have selected a contractor and the contract may be negotiated this month with an unofficial groundbreaking sometime around the July 4th holiday. We could be seeing signs of construction as early as July. SRDC has been shepherding the project up until this point, though as it becomes a construction project the Streets Department will transition into a lead management role. A public meeting will be held on June 27 at 7pm in the Trinity Center for Urban Life to discuss the construction process.

When construction starts there will be significant changes to the north end of the Park that will impact all users: the existing dog run will be closed and a temporary smaller one opened nearby, the bowl will become a staging area for the construction team, the significant pedestrian paths between the community garden and the rest of the Park areas will be closed, an access point to the staging area will occur around Spruce Street. It will be noisy and dirty at times. It should be fun to **watch. But everyone's patience** will be tested and we hope that when it is all complete the Park will better serve the neighborhood.



## O'Connor Pool Fundraiser

In support of the continued operation of City Pools, including **O'Connor Pool, the Markard Recreation Center** is selling tickets to Phillies Games. Buy tickets at the Markward Recreation Center (400 S. Taney Street). All proceeds support **O'Connor Pool**.

Tickets are available for the following regular Season Junior Baseball Federation Games (\$28 each):

- Tues, July 26th vs. San Francisco Giants @ 7:05pm
- Thurs, August 18th vs. Diamondbacks @ 7:05pm
- Friday, August 26th vs. Florida Marlins @ 7:05pm
- Monday, September 5th vs. Atlanta Braves @ 7:05pm
- Tues, September 6th vs. Atlanta Braves @ 7:05pm
- Tues, September 20th vs. Washington Nationals @ 7:05pm



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## Welcome Patty McCole to Markward Playground

We would like to thank Joe Fagan for his years of service to our community as Recreation Leader at Markward Playground. As of mid-May 2011, Joe left Markward to serve as the recreation leader at Lloyd Hall. Joe has been instrumental in improving programming at The Playground including starting a volleyball league, a softball league, and an arts program for children. He has also

been a continual supporter of capital projects including the renovation of Schuylkill Pocket Veterans Memorial Field where he served an instrumental role. We thank Joe for his excellent service to our community and welcome the new recreation leader Patty McCole. We hope you will all have a chance to stop by Markward Playground and meet her in the coming weeks.

## Some Photos from Eat, Drink, and be Green 2011



### Free Street Trees

Would you like a free tree in front of a property you own - a home or business? The Friends of Schuylkill River Park *Tree Tenders* covers the area bordered by the Schuylkill River and Broad between Walnut and South. We work with TreeVitalize to plant trees for free, including cement cutting, within our bounds. Support from CCRA allows us to also grind stumps for free. For more information and to download an application, visit: [www.fsrp.org/treetenders](http://www.fsrp.org/treetenders)

# We Appreciate Our Supporters

## CAPITAL INVESTMENTS

At&t Foundation  
Senator Larry Farnese  
Community Design Collaborative  
Representative Babette Josephs  
Krista and Rich Pinola  
CSX Railroad  
McLean Contributionship

## EAT, DRINK, & BE GREEN 2011

### Gold Sponsors (\$2,500)

Energy Plus  
Penn Medicine  
Turnersville Auto Mall

### Silver Sponsors (\$1000)

Christina Hanganu-Bresch & David Bresch  
Krista and Rich Pinola  
Lauren Wylonis & Joe Zebrowitz  
Brandywine Realty Trust  
Manning Street Capital Management  
PECO

### Bronze Sponsors (\$500)

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Heather & Don Smith  
Cohen, Seglias Pallas Greenhall & Furman,PC  
**Honey's Sit and Eat**  
2000delanceyplace.com

### Generous Guests (\$250)

Bonnie & Jay Eisner  
Donna & David Gerson  
Bridge Legal Funding

### In-kind Sponsors

Moore Brothers Wine Company  
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studio:christensen  
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### Silent Auction Donors

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### Silent Auction Donors

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Lucky Strike  
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Paul Davis Jones  
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Woven Treasures

Raffle Donors  
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### Food, Drinks, Prizes, and Supplies

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