

Friends of Schuylkill River Park



Fall 2009

www.fsrp.org

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Save the Date...

Runnin' on the River: Saturday,
September 26th.
<http://riverparkalliance.org/>

Ceramics Classes: Start in Oc-
tober at the Markward Recrea-
tion Center.

FSRP Fall Festival: Saturday,
October 17th, 11am - 3pm.

FSRP Fall Cleanup: Saturday,
October 31st, 10am. Meet at
25th and Spruce.

Election Day: November 3rd
7am-8pm.

FSRP Board of Directors

Peg Connor, President
Sean O'Rourke, Vice President
Mark Frazza, Treasurer
Lynne Hopper, Secretary
Sharon Blumberg, Membership
Carolyn Duffy
Sally Frazza
Derek Freres
Susan Halpern
Janet Harrington
Judith Parker
Steve Slaterbeck
Arnie Zacharias

2009 FSRP Fall Festival, October 17th...

Please join us on **October 17 from 11a.m. to 3 p.m.** as we celebrate Schuylkill River Park with food and music...fun for kids *and* pets... an eclectic mix of vendors, a fabulous silent auction, and amazing raffle prizes!

Meet with neighbors, shop for unique crafts and gifts, take in the crisp autumn air, and feast on hot dogs, hamburgers, popcorn, cotton candy, and delicious baked goods. Vegetarians will find plenty of yummy dishes, too!

Love music? Rock out with DJ Scott Goldoor from Signature... swing nostalgic with 40's era singers "The New Andrews Sisters Revue"... or enjoy a performance by Arnie and the Line Dancers.

Got kids? They can climb aboard a real Philadelphia fire engine, paint pumpkins, play fun games, bounce in the super "moon bounce," and more!

Got pets? There's pet photography, a pet behaviorist, homemade dog treats, micro chipping and animals for adoption services... and a cool obstacle course from Opportunity Barks.

Be sure to enter the Raffle and bid in the Silent Auction. More to come no doubt,

but these enticing items are committed at press time:

Gift certificates to: Ants Pants, Ten Stone Restaurant, Tavern on Camac, Bulb, Sweeties Pie Diner, Delux, Metropolitan Bakery, Marriott Hotel, Eye Candy.

Tickets for: Schuylkill Boat Tour, Please Touch Museum, 1812 Productions, Eastern State Penitentiary, Arden Theatre, CCRA House Tour, Opera Company of Philadelphia, Landmark (Ritz) Movies, The Philadelphia Flower Show, Philadelphia Theatre Company.

Items from: Bo Concept, Buyenlarge Canvas Prints, Prince Sports, Rittenhouse Hardware, Trader Joe's, Whole Foods, The Window Box.

For pets: a gift basket from Lucky Dog Treats and free dog walks from Fido's World and PhilaPets, collar/leash from Girl.Bike.Dog.

The Fall Festival gets bigger every year! Bring family and friends and see why! Enter the festival at Pine and Taney just west of 26th. Free admission. Rain date is October 18th.

Interested in donating a raffle or silent auction item, being a vendor, or volunteering? Please email us.

Senator Farnese Facilitates \$20,000 Grant...

FSRP was awarded a \$20,000 grant, facilitated by Senator Larry Farnese, to re-grade and re-seed Taney Field and install a drinking fountain. The ball field surface has fallen into a state of disrepair due to heavy non-stop use by many user groups. The field surface will be re-graded with 200 cubic yards of topsoil and completely re-seeded sometime

during 2010. We may be able to add an irrigation system to this project if we are able to raise an additional \$12,000. The grant funds provide for a heavy-duty drinking fountain, which will be installed near the playground and tennis courts sometime during late 2009. We wish to profusely thank the Senator for his generosity.

The Friends of Schuylkill River Park is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt 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.

Dog Owners' Survey Results...

Thanks to all who participated in the June 2009 Dog Owners' Association online survey to better understand the Schuylkill River Park Dog Community. Our findings revealed that the Park is a very welcome place for dogs. Of the people polled:

- 29% use the dog run/other areas of the park 7 days a week.
- 42% spend up to 2 hours a week at the dog run/other areas of the park.
- The park is used by the dog community all hours of the day with the highest usage in the evening. And, the dog runs/other areas are equally used on weekends as well as weekdays.
- Most of the dog community hails from Fittler Square; however, fidos and their owners congregate from all areas of the city, suburbs and New Jersey too!
- The dog community uses other amenities of the park without their dogs including the community gardens, tennis courts, playground and ball fields.

Survey Question Results:

- What do you like about bringing your dog to the Schuylkill River Park? Approximately, 130 people responded in the same vein...they like being able to socialize with humans and have their dogs able to socialize off leash with other dogs; the park is clean and the people are friendly.
- What do you dislike about bringing your dog to the Schuylkill River Park?
- Over 120 people answered this question in some depth. Most of the answers disclosed ... people don't watch over their dogs and people who don't have full control over their

dogs; people who don't pick up after their dogs; the dust and general surface in the dog run; dogs off leash outside the dog run.

- What changes or improvement would you like to see? Approximately 107 people responded. There is a wide variety of responses including new dog surface that is less dusty and that doesn't hurt dog's paws; stricter enforcement of the off leash laws; no rangers; improved water fountain; more garbage cans; accountability of dog owners; water in the small dog run; more benches; jungle gym for dogs; reduction of urine smell.
- For complete results to the survey check out www.phillyfido.net

Kick-Off Dog Health Conversation- A Success

On August 25 at the Schuylkill River Park at 7:00pm, the Dog Owners' Association presented a well attended conversation, 'Gastrointestinal Distress in Canines', with Dominic Dallago, VMD. Dominic a recent Dog Run member and a newbie to Center City, has offered to host ongoing 'conversations' with the dog community about various dog health concerns. Dominic graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, School of Veterinary Medicine in 2004. Since then he has been working at Veterinary Hospitals on the Main Line in Devon and Bryn Mawr and most recently at Radbill Animal Hospital. Dominic is happy to answer any pet-related questions you have and he can be seen regularly at the large dog run with his Doberman, Ty.

Look out for posting on Dominic's next conversation, 'Arthritis in Canines'.

25th and Delancey Entrance Beautification...

In early spring 2009, FSRP partnered with a neighborhood household to improve the 25th and Delancey Park Entrance. Improvements included constructing planting beds bordered by Belgium Block and an iron fence, installing an irrigation system, and placing numerous plantings. Rich and Krista Pinola, who coordinated and funded the project, held a grand opening for the entrance in mid-August. Councilman

Green, Peg Connor - President FSRP, and Mark Focht - Executive Director of Fairmount Park, spoke at the event, thanking Rich and Krista for their generosity and highlighting the importance of public private partnerships in creating and maintaining high quality Parks in Philadelphia. These improvements have set the standard for other work around the park and FSRP wishes to thank Rich and Krista.

Representative Babette Josephs Facilitates \$4,000 Grant...

Recently, Representative Josephs facilitated a \$4,000 grant to FSRP. These funds were used to purchase bulbs that children from the Philadelphia School planted around the park and to perform numerous improvements to the Park's tree canopy, including planting several new trees. We greatly appreciate Representative Josephs' generosity and wish to thank her for being a continual steward of Schuylkill River Park.

Connector Bridge Update...

Construction of the planned connector bridge that spans from the Schuylkill River Trail across the CSX Tracks into Schuylkill River Park will begin in 2010. We will provide updates as soon as we have more information on an exact start date and other details.

Visit... www.fsrp.org

For more information, photos, and to keep updated on Park Happenings, visit our website at: www.fsrp.org