



# THE HILLTONE

HILTONIA ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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SUMMER 1998

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## MOMS AND TOTS PLAY GROUP

Interested in getting to know the neighborhood Moms and tots? We are forming a neighborhood play group and would like you to join us! The first play date will be

Wednesday, July 22, 10:30 A.M.

7 Cadwalader Drive

For more information or questions, please call

Melinda Chance at 393-2715 or  
Chris Zeppenfeld at 392-7453

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## CADWALADER PARK MASTER PLAN PUBLIC MEETING

DATE: Thursday, July 30

TIME: 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

PLACE: City Hall Annex - Atrium

This is the second public meeting for the Cadwalader Park Master Plan. The consulting firm of Rhodeside & Harwell will give their recommendations. This is the time to ask questions, voice your opinions, participate with other interested citizens on this important topic. Please read the article on pages 2-3 for some background on the subject.

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## CADWALADER HEIGHTS HOUSE TOUR

DATE: Saturday, September 12

TIME: 12:00 to 5:00 P.M.

COST: \$7.00 (Cadwalader-Asbury United Methodist Church, 900 Stuyvesant Avenue)

This is the annual tour of selected homes in Cadwalader Heights. It's always fun to see how other people decorate and, of course, how some of the beautiful homes of Trenton are wonderfully maintained. Though Hiltonia is not quite as old, we can certainly appreciate the effort involved in keeping up charming, older properties. This is a good way to show off Trenton at its finest and hopefully encourage others to move into our neighborhoods.

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## SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, September 15, Annual Pot-Luck

TIME: 6:30 P.M.

PLACE: Ellarslie Museum - Cadwalader Park

We'll be sending out a reminder in early September - look for it in case of any changes or additions. Sometimes we have a speaker or slide presentation - this has not been finalized at this time.

Our yearly pot-luck dinner - bring a dish (main dish or salad) — we provide plates, cups, eating utensils, drinks, coffee and dessert. Please be sure to bring serving utensils for your dish. **Just a reminder** - don't forget to take utensils and container (with or without leftovers) home with you.

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## BIKE THROUGH HISTORIC TRENTON

DATE: Sunday, September 13

TIME: registration 7:30 to 8:45  
bike tour begins at 9:00 A.M.

FEE: \$15 for adults / \$10 children under 18  
checks should be made out to TRCDC Bike Tour  
TRCDC, 650 Broad Street, Trenton, NJ 08611  
all pre-registrants will receive event T-shirts

PLACE: leaves and returns to the Roebing Market

Trenton Roebing Community Development Corporation is organizing its second annual Bike Ride through Historic Trenton. Last year about a hundred bike riders participated. The route is approximately twelve miles and takes about three hours. There is a refreshment stop in Cadwalader Park - in front of Ellarslie.

Prior to the start there will be an overview about some of the historic architecture that will be seen along the way. There will be time for questions and discussion at the refreshment stop. The map will locate points of interest and give a brief description of each. For further information contact

Amy Gove : evenings 609-538-8359

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## ELLARSLIE

It seems that when we go on vacation, we explore all of the interesting museums, sites, etc. of the place we are visiting. Yet we forget what gems we have in our own home towns. Ellarslie is one of those gems. The permanent collection "Potteries: The Story of Trenton's Ceramic Industry" on the second floor is well worth seeing.

Currently the Trenton Artists Workshop Association's exhibit "Human Rights" is on display on the first floor.

Though Ellarslie is a City of Trenton Museum, not all costs associated with it are funded by the City. The Trustees of Ellarslie are citizens of Trenton and neighboring communities. Along with the Director of the museum, they endeavor to promote membership, write grants, and provide programs that are of interest for both adults and youth.

As with all organizations, the membership drive is an important fund raiser. One of the additional handouts with this month's distribution is a membership card - please take a moment to consider becoming a member.

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## TCCA BANQUET

DATE: November 13, 1996

TIME: 6:00 P.M. CASH BAR / 7:00 P.M. DINNER

PLACE: Masonic Temple, 100 Barrack Street

COST: \$25 per person

Last year's event was a sell-out. This year's dinner will honor a citizen, student, business, corporation and commission for their service and dedication to our city. Won't you plan on attending.

Contact Linda Reed for tickets or further information 394-2314

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### WORTHY PROJECTS COMMITTEE

We are really in need of good ideas for the neighborhood Worthy Projects Committee. If you know of an organization that could benefit from some neighborhood good will, please contact:

*Melinda Chance 393-2715*

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### FROM HILTONIA'S PRESIDENT

Some days it feels only yesterday that Gail and I started riding around Trenton's beautiful neighborhoods; others it seems we've lived here forever.

Before we decided to buy our house, we found ourselves driving around Hiltonia so often 'true' Hiltonians waved to us as we passed – as though we were neighbors, as though we belonged. I haven't a doubt it was that community feeling, particularly once reinforced by the Holiday Party, that made us want to live here. And, once we got here, it became apparent people cared about each other and the neighborhood.

Let me think.

It seems we've lived here forever, mostly, as I try to work with some aspects of the city bureaucracy. Is it possible I've spent five years calling about paving three streets, with Kensington yet undone? Can you believe we were promised more functional and attractive bollards to replace the saw horses and cable at Cadwalader parks blocked roadway four years ago? And then again, "right after the bicycle race is over," only to find them not only undone, but not yet started, in mid July? Finding it difficult to get things done, to get calls returned from city administrators, or being told folks are "too busy" to spend ten minutes talking, makes time slow down. Haven't we been "working on this forever?" While difficult, we have to maintain the energy to keep plodding along. And, whatever you can do (or whomever you can see) to help will propel us to the next advance.

But, wasn't it just yesterday we met ... how quickly May Day in the park, Easter Egg Hunts, annual meetings at Ellarslie, Holiday celebrations all pass.

What a warm feeling when neighbors get involved in the smaller and greater community. In fact, last week, Hiltonia folk made up almost a quarter of those who attended the first Cadwalader Park Planning committee presentation (see Mary Papas' cogent summary below). I hope even more will attend the second public presentation on July 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 P.M. The consultants will present their program then. And because it will be our only chance to comment on the draft, it will be the pivotal moment in the planning process. If you have strong feelings about the park and its needs, please make every human effort to attend and express your view.

We vote in disproportionate numbers to make sure our needs are well represented. We seem to be the neighborhood of choice for a significant number of City, County and State representatives. May there be more.

In the end, what we need more than anything is your expression of commitment to Hiltonia in its most tangible form: your membership renewal. We haven't heard from several long-time members and hope to do so before our September meeting; please send your \$7.50

per person or \$15.00 dollars per household membership contribution to Roberta DeAngelis, 5 Buckingham Avenue, soon.

*Hal Szenes*  
President 1998

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### CADWALADER PARK MASTER PLAN

You may remember that several years ago the federal government provided a grant of \$250K to Trenton for use in the City's parks. A couple of meetings took place over the years. Early this year an Advisory Committee for the Cadwalader Park Master Plan was formed and held its first meeting May 13.

The Advisory Committee consists of representatives from Berkeley Square, Cadwalader Heights, Hillcrest, Hiltonia, Trenton Council of Civic Associations, Isles, Trenton Convention and Visitors' Bureau, and several City representatives, along with the consulting firm Rhodeside & Harwell Incorporated.

Minutes of the May 13th Advisory Committee meeting state that "the Master Plan will look at the Park in terms of its historic and contemporary contexts; assess the Park's existing conditions; determine a vision as well as goals and programmatic requirements for the future; and address how these needs can be met through a strategic plan with the short-, mid- and long-term objectives".

June 24 was the first public meeting for this project. About 20-25% of the audience were residents of Hiltonia. The meeting began at 7:00 P.M. with individual time to speak to the consultants, a slide presentation beginning at 8:00 and time for audience questions afterward.

The next public meeting will be July 30. It is important that we give our input at these public meetings - we can't sit at home and complain after the fact. Anything that happens with Cadwalader Park directly affects our neighborhood as well as the other surrounding neighborhoods.

Some of the concerns raised from the audience at the June 24 public meeting:

- 1) The consultants' presentation focused on the background of Olmsted Parks and design, historical importance and correctness, use of the Park both in the beginning and today, and the current physical state of the Park.

Though it would be a 'nice too' to have the Park restored to its original design, with historically correct trash receptacles, lighting, benches, fences etc. the concern is a question of funding. If the dollar amount it would require is not available, should we begin with a thorough clean-up and a simple project such as the playground equipment replacement? Or should we go for the pie in the sky and never accomplish it?

- 2) A question arose whether the consultants were going to help with funding sources, grant writing, etc.

Their response was they would give recommendations for sources and fund raising. It is a shame that we spent in the six figures for consultants to come up with a master plan when one was already designed in the early 1980s and updated in the late 1980s. If the reasoning was because they were going to assist with the fund raising, it seems this might have been misinterpreted.

- 3) There is quite a contingent that is still in favor of opening the park to vehicular traffic - this issue was brought to a public meeting in 1994 with City Council and the consensus was to close the outer loop to vehicular traffic. Several City Council

members have stated this is a dead issue - but there was quite a fervor at this meeting to re-open the topic.

Since limited vehicular traffic has been instituted in the Park, it appears that drugs use and drug dealings, open alcohol consumption, and litter have been reduced - though all could still be improved. Would it be wise to re-open the outer loop? Just because vehicles do not have complete access, does this restrict people usage? or is it just a convenience issue?

Parking is a problem. Perhaps a survey could be done as to the availability and use of parking on the streets surrounding the Park. Are they fully used, is school parking a possibility? Can some sort of trolley or jitney service be provided?

- 4) There were at least ten individuals who came to the meeting on motorcycles and were very disturbed that they are not allowed to ride in the Park. They also indicated they did not receive a response when they brought this question to City Hall.

Is there an ordinance restricting motorcycle riding? This should be a simple question to research. Is it that they are concerned about the safety of their bikes if left outside the Park. If so, this again seems to be a parking issue.

*Mary Pappas*

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## CRIME WATCH

The newspaper report in late June of a car being stolen at knifepoint from a Kensington Avenue resident was a disturbing event for our fine neighborhood. A sad but rare crime such as this one becomes useful to Hiltonia if it serves as our catalyst to make crime awareness and prevention a priority. The Hiltonia Crime Watch, a telephone tree that enables residents to report and disseminate information about incidents, is the mechanism we use to remain informed about neighborhood crime and was used to report the Kensington Avenue incident to neighbors.

### What should I do when a crime occurs?

1. Contact Trenton Police. If the incident is underway or otherwise would be considered an emergency, dial 911 to report the crime. In other cases, call the Trenton Police at 989-4111 to report the crime. In either case, please try to be as helpful to the dispatcher as you possibly can be.
2. Report the incident to Hiltonia Crime Watch by calling Jean Harbach at 392-6380 or Bill Graff at 393-4437.

### How does Crime Watch work?

The crime watch telephone tree is activated after the details of an incident are reported by the crime victim. We then begin to relay this information through nine Crime Watch telephone trees. 120 households participate in Crime Watch.

### What can go wrong with Crime Watch?

The problems with Crime Watch are inherent to those of any telephone tree. Sometimes calls are not made and sometimes the details of the crime are changed in error. If you do participate in Crime Watch, please be sure to record the details of the incident accurately and, if you are required to relay the information to another neighbor, please treat the call as a priority.

### I want to participate in Crime Watch. How do I join?

Call Jean Harbach at 392-6380 or Bill Graff at 393-4437. We try to update the Crime Watch telephone tree annually.

### What is the bottom line on crime in Hiltonia?

Crimes do occur here just as they do in any upper-middle class neighborhood. Fortunately, they usually involve no interaction between the victim and the criminal, but do they occur at all times of the day or night. Most crimes in Hiltonia involve either a stolen vehicle or a theft from a detached garage. We hear occasionally of household items being stolen from the first floor of the home. Sometimes we will hear of the same crime reported by several households within just a day or two. While we don't hear of every crime in the neighborhood, the Crime Watch telephone tree is activated about every other month.

### What is the best way to protect myself and my property against crime in Hiltonia?

The precautions necessary to prevent the most crimes in Hiltonia are easy to implement:

1. Always remain vigilant of your surroundings. Know who your neighbors are and what cars they drive. Do not hesitate to report a suspicious individual or vehicle in Hiltonia to the Trenton Police.
2. Detached garages should be as empty as is practical and used ideally only to store vehicles. Lawn equipment, bicycles, and hand, garden and power tools are stored more safely elsewhere. The garage should remain locked, preferably with a remote garage door opener, and any windows or doors should be covered. The garage should be equipped with exterior lighting and the door should remain closed at all times, even when doing lawn work.
3. If vehicles cannot be stored in the garage, they should be parked in a well-lighted area, preferably in the driveway, and locked. Since some types of vehicles, like Hondas, are stolen more frequently than others, a supplementary steering wheel anti-theft device should be considered.
4. The house should be locked and well-lighted at night. Doors and all first-floor windows should be locked. Minimum exterior lighting should be dusk-to-dawn from either a porch light or a light post at the sidewalk. Cash and purses should not be visible from any window at any time.

### I've never had to deal with the Police. If I have to do so, what should I expect?

In the vast majority of cases where Hiltonia residents have called Trenton Police for assistance, they have reported prompt and courteous service by professional law enforcement officers.

Hiltonia has experienced problems occasionally with police service. Some residents have reported that the police were slow to respond to their call. In most cases this happens because the officers on duty are busy with more serious problems. We have also had reports of officers speculating to a crime victim about why crimes occur in Hiltonia. Officers have speculated that crime occurs in Hiltonia because it is part of the City of Trenton and that if the household lived elsewhere-- out of the city-- the crime would not have occurred.

As tax-paying residents who choose to live in Hiltonia, neither of these service issues or any other problems that may occur when working with the Trenton Police should go unreported. The Chief of Police has recommended that no dispatcher or officer should be confronted directly about a service issue. Instead, make a note of all relevant facts and report the poor performance directly to his office at 989-4055.

*Bill Graff*

If anyone (even if you are not on the Crime Watch Telephone Chain) experiences or hears of car thefts, burglaries, etc. be sure to call Bill Graff 393-4437 or Jean Harbach 392-6380 to start the phone calling. If you are on the Chain and get a Crime Watch call, please do your part - pass the information along ASAP.

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**HOSTS**

Won't you volunteer to host a general meeting. It takes no preparation on your part - Georgia Wallar provides all refreshments, sets up and cleans up afterward - you just need to supply your home. Give her a call at 695-8711

**WELCOME WAGON AND NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS**

Jackie Perry is visiting new residents to Hiltonia. If you have never received a welcome visit, give her a call at 599-3430.

If you have some neighborhood news including new babies, engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations, etc. please give Mary Pappas a call at 599-1755.

**MEMBERSHIP**

Our membership in 1996 was about 145, in 1997 about 130 and **this year only 88**. In fact, since the Spring newsletter when we printed the membership-to-date, we have not received any new or renewing people to our list. If there is something the Association is doing or not doing that has caused you to drop off the list, please let us know, contact any Board Member.

If it's just an oversight, won't you drop a check of \$7.50 per person or \$15.00 dollars per household membership contribution to Roberta DeAngelis, 5 Buckingham Avenue.

**1998 BOARD MEMBERS**

Please feel free to contact any member of the Board or Committee Member if you have any questions, would like to report information, or need any assistance relating to the neighborhood,

**OFFICERS**

Hal Szenes 119 Cadwalader Drive	PRESIDENT 989-8134
Nancy Maynard 226 Renfrew Avenue	1st VICE PRESIDENT 392-8623
Michael Frierman 14 Renfrew Avenue	2nd VICE PRESIDENT 394-3556
Stephen Crowder 3 Cadwalader Drive	TREASURER 394-7066
Jackie Kutch 123 Renfrew Avenue	RECORDING SEC 392-8948
Ellen Heath Schuster 121 Kensington Avenue	CORRESPONDING SEC 695-2729

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Hal Szenes	989-8134	CIVIC
Bill Graff	393-4437	CRIME WATCH
Jean Harbach	392-6380	
Mary Pappas	599-1755	HILLTONE
Georgia Wallar	695-8711	HOSPITALITY
Roberta DeAngelis	392-6349	MEMBERSHIP
Lee Burgess	392-8304	PUBLICITY
Linda Reid	394-2314	
Jackie Perry	599-3430	WELCOME WAGON
Melinda Chance	393-2715	WORTHY PROJECTS

**GARBAGE COLLECTION**

**Monday and Thursday** of each week.

NO recyclables!! NO cardboard!!

For information call 989-3175 or 989-3176

**COUNTY RECYCLE**

**Every other Thursday**

Jul. 9, 23

Sep. 3, 17

Aug. 6, 20

Oct. 1, 15, 29

**The following guidelines are a REQUIREMENT for recycling in Mercer County.**

**GREEN BUCKET**

Newspaper and inserts, magazines and catalogs, stationery and mail, school paper, copier and computer paper, index cards and file folders, dry food and detergent boxes, shoe and gift boxes, paper bags and telephone books. KEEP CLEAN AND DRY

**YELLOW BUCKET**

Glass (clear, green & brown), food & beverage containers : RINSE, REMOVE LIDS & RINGS, DO NOT BREAK

Cans - Aluminum, tin & bi-metal cans : EMPTY & CLEAN

Plastic Bottles — only #1 or #2 (stamped on bottom) : EMPTY & RINSE, REMOVE LIDS & RINGS, FLATTEN

Aseptic Boxes & Polycoated Beverage Cartons : EMPTY & RINSE, FLATTEN

Household Drycell Batteries — zip-lock bag with supplied Green Sticker : place on top of recyclables.

For Green Stickers or additional information call.

609-695-1200

**CLASSIFIEDS**

If you have something to advertise, just let me know. This is free to the residents of Hiltonia. It could be an item to sell, a service, an announcement, etc. Just give me a call or drop a note in my mail slot at 28 Hilvista Blvd., Mary Pappas 599-1755

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michael fischler, nctmb  
 massage therapist  
 609/599-9520  
 AMTA member by appointment  
 Gift Certificates