

N.P.C. NEWS



NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING COUNCIL NEWSLETTER  FALL 2011

City of Wilmington, Department of Planning James M. Baker, Mayor NPC Editor, Sophia Hanson, Planner II

Introduction

David Batchelder

NPC President

This past year the NPCs engaged in a wide variety of community initiatives. The NPCs participated in Community Project Day, which included cleaning, greening and various community projects. The NPCs also worked to implement streetscape and park improvement projects across the city. They raised funds for the City Garden Greenspace Challenge and for a local library. Last, but certainly not least, the NPC Leadership was represented at the Community Leaders Briefing workshop held at the White House this summer.

NPCs Attend White House Conference

On August 12, 2012 Subira Ibrahim and Sophia Hanson participated in President Barack Obama's Community Leaders Briefing Series. The goal of the series was to improve communication between the White House and grassroots leaders. The White House wants to ensure that the public is well-informed of government policies and that they are hearing from the community on how government programs and policies can serve them better. Mrs. Ibrahim and Ms. Hanson were able to meet with President Obama's top advisors, including David Plouffe and Michael Strautmanis. They both considered



From left: Sophia Hanson, David Plouffe, Senior Advisor to President Obama, Subira Ibrahim.

it an honor to be selected to attend and offered valuable feedback about the importance of liaison groups between the federal government and cities, towns and the community.

Mill Creek Farm

In an effort to help expand the greenprint of the City of Wilmington, and to create better access to healthy foods, the NPC Leadership organized an exploratory field visit to Mill Creek Farm in West Philadelphia. Mill Creek Farm is an educational urban farm that is dedicated to cultivating and promoting access to healthy produce. With support from the City, the Neighborhood Planning Council Leadership and community representatives were able to visit this 1.5 acre community garden and urban farm site. Mill Creek Farm has been home to a thriving community garden for over 15 years, while the adjacent parcels have been vacant for over 30 years. It started as a stormwater management project and

now is an eco-friendly successful urban farm with multiple educational outreach programs. Mill Creek Farm features a variety of fruits and vegetables, including okra, apples, pears, beets, collard greens, asparagus, eggplant and much more. The Farm also features a bat cave, living roof, cob oven, bee hives and solar panels. The NPC Leaders hope to bring some of the facets of Mill Creek Farm to Wilmington!



The Bee Hives at Mill Creek farm.

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CANBY PARK IMPROVEMENTS

Canby Park was named in honor of William Marriot Canby, who served as the first President of the Board of Park Commissioners of the City of Wilmington from 1883-1904. The City maintained Canby Park up until the late 1960s, at which point the parkland was leased to New Castle County for over 40 years. The park was returned to the City in 2008. The 6th District NPC then partnered with



Volunteers in front of the newly installed playground equipment.

the City Parks Department and the community and began developing a strategy for park improvements. The first initiative will be the installation of new playground equipment in the Canby Park section across from the Fraims Boys Club on Union Street. There has also been coordination with the Parks Department in removing hazardous trees in the same area. The Parks Department will also be improving the service road through the park from Maryland Avenue, and installing a walkway from the Union Street parking lot to the new playground area. The 6th District NPC feels as though the beautification of Canby Park will improve the quality of life and greenspace for the City!

2011 Greenspace Challenge

The NPC Leadership and the Delaware Center for Horticulture (DCH) collaborated for a third time to offer the Greenspace Challenge category in the 2011 Wilmington City Garden contest. Six organizations submitted projects in this category. The applicants were Kate Wilhere of Friends of Historic Riverview Cemetery, Kerry Kristine McElrone of West Side Grows, Nicole Freedman of the Central YMCA, Valerie Martin of Kind

Mind Kids Early Learning Center, Gwen Miller of People's Settlement and Alfie Moss of Dragonfly Garden. After much deliberation, the 2011 winner was Kate Wilhere, Friends of Historic Riverview Cemetery! Second place went to Kerry Kristine McElrone, West Side Reservoir. The NPC Leaders would like to thank DCH and all of the 2011 applicants for helping to make Wilmington a better and greener city!

1st District Raises Funds for N. Market Street Library



(l to r): New Castle County Council Member Penrose Hollins, Ivey Ibrahim, Subira Ibrahim and City Council Member Charles Potter, Jr.

For the past 14 years the North Wilmington Market Street Library has been aggressively championing the cause of literacy by providing community centered programs and events for both children and adults. To say thank you for the commitment the library staff has shown to the community and to assist in a time of deep budgetary cutbacks, the 1st District NPC decided to take action. This past June, the 1st District NPC held a successful Game Night fundraising event for the North Wilmington Library! The event featured spoken word by the Twin Poets, a variety of games and delicious food provided by neighborhood vendors.

The City's ANIMAL ORDINANCE

Dog Licensing

- Appropriate care of domestic animals is required, including appropriate food, water, shelter, and veterinary care.
- Dogs are to be on a leash.
- Fecal matter must be removed immediately in a sanitary manner in an airtight bag or other closed container and deposited in a trash receptacle. Violations are punishable by fines ranging from \$250 to \$1,000.
- Abuse and abandonment are prohibited.
- City dogs must be licensed. Currently, licenses are only available at the Delaware Humane Association on "A" Street.

IN ORDER TO OBTAIN A DOG LICENSE, OWNERS MUST BRING PROOF OF A RABIES VACCINATION (A CERTIFICATE SIGNED BY A VETERINARIAN).

Pit Bull Registration

- Pit Bull owners must be at least 21 years-old.
- Pit Bulls must be licensed and registered. Registration is \$30, good for life of dog. Pit Bulls must be registered at the Delaware Humane Association.
- Pit Bull registration requires that the animals be neutered – Delaware SPCA offers FREE spay/neuter for Pit Bulls owned by City residents. Call 998-2281 for an appointment.
- Pit Bull registration requires that the owner owns his/her home or has a lease with express written consent allowing a Pit Bull to be housed.
- Pit Bull breeding is prohibited. Puppies are subject to seizure.
- Pit Bulls must be on a leash not to exceed 6 feet in length and must be muzzled in City parks.

THERE ARE STIFF FINES FOR VIOLATIONS OF PIT BULL ORDINANCES: \$500 – SINGLE VIOLATION! \$1,000 – REPEAT OR CONTINUING VIOLATION!

This is a summary of several important aspects of the City of Wilmington animal ordinances. For more information, see **Wilmington City Code, Chapter 3, Article 1, Section 3-1 through 3-45** at the City Website www.WilmingtonDE.gov.