



December 2013



GENA Christmas in the Park

On Sunday, December 15th, from 4 to 7 P.M., GENA will host a neighborhood Christmas Party in Girard Park. All are welcome to join us for some winter fun! There will be carriage rides, refreshments, seasonal music, a Christmas tree lighting, and a chance to visit with Santa.

GENA Election Results

With a record 133-person turnout, GENA elected a new leadership team Tuesday evening, October 29, at the Donatucci library. In a race that generated a lot of excitement, Gaetano Piccirilli won over Frank LaMacchia for President, 69 votes to 52; Mark Leuzzi, Jr. outpolled Paul Gambone, 62 to 59, for Vice President. Running uncontested, Paul Rossi was elected Secretary, Tom Janke Treasurer, and Loretta Rossi as a member of the Board of Directors. Vince Ricchiuti moved to the Board by virtue of his position as immediate past President of GENA. One board position remains to be filled. Interest in the race appears to have fuelled new membership, as we enrolled 63 new dues-paying members.

Calendar

Next Public Meeting

GENA's next general membership meeting will be on Tuesday, February 11th at 6:30 P.M. at the Donatucci Library.

Zoning

The Zoning Committee meets on the second Wednesday of every Month at the Prudential Bank Community Room, 1834 West Oregon Avenue, at 7 P.M. The next meeting is December 11th.

Contact Us: www.Gena001.com

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A Message from the President

Dear Members and Neighbors:

Thank you for your support in electing me President of GENA. The night of the election was energetic, intense, and very important for our community. The candidates' visions were not altogether very different. But one thing was clear: the community came out to support a viable and active civic organization. During my term, GENA will continue to be Girard Estate's transparent and truly representative civic organization. A current list of projects being worked on by GENA's team includes:

- A holiday celebration in Girard Park slated for 12/15
- Attempting to bring a weekend-only café to Girard Park during the warmer weather months
- Trying to lure a farmers' market to Girard Park on a regular basis
- Surveying the community for significant blight issues, and
- Working with elected officials to better serve you!

This requires a significant investment of volunteer time by GENA board and committee members. Right now, we are actively soliciting for members to join our events and park committees. We need and welcome your help. Please contact us at Gena001@comcast.net if you are interested.

Have a very safe and happy holiday season!

Gaetano Piccirilli,
President, Girard Estate Neighbors Association

Philadelphia LOOP Program Information

In early December, the owners of residential properties that have had substantial increases in their property values will receive a letter in the mail from the City of Philadelphia, describing a new Real Estate Tax relief program for longtime homeowners, called LOOP, the Longtime Owner Occupants Program.

Eligible property owners are being mailed a pre-filled application and brochure with their personalized tax savings information. More information and a tool to check eligibility and amount of savings are available by calling 215-686-9200 or visiting www.phila.gov/LOOP. Assistance and information is available in multiple languages online and over the phone.

If you are approved, your tax bill will be reduced for 10 years with a one-time application. To get these savings, **your application must be received by January 15, 2014**, and you have to meet the other requirements below.

LOOP Eligibility Requirements:

- The property's 2014 Market Value minus the \$30,000 Homestead Exemption must be more than 3 times the 2013 Market Value
- Homeowners must own and have lived in this property as their primary residence since at least July 1, 2003.
- The property is a single family or a multi-unit property with no more than three residential units and one commercial unit.
- The property cannot have received a tax abatement now or in the past.
- The Real Estate Taxes on the property must be paid in full or be up-to-date on a payment plan (or have an application for a payment agreement pending).
- There are income limits based on household size.

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