

as little as two weeks' notice of this complex and important bill, a schedule that guaranteed there would be little effective citizen input.

Education

The Coalition's education arm, FONE (Friends of Neighborhood Education), is an alliance of neighborhood school-support groups. At this year's second annual FONE summit, 120 representatives from more than 25 schools participated in workshops and networking sessions. The interactions occasioned by FONE have led to projects such as:

- Paper Jam, collecting \$10,000 in funds funneled through the Crosstown Treasury, for purchasing paper at neighborhood schools
- The Philadelphia Public School Giving Circle, which has raised \$11,000 for "mini grants" to neighborhood primary schools

for extracurricular activities like school trips

- Realtor tours of neighborhood schools so that real-estate agents can better inform buyers and renters of available public-school options

Government Outreach

The Coalition's key government outreach effort involves Senate Bill 95, regulating "SLAPP" claims, or Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation. These lawsuits stifle grassroots participation in the government process by saddling citizens with defending costly specious claims. Here in Philadelphia, after three SLAPP actions – none of which went beyond the pleading stage – against Old City Civic Association rendered the Association uninsurable, they were forced to disband.

In 2015, a team of Coalition lawyers drafted Senate Bill 95, modeling its language on

the provisions of 26 other jurisdictions that have enacted anti-SLAPP legislation. Larry Farnese, CCRA's state senator, introduced the Bill, which passed the State Senate by a vote of 48 to 1. Unfortunately, Bill 95 stalled in the House Judiciary Committee and did not reach the floor before the legislature adjourned.

But this disappointment was not for want of effort by the Coalition. The Crosstown and 18 of its 23 members – including CCRA – wrote the 21 members of the House Judiciary Committee individualized letters supporting Bill 95. In addition to these 378 pieces of correspondence, Crosstown lobbied members of the Philadelphia delegation via personal visits. Further, Crosstown volunteers drafted a four-page memo addressing eleventh-hour concerns expressed by the Pennsylvania Bar Association. Plans are underway to reintroduce the Bill when the new legislature convenes in 2017.

Our Greene Countrie Towne

Clean Air Council Protects Your Right to Breathe

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

The Clean Air Council has been working to protect your right to breathe clean air for almost 35 years. Founded in 1967 – before the EPA, before Earth Day, and before the modern Clean Air Act – the Council is Philadelphia's oldest environmental non-profit organization. Led by Executive Director and Chief Counsel Joe Minott, the Clean Air Council, headquartered at 135 S. 19th Street, has 9,000 members.

As part of its clean air mandate, the Council studies and acts on air pollution, climate change, waste reduction, renewable energy, fracking, and clean commuting, through public education, community advocacy, and, when necessary, legal action. The Clean Air Council forced Pennsylvania to implement an automobile inspection and maintenance program, and was instrumental in bringing wind energy to our state. Minott says, "I am most proud of the work that we have done in neighborhoods throughout Philadelphia, working with residents, to address specific pollution issues. The Council has been particularly effective at educating Philadelphians about climate change and its devastating threat to our city."

Philadelphia's air quality is still a work in progress. "Even a beautiful area of the city

such as Rittenhouse Square," Minott notes, "has elevated levels of some pollutants, largely due to the amount of car and truck traffic, including idling." Most of us are aware of air pollution only if we see, smell or feel it. A bad smell can indicate a health threat depending on the source and intensity of the odor. Also, there are air pollutants that humans cannot detect.

According to Minott, "Without a doubt, citizen action is the most powerful way to achieve change." The Council has community organizers and attorneys who work closely with area residents. To report a local air-quality problem, contact Philadelphia Air Management Services at 215-685-7586 (<http://www.phila.gov/health/airmanagement/index.html>) and the Clean Air Council at 215-567-4004 to learn how best to document your concerns.

The Council is developing low-cost, mobile air-quality monitors for those residing near polluting facilities and high-traffic areas. These monitors will provide residents affected by pollution with a powerful tool to advocate for change. A pilot program in Chinatown is now testing for particulate matter.

The Clean Air Council has been raising concerns about and working to stop fossil

fuel energy infrastructure projects proposed for Philadelphia, citing diminished air quality and an added health risk to neighborhoods downwind of these facilities.

Many different pollutants are regularly measured. Regionally, government agencies monitor for ozone (smog); fine and coarse particles (soot); lead, oxides of nitrogen, sulfur dioxide, and carbon monoxide. The latest research shows adverse health impacts at lower exposure levels, indicating standards have been tightened. Even though agencies monitor air quality, if they are not adequately funded and supported by elected officials, they can't do their jobs to reduce air pollution.

The Department of Public Health's Air Management Services (AMS), with limited resources, is the key agency addressing air pollution in Philadelphia. The AMS measures air quality throughout the city, using a network of EPA-approved air monitoring stations. The US Environmental Protection Agency and Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection are responsible for setting federal and state pollution standards. Major sources of pollution like the refinery in southwest Philadelphia are required to monitor and report their emissions.

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Despite regulatory agencies and ordinances, when the Clean Air Council was established in the 1960s, Philadelphia's air quality was poor. In 1948, a City Council ordinance had established the Division of Air Pollution Control and the Air Pollution Control Board under the Department of Public Health, which still exists today. Joe Minott sits on the Air Pollution Control Board. In 1969, Philadelphia adopted the Air Management Code, and in 1970 the Federal Clean Air Act was passed. Since then, air quality has improved, but the Philadelphia region

still struggles to meet federal air-quality health standards.

The Council supports sustainable energy, organizing "solarize" campaigns within neighborhoods to convince homeowners to go solar, and is currently a partner in the Solarize Center City program launched this fall by Judy Wicks. <http://judywicks.com/project/>

Annual Clean Air Council events include the Run for Clean Air on Earth Day, Greenfest Philly in September, and Dine Out for the Environment in October. Visit

www.cleanair.org for more information about the Council's programs or to get in touch with the staff.

Joe Minott, Esq., joined the Clean Air Council in 1982 as Staff Attorney, and became Executive Director in 1987. He holds a J.D. from Villanova University School of Law, an M.A. in Political Science, and a B.A. in Political Science and American Civilization from the University of Pennsylvania. Minott lives and works in Center City. He does not own a car.

Bricks & Mortar

CCRA 58th Annual House Tour Soars with Eagles

By Jeffrey Braff

CCRA's 58th House Tour was held on October 23, just as the Philadelphia Eagles were plastering the as yet unbeaten Minnesota Vikings. While diehard Eagles fans were at the game or glued to their TVs, some 600 others took advantage of the perfect fall weather to explore a wonderful collection of 11 neighborhood sites. Generating revenue for the Association to continue supporting its mission "to preserve, enhance, and celebrate urban living," the House Tour is an annual event whose success depends upon a cast of hundreds of volunteers and contributors, some of whom are acknowledged below.

Without fascinating houses, there could be no Tour. So first we owe thanks to our neighbors who generously opened their homes/offices for the day:

The Dwight D Inn
Alice Hall
The Claridge
Renee Scharf, M.D.
Donna and Jay Butler
2116 Chestnut Street
Terri and Mark Steinberg
Susan Herron
Judy Wicks
Stephen Carlino and Dr. Dennis Fee
Elena and Joseph Cappella

Thanks also to our 2016 Sponsors:

Mid-Century Sponsors

AMC Delancey
Morgan Lewis & Bockius, LLP

Contemporary Sponsors

Allan Domb Real Estate
Clemens Construction
Dranoff Properties
Robin Apartments
Solar States

We are grateful to our pre-Tour ticket sellers **Good Karma Café, Jezabel's Cafe, Jomici Apothecary, Maxx's Produce, Rittenhouse Hardware, and Waffles & Wedges**; our Tour-day ticket locations **Temple Beth Zion-Beth Israel and Trinity Center for Urban Life**; our Tour-day Restaurant Discount Program partners **Audrey Claire, Crow & the Pitcher, La Fontana Della Citta and Twenty Manning Grill**; and those who purchased ads in the House Tour booklet distributed to all Tour-goers.

Finally, thanks to all Tour-day volunteers (including hosts, hostesses and ticket-sellers), and to Tour Chair Kathleen Federico and her top lieutenants Bonnie Collins, Chuck Goodwin, Steve Huntington, Jake Markovitz, Travis Oliver, Kelly Patrizio, Ruth Segal and Dawn Willis.

This is a major fundraiser for the Association. Would you like to get involved? The 2017 Tour will be held in October, date to be determined. Contact the CCRA office to offer your home, volunteer, be a sponsor, or purchase a Tour Booklet ad.

Dining Scene



Garces Goes West with New Restaurant 24

Chef Jose Garces' newest restaurant, 24, was built with the Center City neighborhood in mind, offering a casual eatery with an energetic approach to Garces' signature brand of Latin-inspired hospitality. Located at 2401 Walnut Street, 24 is meant to be a convenient and appealing destination for residents, professionals and students.

The menu focuses on wood-fired pizza, pasta and other Italian specialties at affordable prices. Also featured at 24 are quick counter service, offering Garces Trading Company coffees and freshly baked pastries, and healthy grab-and-go breakfast options including fresh cold-pressed juices and kombucha. The restaurant is open 7 am-10 pm Sunday through Thursday, and 7 am-11 pm Friday and Saturday. Website: www.24Philly.com Phone: 215-333-3331. Instagram/Twitter: @24phl