September seems to be a pretty musical month. There is “See you in September,” “September in the Rain” (as it’s doing as I write), “September Song” (thank you Mr. Sinatra), and it is Earth Wind and Fire’s favorite month. Council is spending this lyrical month working harmoniously on our budget for next year, including capital improvements, planning two more phases of the HVAC project, developing a new policy regarding how to best handle packages, and preparing for our annual fall Open Meeting to be held on October 2nd.

With regard to the budgets, we are well aware that the percentage increase in your monthly fee was substantial going into 2019. You may recall that was due almost entirely to a sharp increase in electricity costs. Throughout this year, we made a thorough study of the situation utilizing our staff and a consultant, and engaged PECO in our efforts to see if there was a mistake in our billing. Unfortunately, there was no change in the numbers. We don’t anticipate seeing an increase like that in the year ahead and have identified several offsetting economies. Our goal is a minimal increase, if any, for 2020. We will present our budget later in the year.

As for the HVAC project, we have decided to begin replacing certain ceiling piping on the 17th floor of all three buildings. We had anticipated doing this in later years, and although there is no particular urgency, it makes common sense to do the project now rather than later. STEEVco Construction will begin work in the north tower this month, and the west tower either the first of the year, or a bit later, depending on the weather. SageWater will do the same project in the south tower contemporaneously with their riser replacement. Work in the south tower is set to begin in late September or early October. More details have been, and will continue to be, furnished to the affected 17th-floor owners.

According to Brett Scioli, Executive Assistant to the General Manager (and “GM Elect”), SHT residents received over 15,000 deliveries in the first half of the year! The vast majority were UPS or FedEx deliveries. This has maxed out our package storage capacity and caused larger packages such as furniture, rugs, TVs, and tires (yes…tires) to sit in our lobbies, cluttering these places for days on end. At our Open Meeting on October 2nd, 2019 (7:30 p.m. in the Community Room) we will be proposing a new policy with the twin goals of preventing such objects from becoming unsightly and potentially hazardous, and speeding up the delivery of other, smaller packages. We will be seeking your input before finalizing the policy.

Additionally, we will discuss the state of the One Dock Street appeal, which was heard in Common Pleas Court on September 12th. The remainder of the agenda will consist of items you want to discuss. Please attend!

So, the laziness of summer is gone and the rhythm of life in the fall is picking up. Maybe that’s a reason there are so many songs about this transitional month. I can think of half a dozen solid titles…how about you?

Bruce Holberg
President, SHTOA
Thursday, September 26th

“Miracle of Miracles” Movie Group Meeting

By Bob Uris

The Movie Group will be discussing “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles” at its upcoming meeting to be held on Thursday, September 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room. “Fiddler: A Miracle of Miracles” is playing at the Ritz Five. Of course it’s about “Fiddler on the Roof,” a wonderful musical about tradition and change that opened 50 years ago. The creators of “Fiddler” thought it might only be appreciated by Ashkenazi Jews, but in fact it’s performed somewhere in the world every day, resonating everywhere. It should provide for a great discussion.

Monday Mornings With Donna

Welcome Exercisers

By Donna Cotzen

We will be starting our exercise class again on Monday, September 30th from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. in the Community Room. This class focuses on stretching and toning, and we do a combination of exercise types including Pilates and yoga. For part of the time we will use body bands, which I supply. All you need to bring is your mat and your energy. Part of the time we are on the floor. If that presents a problem you can modify using a chair or asking us to help you get up and down. We are happy to help you!

Please join us. I look forward to being with you again.

Calling all Residents

Send In Your Ideas for Activities

Society Hill Towers has an ongoing Activities Committee composed of volunteers. Part of its role is to encourage activities for the benefit of our residents. We also provide ideas to volunteers and council about activities community members would enjoy. We welcome your ideas for activities! They can be one-time events or ongoing activities. Our only restriction is that they not be events that would promote a single business. It is helpful if you have a suggestion of a volunteer co-facilitator. All of our activities are resident volunteer led. Please send your ideas to ddalicandro@societyhilltowers.com in the office. Thanks for supporting our activities.

Scholarships Awarded to Staff Family Members

The Scholarship Committee, comprised of Peter Conn, William Johnson, and Annie Westcott, selected two students from among the children and grandchildren of our staff members to receive this year’s scholarship awards.

The awardees are Rafiq Paris and Kenyotta Brown-Kidd. Rafiq, grandson of Security Officer Yac Anderson, will be attending Lincoln University. Kenyotta will be attending Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. Kenyotta is the son of Desk Clerk Leon Kidd.

Editor’s note:
In the article about I.M. Pei published in the July 2019 issue of this newsletter it was implied that the three sculptures at the Fountain Circle were created by Jacques Lipschitz. In fact, these three sculptures are the work of Leonard Baskin.
Friday, September 27th

**Seasons Change, Wine is Eternal**

By Tom Newman

In what is destined to become a cherished Towers tradition, on Friday, September 27th at 6 p.m. we will lift a glass to the conclusion of another wonderful season with an outdoor wine tasting at the pool. The admission fee (to cover expenses) is $25 and includes an always-generous selection of excellent fine wines, perfect for the season.

Fabulous homemade hors d’oeuvres prepared by acclaimed Towers home chefs will pair with the wines so you can fully appreciate the affinity of food and wine. You will relish the late summer warmth with guest experts, who will be on hand to help you train and delight your taste buds.

The Tower Tastings, organized by residents on an all-volunteer basis under the aegis of the Activities Committee, provide an education in the wonders of the grape, suitable for anyone with an interest in learning about wine, regardless of your prior knowledge. It’s a perfect opportunity to meet new incoming residents, catch up with neighbors who summer down the shore, or just take in the evening glow with your friends. There was universal agreement that the spring tasting at the pool was achingly beautiful. If you missed that, here is your do-over.

If you can join in the fun, please sign up ahead, including guests, so the chefs will prepare enough snacks for everyone. For more information, and to register, sign-up forms are available from your desk clerk, at the office or on BuildingLink.

**“Let’s Talk” Returns After Summer Break**

**Talking About Transportation**

By Jo Holz

Philadelphia Inquirer reporter and Towers resident Jason Laughlin spoke to a packed house about the problems and possibilities ahead for Philadelphia’s transit system at the latest “Let’s Talk” speaker series meeting on September 11th. Among other revelations, Jason showed there has been a dramatic fall in bus ridership over the past few years, a decline he speculated was due in part to the rise of rideshare services.

He pointed out that with pooled rideshares, the cost of a door to door trip was often competitive with bus fare, which meant more cars on the road and less revenue for SEPTA. Even more importantly, he spoke of the looming financial crisis which the city faces with the sunset of laws that mandate significant revenue payments from the Turnpike Authority to city public transportation. The audience listened intently as the subject clearly resonated with Towers residents. A lively discussion followed as Jason fielded numerous questions and shared a wealth of data and insights about these issues, putting the current state of the city’s transportation systems in context.

The next “Let’s Talk” presentation, scheduled for November 21st, will take us into the fascinating world of the global network of tango meet-ups and festivals. South Tower resident Kathleen Karlyn will share her experiences dancing the tango around the world, and there may even be a dance performance by Kathleen and a partner! Mark your calendars and keep an eye out for more information later in the fall.

“Let’s Talk” is a forum for residents to learn about the interesting talents, knowledge, and skills of fellow Towers neighbors. If you know of a Towers resident with an unusual background or special expertise who might be willing to appear, email TowersLetsTalk@gmail.com.
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Friday, October 4th

American Red Cross Blood Drive

Sponsored by the Society Hill Towers Activities Committee, Society Hill Civic Association and Penn’s Village

By Mary O’Neill

Friday, October 4th
9 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Community Room

Donors needed!
Call 1-800-RED CROSS or sign up for an appointment at the Red Cross blood donation site: www.redcrossblood.org.

Click on “donate blood.”
Enter zip code 19106 to locate the drive, and scroll down to October 4th.

Open Society Hill Towers site, select your appointment time.

Volunteers needed!
Are you available between 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. for an hour or two?

Can you assist to welcome the donors? Check them in, verify their appointment, and provide thank you stickers.

Contact organizer Mary O’Neill at mconeill210@gmail.com.

RapidPass saves you time!
On the day of the drive, you will be sent an email reminder. Please use RapidPass to answer screening questions in advance.

What is RapidPass?
RapidPass offers you a way to read information and answer donation questions online from home or office, reducing the time spent on site. You’ll get RapidPass in an email reminder sent the day of your appointment. RapidPass can only be completed the day of the appointment and not before. It cannot be completed on a smartphone or tablet at present, so use a laptop or desktop computer. Read the information and answer the questions. Bring a printed copy of the pass, or email the PDF to yourself and bring the pass on your cell phone.

What to expect:
Bring photo ID or the Red Cross donor card you created that day using RapidPass.

Before the drive, drink an extra 16 oz. of water or other non-alcoholic fluids. Drink extra fluids after donating, too.

Be sure to have a healthy meal that day, and replenish your iron with beans, beef, and leafy greens like spinach.

Get a good night’s sleep! Skip the workout that day — no heavy lifting.

Red Cross staff will also check your blood pressure, pulse and iron on site before donating.

Take time to enjoy a snack and a drink in the refreshment area after donating.

FAQs

Who can donate?
Generally, anyone over 17 (16 with parental permission), over 110 lbs, and in good health can be a donor. There is no upper age limit for blood donation as long as you are well and have no restrictions on your activities.

How about travel outside the U.S?
Most travel is not a reason for deferral. See website for specific areas of increased risk.

Can I get a disease from donating?
No. All equipment is sterile; collection staff are professionals who protect your safety.

How long does it take?
Your appointment will take about an hour. Donation takes +/- 10 minutes. Using RapidPass will help speed your visit!

How much blood is taken?
A little less than a pint is taken. Your body will replace the fluid loss in about 24 hours.

How will I feel after donating?
Most people feel fine! Resume regular activity, but avoid heavy lifting for the rest of the day.

How often can I donate?
Blood donations may be made every 56 days.

Be a Hero, Help Save Lives!
New Shredding Services

Thanks to an idea from one of our residents, we will be offering a new service to help you with your personal-only shredding. For the past several years we have brought in a shredding truck once or twice per year to help owners and residents shred the confidential material waste that can accumulate in our condos. This has been quite successful and will be continued.

Recently a resident suggested that we could add regular monthly shredding for smaller amounts to the periodic large-quantity shredding events. Our Towers office professionals researched it. They found that ProShred Security, a local woman-owned and operated business with two certifications for quality service and secure disposal of confidential materials, can provide a secure bin to safely collect smaller amounts of material that must be shredded. We expect to place this large secure bin near our other recycling collection in the sub-basement near the garage office for additional safety. The secure bin is primarily for personal (not bulk) shredding for those who do not have their own shredders. If you have your own shredder, please continue to use it.

As we begin, we ask that you respect your neighbors and only place small amounts of material, less than one pound, in this bin. Hard drives, metal and plastic items and X-rays may not be shredded. The bin will be emptied and the material safely shredded monthly. One hundred percent of the shredded paper is recycled.

Saturday, October 12th

Bulk Shredding Truck
10 a.m. to noon

Please bring LARGE or small quantities of material to this SHREDDING EVENT!!!!

This is the time to get rid of much of what you have accumulated. Following this BULK SHREDDING TRUCK, we will make the smaller shredding bin available.

Council hopes that this additional service helps you.

If you have your own shredder, please continue to use it.

Dining Club

Discovering Modern North Indian Cuisine

The outside temperature was “India-hot” when the dining club walked over to Makhani, the new Northern Indian restaurant at 7 N. 3rd Street for our get together on August 20th. Luckily, the A/C in their private dining room was working full blast to cool us off for the evening ahead.

We learned that there is no such thing as “Indian Cuisine” any more than there is a singular “American Cuisine.” In both cases, there is a whole collection of regional and/or ethnic cuisines. The Northern Indian dishes we enjoyed featured a good deal of dairy-based sauces and Tandoor (clay oven) roasted meats. Among the seven or so courses we feasted upon, we really enjoyed one of the restaurant’s signature dishes, Mango Chicken.

The name of the restaurant means “butter,” and their cooking uses a fair amount of ghee (clarified butter). It was an adventure for the palate and a wonderful evening of camaraderie with 33 of our neighbors. Stay tuned for our next outing, and remember there is no formal “joining” of the Dining Club. Just come and enjoy!
Philadelphia is having a 375th birthday party for its founder, William Penn, and the public is invited. The 90-minute celebration starts at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 18th, on the City Hall Courtyard stage, Broad and Market Streets.

Sponsors of the event are the Association of Philadelphia Tour Guides (APT), the Independence Visitor Center Corporation and the City of Philadelphia.

Planned festivities include: lively music, a mural arts project, silhouette-making; handouts of historical information, reading of famous quotes by Philly’s founder, thoughts on William Penn by Rutgers professor Alexander R. Murphy — who will sign copies of his new Penn biography, some last-minute surprises, giveaways and much more.

Besides celebrating William Penn's 375th birthday, party-goers will learn about his remarkable history and the impact Billy Penn still makes on our lives today. In the distant past, Philadelphia celebrated William Penn's activities for one full week. Now, few area residents know much about him.

APT has hosted William Penn celebrations twice before: in 2016 at City Hall Courtyard; and in 2015 at Welcome Park near City Tavern on 2nd Street.

Key Facts and Figures

As part of his “Holy Experiment,” Penn invited people from around the world to worship as they saw fit. The result: even though Philadelphia was founded in 1682 — 58 years after New York City — by 1770 his “City of Brotherly Love” was the largest and most cultured city in America, and the place where America began.

Penn received 45,000 square miles of territory from Charles II of England for his colony in North America. The king named it Pennsylvania, or Penn’s Woods, after William Penn’s father, Admiral Sir William Penn. Even today, 58 percent of Pennsylvania is covered by forest, says the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Philadelphia’s Liberty Bell was ordered by the Pennsylvania Assembly to mark the 50th anniversary of Penn’s Charter of Privileges. That document laid out the rights and responsibilities of Pennsylvania citizens. The bell reportedly cracked during testing shortly after it arrived in Philadelphia.

Philadelphia became the U.S.’s first World Heritage City in 2015. Independence Hall was designated a World Heritage Site in 1979.

Thomas Jefferson called Penn “the greatest law-giver the world has produced.”

Penn achieved remarkable results in Philadelphia — even though he spent less than four years here.

The party will take place rain or shine. For information, call: 610-506-3024.

Other William Penn 375 Activities

Oct. 12, 2109: APT certified guide Jim Murphy hosts a free 3-hour Jane’s Walk on William Penn, his “Howling Wilder-ness,” and how he transformed Philadelphia into the fastest growing city in the Colonies. It starts 10 a.m. at the National Constitution Center, 525 Arch Street. Jane’s Walks, held in honor of writer and urban activist Jane Jacobs, are more interactive and participatory than normal walking tours. No reservations are required. Just show up.

Oct. 15, 2019: APT certified guide Elise Bromberg will talk about Penn’s life and legacy at 6:30 p.m. at the Free Library’s Andorra Branch, 705 East Cathedral Road, Phila.
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Reminders for Residents

• Schedule large deliveries and pickups with the Management Office, including drop-off and pickup of supplies belonging to caterers and contractors.

• Schedule the moving in and out of large household items with the Management Office. If you can’t fit it into a shopping cart, call to reserve a freight elevator.

• Schedule all moves well in advance with the Management Office.

• Contractors must complete paperwork (along with the unit owner) and submit insurance documents. Once approved, contracting jobs must be scheduled with the Management Office prior to starting work.

More Room for Your Guests

Two Hospitality Suites Available

A second hospitality suite, this one on the seventh floor of the North Tower, has been opened to provide even more room for your guests. This two-bedroom suite can accommodate up to six guests. It’s priced at $150-$175 per night (prices varying according to the day of the week and the level of demand, which goes up and down throughout the year). The first suite, on the sixth floor of the West Tower, is still available for only $90 to $100 per night. It sleeps four.

Both units have four-star furnishings and fully functioning kitchens, allowing your guests to rest and relax in complete comfort. For more details or to make reservations call Donna in the Management Office at 215-923-4105.

Cancellation Policy

If a reservation is cancelled 14 days in advance or more, then there is no cancellation fee.

If a reservation is cancelled between five and 13 days in advance and there is no one on the waiting list to take over the reservation, then there will be a one night charge.

If the cancellation is made less than five days before the reservation date, and there is no one on the waiting list to take over the reservation, then there is a two night cancellation fee.

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FOR SALE! Sun-soaked Corner Two Bedroom

Sun-soaked two bedroom, two bathroom boasting views to the east and south, recently updated kitchen with stainless steel appliances and ample entertaining space.

1,183 sf | Offered for $499,900

SALE PENDING
Thinking of buying or selling a condo at Society Hill Towers?

Call us.
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Selling at Society Hill Towers for 38 Years

Some of our recent sales at Society Hill Towers

- 3B North
- 11BCD North
- 24G North
- 14C South
- 28E North
- 23B South
- 26C West
- 26B West
- 10E West
- 19BCD South
- 8F South
- PH6 South
- 21G West
- 27B West
- 22AH West
- 5B North
- 19A North
- 4G North
- 31C West
- 24B West
- 2B South
- PH5 South
- 12G South
- 29E South
- 10AH North
- 4E South
- 2E West
- 2D South
- 21F West
- 22D North
- 28F North