



ACCEPTING 2017 MEMBERSHIPS

OVERBROOK PARK CIVIC ASSOCIATION

Newsletter Volume 2 Issue 3

June 2017

From the Office of Councilman Jones



During City Council's budget hearings, much of the discussion was around preserving "Middle Neighborhoods." The classic definition of a Middle Neighborhood is neighborhoods who have household incomes above the

poverty guidelines which is approximately \$24,000, incomes are closer to the Philadelphia average of \$39,000 and are solid working class communities that do not qualify for many of the government subsidies that low-income communities receive.

Overbrook Park in many ways fits that description.

As we marshal resources from the federal, state and local governments, our goal is to maintain or improve upon middle neighborhood's quality of life.

The high percentage of home ownership versus rentals make Overbrook Park a solid neighborhood. If you grade our access to shopping on Haverford Avenue or City Avenue, it is good. If you rate our neighborhood on proximity to a hospital or doctor's office, we grade well. Recent investments to our recreation centers, Papa & Rose Playgrounds will continue.

Overbrook Park and its Town Watch have been recognized and named the starting point for National Night Out. Some of the challenges that our office is addressing is maintaining public safety; Whether its street lights or street cameras, we will be advocating for increased police visibility. Overbrook Park has one of the largest contingencies of active Block Captains that participated in our Boot Camp and we will work with the Haverford Avenue Business Association and Overbrook Park Civic Association to attract more neighborhood economic development.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

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In This Issue

- Resident Spotlight
- Business Spotlight
- Important Summer Dates

Resident Spotlight

2

Damon C Williams receiving a citation from Councilman Johnson



This month's "Resident Spotlight" is Damon C. Williams. A native Philadelphia who joined the Overbrook Park community in 2011. If you were to walk pass him along Haverford Avenue, you might think that he is just your ordinary neighbor. However, if you take a moment to sit and speak with this unassuming gentleman—you will find that he has some incredible stories to tell and that he is far more extraordinary than ordinary.

Damon Williams is a journalist, a freelance writer and a phenomenal storyteller that has written more than 7,000 articles and two self-published books (Souls In Ink: The Memoirs of a Journalist and The Jawn: Philly's Unsigned Talent, 2001-2007) and who has won many prestigious awards including being recognized in 2004 by the NABJ for his article "Why Does Tupac Still Matter?"

Damon seemed to have been destined to be a writer, with his first assignment being a published editorial that he completed for the Daily News at age 11. Ironically, he later went to work for the Daily News after graduating from Temple University's School of Journalism. At the Daily News, Damon covered almost everything from features to crime stories. He even had a pullout section that was created just for him to focus on the music scene in Philadelphia called YO! Steez. During his interview, Damon kindly shared some of his highlights while working at the Daily News which included interviews with the Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan and former Secretary of State, Madeline Albright. Damon later moved on to write for the well-renowned African American newspaper, The Philadelphia Tribune.

Today, Damon continues to do freelance work. He is also finishing up two sequels to his book "Souls In Ink" that he is hoping to release within the near future.

Damon candidly shared that he enjoys helping others. He is looking forward to getting more involved with the community and having the opportunity to meet more of his neighbors. So, the next time you see Mr. Williams around take the time to say "hello" and find out for yourself as to how extraordinary he really is!

Summer Happenings...

There should be plenty of nice sunny days ahead because summer is practically here! So, what should we do you ask?

We have a few ideas. See our lineup below and check out the OPCA Facebook page often for updates.

- Come out and support our local athletes in the OPCA Summer Men's 19 and over and High school leagues. Games are at Rose Playground Mondays and Wednesdays.
- The Overbrook Park Free Library of Philadelphia will be kicking off summer reading on Tuesday, June 13, 2017 at 4 PM. Visit them at 7422 Woodbine Avenue to be a part of the festivities.
- If music is more your thing then the summer will be filled with musical happenings going on locally and across the city. The Smith Memorial Playground is hosting Kidchella on Friday, June 16th, Friday, July 21st and Friday, August 18th from 4 PM - 7:30 PM. Visit <http://smithplayground.org/new/> for more information or to purchase tickets. The African Episcopal Church of St. Thomas at 6361 Lancaster Avenue will be featuring the San Francisco Boys Chorus on Friday, July 14th at 6:30 PM and their Gospel Chorus will be celebrating Christmas in July on Sunday, July 23rd at 12 noon.
- Of course, OPCA's Annual Community Day will be tons of fun on Saturday, June 24, 2017 from 3 PM - 8 PM. It will be the block parties of all block parties on Haverford Avenue between Brookhaven and Greenhill. You will not want to miss out on free food, live music, bounces and everything in between.
- Also, don't forget to mark your calendars for Monday, July 31st for Overbrook Park Town Watch: National Night Out 5pm at Rose Playground.
- OPCA will also be hosting two free summer outdoor movies on August 25th and September 15th at 7:30pm at Rose Playground 75th and Landsdowne. Check your email and vote in our current movie poll to choose which movie we will screen.

Whew! That was a mouth full! We hope to see you out there this summer!

I will closely monitor the lease for the new golf course which will be considered in 2018. Investors are considering millions of dollars of course improvements. I would challenge them to think bigger. Many small hotels have been built adjacent to golf courses which has increased the viability of those neighborhoods. Our local commercial corridor with the cooperation of the Philadelphia Commerce Department will be asked to fill vacant properties with businesses that provide product that this community needs. The partnership with the new State Representative Morgan Cephas has sent notice to state agencies that the city, state, and federal elected officials are working together.

My belief in Overbrook Park was reaffirmed by the Civics' employment of local youth to provide snow removal services in an Uber model. Young people were dispatched to homes and paid for their services thus engaging them in positive activities in their own community.

Middle Neighborhoods, in partnership with all stakeholders must visualize, plan, and implement a shared vision for their future. That shared vision will preserve a quality of life that our children will thank us for.

In Service,



Available for rent
Call (484) 240-1528



Rose Playground is available to rent for small parties, meetings etc.

call or text

484-240-1528 for details



JOIN OPCA TODAY!!

\$20 PER HOUSE HOLD

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Summer Etiquette

Summer is here and the weather is great and it's a great time to be outside and get to know your neighbors. Just be mindful to be a good neighbor— here are some key tips

- Keep music at low levels, be mindful of noise ordinances
- Mow your lawn and sweep up the clippings
- Let kids be kids while playing outside, make sure your children are being respectful
- New to the block, introduce yourself and say hello
- Make sure you have [a permit for your block party](#) and do not block the street with automobiles
- Control and pick up after your pet

KID WORD SEARCH

Overbrook Park Streets

Find the Streets of Overbrook Park

W P R T D H Z G E K
W E D S R K K R D O
E N O E O W M E O O
S N O R F O M E O R
T I W C R O A H W B
B N T D E D L I R I
U G N O V B V L E R
R T E O A I E L H R
Y O R W H N R C S E
U N B L V E N V G M

BRENTWOOD GREEHILL HAVERFORD
MALVERN MERRIBROOK PENNINGTON
SHERWOOD WESTBURY WOODBINE
WOODCREST

Haverford Avenue Business Spotlight

Nancy Rothstein on the right



Nancy Rothstein is the proprietor of Sylvia Berkow's Resale shop located at 7594 Haverford Ave. Sylvia's is the recent winner of the 2017 Philly.com Readers Poll and the 1987 "Best in Philly" winner for best consignment shop.

Nancy Rothstein grew up in Overbrook Park and attended Lamberton, Beeber and Overbrook High school. She knows the Overbrook Park neighborhood extremely well and has fond memories of group up here.

Nancy Rothstein's mother was Sylvia Berkow. She started the consignment shop in Ardmore in 1972. Back then, consignment shops were rare. Today they are all the rage. Nancy and her husband relocated the shop in 2008 to Haverford Ave to be closer to here Wynnewood home. The location on Haverford Ave was chosen because of the free parking and its proximity to City Ave.

As an independent shop, Nancy works directly with her consigners and sales people. Nancy does not want her shop to just be a high end designer store even though it carries designer brands. She prefers to keep the prices reasonable so that her inventory is accessible to all her diverse clientele. The shop specializes in women's clothing, shoes and accessories and has a range of sizes for great prices. The consignment business brings joy to Nancy as she loves interacting with her customers while uncovering unexpected treasures. If you are looking for a unique piece or special gift stop by Sylvia Berkow's Resale Shop. Hours of operation are Tuesday—Saturday 10am – 5pm



IMPORTANT DATES FOR 2017

6/5—OPCA Summer Basketball League Begins—Rose Playground 6pm

Mondays and Wednesdays through the Summer

6/10—Rose Playground Park Clean up and flower planting—10am

6/14- OPCA Summer Quarterly Community Meeting —7pm

7630 Woodbine Ave—Overbrook Church of Christ

6/24-OPCA COMMUNITY DAY—Haverford Ave

7/8—Rose Playground Park Clean Up—10am 75th and Landsdowne

8/19—Rose Playground Park Clean Up—10am 75th and Landsdowne

8/25—Outdoor Family Movie Night—Rose Playground 8pm

9/15—Outdoor Family Movie Night—Rose Playground 7:30pm

9/23– Rose Playground Park Clean Up with Villanova– 10am

10/11—OPCA Fall Quarterly Community Meeting—7pm

7630 Woodbine Ave—Overbrook Park Church of Christ

Contact Us

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OverbrookPark-North



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Mission: The Overbrook Park Civic Association mission is to foster a spirit of community cooperation, promote the health & wellbeing of our residents and encourage neighborhood pride.