

Maintenance Job

With a little help from their friends, the trees at Jefferson Square Park get a much-needed trim.

By **Nicole Michaud**

Thanks in part to a grant from QVNA, trees are a little lighter and safer at Jefferson Square Park (300 Washington Avenue). The Friends of Jefferson Square Park (FoJSP), along with Liberty Tree and Landscape Management, have completed three days of essential maintenance and preventive care on the park's neediest trees.

In June 2020, two mature trees—a 200-year-old Kentucky Coffee Tree and a mature American Linden—were lost in a storm due to overdue maintenance. After these losses, direct community donations funded two days of work by a professional arborist crew for the most critical tree needs. That first round of work was completed in January 2021, but additional work was deferred until funding could be obtained.

In January 2023, thanks to a 2022 QVNA grant, much-needed preventive pruning removed weak, damaged, and diseased branches throughout the park. There was also work done to lighten heavy limbs, reducing the risk of falling branches.

With a four-person crew, Liberty got to work and finished the job—complete with chipped organic refuse that will provide additional mulch in landscaped and pet-friendly areas. Thanks also goes to Liberty for providing pro-bono services for one full day, including an additional crew member for each day at no charge.

Neighborhood Quality of Life

Jefferson Square Park has been a vibrant outdoor community space for more than 100 years. FoJSP fosters a community awareness of the park and its history and encourages common use for the diverse community that surrounds it.

Over the years, FoJSP has provided new benches and wastebaskets, the restoration of water service, new trees and the removal of dead ones, general landscaping, perennial garden beds, the installation of cast iron urns on the corner entrance pillars, not to mention monthly clean-ups and on-going beautification and restoration work.

FoJSP fosters something for everyone with outdoor music, bocce leagues, Parks on Tap, Soccer Shots athletic program

for young children, Yoga 4 Philly, Sharing Excess free food distribution, weddings, Christmas tree recycling, and annual holiday lighting, as well as ongoing daily casual use as a local green space.

So head over to Jefferson Square Park to stroll and admire the healthy tree canopy, or sit and take in a music performance from a FoJSP bench, or peruse the Little Free Library, located near the center of the park. There's something for everyone at Jefferson Square Park! ■

If you would like to find out more about the Friends of Jefferson Square Park, please visit us on Instagram, @friendsofjefferson-square; Facebook, www.facebook.com/groups/FriendsofJeffersonSquarePark; or our website, jeffersonsquarepark.org



Old Pine Preservation Project

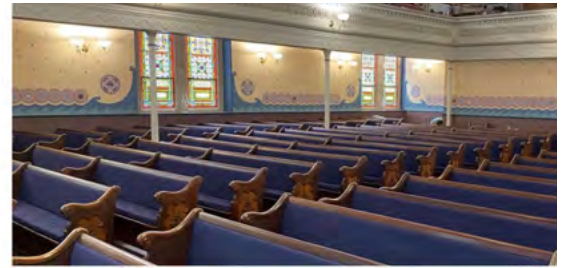
BY KAREN WINEY

We are your neighbors. Since before the American Revolution, Old Pine has been a cornerstone of our neighborhood. Along Pine Street between 4th and 5th Streets, Old Pine is a distinctive landmark with yellow stucco, tall white columns, and a historical graveyard. For those who pause to read the message board, there is inspiration for daily living. Moreover, we have been and continue to serve the community as place of quiet respite, spiritual sustenance, and community gathering. We regularly host AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) meetings, Philadelphia Chamber Orchestra concerts, and special events for St. Peter's School and the Boy Scouts. All are welcome here.

Renewing Old Pine

Beginning in 2019, we initiated our first major renovations in 30 years with a focus on preserving this historical gem, so that we can continue to serve the neighborhood. As detailed on our website, we are making substantial progress. The completed, scheduled, and future projects

will protect the integrity of the building and, more importantly, will make Old Pine even more welcoming and better able to serve our members and community for decades to come.



We need your help. To date, the members of the congregation have generously pledged more than \$718,000 and secured \$551,000 in grants. We are now launching a community-wide fundraising effort. As a resident, business owner, or supporter of historical places, we know you understand the value of a well-maintained and beautiful property in the neighborhood. A vibrant institution, Old Pine attracts members, visitors, and occasional film crews, who support local businesses. Your investment helps ensure the future of this historic treasure as a vibrant and welcoming place in our community.

Old Pine provides meeting space to SHCA. We encourage neighbors to generously support the preservation of this architectural gem.

Learn more, pre-register for a tour, and donate today at <http://oldpine.org/the-church/community-fundraising/>.

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