

Development

Re-energizing public housing



Whelan

**WEST PHILADELPHIA.** Architect Juliet Whelan can now proudly add creating a vision for a stylized public housing development to her portfolio. A Philadelphia Housing Authority panel chose the design created by Whelan's Jibe Design firm last week over that of three other local firms run by young architects. The concept will

be used to redevelop the 800 block of Markoe Street, which is the last phase of PHA's development near the Lucien Blackwell Homes. Jibe's plan was chosen because it maintains the facades of the existing homes and could receive LEED-certification as a result of energy-saving features.

SOLOMON D. LEACH/METRO

Whelan described the vision to Metro

**Q** How does your design fit in with the neighborhood?

**A** I'm preserving the existing buildings, and obviously there are plenty of brick rowhouses in the area, so the idea there was to try to fit in. The new buildings are using the same materials. [They will have] brick on the façade. They'll be modern buildings, but we're taking the scale and materials of the existing buildings.

**Q** What makes it sustainable?

**A** The buildings [will be] insulated well, minimizing construction waste, using energy-efficient heating and cooling systems, and [we are] performing a system of tests to make sure the buildings are built correctly.

**Q** What is the interior like?

**A** It has ... a vertical skylight over the stairwell, which gathers southern sun, and in the winter it helps heat the building and in the summer the window allows heat to go out of the building.



Town Watch numbers grow

Group says 10,000 Men effort's spirit felt

**BRIAN X. MCCRONE**  
bmccrone@metro-philly.com



Town Watch volunteers are on the rise across the city.

A chief organizer for the 10,000 Men movement yesterday said one of the organization's successes has been a greater number of volunteers for the city's Town Watch program.

Anthony Murphy, who works for the city's Town Watch Services and has been involved with 10,000 Men since its inception last October, said the spirit behind the movement continues to foster more community involvement in volunteer programs.

"We've seen an increase in men wanting to be block captains as well as getting involved in mentoring programs and volunteering for sports activities," Murphy said.

And he said that not only

are more men out patrolling city streets since the 10,000 Men began with a massive rally at the Liacouras Center in October but that they remain loyal to the group.

Norm Bond, a group spokesman, reiterated yesterday that leaders of the organization like Kenny Gamble are in the midst of a fundraising effort to hire full-time and part-time staff. He said Gamble and other leaders are expected to meet early next month to discuss hirings.

Town Watch Services has seen the biggest increases of volunteers in West, South and northwest Philadelphia, Murphy said.

Council: Don't end free rides for students

**CITY HALL.** City Council sent a letter to the School Reform Commission yesterday opposing proposed changes that would affect thousands of students who ride SEPTA.

One district proposal would require students to live at least two miles away instead of a mile and a half to receive free SEPTA TransPasses, affecting 7,000 public, nonpublic and charter students. A second proposal would require students to maintain 85-percent attendance, possibly impacting another 6,500 students.

The SRC, which will vote on the proposals later this summer, held two meetings this week to hear public comment. The moves would save about \$8.5 million.

METRO/SDL

City Hall cheesesteak clash

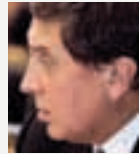
Freshman Councilman Bill Green hasn't wasted any time in making waves — and enemies — on City Council. Part of his attention is now on getting to the bottom of what he believes are problems with how Rick's Steaks was tossed from the Reading Terminal Market. His arguing with Councilman Frank DiCicco has led to fireworks at City Hall.

METRO

"I will concur with one statement in your letter — Reading Terminal Market is one of the city's jewels. ... Your attempt to sully and bully their reputation is unfortunate."

DiCicco, in a letter to Green June 10 after he questioned the situation.

"[I] continue to marvel at your inexperience, your political naivete and your inability to see an issue for what it truly is. In the future I would encourage you to focus on the issues themselves rather than merely attempting to grand stand and



gain public notoriety." DiCicco in a letter to Green yesterday.

"The situation at the market is one small, already public example of a much broader problem: people entrusted with preserving public assets apparently abusing their positions of authority to advantage their friends and associates."



Green, in Daily News letter yesterday

"Methinks he doth protest too much." Green, to HeardintheHall.com

New Jersey in brief

**NEW JERSEY.** New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine's approval rating has slipped again, according to a new poll released yesterday. The Fairleigh Dickinson University PublicMind poll found 40 percent approve of the governor's job performance, with 41 percent disapproving, down from 44 percent approval.

AP

**TRENTON.** New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine created a new state fund to pay down debt yesterday, calling the new law a key to tackling debt that threatens to consume more of the state's budget.

AP

Corzine not sure if increase in gas tax is right way to go

**TRENTON.** New Jersey Gov. Jon S. Corzine yesterday said he continues to be hesitant to increase the state's gasoline tax to pay for transportation work, citing the burden motorists are already facing with higher gas prices.

"The public, for all practical purposes, has had a dollar or more increase in their expenditures with respect to gasoline in the last 15 months," Corzine told The Associated Press.

Toll plan out

Corzine earlier this year proposed significant highway toll increases to pay for transportation improvements and cut state debt, but the plan lacked support.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's a tax that's being imposed on us by oil producers."

Corzine is expected to approve the state's budget by next Tuesday's deadline.

**Show Your Love... Get Tested Together**

Join Senator Vincent Hughes and Sheryl Lee Ralph For the Launch of their Test Together Campaign

National HIV Testing Day — Friday, June 27, 2008

Love Park - 16 & JFK Blvd.