

the news



**PHILADELPHIA SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS**
P. O. Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186
Electronic Message Hotline: 1-800-461-4190 (24 hours a day)
Web site: <http://www.asce-philly.org>
National ASCE Central Number 1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free

The Sidney Robin Memorial Newsletter of the Philadelphia Section ASCE

Vol. 78-5

Our 93rd Year

February 2006

FEBRUARY JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers, and
New Jersey Section, South Jersey Branch, American Society of Civil Engineers

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Wyndham Hotel, Mount Laurel, 1111 Route 73, Mount Laurel, NJ
Cocktails 6:00 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting Presentation 7:30 PM

SUBJECT: The Cherokee Development

SPEAKER: Brian McPeak, Project Manager, Cherokee Northeast LLC

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2006. Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$30 per member or guest, \$15 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE" and sent to ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186. Reservations can also be made on the Electronic Message Center, 800-461-4190, or via e-mail at info@asce-philly.org. Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.**

The continuing development of riverfront property along the Delaware River has extended to the New Jersey side. Current proposals call for a major redevelopment of portions of the waterfront in the Cramer Hill neighborhood in northeast Camden, as well as the Delair section of Pennsauken and Petty's Island. These concepts will result in new investment in residential properties and supporting infrastructure. In part, the opening of the NJ Transit River LINE has spurred this activity.

Mr. McPeak will outline the studies and efforts undertaken by Cherokee to identify the potential reuse of the New Jersey waterfront, including a possible \$500 million-plus program for residential development. The controversy associated with this plan entails concerns over the loss of viable waterfront property that could be utilized for port expansion, especially with a similarly controversial effort to deepen the Delaware River channel and allow larger ships to access the Port of Philadelphia and Camden. The development could also require relocation of several industries, which would take numerous jobs elsewhere.

Continued on Page 7

MARCH JOINT DINNER MEETING

Philadelphia Section, American Society of Civil Engineers,
Philadelphia Chapter, Women's Transportation Seminar and
Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers

THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 2006

Union League, 140 South Broad Street (at Sansom Street), Center City Philadelphia, PA
Cocktails 5:30 PM • Dinner 6:30 PM • Meeting Presentation 7:30 PM

SUBJECT: Philadelphia's Capital Budget for Transportation

SPEAKER: Hon. Blondell Reynolds Brown, Councilwoman-at-Large, Philadelphia City Council

RESERVATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED BY FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2006. Please send your check for the number of attendees at \$30 per member or guest, \$15 per ASCE Student Member. Checks should be made payable to "Philadelphia Section ASCE" and sent to ASCE, PO Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186. Reservations can also be made on the Electronic Message Center, 800-461-4190, or via e-mail at info@asce-philly.org. Walk-ins will be subject to acceptance on a space-available basis. **THERE IS NO GUARANTEE THAT SPACE WILL BE AVAILABLE IF YOU DO NOT RESERVE A SPACE.**

2006 ENGINEERS WEEK — IT'S HERE!

This is a reminder that the 2006 celebration of Engineers Week will take place from Friday, February 17 to Saturday, February 25, 2006.

Engineers Week's activities will kick off with the Proclamation Luncheon at the Union League on Friday, February 17, 2006, with the 2006 Delaware Valley Engineer of the Year, ASCE, Phila. Section Member Eric Flicker, as the guest of honor.

The 2006 Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year will be cited at the Young Engineer dinner on Wednesday, February 22, 2006, at the McCall Country Club in Upper Darby.

The culmination of the Week's events, the Engineers Week Banquet, will take place at the Inn at Penn, on the campus of the host school, the University of Pennsylvania, on Saturday, February 25, 2006. Numerous award winners and projects will be recognized, including the Engineer of the Year, the Young Engineer of the Year, the Outstanding Engineering Achievements in the Delaware Valley, the Outstanding Math Teachers, Student Paper Contest winners, Scholarship recipients, and the winners of the local Future City Competition.

Please consult the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council's website at www.dvewc.org, for more details and information on prices and reservations for these events.

This year, the theme of National Engineers Week is "Engineers Make A World of Difference." The local celebration will include the citing of Ben Franklin's 300th birthday to this theme.

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section is well represented on the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council, which coordinates Engineers Week activities locally. Phila. Section Members on the Council include Susan Best, Tom Brady, Ed D'Alba, Pat Dougherty, Victor Marcus, Carol Martsof, Chris Menna, Jim Markham, Larry Moy, Harry Perks, Fred Plotnick, Joe Syrnick, and Bob Wright.

Hide not your talents.
They for use were made.
What's a sundial in the shade?

— Benj. Franklin



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I just spoke at the Joint ASCE/ASHE meeting and realized that my term is now more than one-half complete. Engineers Week is almost upon us. We're now approaching the very busy winter/spring part of the year. I am very pleased with how things are going. I look forward to participating in the remaining activities for the year. Once again, I would like to thank all Board and Section members alike for their efforts.

Now, I would like to report on recent happenings that are of concern to the ASCE, Philadelphia Section.

Concerning the taxing of Professional Services, there was a follow-up Senate Bill No. 854. This Bill paralleled House Bill No. 1920. I understand that both bills have been defeated.

The first-ever, Pennsylvania Infrastructure Report Card is moving ahead. The budget is being scrutinized as I speak. Report card categories have been selected. Group leaders have been assigned to lead the categories. Some twenty to thirty people overall have volunteered to work with the available data to generate the grades. We're on the move.

Regarding the Region 2 Formation process, the finalized governance documents have been approved and have been forwarded to ASCE National. We have received some minor comments. The comments are being addressed and should not be a problem. The Region is soliciting for potential Governors up until February 1. Then, the Nomination Committee will begin sorting through the candidates by mid-February. The Region 2 Formation Team is confident that the initial Governor positions will be filled.

Please also visit the PSPE website at www.pspe.org and review the proposed legislation for continuing education. The Senate Bill of interest is No. 655 (2005). In sum, the proposal is for 24 professional development hours (PDHs) in a biennial period, where eligible PDHs can be earned in a number of ways. As a follow-up, both the PA House and Senate will have activity concerning this bill through February and March. There is concern that the current PA- PDH model should be raised to 30 to match the NCEES model. Stay tuned for more developments.

The Banner project is nearing completion. Kudos goes out to **David Hanly** for leading this ad-hoc committee. The committee has received Art Commission approval and has awarded a contract to a fabricator. Expect to see the banners in early February of this year. They will be up in time for Engineers Week 2006. The display area will be South Broad Street, between City Hall and the Union League. Our Phila. Section should be proud, as these banners will be in front of our new home base and the site of the Engineers Week Proclamation Luncheon.

Additionally, we have received both Art and Historic Commission approvals for the City Hall NHCEL plaque. The foundry's proof for the plaque is coming soon. **Urban Engineers** has shown leadership by sponsoring the VIP invitations. Likewise, **Pennoni Associates** has shown leadership by sponsoring the event program. We are still looking for sponsors to help defray the cost of the refreshments and the bronze plaque. Any interested firms should contact **Ruben David**. A general invitation to all Phila. Section members and their guests is forthcoming. I commend Ruben David and his committee for their efforts on this project to date.

Finally, with the plaque and banner details well under control, our attention is shifting more to the Landmark Guide. **Carol Martsof** is leading this effort. Here again, I would like to recognize **Urban Engineers** for showing leadership in sponsoring the design of the guide.

That's it. *Now please come out and support Engineers Week!*

Sincerely,
Christopher J. Menna, P.E.
President - Philadelphia Section, ASCE

SECTION OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTION - 2005-06 SEASON

PRESIDENT

Christopher J. Menna,
Philadelphia Department of Streets

PRESIDENT ELECT

Carol C. Martsof, Urban Engineers, Inc.

VICE PRESIDENT

James P. Markham, Pennoni Associates, Inc.

SECRETARY

Kristen Bowman Kavanagh,
Flow Science, Inc.

ASSISTANT SECRETARY

Jennifer K. Walsh, McMahon Associates, Inc.

TREASURER

Joseph Platt, Traffic Planning and Design, Inc.

ASSISTANT TREASURER

David C. Hanly, DMJM + HARRIS

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Thomas W. Brady, Louis Berger Group

WEBMASTER

Vincent M. Chin, McCormick Taylor

DIRECTORS

Vicki L. Brown, Widener University
Robert J. Guthrie, Schoor DePalma
Anthony J. Kelly, Childrens Hospital of Phila.
Sheila Rabbari, Schoor DePalma
Mark J. Tiger, DMJM Aviation
Ann M. Tomalavage, Malarkey Consulting, Inc.

PAST PRESIDENTS

Brian A. Stover, Urban Engineers, Inc.
Allan F. Moore, Jr., Phila. International Airport
Ruben D. David, Phila. Capital Program Office

PRESIDENT, READING BRANCH

Gerald Donnelly, STV, Inc.

President - Christopher J. Menna, P.E.

Senior Project Engineer
Philadelphia Department of Streets,
Bridge Section
1401 Kennedy Blvd., Room 830
Philadelphia, PA 19102
(215) 686-5183
Email: christopher.menna@phila.gov

Secretary - Kristen Bowman Kavanagh, P.E.

Project Engineer
Flow Science, Inc.
1500 Kennedy Blvd.
2 Penn Center, Suite 200
Philadelphia, PA-19102
(215) 854-6445
Email: kbkavanagh@flowscience.com

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Editor of THE NEWS

Robert Wright

Staff Writers

James Markham Joe Synchron

SEND COPY TO:

ASCE News
P.O. Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186

DON'T FORGET ABOUT YOUR DUES!

If you haven't already done so, please don't forget to pay your ASCE and Philadelphia Section dues for 2006. Your dues are vital to the support of the Section's activities (and, of course, if you don't pay your Section dues, you won't be getting THE NEWS in your mailbox on a regular basis!). We appreciate your ongoing support.



ANG ASSOCIATES, INC.

Consulting Engineers/Construction Managers

Design and Construction Services for:
Public and Private Facilities; Transportation;
Institutional; Educational; Industrial;
Commercial and Residential Projects

Penn Treaty Park Place Bldg. Tel: (215) 427-8700
1341 N. Delaware Ave., Suite 500 Fax: (215) 427-8710

a mentor protégé partner of CSA Group
www.csagroup.com

DO YOU HAVE BIG IDEAS?

If you do, the "New" Construction Technical Group is looking for a few good persons to join us in planning and conducting educational and networking events that can benefit you and other ASCE members. Your ideas on event types, educational topics and other means of promoting Civil Engineers' contributions to society are welcome. For more information, please contact **Dennis Mac Bride** at dmacbride@septa.org or (215) 580-3404. Thanks!

DMJM HARRIS | AECOM

AECOM Ranked #1 in Transportation by ENR

260 South Broad Street, Suite 1500
Philadelphia, PA 19102
215-735-0832

www.dmjmharris.com

TRANSIT/RAIL | AIRPORTS | HIGHWAYS/BRIDGES | MARINE | ENERGY

COPY DEADLINE FOR

MARCH '06 ISSUE

FEBRUARY 24, 2006

TECHNICAL GROUPS/CHAIRS

Information on the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Technical Groups is given below. Vice President **James Markham** will coordinate activities of the Groups. If you have any topics that you think would be of interest to the Groups, please feel free to pass this information along to the Group Chair. As usual, an informative and interesting program is planned and events will be reported in upcoming issues of THE NEWS.

CONSTRUCTION

Dennis MacBride
SEPTA
1234 Market Street, 12th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-580-3404

DELAWARE VALLEY GEOINSTITUTE

Michael S. Carnivale III
US Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building, 7th Floor
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 1910
215-656-6667

ENGINEERING MANAGEMENT

William J. Mulloy
US Army Corps of Engineers
Philadelphia District
Wanamaker Building, 7th Floor
100 Penn Square East
Philadelphia, PA 19107
215-656-6583

ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES

Jeremy Colello
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
3001 Market Street, 2nd Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19104
215-222-3000

STRUCTURAL

Mohiuddin (Ali) Khan
STV Inc.
820 Bear Tavern Road, Suite 105
Trenton, NJ 08628
609-530-9618

TRANSPORTATION AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

William T. Thomsen
Urban Engineers, Inc.
530 Walnut Street, 14th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19106
215-922-8080

If you'd know the power of money,
go and borrow some.

— Benj. Franklin

TPD TRAFFIC PLANNING AND DESIGN, INC.

HIGHWAY DESIGN
STRUCTURE DESIGN
TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

2500 East High St., Ste. 650
Pottstown, PA 19464
(610) 326-3100
Fax 326-9410

TPD@TrafficPD.com
www.TrafficPD.com

Lehigh Valley, PA
Harrisburg, PA

YOUNGER MEMBER FORUM NEWS

By James Markham, Forum Editor

Jeremy Colello, Forum President 2005-06
Pennoni Associates, Inc.
3001 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104
(215) 222-3000
jcoello@pennoni.com

As we look forward to another Engineers Week, I want to take a moment to reflect upon some of your accomplishments in the last year. We saw the grand opening of the Cira Centre, and the groundbreaking of the Comcast Center. The Route 15 Trolley returned to service, while the reconstruction of the Blue Route began. Condominium towers began rising along the banks of the Delaware River, while the Schuylkill River experienced a return of fish and wildlife not seen in over a century. Take this opportunity to step back and celebrate what you have accomplished over the last year. You've earned it.

As for the first project mentioned (the Cira Centre), you may have already heard that it will be honored as the Outstanding Engineering Achievement in the Delaware Valley by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council. As such, it will be cited during the upcoming Engineers Week events.

Jeremy Colello, PE
YMF President

EVENTS

Winter Social A Rousing Success!

The YMF Winter Social was conducted at McGillin's Olde Ale House in Center City on February 1. While it may be difficult to call it a "winter" event on an evening with temperatures in the low 40's, over 100 folks came out, a record crowd. (Even a few "over 35" geezers showed up to enjoy a night of enjoyment and good company, but we won't mention any names!) Several prizes donated by the generous sponsoring firms were raffled off. A general good time was had by all. More coverage and photos of the Social will be included in next month's column. For now, thanks to everyone who participated in and sponsored the Social!

ITS CONFERENCE COMING...

SAVE THE DATE: May 7-9, 2006, ITS America Annual Meeting and Exposition, Pennsylvania Convention Center. For more information, please visit www.itsa.org. More information will be provided in the March edition of THE NEWS.

**Resolve to attend ALL
Section Meetings and
Functions This Year!**

ENGINEERS WEEK COUNCIL — VOLUNTEERS WANTED!

National Engineers Week, dedicated to increasing public awareness and appreciation of engineering, is held in February each year. Engineers Week activities in the Philadelphia area are coordinated by the Delaware Valley Engineers Week Council (DVEWC), which is comprised of Engineers from many of the area's technical and professional societies.

Currently, the DVEWC is looking for volunteers to assist in many of the activities surrounding Engineers Week. If you are interested in volunteering with DVEWC, or have any questions on the Council or any of the volunteer opportunities, please contact **Susan Best, P.E.**, Senior Vice Chair of the Council, at sibest@urbanengineers.com or (215) 922-8081, ext. 1810.

TRAFFIC CONTROL CENTER TOUR

On November 3, 2005, the YMF and the Mid-Atlantic Section, Institute of Transportation Engineers (MASITE) jointly organized a tour of the PennDOT District 6 Traffic Control Center (TCC). Our tour guide for evening was **Mr. Emanuel (Manny) Anastasiadis**, District 6's very own Freeway Management Engineer and Manager of the TCC. Over 20 participants were present for the tour.

Manny gave a presentation on the history of the TCC and explained its role in managing traffic operations throughout the five-county region. The attendees learned about ongoing projects at the TCC, current incident management practices, and the technologies employed to monitor and serve the region's roadway network.

The TCC serves as home base for transportation within our area, and as a major hub in disseminating travel information between multiple agencies on a daily, basis. With over 100 closed circuit television cameras, detectors, and variable (or changeable, depending on your generation within the world of traffic engineering) message signs connecting a myriad of equipment via fiber optic, land line, and wireless connections, the TCC is certainly equipped with not only a knowledgeable and experienced staff, but wired in to detect, verify, and respond to the needs of our transportation system.

The TCC is staffed and operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and is constantly undergoing change to accommodate expanding technology and improvements to its communication infrastructure. Currently the TCC is being hard-wired and outfitted to provide real-time traffic information for display on PennDOT's website (in the near future). Plans are also in the works to modify the console layout and increase the number of television displays.

Immediately following the tour, the YMF hosted a Happy Hour and networking opportunity at Kildaire's in King of Prussia. On behalf of the YMF, we would like to express our thanks and appreciation to Manny and all of PennDOT for hosting us and sharing many of the exciting developments and activities at the TCC.

JANUARY DINNER MEETING

Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Radisson Hotel, Valley Forge, PA

"The Pennsylvania Turnpike/I-95 Interchange"

by James Markham, Staff Writer

The Delaware Valley's own Walt Whitman famously said "I am large, I contain multitudes." Can we assume (visionary that he was) that he was speaking for the annual ASCE/ASHE meeting? This event is traditionally the largest ASCE/Philadelphia Section meeting of the season, and that seemed to be the case again this year as over 200 attendees gathered to see the presentation on the Pennsylvania Turnpike/I-95 Interchange.

Chris Menna, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section President, and **Pete Berthold**, the ASHE Delaware Valley Section President, opened the evening and made several announcements before **Jeremy Colello**, ASCE Younger Member Forum President, introduced the guest speakers. **Donald S. Klingensmith** is currently a Senior Engineer Project Manager for the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission's Engineering Department. **Joseph F. (Jay) Roth** is an Associate Vice President of Edwards and Kelcey (E&K). He serves as the Program Manager of the Interchange Project and is responsible for design management, agency coordination, environmental monitoring and an extensive public involvement campaign.

Mr. Roth began the presentation by giving some of the history of how two major highways like I-95 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike came to cross one another without an interchange. He indicated that since 1956 42,000 miles of the Interstate Highway System has been built and this interchange project includes the last mile and half to be constructed.

The project was evaluated in the mid-1970's but abandoned because of significant environmental and private property disruption issues. However, as Mr. Roth described, the traffic on parallel routes in Bucks County has increased dramatically, and the need for a direct connection between the two freeways is critical to relieve the burden on other routes caused by this missing interchange. He then gave a brief overview of the elements of the current project, which is actually eight different design sections, before turning the presentation over to Mr. Klingensmith.

Mr. Klingensmith started his presentation by alienating the entire crowd when he pointed out that the Eagles were no longer playing football and the Steelers (or is it "Stillers"?!) were diligently practicing for the Super Bowl. He then discussed the many phases of the project. He

described each of the eight design sections and the teams that were working on each of them. He then regained a positive footing with the audience by noting that the design teams were filled with many talented Engineers, many of whom were in the audience.

Upon completion of the interchange, I-95 will be redesignated north of the Turnpike, most likely as I-195 for its entire length around Trenton (currently, part of this is I-295) to the I-195/I-295 junction in New Jersey. The portion of the Turnpike east of the interchange will become I-95, through to the New Jersey Turnpike Pennsylvania Extension and the mainline New Jersey Turnpike from Exit 6A to Exit 10 (where I-95 currently mysteriously ends). Mr. Klingensmith added that the barrier tollgate will be moved from west of the Delaware River Bridge to west of the new interchange. The existing toll barrier at the Bridge will remain and flat-rate tolls will be charged for use of the Bridge.

Mr. Klingensmith concluded by discussing the schedule (construction to begin in 2007) and the funding. Not all of the funding is in place yet, but the Turnpike Commission anticipates that phase 1 will cost \$657 million, and phase 2, which includes the bridges over the Delaware River will cost \$850 million.

After a brief question and answer period, Mr. Menna and Mr. Berthold thanked our guests and gave them a few tokens of our appreciation. Mr. Berthold then drew the winner for the 50/50. (Congratulations to the "big" winner, **Alan Buchanan**, and thank you for letting us help you spend your jackpot in the bar after the meeting!)

For more on the PA Turnpike/I-95 Interchange project please visit the Project website, <http://www.paturnpikei95.com/home.htm>

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS

A total of 26 local firms have participated in the ASCE, Phila. Section Sponsorship program for 2005-06, making it, once again, a notable success. The Section extends its collective "thank you" to our sponsors for their commitment and continued support of the Section.

There are several benefits available to you as a Section Sponsor. For a low \$200 annual fee, you too can be a part of this program and have your business card appear in each edition of THE NEWS, among other perks. If your firm was not in this esteemed group, and you would like to become a sponsor, this is the time to consider it.

For information on the program, please contact our Editor, **Bob Wright** at (215) 686-5538 or newseditor@asce-philly.org.

POSSIBLE TAXING OF ENGINEERING SERVICES NOT DEAD YET

Pennsylvania has a real need for real estate tax reform. Legislators are under the gun to reduce property taxes and are scrambling for new and creative ways to replace tax revenues that would be lost by doing so. In recent months, you have seen ASCE provide strong opposition to HB 1920 which would have added taxes to professional services. This particular legislation is dead, but the fight is long from over.

The State Senate is now considering **SB 854** which could include the taxing of Engineering services. The language in the bill could very easily be construed to include engineering services. Thousands of tax-paying Pennsylvanians engaged in Engineering, Environmental and related services would be put at a major disadvantage against our out of state and foreign counterparts. This will cause a loss of jobs and relocation of work to places not subject to the tax.

ASCE understands the need for tax reform and the pressure on politicians to deliver, but it should not come at the demise of viable professions like Engineering. This will further the "brain drain" that continues to harm our region and the tax base.

The Civil Engineering profession needs you to contact your legislators and encourage your colleagues to do so as well. This is important! We must stand up and we must stand together. Our voice must be heard. All ASCE members will be kept informed of this proposed legislation and the votes of their legislators.

Contact **John Menniti** at jmenniti@ammann-whitney.com for the most up-to-date information on this legislation, and how to get involved in communicating with your state senator or representative.

KHAN JOINS EARTHQUAKE RELIEF EFFORT

Dr. Mohiuddin A. (Ali) Khan, the Chair of the ASCE, Philadelphia Section's Structural Group, was recently selected by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to join its mission to Pakistan to assist in that country's relief efforts following a devastating earthquake there in October. He recently left for Pakistan to begin his work. We are honored to have one of our own lending a hand in this major humanitarian effort.

No nation was ever ruined by trade.

— Benj. Franklin

SECTION WEB SITE!

Check us out at www.asce-philly.org. Make sure you bookmark this site to check on our latest meetings and events, links and much more! Comments and/or suggestions? Please contact us either via our Electronic Message Hotline at 1-800-461-4190 (24 hours a day) or e-mail at info@asce-philly.org.



Craig R. Calabria, Ph.D., P.E.
Arthur H. Dvino, Ph.D., P.E.
Ravi D. Singh, Ph.D., P.E.

GeoSystems Consultants, Inc.

Engineering, Earth Sciences and
Geotechnical Laboratory Testing

514 Pennsylvania Avenue
Fort Washington, PA 19034

Telephone: 215-654-9600
Fax: 215-643-9440

www.geosystems.com

SOME WORDS OF INSPIRATION FROM SECTION VP MARKHAM

As you may know, Section Vice President Jim Markham was named as one of two recipients of the Delaware Valley Young Engineer of the Year this past February. (Section Membership Secretary Tom Brady was the other honoree.) Jim gave a touching acceptance speech at the dinner at which he was accorded this honor, and it seemed to hit the proverbial nail on the head on the role of the Engineer. We found it very inspiring (not just because the Editor rated a name-drop — although it doesn't hurt!) and would like to offer it for your perusal. Here it is, and thanks to Jim for his permission to reprint it.

When I was told that I had won this award I thought of, well, this moment. It made me think of a friend of mine who went back to grad school and found out that he had to take a public speaking class. When asked about this he said "I don't need a public speaking class. I need a public shuttin' up class."

Well I intend to keep this brief and hopefully somewhat entertaining. There are a lot of people here that have control over the Pennoni continuing education budget, so if I find myself in a Public Shuttin' Up class in the near future, I will know that I failed one of those two criteria.

I'm going to touch briefly on five loosely related items. They are:

- a) Acknowledgement
- b) A Story
- c) The Moral of the story
- d) A Fervent wish
- e) A Promise

If you follow along you can gauge how much longer you'll have to be listening to me.

First an acknowledgement. I think Engineers are awesome. It really makes me happy to consider Engineers my peers. To be recognized as an Engineer by Engineers is awesome. I don't know all of the former young Engineers of the year, but I know a lot of them. It is truly an honor to be considered in almost any context with this group of people. I am humbled and grateful for this recognition. Thank you. It really does mean a lot to me.

I've also been fortunate enough to have some good mentors in my career. Particularly from Pennoni: Harry Laspee, Phil Wursta and Dave Lowdermilk, and from the Streets Department: Bob Wright. Thank you.

I'd also like to thank my fiancée Ann Louise Schanze. Young Engineer of the Year is really nice, but convincing her to marry me is my proud-

est accomplishment of the past year. [Ed. note — yes, the marriage did take place in October!]

A story: I moved to Queen Village in July, and attended my first meeting of the Queen Village Neighbors Association in August. That meeting started as I imagine almost every community meeting in America would start. Someone talked about the neighborhood park clean-up that was planned. Someone else talked about a new recycling program. Someone else talked about a project in the neighborhood. And then the president of the QVNA started to talk about the June meeting:

Apparently, at the June meeting there was an extremely large group of people that showed up in opposition to a project that was being forwarded by the QVNA board. Basically they were tired of the traffic on Christian Street and wanted to make it one-way heading east towards Delaware Avenue. People from the closest west bound street, Catherine Street, heard about this and concluded that there would be more traffic on their street if the westbound traffic were to be eliminated from Christian Street.

The person telling this tale spoke of over a hundred people at the meeting calling him a liar and much worse. Tales were told back and forth for 10 minutes about this particular heated exchange, the battle of Queen Village. I think it was therapeutic for the people involved to talk about the meeting two months later.

Eventually, the president of the QVNA said something along the lines of "If only we could find some way to present proposals about traffic in an organized way to a group of people that have divergent opinions."

I looked around and there was a lot of somber nodding.

After a few seconds I slowly raised my hand. The president called on me: Yes?

And I said something like "Well, I am a Transportation Engineer, and you know that sort of thing is my job."

First he said "Where were you in June!?"

I explained that I had moved there in July.

He said something like "Do you think you can help?"

I said "I think I can."

What happened next was the interesting part. He turned to the rest of the audience and said "Thank goodness the Engineer is here!"

There was more nodding, though it was bit less somber.

Moral of the story: Think about that "Thank goodness the Engineer is here!" I had a similar experience in my old neighborhood community

group. "Thank goodness the Engineer is here!"

Let's take a minute just to note what they didn't say. No one said "Thank goodness Jim Markham is here."

No one said "Thank goodness that guy with the really charming and beautiful girlfriend is here." No one said "thank goodness the lawyer is here."

I'm fairly certain that no one has ever said that. They said "Thank goodness the Engineer is here."

That was a really nice moment, I must admit.

I bring this up because all I did was literally show up, and there was this desire on the part of the community for what we all do everyday. No one knew anything about me or even my name. They just knew that I was an Engineer. Almost all of us here practices Engineering EVERY DAY. What we do matters, and everyone, on some level, knows it.

Fervent wish: Like I said we all do this every day, and the only thing I did was show up.

The point is that my fellow Engineers have a skill and a way of thinking that people want on their side. You've already got that. Now all you have to do... is show up. I promise, you will be warmly received, and you can have a hand in building your community. Everyone wants a better community, and you can actually help people to realize that. And it will be fun! We've started a transportation committee in QVNA. A lot of people show up and it has been a lot of fun.

So that's my wish: that more Engineers get involved in their community; that when our communities need to solve a problem, we will be there to help. I hope that someday someone from one of the neighboring civic organizations calls to say that their volunteer Engineers would like to meet with our Engineers to figure out some problem. I hope that my fellow Engineers, the people that already have a much needed skill, get to experience the joy I experience in working closely with my neighbors to make our community better. That would be awesome.

Promise: I am deeply grateful for this award, but I know it's not all free dinners and captive audiences. I know that it involves some work. So I promise that I will be out there doing whatever I can to promote Engineers and Engineering. I will try to be a good representative of my fellow Engineers and Engineering in general. That's my promise.

Thank you for listening, and thank you very much for this recognition. Engineers are awesome, and it truly is an honor and a humbling experience to be recognized as an Engineer by Engineers. I really appreciate it.

Baker

Michael Baker Jr., Inc.

201 Gibraltar Road Suite 120 Horsham, PA 19044 Ph: 215.444.0888	301 College Road East Princeton, NJ 08540 Ph: 609.734.7900	1818 Market Street Suite 3005 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Ph: 215.568.0539
--	--	--

Challengers.

DMJM AVIATION | AECOM

Planning • Design
Systems Engineering • Specialty Services
Program and Construction Management

1700 Market Street, Suite 1700
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19103
215.399.4300 F 215.399.4350
www.dmjnaviation.com

Engineering • Planning • Environmental • Communications & Management



In Philadelphia:
Two Commerce Square
2001 Market Street, 10th Floor
Philadelphia, PA 19103
(215) 592-4200
www.mccormicktaylor.com

McCormick Taylor
Engineers & Planners
Since 1946

Offices in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina

SIGN, SIGN, EVERYWHERE THERE'S A SIGN...

This title sounds like a song from the 70's. Hey, wait, it is! (Anyone remember the Five Man Electrical Band? Anyone remember any of its other songs?)

Some time ago, the creative director/resident wizard of THE NEWS, Kathy Keiper, asked the supposedly-all-knowing Editor about the lack of names on Interstate Highway signs in the area. She wondered how we know what the Schuylkill Expressway, Delaware Expressway, Blue Route, etc., are and why we're keeping this a secret among ourselves (since maps show route numbers, e.g. I-76, I-95, I-476, and highway signs are consistent with this).

As Kathy knows, if you ask the Editor a question like this, he'll find it a challenge and attempt to answer it. (And, if he can't find an answer, he'll make something authoritative-sounding up and pass it off as the answer! Actually, he won't, because THE NEWS has a strict rule that anything printed in it must be true or it couldn't be printed. Or was it the other way around...?)

Actually, there is no need for much research or authoritative fictionalizing. The Editor, in his day-job (the paying one!) activities, has been involved in a conscious effort spearheaded by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This effort has been directed at the creation of directional signs that have more information but use fewer words and shorter messages. After all, who has time to read lots of words as traffic speeds along (I'm waiting for someone to remind me about Schuylkill Expressway traffic and how it rarely speeds here, but...!).

Many of the names we know are purely local and date back to before widespread use of route numbers. Thus, in today's road atlases, these names are generally not reflected, and certainly won't be found on the tools of today such as MapQuest. However, in case you didn't know, here's the local "rosetta stone" of numbers and names:

- I-76** Schuylkill Expressway
Pennsylvania Turnpike (west of Valley Forge)
Walt Whitman Bridge Approach (east of Passyunk Avenue — most people think this is still the Schuylkill)
Walt Whitman Bridge
North-South Freeway (a/k/a NJ 42)
- I-95** Delaware Expressway
- I-276** Pennsylvania Turnpike (east of Valley Forge)

- I-476** Blue Route (south of I-276) (a/k/a Mid-County Expressway)
Pennsylvania Turnpike Northeast Extension (north of I-276) — what a mouthful! This was also called Pennsylvania Route 9 for a short while.
- I-676** Vine Street Expressway
Ben Franklin Bridge
North-South Freeway (from the Ben Franklin Bridge to the Walt Whitman Bridge)
- US 422** Pottstown Expressway

You should note that most of the New Jersey Turnpike has no number, especially south of I-287 way up in central Jersey. North of that point, it's I-95. You may ask, where does I-95 go between there and the Trenton area? The answer is, it disappears! It's one of those roads that was proposed but never built. If you take I-95 north from Philadelphia and continue around Trenton, you will pass what looks like an incomplete interchange, which is where I-95 would have branched off to the north (the segment that wasn't built). You'll also notice that, at that point, I-95 suddenly becomes I-295. Sleight of hand, or what?

When the Turnpike/I-95 interchange is finally completed (and you'll know all about this if you attended the January Section meeting), I-95 will follow the New Jersey Turnpike to the Pennsylvania Turnpike to the current I-95. The present I-95 will get a new number, just in time to cause more confusion (?).

Hopefully this solves the mystery. Now, if you want information on those made-up place names like the Diamond Furniture Hill, the Lee Tire Curve, the Defense Support Center Curve, and others, we'll leave that for another article!

SCIENCE FAIRS COMING UP!

The Delaware Valley Science Fairs will be conducted on **Wednesday, April 5, 2006** at the **Fort Washington Expo Center**. The ASCE, Philadelphia Section will once again participate in the Fairs and offer four Special Awards for projects that have a Civil Engineering theme, with two awards for Grades 6 through 8 and two for Grades 9 through 12.

Judges are needed for this effort. The judging will require you to spend your day (approximately 8 am to 3 pm) at the Fairs, examining and short listing possible projects in the morning and then interviewing the students who assembled them and finalizing the selections in the afternoon. It is a very interesting experience to say the least.

If you are interested in being a Special Awards judge for the Phila. Section please contact **Chris L. Rood** at chris.rood@dmjmharris.com. You will also need to register for this and this can be done through the Fairs' website www.dvsf.org.

For more information on the Fairs please visit the above website. We hope you can join us!

CITY HALL NATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK CELEBRATION — HOLD THE DATE!

One of our nation's most revered historic treasures resides right here in Philadelphia — City Hall. This Spring, ASCE National will be formally citing City Hall as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark. The ASCE, Phila. Section will sponsor a dedication ceremony and reception honoring this great historic building and this great City.

City Hall is literally in the heart of Philadelphia, in Center Square — William Penn's exact geographical center of his Plan of Philadelphia. This building, designed by Philadelphia architect **John McArthur**, is the largest municipal building in the United States and the largest masonry building in the world. The 510-foot structure, topped by a 37-foot statue of William Penn, took 30 years to build. It is undergoing a major renovation which includes its first exterior cleaning.

Our dedication ceremony is being planned to be held at the **City Hall Courtyard at 12:00 noon on Monday, May 22, 2006**. A reception will follow in Conversation Hall. Sponsors for the ceremony/reception can participate at the following levels:

Diamond Sponsor	\$500
Platinum Sponsor	\$400
Gold Sponsor	\$300
Silver Sponsor	\$200
Bronze Sponsor	\$100

Checks should be made payable to ASCE Philadelphia Section (Memo—City Hall NHCEL) and set to the Post Office box.

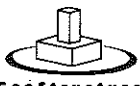
More information on this ceremony will be included in upcoming issues of THE NEWS.

SECTION HUMPHREY FUND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Once again, the ASCE, Philadelphia Section will conduct its undergraduate scholarship program this year. Scholarships will be awarded at our Annual Spring Social/Dinner Dance.

At present, we anticipate that two types of scholarships will be awarded, one for incoming juniors and seniors in the Phila. Section's six Student Chapters, and one for children of Phila. Section members. The number and amount of the actual awards remain the discretion of both the Section's Scholarship Committee and the Section's Board of Directors.

More information will be provided on this program in the March issue of THE NEWS.



Phone: 610.688.7066
Fax: 610.688.7065
www.geotechnical.net

Geotechnical Engineering Consultants

- Subsurface Investigations
- Slope & Retaining Wall Design
- Geosynthetics Design
- Phase 1 & 2 Site Assessments
- Construction Monitoring
- Foundation Evaluations/Design
- Soil Stabilization
- Geologic Exploration/Mapping
- Sinkhole Assessment/Remedy
- Geotechnical Lab Testing

985 Old Eagle School Road, Suite 502, Wayne, PA 19087

THE Burns GROUP
Engineering and Construction

Solutions That Build Your Future

Philadelphia, PA Landover, MD Wilmington, DE
Edison, NJ McLean, VA Phoenix, AZ
www.burnsgroup.com

FEBRUARY DINNER MEETING

Continued from Page 1

Brian McPeak is Vice President of Development for Cherokee Northeast LLC and is responsible for the Pennsauken/Camden Waterfront Redevelopment. He joined Cherokee last year after working with another firm on the permitting and planning of the Pennsauken/Camden project. He has a Masters degree in City and Regional Planning from the California Polytechnic University and a Bachelors degree in Physics from the University of California at Berkeley. He is a licensed Professional Planner in New Jersey. He and his family reside in Little Silver, New Jersey.

SPECIAL FEATURE: Widener University Night. The ASCE Student Chapter, Faculty and Alumni of Widener University will be honored at this meeting. All Students, Faculty and Alumni are cordially invited to participate.

DIRECTIONS TO WYNDHAM HOTEL: The Hotel is on NJ Route 73 just east of the New Jersey Turnpike Exit 4.

From Center City Philadelphia – take the Ben Franklin Bridge. Follow US 30 and NJ 38 to NJ 73 South. The Hotel is on your left just past the Turnpike interchange. Make a U-turn at the traffic signal at Howard Boulevard (past the Hotel) and return to the Hotel driveway.

From other areas – take I-295 from the Walt Whitman Bridge or points north. Take Exit 36 for NJ 73 South and proceed as above. Take the Tacony-Palmyra Bridge from Northeast Philadelphia to NJ 73 South (or the Betsy Ross Bridge from I-95 to NJ 90 to NJ 73 South) and proceed as above.

A map and directions are available at www.wyndham.com.

Widener University
 Vicki L. Brown, Ph.D., P.E.
 Chair and Associate Professor
 Department of Civil Engineering
 School of Engineering
 One University Place, Chester, PA 19013-5792
 e: 610-499-4607 f: 610-499-4461
 e: vlbrown@mail.widener.edu

INSIST ON THE BEST.
EP HENRY
 FOUNDED 1902
 16 ANDERSON RD. PARKER FORD, PA 19457
 610-495-8533 • 800-44henry ext. 321 • FAX 610-495-1966
www.ephenry.com email: kearley@ephenry.com

HAYWARD BAKER
 Geotechnical Construction
Greg Simmons
 Business Development
800-456-6548
HaywardBaker.com
 FOUNDATION SUPPORT
 SETTLEMENT CONTROL
 UNDERPINNING
 GROUNDWATER CONTAINMENT
 EXCAVATION STABILIZATION
 COMPLETE GROUND MODIFICATION
 SOLUTIONS AND SERVICES
 SPECIALTY FOUNDATION CONTRACTOR

TECHNICAL GROUP ACTIVITIES

Engineering Management/
 Environmental and Water Resources
 Technical Groups

Joint Meeting

DATE: Thursday, March 9, 2006

SUBJECT: Emerson Waste Site & Underground Fire

SPEAKER: Tom May, P.E., Urban Engineers

LOCATION: Municipal Services Building (1401 Kennedy Blvd.), 16th Floor, Conference Room E

COST: \$10 (includes lunch)

Reservations should be made with the Group's Chairs: **Bill Mulloy** at (215) 656-6583 or **Jeremy Colello** at (215) 222-3000 x3514 by **March 3, 2006.**

The presentation will describe how innovative Engineering techniques were used to resolve the problem of an illegal waste dump and long-burning underground fire. The Emerson waste site is a 7-acre parcel owned by the City of Philadelphia and located near Philadelphia International Airport. The Engineering solution included waste classification, fire suppression, site remediation, and cleanup.

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
 Civil, Architectural & Environmental Engineering
 Part-Time and Full-Time Graduate Study
 (funding available for full-time study)
 Structural Engineering Geosynthetics
 Geotechnical Engineering Infrastructure Systems
 Architectural Engineering Hydraulics, Hydrology &
 Environmental Engineering Water Resources
 Dr. Charles Haas Dr. Patricia Gallagher
 Head, Civil, Architectural & Graduate Advisor
 Environmental Engineering (215) 895-6426
haascn@drexel.edu pmg24@drexel.edu

TANTALA ASSOCIATES
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS
www.tantala.com
 4903 FRANKFORD AVENUE
 PHILADELPHIA, PA 19124-2693
 T: 215.289.4600
 F: 215.288.1885
 E: mail@tantala.com
 civil engineering
 structural
 geotechnical
 site development
 risk management

kmj
 consulting, inc.
Karen Jehanian, PE
 President
 p: 610-896-1996 355D Lancaster Avenue
 f: 610-896-8002 Haverford, PA 19041-0157
 e: kjehanian@kmjinc.com www.kmjinc.com

SYNERGIS
 Simply expect more
Tamara Healy
 ACCOUNT MANAGER
 Infrastructure Solutions
 472 California Road
 Quakertown, PA 18951
www.synergis.com
 tel: 800.836.5440 x136
 cell: 267.374.2802
 fax: 215.536.9249
tamara.healy@synergis.com
ENGINEERING DESIGN SOLUTIONS

**OLD NEWS?
 CITY NAMES NEW CHIEF
 ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR**

As you may be aware, the City of Philadelphia Department of Streets appointed the Editor of THE NEWS and Past Section President **Bob Wright** as its Chief Engineer and Surveyor last May. Bob was promoted to this position following the retirement of Past National Director and Past Section President **Joe Syrnick**, who served in this position for 18 years. Joe assumed the Chief Engineer role upon the retirement of his predecessor, Past Section President **Jim McPhillips**, in 1986. (Are you detecting a pattern here...?)

The Editor would like to note that it took this long to break the news of his promotion since he was too busy filling up the pages of THE NEWS with more important "stuff" to include this self-laudatory item up until now. (He may have also wanted to wait until he cleared probation, but...)

**Let thy discontent be thy secrets;
 if the world know them it will
 despise thee and increase them.**

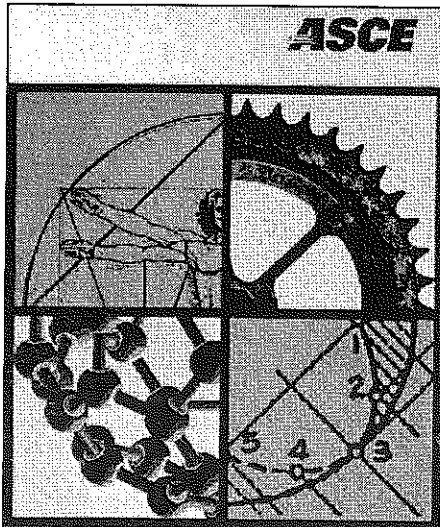
— Benj. Franklin

TWT TAYLOR WISEMAN & TAYLOR
 ENGINEERS | SURVEYORS | SCIENTISTS
 Mark S. Mayhew, PE
 Regional Manager
 1300 Horizon Drive, Suite 112
 Chalfont, PA 18914
 Ph: 267.956.1020
 Fax: 267.956.1019
 Engineering • Surveying • Planning • Landscape Architecture
 Subsurface Utility Engineering
www.taylorwiseman.com

PROVIDING ENGINEERING SERVICES SINCE 1966
Pennoni
 PENNONI ASSOCIATES INC.
 CONSULTING ENGINEERS
Corporate Headquarters
 One Drexel Plaza
 3001 Market Street
 Philadelphia, PA 19104
 Ph: 215.222.3000
 Fax: 215.222.0591
www.pennoni.com

STV
 ENGINEERS
 ARCHITECTS
 PLANNERS
 CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS
 1818 Market Street
 Suite 1410
 Philadelphia, PA 19103
 Tel (215) 832-3500
 Fax (215) 832-3599

URS
 Transportation Planning
 Civil & Structural Engineering
 Traffic Engineering
 Environmental Services
 Geotechnical Investigations
 335 Commerce Drive, Suite 300
 Fort Washington, PA 19034
 Phone: (215) 367-3500
 Fax: (215) 367-1000
www.urscorp.com
**Innovative Design Solutions to
 Meet Your Needs.**



ASCE

American Society of Civil Engineers Salutes

Engineers Week

4th Week in February
www.asce-philly.org

E-WEEK BANNERS ON BROAD ST

Engineers Week will have a very high profile in Philadelphia this year thanks to green, blue and gold banners hanging along South Broad Street between City Hall and the Union League. The Philadelphia Section used two grants from ASCE National to hire a professional graphic designer, fabricate the 4ft x 9ft nylon banners and hire the Center City District to hang the banners. The State and Public Affairs Grants (SPAG) received from ASCE National for the banners total \$3,000.

Thanks to the Banner Committee — Tom Brady, Chris Menna, Jason Hennessey and David Hanly, Chair — for making this a success!

SECTION MEETINGS 2005-06

MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND HOLD THESE DATES!

The ASCE, Philadelphia Section Meeting program for the remainder of the 2005-06 season is given below. Please note this information in your calendar. Watch this space in future issues of THE NEWS and the Section website for more information.

Dinner meetings feature a cocktail hour starting at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30, and the meeting presentation following at 7:30. As always, you are welcome to attend the presentation portion only without paying if you prefer.

Thursday, April 20, 2006	“Rehabilitation Program for City Hall” • Joint meeting with American Concrete Institute, Delaware Valley Chapter • Union League
Friday, May 5, 2006	Annual Spring Social and Dinner Dance • Villanova Conference Center

building a world of difference™

- Water Supply, Treatment and Distribution
- Wastewater Collection, Treatment and Reuse
- Power Generation and Distribution
- Federal Facilities Engineering
- Environmental Investigations and Remediation
- Program Management and Enterprise Consulting

BLACK & VEATCH

401 Walnut Street Suite 2500W Philadelphia, PA 19106 215-528-0700
www.bv.com Office 1922-15



URBAN ENGINEERS, INC.


DESIGN, PLANNING AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT

530 Walnut Street 14th Floor | Philadelphia, PA 19106
p 215-922-8080 | f 215-922-8082 | 800-232-4597

Founded 1960 ■ Employee Owned ■ ISO9001 CERTIFIED

www.urbanengineers.com

Over 50 years of Graduate Engineering Education



VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering
(610) 519-4960 Fax (610) 519-6754
www.engineering.villanova.edu/academics/ce/
**Programs are available through Real Time - Distance Education!*



Nave Newell
Where Ideas Get Down To Earth.

SPECIALIZING IN LAND DEVELOPMENT & FACILITIES ENGINEERING SERVICES

Land Planning & Landscape Architecture
Surveying & Construction Stake Out
Civil & Structural Engineering

Gregory C. Newell, PE Principal	357 S. Gulph Road Suite 300 King of Prussia, PA 610/265-8323
------------------------------------	---

www.navenewell.net

Program Management, Project Management, Construction Management and Construction Claims Services



Hill International

Michael V. Griffin, P.E.
Senior Vice President
One Penn Square West
30 South 15th Street
Suite 1300
Philadelphia, PA 19102
Tel: 215-557-3250
www.hillintl.com

LONG TERM CONSULTING

Civil, Structural, Soils, Foundations & Site Development



Cornerstone RESOURCES, INC.

215-340-9400 • 888-659-1770

Resumes to: jim@cornerstoneres.com

the news



PHILADELPHIA SECTION
AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS
P. O. Box 58186, Philadelphia, PA 19102-8186
Electronic Message Hotline: 1-800-461-4190 (24 hours a day)
Web site: http://www.asce-philly.org
National ASCE Central Number 1-800-548-ASCE • Toll Free

Address Service Requested
FIRST CLASS MAIL

FIRST CLASS
POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 130
CONCORDVILLE
PA 19331