



Summer 2007

## Welcome Back Hilltone

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and more...

### Upcoming Events

- Neighborhood Yard Sale 6/23 (raindate 6/24)
- Artworks Trenton Art All Night 6/23-24
- Hiltonia Garden Party 6/30, 5PM—9PM
- Trenton2Nite 7/13, 8/10 (car show), 9/14

*High above Trenton, it stands, on hills that are centuries old, a veritable outdoor paradise. Adjoining beautiful Cadwalader Park on the west, no other spot around Trenton compares with Hiltonia. Years ago, one of the farsighted "city fathers" suggested that this land be added to the park. Now it is to become a place of beautiful homes. Here will be developed a private park community for people of refinement who enjoy the open spaces and abhor the noise and annoyances of life "down town". Down below and to the south, West State Street may be seen. One looks over the roofs of the hundreds of homes that lie far beneath Hiltonia. In the distance rolls the Delaware River like a glistening silver ribbon and beyond are seen the Pennsylvania hills that remind one so much of a billowing green carpet when Spring paints her most effective pictures. To see Hiltonia is to want to live there. The beauties of this wonderful spot in the western section are agreed upon by everyone who has set foot upon it.*



I love spring in Hiltonia. Our neighborhood is like one big beautiful impressionist painting, a grand collage of color and scent, replete with myriad burgeoning flowers, trees, bushes, vines and blossoms all carefully arranged from Mother Nature's palette. It is a heart warming, breath taking sight indeed.

If you have not yet figured it out, the first paragraph is an excerpt from the original sales brochure for Hiltonia. It is amazing how these statements still ring true almost 90 years later. We have included a copy of Hilton Realtor's original sales brochure with this, the first Hilltone of 2007. I hope that you enjoy the same warm feeling as I did when I first read it.

With this issue, we welcome back the Hilltone, unfortunately absent for some time; but hopefully back in publication forever. I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to contribute to the Hilltone. If you have information, a public interest story, or anything else that you would deem interesting or appropriate to share with the neighborhood, please contact me at [wrm@documex.com](mailto:wrm@documex.com). We are also looking for people to help form a solid committee to compile and publish the

Hilltone. Please contact me if you are interested.

I've noticed that association membership is down from last year and I'm not certain why. Crime is down, property values are up, neighbor relations are great and life in Hiltonia has never been so much fun. Please accept this as my personal plea for you to join the Hiltonia Association. The fee is only \$10 a year for each adult; (and this is the association's sole source of income). If you ever wanted to get involved but never got around to doing it, now is the perfect time to do so by becoming a member. A copy of our membership form is included.

I invite you to join us at the Hiltonia Garden Party on Saturday June 30th at 7 Kensington Ave. You do not have to be an association member to attend; but I'm certain that you will want to be before you leave. So please come and have a drink with your neighbors and see what Hiltonia is all about. I'm looking forward to meeting you.

Living large, perched on a "fog free" hill, high above the "Feeder,"

**Bill Merz**  
Hiltonia Association President



## Trenton Psych Opens its Doors for Security

On Saturday, May 19th, Hiltonia and Palmer Lane (the neighborhood in Ewing just on the other side of the hospital) neighbors were welcomed on a guided tour and presentation of the hospital grounds. The weather was unexpectedly beautiful (the forecast was for rain), and we got to see nearly every inch of the campus. The older buildings, while mainly in disuse, are still beautiful. The newer buildings, where most of the bigger security issues were encountered, had updated fencing around courtyards as well as secure screens on the windows. The old doctors' cottages, which were probably welcome neighbors of Hiltonia, are used to house patients who are deemed most ready to leave the hospital.

Trenton Psychiatric Hospital's new CEO, Theresa McQuade,

led the presentation. We reviewed the past problems with security and were shown what had recently been done to correct them. The aforementioned climb proof fencing, along with added guard posts and improved security features has led to a drastic decline in walk-away patients, from 100+ per year to only 1 or 2 a month recently. The hospital is working on a "Health and Wellness" program that includes a planned move to make the hospital smoke-free.

The tour was the third meeting in less than 3 years that the Hiltonia Association and Palmer Lane Association have been involved in with the Hospital. While progress is slowly becoming evident, there are issues that the neighborhood will have to keep an eye on, especially in support of

neighbors bordering the hospital that could use the larger voice of the association. The use of the doctors' cottages for patients has brought noise issues that have been addressed in recent years, but have popped up from time to time. Hiltonia may wish to take a zero tolerance approach if the problem continues since the change in use for those houses is fairly recent (15 – 20 years?) in terms of the overall age of our neighborhood and the hospital. Recently, temporary trailers were placed behind and close to a couple of houses on the first block of Cornwall Ave. While the officials admitted that the placement was due to a lack of thought, the trailers will likely be there until at least September, when they will be moved to the opposite side of the campus at an appropriate

location. Finally and most importantly, while the issue of patients walking away has finally been addressed in a meaningful manner, we should be vigilant and ready to come together if the problem reappears.

The civic committee, led by Don Wallar, is the part of the Hiltonia Association that usually leads the effort in working with State, County, and Trenton officials as it concerns our neighborhood. Contacts are made by keeping in touch through e-mails, phone calls, and attending meetings. If you would like to become more involved, please contact Don ([dwallar@aol.com](mailto:dwallar@aol.com)) or Michael McGrath ([mmcgrath@hiltonia.org](mailto:mmcgrath@hiltonia.org)).

Michael McGrath

## Easter Egg Hunt Was Hoppin'



On Saturday March 31st we held our annual Hiltonia Easter Egg Hunt which was a wonderful success. We had a great group of children and parents who were greeted by the Easter Bunny and enjoyed themselves thoroughly. Many thanks to our new neighbors and gracious hosts Rochelle Ellis and Lucy Strauli of 103 Buckingham Ave for inviting us to use their new home for this event. Many thanks also to Mike McGrath, Marc and Michele Leckington, Anthony and Dawn Coluccio, Bill and Regina Merz, Sabrina Merz,

Julian Gee and Emma Rowan who worked hard to arrange this wonderful event and entertain our neighborhood children.

We can always use help organizing our neighborhood children's events. So why not join us for the next one? (I never knew that stuffing Easter Eggs with candy could be so much fun — *really*). Also, a special thanks to Lorraine Schnabel, Greg Cavallo and family and Harriette Tomlin and family for their generous donations to the Easter Egg Hunt. It was very much appreciated.

**Attention all Hiltonia Artists! Hiltonia Garden Bench Project**

We are looking to assemble a consortium of Hiltonia artistic talent to convert the bench at the Hiltonia garden into a personalized piece of neighborhood artwork. I'm pretty certain that the City of Trenton thought that they were doing a good thing when they painted the bench "jailhouse tan"; but we'd like to see something there to further personalize the bench and display our neighborhood's diversified artistic talent. If you are interested, please call Bill Merz at 394-8816.

**Hiltonia Neighborhood Dinner**

On March 18th, 40 Hiltonians converged on Cesare's Café in Chambersburg for our first neighborhood dinner of 2007. Thanks to everyone who attended and made this night a success. Also, a big thanks to Bill and Jean Harbach who hosted a wonderful after party at their home.

Hiltonia neighborhood dinners are always a great combination of food, fun and friends. Our next neighborhood dinner will be announced soon. We hope that you will all join us.



**The Capital City Market —**

*The downtown farmers market with artists and crafters begins July 12 and runs through September 27, every Thursday from 11am-2pm on State St. between Warren and Broad. The Market features organic and conventional farmers, artisans breads, handmade jewelry, sculptures and many more unique vendors.*

**Trenton2Nite - 2nd Friday Schedule:**

**July 13** Trenton2Nite Beach Party

**August 10** Latin art show and Salsa dancing along with the 4th Annual Antique Car Show. Email [kim@trenton-downtown.com](mailto:kim@trenton-downtown.com) for application for car show.

Visit [www.trenton2nite.com](http://www.trenton2nite.com) for more information.



**Hiltonia 2007 Easter Egg Hunt**



### Hiltonia 2007 Executive Board Officers

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### Membership Has Its Privileges

There is still time to pay your 2007 Hiltonia Association membership fee of only \$10 per adult. Our association and all of its activities are supported by this small fee that we ask for each year. This fee goes to pay for all of our worthy projects, civic donations, children's events and of course our adult parties. As an association, we have no other income, so please help support your community by becoming a member. Please send membership dues to Ali Wilson at 111 Kensington Ave or you can pay with paypal at our website, [www.hiltonia.org](http://www.hiltonia.org) or at any of the Association's events or general meetings. Thank you for your support!

### Will You Take 50¢ For That?

The Hiltonia annual neighborhood flea market will be held on Saturday June 23rd, with a rain date of Sunday June 24th. This event has been coordinated with yard sales/flea markets in many of our adjacent neighborhoods. We also advertise our neighborhood sale in the local newspapers, making this a well attended event. Antique dealers and shoppers from everywhere will converge on Trenton that day looking for that special bargain. Why not take the time to sell some of those things that you no longer have room for; or maybe find that bargain of a lifetime at one of your neighbor's homes. If you have any questions, please call Bill Merz at 394-8816.

### End the Weekender

I'm sure you've noticed that every Thursday, the Trenton Times has been flooding our neighborhood with their "Weekender" publication in little environment hostile lavender bags.

If you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please email Todd Doolittle of the Trenton Times at [TDoolittle@njtimes.com](mailto:TDoolittle@njtimes.com). Just ask to be removed from Weekender distribution. He has agreed to remove anyone who asks.

### America's Night Out Against Crime!

This year's National Night Out is scheduled for Tuesday August 7th.

Last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local

officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide. In all, over 34 million people participated in NNO 2006.

NNO is designed to:

- Heighten crime and drug prevention awareness
- Generate support for, and participation in, local anti-crime programs
- Strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships
- Send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back.

While our neighborhood is quite secure and not in need of being "taken back"; this event exhibits Hiltonia's solid unity; and states that we, as a neighborhood, intend to remain strong, secure and crime free forever. On a lighter note, it's also a fun block party where all of our neighborhood families come out and get together as one. Last year we were joined by local police and fireman who spoke with us about neighborhood and city concerns. There was plenty of food, drink and fun for the entire family. Unfortunately at last year's event it was still over 100 degrees even at 8:00 pm. Hopefully this year's event will bring cooler weather.

We are looking for some help in organizing and arranging this year's National Night Out; so if you are interested in helping to make this event a success, please call Maureen Keenan at 396-2450 or Bill Merz at 394-8816.

### Protect Your Lines With Linesaver

American Water Resources, Inc, the nation's oldest and largest water company is now offering a comprehensive service program that covers the cost of repairing a water or sewer line breach. Normal wear and tear such as aging pipes, invasive tree roots and seasonal temperature changes can cause water or sewer lines to leak, break or clog. Repairs to these service lines can be very costly. The City will not cover or repair any water or sewer line problem that is between the edge of the street and your home. Last winter there were a few water main breaks which unfortunately cost the homeowners approximately \$8,000 each to repair.

With the Linesaver program, you can pay \$5.50 per month for water line coverage up to \$8,000 and \$9.00 per month to cover sewer lines up to \$10,000. You can also buy combined coverage of \$18,000 for \$12.50 per month. If there is a breach, the repairs will be performed by licensed Mercer county plumbers that are immediately dispatched by American Water Resources.

After seeing our neighbor on Buckingham Ave deal with this problem in the middle of the coldest part of winter, this premium seems small for the peace of mind offered in knowing that you are protected. If you are interested in Linesaver, please call American Water Resources, Inc at 888-207-5228.

## Cadwalader Park Improvements Near

On May 21, 2007, the City of Trenton issued a request for proposals (RFP) for landscape architects to design and implement more than \$2 million in improvements to Cadwalader Park. This could mean that 2008 will be the year that shovels go in the ground to begin the estimated \$20 million in improvements identified in the park's recently-completed Master Plan. While the current project represents just a tiny fraction of the overall restoration plan, it easily represents the most significant series of improvements to Cadwalader Park in recent memory.

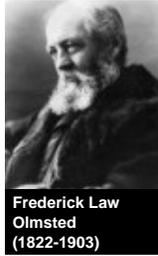
To arrive at the list of proposed improvements, the City culled elements from the Master plan for this phase that "will better connect the active recreation area to the more passive upper park as well as elements that will link Cadwalader Park to the D&R Canal Park." To that end, the City intends to complete the following in this phase:

- Replacing and relocating the canal bridge to realign the bridge with Lover's Lane and to include ADA compliance;
- Creating a canoe launch;
- Relocating the picnic grove closer to the Canal and playground;
- Designing a picnic pavilion in the scale and vernacular of the Olmsted design period; and
- Installing a playground appropriate for a park as important as Cadwalader to be located at the new picnic area.

Proposals from landscape architects are due on July 18 and a pre-bid conference is scheduled for June 13. The City's selection criteria used in evaluating the proposals are "Experience, Proposal and Cost" – in that order. Despite not being ranked by number, the order suggests that a firm's experience and quality of their proposal will weigh more heavily than the cost of their services. Or, more importantly, that cost will not be the driving factor in the decision making. While not a guarantee, this approach should minimize the possibility of an inexperienced consultant winning with a low-ball bid.

### Don't Go Reserving the New Picnic Shelter Just Yet

Assuming that the City receives one or more proposals from qualified firms, the chosen landscape architect should be authorized by the City to begin work sometime in late summer or early fall. While the City's RFP did not propose a schedule for the various deliverables required of the designer, it is conceivable that construction documents could be ready for bidding in 2008. Hopefully, the various permits and approvals – which represent every conceivable branch of government -- will not significantly delay construction. We expect to learn a lot more in the coming weeks about the status of permits and approvals as well as when construction might begin. Hopefully, the Association will be fortunate enough to have the design team attend an



Frederick Law  
Olmsted  
(1822-1903)

upcoming general meeting as part of their requirement to meet with community stakeholders.

### Preserving Preservation: Funding Outlook for Next Phase is Murky

With over \$17 million worth of needed improvements left to be funded, it is difficult to not begin thinking about the next phase of the Park's renovations. The \$2.6 million dedicated to this project comes, in large part, from the New Jersey Green Acres Program. You may recall hearing the Program's name tossed around in the news lately as the Governor and Legislators wrangle over the State budget. On one hand, Governor Corzine intends to fund the open-space preservation and recreation development with proceeds from the "monetization" of state assets. Meanwhile, State Legislators would like the Governor to authorize a ballot question for November that allows New Jersey voters to decide on whether or not to issue approximately \$175 million in bonds to fund future rounds of the program. Visit [actionnetwork.org/SierraClubNJ/home.html](http://actionnetwork.org/SierraClubNJ/home.html) to learn more about what you can do to show your support for future recreation funds in New Jersey.

Look for future issues of the Hilltone as well as [hiltonia.org](http://hiltonia.org) to continue to follow this project closely.

Marc Leckington

### Artworks Trenton Hosts Art All Night

Consider this, when was the last time someone uttered these words? "Boy, am I beat. I was out all night at an event in Trenton." If all goes according to plan, more than 1,000 people from around the region will be saying those words come June 24 after they have attended Trenton's 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Art All Night event. At 3:00 pm on June 23, Artworks Trenton will open it's facility for 24 continuous hours to perhaps the most ambitious art and music festival in recent memory. What makes the show so unique is that it's open to artists of all type and skill level. Anyone is welcome to submit one ready-to-hang original piece. From the construction paper and crayon art of pre-schoolers to the fine sculptures of accomplished regional artists -- everything will be displayed. As a backdrop to all this visual stimulation, local bands will be playing on two different stages throughout the day and night. Once it gets dark, art-themed movies will be shown on a large outdoor screen.

While the show depends on the participation of local artists to be a success, the organizers are currently in need of volunteers to help staff the event. Already, several of your Hiltonia neighbors have graciously volunteered to help out, but many more are needed.

As a local charity, donations to Artworks Trenton are always welcome. But, the event is completely free. There is no fee for submitting a piece nor is there a charge to attend the event. For more information about attending the event, volunteering or submitting a piece, visit the official website at [artworkstrenton.org](http://artworkstrenton.org).

## The Trenton City Museum

June 30—September 9 TAWA

July 14—Scammel Porcelain and Ceramics: The Larry Paul Collection

September 15—November 4 Garden State Watercolor

November 10—January 6 Robert Beck and Michele Post

...and many more!

Hiltonia Neighborhood Dinner  
Cesare's Café 3/18/2007



### SUBMIT YOUR ART!



24 HOURS OF  
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SATURDAY JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> AT 3PM  
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