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**Come for fun on Tuesdays
at Mario Lanza KidFest
and through summer**

by Lisa Mell

KidFest will be held again this year at Mario Lanza Park (200 block of Catharine Street and Queen Street) each Tuesday night at 7 pm in June. Please join us in the park for these fun events for kids of all ages. Free for everyone. Sponsored by

contributions, the Friends of Mario Lanza Park and QVNA.

Light refreshments provided.

• June 13 Halloween night -

Dress up in your Halloween costume and go trick or treating around the neighborhood as

part of the Halloween parade. (Candy will be distributed)

• June 20 Bike Parade night - Decorate your bike, scooter, skates and ride through the streets of Queen Village in a bike parade. The streets will be temporarily blocked off from traffic during the parade which starts at 7:15.

• June 27 Firetruck night -

Wear your bathing suit, appropriate shoes and bring a towel. You WILL get wet! Firemen from Engine 11 will give a fire safety talk and provide a waterfall of fun for the kids.

No scheduled rain dates for any of these events.

Then in July, Movie Month is back, Wednesdays at dusk (usually 8-8:30 pm); bring a chair to the square, and add your favorite snacks.

The movie line-up will be posted in the park, around the neighborhood, and on the QVNA site.

In August there are no scheduled events, but we extend an invitation to enjoy the wonderful shade on a hot summer day. A wonderful place to meet your neighbors and unwind! See you in the park!



**Crier is going
on vacation**

See you in
September



June, 2006 • Volume 42, No. 6

**QVNA General Meeting
Thursday, June 15, 7:30 pm**

St. Philip Neri, 216 Queen Street

**Connecting the Divide:
Washington Avenue Corridor Plan**

A presentation by first year University of Pennsylvania Master of City and Regional Planning graduate students. See box below.

**Real Progress in Addressing
Traffic Issues on Christian Street**

In April, after the postponement of the trial of turning Christian Street into a one-way street, the QVNA Board of Directors and Councilman DiCicco looked to the Transportation Committee to come up with a plan to address the traffic issues on Christian St within 30 days. It was a tall order, but I am happy to report that with a lot of hard work, your Transportation Committee has come through.

The Transportation Committee has generated a scope of work for a professional traffic engineer to study the problem. Councilman DiCicco's office is now working on obtaining the funding to do the study. Two important elements should be mentioned here:

1) The scope of work is comprehensive – the study area includes the southern halves of Queen Village and Bella Vista, and extends from Delaware Avenue to 11th Street.

2) The scope of work includes a critical public input element. There will be public meetings to fully explore any proposed solutions in a public arena.

If all goes well the study will conclude within 6 months of getting the consultant on board. We will be coming together as a community to decide how to address the traffic in southern Queen Village once and for all this fall.

Everything we've done fits our mission and goals (Our Mission Statement and Goals are at <http://www.qvna.org/committees/transportation.htm>). Goal number #4 is "Seek to build consensus and foster cooperation within Queen Village regarding transportation related issues." Consensus and cooperation are just what this community needs right now. We agree with Councilman DiCicco when he said "By working together and respecting one another's opinions . . . we can find a resolution for the residents of Christian Street that satisfies everyone's concerns."

Stay tuned for updates as the funding becomes available and the consultant is hired.

Traffic Survey

The Traffic Survey is here. Getting public input now is critical to having cohesive problem definitions that we can work towards. Please take the time to fill out the Traffic Survey at <http://www.qvna.org/traffic.htm> or fill out a paper copy and drop it off at the QVNA office. We need your input!

Come June 15: Envision the possibilities

Every year in the University of Pennsylvania School of Design Master of City and Regional Planning program, first-year graduate students are assigned an actual site in Philadelphia for which they must create a master plan.

This past semester, the assigned project was the Washington Avenue corridor, from Delaware Avenue to Broad Street. The students worked in two separate groups, one taking on Delaware Ave to Passyunk, and the other tackling Sixth to Broad Street.

The results of their work will be presented at the June General Meeting. We invite all of you to come and envision the possibilities for Washington Avenue.

QUEEN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

736 S. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19147

phone 215-592-7488 • fax 215-592-4605 • email Info@QVNA.org • web: www.qvna.org

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A MEMO FROM THE BOARD
QUEEN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

**A look backward, then forward:
Lots to do — together**

As you may know, David O'Donnell has agreed to resign as President of QVNA, but will continue to serve on the QVNA Board of Directors. The Board's decision to request David's resignation hinges on the March 28 meeting held at the QVNA office, that was attended by five residents of Christian Street, Councilman DiCicco, representatives of the Streets and Air Management Departments, David O'Donnell and Walt Lowthian. It was during the course of that meeting that Councilman DiCicco came to the decision to do a trial traffic change on Christian Street.

At the April Board meeting one week later, the Board resolved to oppose the proposed trial and to request a postponement of any changes pending a proper study and community assessment—to which Councilman DiCicco agreed once he understood the QVNA position. The Board resolution also included drafting the explanatory letter inserted in the April Crier that David signed as President. (Go to <http://www.qvna.org/about/message/htm> to see the text.) But much damage had already occurred. At its May meeting, which, unfortunately, David could not attend, the Board discussed the situation in its entirety. The Board came to the difficult but unanimous conclusion to request David to resign based on the conflict of interest policy in the QVNA bylaws, with specific reference to the recent proposal to do a one-way traffic trial of Christian Street. When Board representatives met with David, he agreed to resign.

Key in the Board's decision and request is the concept that the President has the duty to represent QVNA as a whole, however valid the needs of a smaller segment of our community. Ideally, board members are representative of the diversity of our community. All Board members should bring specific concerns before the Board so that they can be considered and, if possible, accommodated. However, in this instance, the understandable desire on David's part to help one part of the community threatened to thwart a proper, open community process. By not unequivocally insisting at the March 28 meeting with Councilman DiCicco that QVNA review and approve the proposed trial, David allowed the impression of official QVNA approval when in fact, none existed. This had the unfortunate effects of dividing the community, instilling distrust in QVNA and misleading city officials.

In summary, the QVNA Board saw this situation as threatening not only the viability of QVNA, but much more importantly, the community itself. Open, representative decision-making is critical to assuring fairness as our community works on difficult issues affecting our everyday lives. And, fairness is essential to strong concerted community action. We had to assure the viability of that process.

Despite the foregoing, we want to acknowledge that David has done so many positive things for our community over many years. We all hope he will continue to do so. His energy and enthusiasm and plain hard work are ingredients we need from lots of folks to make Queen Village a nicer place to live and work. We

Continued on page 5

FROM CARLA PUPPIN

QUEEN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Open House Tour Thank You

It was a glorious spring day on May 6 and the Queen Village Open House Tour was once again a success. Without homeowners so graciously opening their homes, we could not participate in the Open House. So, thank you to Wandz Costanza, Chuck Finch, Tracy and Mia Levesque, Lisa and Barry Lewis, Tom Meell, Susan McConagle, Stephen and Barbara Rosenzweig, and Richard and Judy Wolk who put their wonderful homes on the tour. What an array we had: contemporary, traditional, transformed former stables, variety stores and boarding houses, renovations and transformations into beautiful, intriguing living spaces.

TREEVITALIZE: LAST ROUND COMING UP

Walk the 700 block of South Third Street, the 300 and 400 blocks of Catharine Street, around Meredith School, South Fourth between Fitzwater and Catharine, and Christian Street between Front and Sixth, and you will see a total of 50 new trees planted through TreeVitalize, the state-sponsored program to restore tree cover in southeastern Pennsylvania.

There's one more round left—a spring 2007 planting for which permission forms must be in by September 15, 2006. Are you interested?

Under the TreeVitalize grant requirements, trees must be planted in clusters. You must get at least five homeowners on your block to request trees. The trees themselves are free, and Fairmount Park has been doing the tree pit cuts for free as well.

You then have two possible routes to take. Option A: Organize your block to help plant the trees (Queen Village Tree Tenders can provide some help and tools) or Option B: Have a contractor plant the trees at an approximate cost of \$200/tree. If you're interested and want more info, contact the office.

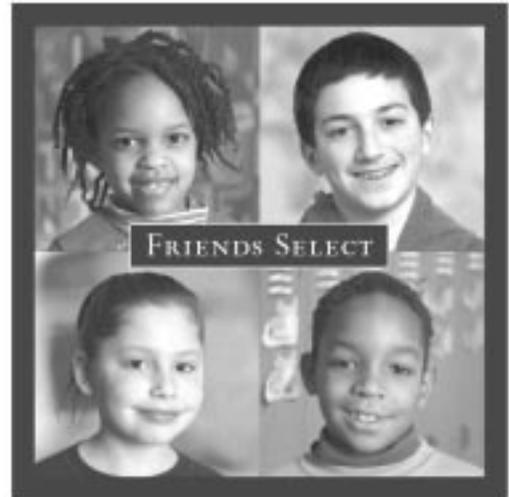
"Sacks Full of Stars" needs you

Needed: A QV resident who cares about our playgrounds and parks, likes working collaboratively on creative projects, and sees endless possibilities at Sacks Playground, on Washington Avenue at 4th Street.

Background: Steve Rosenzweig, long-time Queen Village resident and president of Taney Youth Baseball Association, met over the last few months with all community groups adjoining Sacks Playground with a proposal for a revitalization initiative, "Sacks Full of Stars," focused on Sacks Recreation Center. He submitted a proposal and has received a design grant from the Community Design Collaborative, for architectural design services for the site.

What's needed now is a committed group of people who will form the task force to move the project forward. Are you interested in being the QV representative? Thanks! It's an exciting project. We need you! Call the office for more details.

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Tax Reassessment Committee anyone?

At the February general meeting, David Glancey of the city's Board of Revision of Taxes (BRT), and Councilman DiCicco spoke on coming changes in assessing property taxes. The current system for assessing taxes is complicated: it starts with an "assessed value," multiplied by a ratio determined by the BRT, and further taxed at a rate of approximately 8.6%. The BRT wants to change the system by taxing all properties at their "fair market value." But "fair market value" will mean property taxes could skyrocket for many, even if City Council lowers the tax rate down to the rumored 2%.

Some bills have already been introduced in City Council to address these relief measures. As of this writing, any new assessments would not go into effect until 2008 at the earliest.

The QVNA Board is forming a committee to work with other community groups to explore the proposed alternatives to make sure city officials understand the potential negative impact of proposed changes. If you are interested in joining the committee, please contact the office at 215 592-7488, or email us info@qvna.org.

Congrats to drill teams! See them and enjoy music this summer at Jefferson Square Park

Congratulations to the Mildred Leftwich Devastators Drill Teams at the Courtyard at Riverview. The Peewees, Juniors, and Drummers all placed second at the Elite Marching Group national competitions in Virginia, and the Open Squad placed fourth. See these award-winning groups perform at about 4 pm, June 17 at Jefferson Square Park, 3rd Street and Washington Avenue.

Other Summer Music Events: June 21, 7 pm, Mexican Mariachi Festival; June 28, 8:30 pm, Wallace & Grommit Film Festival; July 12, 8 pm Hoppin' John, Jazz/R&B; July 26, 8:30 pm Three Stooges Film Festival; August 9, 8 pm Future Tips, Rockin' the Park. For information, call 215-551-8250.



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A MEMO FROM THE BOARD *Continued from page 2*

hope we can all put this painful episode behind us, working together.

This November, the position of president will be part of our annual Board elections as a special election to serve out the two-year term. In the interim period, in accordance with our bylaws, the two QVNA vice-presidents will perform the duties of president. As Executive Vice-President, Neville will serve as acting president.

Meanwhile, there's much happening and much to be done by all of us. Casinos, property tax reassessments, and potential large-scale developments all bring unique challenges that we need to address. Fortunately, our committees and volunteers from throughout the neighborhood are working hard to address these issues and many, many more. We'll also ensure that new committees are created to address new challenges, and we'll continue to seek community input on all major issues.

And it's making a difference. Our neighborhood is getting cleaner, greener, and safer; great new restaurants and shops seem to appear each week; and there's always something for kids to do in our parks and playgrounds.

We're very fortunate to be a neighborhood of talented people. Let's all put our talents to work. t. Tether. We invite you to get involved. Take a look at www.qvna.org for the committee that fits what you'd like to do.

Sincerely,

Neville Vakharia

Executive Vice President and Acting President, QVNA

Walt Lowthian

Vice President, QVNA

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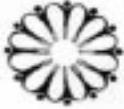
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HARRY SOLOMON, 1922-1986

The last of the stand men

A little bit of South Fourth Street's past disappeared on May 1 when Harry Solomon died. You may not have known his name, but if you walked past Famous Delicatessen any time from the 1970s until June, 2005, you would have passed Harry sitting behind his table of shoes. Harry was the last of the "stand" men who used to line South Fourth Street.

Born in Poland in 1922, Harry was a Holocaust survivor, imprisoned at Auschwitz. Having lost many of his family members, he came to the United States in the late 1940s under the sponsorship of someone in Montana. After learning that he had relatives in Philadelphia, he came here and settled at Fourth and McKean. His business through the years was selling shoes, and for a few decades he had a shoe store on Seventh and Mifflin. In the 70s, he ended up taking the place of someone who had a stand at Fourth and Bainbridge and there he found his place.

His daughter, Phyllis Gross, recalled that he had been hanging around the area since the 1950s. He had his regular customers and friends from all over who would come and pass the time with him. Moving his family up to the Northeast in 1968 did not stop him from continuing with the stand, and even when he had to give up driving a few years ago, he still took the bus down, usually on Saturdays. Merchants, including David Auspitz, stored Harry's shoes for him.

Phyllis reminisced, "He loved it, he loved the people, it was a little bit of back home for him. It really was his life and Famous Deli was his home base."

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215-468-1922 www.churchofstphilipneri.org

St. Stanislaus Church
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Sunday Mass

Vigil (Saturday) - 5:30 pm - St. Philip Neri Church

Sunday Morning

8:00 a.m.—St. Philip Neri Church

9:30 a.m.—St. Stanislaus Church

11:00 a.m.—St. Philip Neri Church



Weekday Mass

Mon., Tues., Wed.—7:30 a.m.—

St. Stanislaus Church

Thurs. & Fr.—7:30 a.m.—St. Philip Neri Church

Saturday—8:00 a.m.—St. Philip Neri Church

Eucharistic Holy Hour & Benediction

Saturday—8:30 a.m.—9:30 a.m.—

St. Philip Neri Church

Confessions

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Parking Sub-Committee meets with Parking Authority

by Walt Lowthian

The April 18 meeting with Rick Dickson, 25-year PPA veteran, former head of Residential Parking and now Senior Director for Strategic Planning was quite productive covering a lot of ground. Here's a sampling. Complete meeting notes are posted on the QVNA web site.

Visitor Parking. QVNA Parking is working on this. So, it turns out, is PPA. Now we're working together. Hopefully, QV can be the location for a pilot program to improve visitor parking. If anyone knows of programs in other cities, please contact the Transportation Committee at qvna.org or call the Walt Lowthian (215-592-0994). We also discussed ways to use the lot south of the community parking lot under I-95.

Blocked Crosswalks. Vehicles parked in crosswalks limit visibility making it dangerous for pedestrians and intersecting traffic. It is illegal and PPA can ticket, but the vehicle cannot be towed unless the block is marked with "Tow Zone". Therefore, QVNA Parking is considering posting all blocks in QV with "Tow Zone". Please give us your thoughts on this.

Badly Placed, Questionable or Confusing Parking Regulation Signs. The PPA official assigned to the area including Queen Village is working with us on this to squeeze as much extra space

as possible. To report a sign (or other parking problem go to qvna.org and click on "Help Create More Street Parking" to submit the requested information.

Owners Parking in Front of Their Garages. Due to state laws and practical problems no easy solution is apparent. But, we are discussing ideas with PPA. As a first step we need volunteers to help do an inventory of residential garage locations to begin evaluation of the idea. Please contact us if you can help count.

Upcoming PPA Initiatives. PPA will install its first "Multi-space" meters on the 2nd St. block between Lombard and South. This technology uses one or more "centralized" permit dispensers; you pay (cash, credit or Smart Card) and put the permit on the dash of your car. Advantages? Different payment methods, rates "tuned" to use and user, ability to regulate overall parking, lower administrative cost. Another innovation coming soon: hand-held computers for enforcement officers. Advantages? Permit checking, more accurate timing and enforcement, more accountability. PPA is pushing "Smart Cards" as the most convenient way to pay for parking and, eventually, mass transit and taxis. PPA hopes to integrate with Easy Pass to create a Universal Transportation Card.

TENNIS FOR YOUTH

The National Junior Tennis League (Arthur Ashe Youth Tennis) will once again run a seven-week summer tennis program from June 26 to August 11 at Weccacoe Playground, 4th and Catharine. The program provides professional instruction and match play for novice to advanced players, ages 7 to 18. Cost is \$60 per child or \$85 per family. Scholarships are available to families who need assistance.

Registration is at Weccacoe June 20, 21 & 22 from 4 pm to 7 pm. For more information, call the office or go on line: www.asetennis.org, point to "Programs & Opportunities" and click on National Junior League Tennis.

The program is also sponsored by the Philadelphia Dept. of Recreation and the Fairmont Park Commission. Friends of Weccacoe is assisting.



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306 Monroe St. COMING SOON: Custom built 3,600 sq.ft. lux. Hm, elevator building, deck, gdn. Still time to customize. Call for details & prices.	
2220 Pine St. Wonderful 4-5BD/2.5BA hm near Filer Sq. Pk. Great gden, spa BA, kchn over dining / great rm. Front of property currently a hm office & library. One y. pre-paid PKG.	\$989,000
618 Kenilworth St. Fab. Bella Vista 3BD/2BA town home on quiet private tree lined block, galley granite kchn, gas fp, lg patio, deeded PKG	\$585,000
917 S. 6th St. Wonderful new 3BD + den, 2.5BA home. Incredible kitchen & BA, Hardwood floors, 2 fps, a garden & 2 decks, finished bsmt.	\$529,900
134 Beck St. Location, Location! Lovely traditional straight through 4BD home on a beautiful tree lined street. Needs some updating.	\$379,900
122 & 124 Christian St. Fab. New Construction: Two 3BD + den, 2.5BA homes, dramatic fl. plan design, H/W, balcony, lg gdn. 1y. free PKG.	\$785,000
747 S. Darien St. Nice hm in heart of B.V. HW on 1st two fls. Needs updating. The 2 BDs have external seating areas. Great starter hm with great potential.	\$295,000
112 Fitzwater St. Great house on the best tree lined Queen Village block. 2BD + 2 dens / 2.5 BA, fp, Hardwood fls, deck & a lovely garden.	\$535,000
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218 Fitzwater St. Fab. 4 story Q.V. Mansion! 4,800 sq.ft. 11' ceil., 2fp, HW, 13 rms, 6 BA, 2 dens, zoned sep. A 20x45 gden. Potential PKG AVAIL. REDUCED	\$985,000
107 Pine St. Wonderful New Listing. Single Family Home, 4BD+den / 2.5BA, 2 fps, lots of details and character, lovely large garden	\$799,999
134 Bainbridge St. Great space & light. 4BD / 2.5BA on a terrific Queen Village tree lined block. Hardwood fls, high ceilings, lovely details & a large garden. RED.	\$549,900
518 Queen St. Lovely 4br 1.5 bath home with beautiful Hardwood floors and many original details. Separate dining room, patio, and roof deck.	\$409,000
939 S. 2nd St. Very nice 3 story colonial home. Runs street to street. PKG in rear. 3 BD/1BA & lg attic, lg new kitchen, great storage & closets. Wonderful garden.	\$499,900
335 Christian St. A 5500 sq. ft. Queen Village mansion circa 1860. Incredible details & character. 3 huge full suites, a deck + garden & 2 CAR PKG. RED.	\$750,000
246 Fitzwater St. #3 Breathtaking 2 BD / 2BA FURNISHED condo in the School House Bldg. HW, 13 ft cell, Stainless Steel appliances, gas fp, W&D, PARKING.	\$549,900
246 Fitzwater St. #7 Incredible 1050 sq. ft. unit. 2BD + loft, high ceilings, fireplace, large windows, fabulous new bath, Hardwood floors, elevator, PARKING.	\$415,000
253 Pine St. Terrific Society Hill Triplex, 4,300 sq.ft. + huge gden. Unit1: 1BD/1BA, Unit2: 2/1, Unit3: bi-level 2/1. Could be a fab. single family home. REDUCED	\$999,900
942 E. Moyamensing Ave. Fab. custom-built luxury corner hm w. GARAGE & fin. bsmt. Upscale 3BD + 2dens, 2.5BA, 2 fps, H/W, high ceilings, deck, + 10yrs	\$749,900
728 S. 3rd St. Dramatic, open & spacious floor plan. 3 BDs / 2.5 BAs. Fabulous details, Hardwood floors, fireplace, skylight & garden. REDUCED	\$549,900
810 S. 2nd St. #C Unbelievable 1,000 sq.ft. penthouse condo! 1BD + den, fabulous 12' cell, H/W, exp. brick, huge deck overlooking Maria Lanza Park. REDUCED	\$369,900
619 S. American St. A nice courtyard home with PARKING. 4 BD, 2.5 baths. Fireplace, Hardwood fl., Full basement, tons of storage, large garden & deck	\$599,900
747 S. 3rd St. A beautiful courtyard 4BD / 3BA home + pkg. Hm boasts, 2 fps, all new H/W, private bricked patio & a roof deck. REDUCED	\$649,900
200 Christian St. # 22 It doesn't get any better than this designer condo + PKG + 10 ytal 1750 sq. ft., 2BD/2BA, exp. brick, H/W, private patio. Great kchn & BAs	\$715,000
606 S. American St. Beautiful owners unit + apt above. A separate bonus 3 story house in beautiful lg gdn + a work shed. All PRIVATE ENTRANCES. REDUCED	\$750,000
819 S. Hancock St. New Listing! A lovely 4 story historical gem on a cobblestone block. 2 BD + den, 3 fps, beautiful Hardwood, many original details, and a yard.	\$329,900

CALL FOR DETAILS ON THESE GREAT LISTINGS:

200 Christian St. \$715,000	740 S. 6th St. \$349,900	1517 S. 9th St. \$299,900	1102 S. Front St. \$249,900	406 Monroe St. \$269,900	305 Titan St. \$474,900
747 S. 3rd St. \$649,900	1317 S. 2nd St. \$389,900	813-21 S. 19th \$699,900	237 Greenwich St. \$429,900	1237 S. Philip St. \$269,900	213 Wolf St. \$238,000
1151 S. 9th St. \$239,900	1825 S. 2nd St. \$279,900	744 Fitzwater St. \$449,900	205 Manton St. \$349,900	305 Tasker St. \$369,900	300 Walnut St. \$1,600,000

DEVELOPMENTS AND INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

1362 South St. Live in the heart of the Avenue of the Arts, close to everything. Six story 72 units, Flats, Bi-Levels, Penthouses. All with parking, terraces, 10 y.l.a., floor-to-ceiling windows, designer kitchens & BAs, many styles to choose from. Ready for OCTOBER '06 occupancy. Showroom @ 229 Market St. SELLER INCENTIVES till June 15th. LETS MAKE A DEAL.	FROM \$395,000
Park's Edge (844-6 N. 29th St.) Elegant Living in a Park like Setting! 7 fab. units, Brac, Cherry Fl., Porches, Gdns, Pkg, great kchns & BA, wine cooler refrig., 10y.l.a., low condo fees.	\$309,900
315 Arch St. Hist. bldg in the heart of Old City. Many designs to choose from. HW, high cell, new kchns & BAs, elev., concierge, 5 yrs, low condo fees. Call for our GREAT INCENTIVES! 13 SOLD	\$299,000
900 N. 3rd St. (3rd and Poplar) Great New Development. Eight Stunning Condominiums in a Gated Courtyard Setting. Designer Interior Features, Dramatic 9 ft. Ceilings, Fabulous Kitchens and Baths, Hardwood Floors Throughout, High Efficiency Gas Heat and Central Air, Great Light, Garage + 10 Year Tax Abatement. ONLY 1 LEFT	\$289,000
614-20 N. American St. One of the best last parcels around! Ready to build. 9 story Bldg. 15 units w. balconies & pkg. 10 y.l.a. Architectural plans avail., ZONED, READY TO BUILD	\$1,595,000
Penn's Pointe (2nd & Washington Ave.) OPEN HOUSE EVERY SUNDAY 16 Fabulous New Homes boasting 3/4 BD, 2.5 baths, HW fl., garden, deck & garage. 7 ALREADY SOLD	\$599,900
126 Chestnut St. Great New Listing! Elevator Bldg in Prime Old City area. Six condos from 1,350 to 1,475 sq.ft., 1 & 2 BD, 2BA, HW, Every modern amenity imaginable. FROM	\$475,000
706 S. 5th St. Terrific investment opportunity! First floor commercial space, and 2 large 2 BR apartments above. Needs work.	\$499,900
1811 N. Howard St. Old Knitting Factory Circa 1870. So many possibilities! 13,200 sq. ft. 3 fls, exp. brick & beams, HW, lg winds, 4,400 sq. ft. per fl., 2 nd fl is a fab. owner's loft unit.	\$739,900

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