

Overview

The Friends of Pretzel Park group is a community-based volunteer organization in Manayunk that was organized in 1999 during renovations of Manayunk's Pretzel Park. Our Friends group is officially recognized by Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and it's our role to support and advocate Pretzel Park as a welcoming community green space. Our mission is to keep the park well-maintained and well-utilized by hosting gatherings, activities, and events that build and strengthen relationships among residents and local businesses for the social and economic benefit of our community.

History and Accomplishments

Formation of The Friends of Pretzel Park Group

Pretzel Park was built by the city of Philadelphia in the 1920's on the site of demolished houses. By the 1990's the park was in poor condition. In 1998, the Manayunk Neighborhood Council (MNC) began the initiative to revitalize the long neglected Pretzel Park. In August of 1999, members of three neighborhood groups - The Canal Day Committee, The Manayunk Development Corporation, and The Manayunk Neighborhood Council - joined to form "The Friends of Pretzel Park."

Off-leash Dog Park (2003)

The Friends of Pretzel Park (FOPP) received a state grant through State Representative Kathy Manderino in 2003 and partnered with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society (PHS) to build a fenced-in dog run.

Pretzel Sculpture (2005)

FOPP received grant funding in 2004 to commission a metal pretzel sculpture, a literal yet enigmatic icon of the park and its history.

Meet Your Neighbors (2010)

FOPP initiated a community outreach effort by sponsoring a "Meet Your Neighbors" event during the harvest season, complete with outdoor barbeque, apple-bobbing, and representation from local non-profits.

Green Machine Grant from PHS (2012)

FOPP received a grant from PHS and, in a hands-on effort throughout the 2012 season, held cleaning events, tree plantings, and repopulated garden beds throughout the park with hearty and vibrant flowering plant species.

Activities Grants, Summer Concert Series, and Fall Festival (2012-2013)

FOPP received a \$1000 activities grant from PHS to hold community events. This funding was subsidized by contributions from the Manayunk Development Corporation to sponsor a concert series and fall festival, setting new standards for community participation and attendance.

Friends of Pretzel Park Organizational Structure and Personal Biosketches

The Friends of Pretzel Park Steering Committee

Dave Bass

Adam Ertel

David Fickes

Liz Gabor

Kathleen Lambert

Kevin Smith

Ann Tetreault

Sandy Zanetto

Dog Run Subcommittee

David Fickes

Kathleen Lambert

Sandy Zanetto

Events Subcommittee

Dave Bass

Adam Ertel

Ann Tetreault

Greening and Maintenance Subcommittee

Liz Gabor

Kevin Smith

Dave Bass and his family moved to Manayunk in 2008. Shortly after settling into their new neighborhood, the closure of the Main Street Post Office was announced. Dave looked for a neighborhood organization to join to fight the closure and was directed by the then director of Manayunk Development Corporation to Manayunk Neighborhood Council (MNC). After the Post Office closure was rescinded, he joined MNC and their efforts to strengthen the neighborhood community. Pretzel Park naturally stands as a focal point for the neighborhood. Partnering with other MNC members, Dave joined efforts to revitalize the Friends of Pretzel Park Group. The Friends group now has a wonderful team of volunteers that has successfully organized a variety of activities that have drawn hundreds of people to the Park. More volunteers are coming forward and I foresee a bright future for our Park.

Ann Tetreault moved to Manayunk with her husband in 2009, and shortly after opened a bookstore, The Spiral Bookcase. She first became involved with the FOPP after organizing several shop events in the nearby park. She saw Pretzel Park as the perfect setting for a good book and a great gathering place. Working with the FOPP on these efforts was a joy for her - meeting others who were dedicated to improving the park and growing the community through such a positive medium. Since then she has taken a lead role in bringing a variety of cultural and family-friendly activities to Pretzel Park.

Adam Ertel settled into the Manayunk neighborhood in 2009, where he found the perfect blend of urban life, old-world charm, and access to nature. After living in West Philadelphia for six years and experiencing local festivals, farmers' markets, and rich cultural environment, Adam was eager to find similar experiences in Manayunk. Adam found that the local community group, the Friends of Pretzel Park, was working to bring these experiences and more to Manayunk. Since joining the Friends of Pretzel Park, Adam has helped to organize live music events and bring a farmers' market to the park through his involvement in the Manayunk Roxborough Food Cooperative.

Kevin Smith has lived in the Manayunk/Roxborough area since 1994. Kevin became involved with the local community, joining the Manayunk Neighborhood Council (MNC) in 1996. He has been active performing volunteer work in Pretzel Park ever since. As Kevin has become more involved in the MNC, joining the board in 2001 and subsequently becoming MNC president in 2003, he has been an advocate for Pretzel Park resulting in many improvements including the iconic Pretzel Sculpture and updated playground equipment.

Kat Lambert has been a Manayunk resident for 17 years. She first became an active park goer with her dog Jack, and connected with the Friends of Pretzel Park in 2010. Since joining the group in 2011, she has helped to organize and promote several park events. Kat regularly volunteers for park cleanups and greening efforts and makes frequent visits to the park as part of her local dog walking business.

Community Testimonials

“The Friends of Pretzel Park have cultivated a great park for those looking to spend the summer evening with their dogs. The park has a playground, a number of benches and a separate dog park, all operate by the Philadelphia Department of Recreation. Formally known as Manayunk Park, Pretzel Park is a great spot for you and your four-legged companions.” - Liz Wagner, Chestnut Hill Patch

“Pretzel park is beneficial to me, because it is somewhere that I can take my dog, to the park. (inside the dog park and outside) As we are trying to make Manayunk known for a pet friendly town, having a dog park, and a park in the neighborhood is great! Manayunk is in the city, but is also in one of the largest parks, being Fairmount park. Having this in our “backyard” ... not a lot of people can say this!” - Meredith Podob, Owner of Latitudes and Longitudes Gift Shop; MDC Board of Directors

“I work at the PSPCA, and I'm also a Manayunk resident - along with my 4 dogs! We love Pretzel Park!” - Kim Wolf, Public Relations Assistant, The Pennsylvania SPCA

“My wife and I absolutely love visiting the Pretzel Park area, and our enthusiasm has grown in the last few years. As dog owners, we're fans of making the trek from West Philly (our home) to the PP dog park for a change of scenery and a nice chance to be outside in a great Philly neighborhood. We've had the good fortune to attend several cool events taking place in/around the park area. This have given us extra incentive to come to Manayunk for a variety of reasons. . . while also making some new friends in the process, and appreciating the community that Manayunk has to offer.” - R. Clay, Philadelphia Resident

Event Photos

Saturday, October 23rd, 2010:

Meet your neighbors! Meet your neighbors' neighbors!



2011 Lower Merion Symphony Orchestra Concert

On July 14th, 2011, the Friends of Pretzel Park hosted the 50+ piece Lower Merion Symphony Orchestra.



The Secret History of Manayunk (2011)

On Sept. 17th, 2011, The Friends of Pretzel Park partnered with The Spiral Bookcase for an interactive exploration of local history. This event engaged 50+ residents of the Manayunk, Roxborough, and Wissahickon neighborhoods to reveal lesser known facts and an intriguing history of the area.



The 2012 Pretzel Park First Friday Concert Series



Friends of Pretzel Park proudly presents a

First Friday Concert Series

in Pretzel Park

PRETZEL PARK 2012 SUMMER CONCERTS

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for this picnic-perfect opportunity.

May 4: James Elveh
Elveh Music & Entertainment

June 1: First Call
The First Call Band

July 6: Three Men and Three Women in Black
The Three Men and Three Women in Black Band

Aug 3: The Sideshow Prophets
The Sideshow Prophets Band

Sept 7: Cris and Lou
Cris and Lou Band

Oct 5: ...your favorite band?

Pretzel Park is right off Main Street, at the corner of Cotton and Cresson.

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PO BOX 8872, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

MANAYUNK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Pitch In! Put Trash in Its Place



Friends of Pretzel Park proudly presents a

First Friday Concert Series

in Pretzel Park

PRETZEL PARK 2012 SUMMER CONCERTS

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets for this picnic-perfect opportunity.

Sept 7: Cris and Lou
<http://www.crisandlou.com>

This concert will follow the Pretzel Park clean-up scheduled for September 7th, 3:30-5:30pm. Visit friendsofpretzelpark.org for more details.

OCT 5: HARPER & ZORRO GATO
Philadelphian rock/blues
<http://www.harperzorro.com>
Cris and Lou Band
<http://www.crisandlou.com>

Pretzel Park is right off Main Street, at the corner of Cotton and Cresson.

Visit <http://www.friendsofpretzelpark.org> for information on upcoming events.

MANAYUNK NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL
PO BOX 8872, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19107

MANAYUNK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Pitch In! Put Trash in Its Place

Three Men and Three Women in Black (Est. attendance 85+)



2012 Fall Festival

The first annual Fall Festival took place on 10/27/2012 and set a new standard for participation and collaboration among neighbors, local vendors, and sponsors.

**PRETZEL PARK
FALL FESTIVAL**

A MONSTER MASH
Face Painting 10am - 1pm
Children's Costume Parade 1pm & Contest 2pm
Pumpkin Painting 1pm - 5pm
Fall Scene Family Photos 10am - 5pm

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 27TH
2012**
**10AM - 8PM
RAIN OR SHINE**
**IN MANAYUNK'S
PRETZEL PARK**

**HOWLING IN
THE HILLS**
Costumed 11am
Dog Parade

**MADNESS IN
MANAYUNK**
A twilight screening of
the Bela Lugosi Classic,
VOODOO MAN
(6pm - 8pm)
FEATURING
a special guest appearance by
STELLA SATURDAY
The Maneater from Manayunk

PRETZELPALOOZA
LIVE MUSIC DANCE
PERFORMANCE 2:30pm
by Merge Dance Studio

LOCATED AT THE CORNER OF
COTTON AND CRESSON, JUST
OFF MAIN STREET

Visit www.friendsofpretzelpark.org for full event details and info on picnic basket deals from local eateries.
Brought to you by The Friends of Pretzel Park (www.friendsofpretzelpark.org) in partnership with:

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PO BOX 1887, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19127

LATITUDES & LONGITUDES
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PHILADELPHIA, PA 19127

MANAYUNK DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

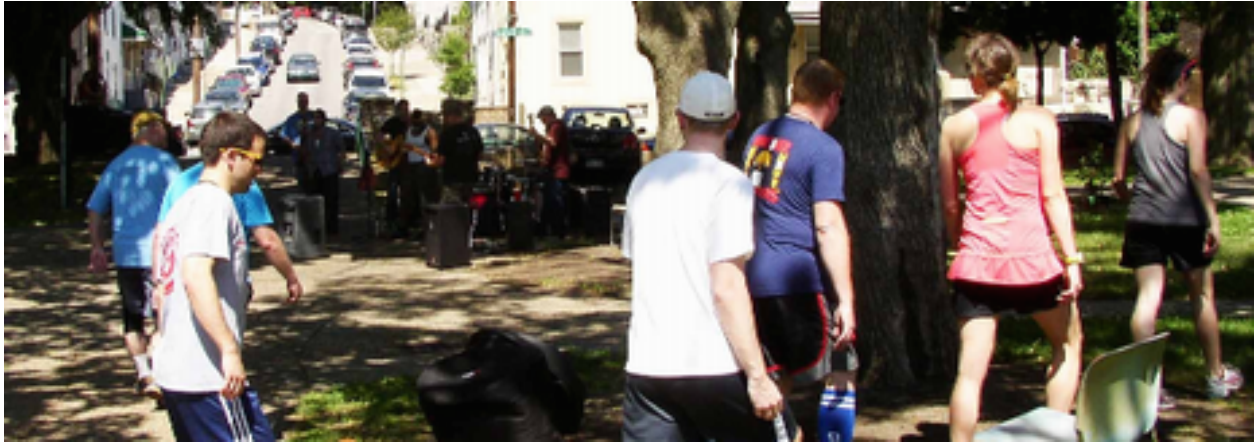
MERGE
dance studio L
www.mergestudio.com





The 2013 Pretzel Park Summer Concert Series

June 1st: The Sideshow Profits (Est. attendance 50+)



July 13th: The Strange Heat (Est. attendance 75+)



August 10th: Three Men and Three Women In Black (Est. attendance 100+)



Farmers' Market: Every Saturday, May 25th - Oct 26th 2013

In early 2013, the Friends of Pretzel Park partnered with the Manayunk-Roxborough Food Cooperative to bring a Farmers' Market to Pretzel Park. The Friends of Pretzel Park Events Subcommittee was responsible for bringing live entertainment and family/kid-friendly activities to the market.

July 14th



July 20th



July 27th



Farmers' Market Kids Day (June 29th and August 24th, 2013)

Children gathered for story time, dance tutorials, and face painting (In partnership with The Spiral Bookcase and Merge Dance Studio).



September 14th, 2013: The Uplift Community Day Festival (Est. attendance 500+)

This festival was sponsored by the Friends of Pretzel Park in collaboration with the Manayunk-Roxborough Food Cooperative. This community-based event showcased the spirit and talent of our neighborhood and coincided with the Farmers' Market, with local vendors and live music lasting throughout the day.

EDO performs:



(2013 Uplift festival) Illian Village performs:



Keoni Bolding performs:



The crowd joins in:



2013 Uplift attendees and participants:



2013 Uplift attendees and participants (Continued):



Press

Collections

One very hard pretzel Yo, what's dis New York fat twisty thing doin' in a Philly park on a pedestal?

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and Money

By Amy S. Rosenberg INQUIRER STAFF WRITER

POSTED: November 21, 2006

OK, a Philadelphia riddle. What has cool steps, a park, and a statue that may be the ultimate Philadelphia work of public art-slash-kitsch?

No, it's not Rocky.

No, for a monument to a true Philadelphia icon, you'll have to go to Pretzel Park in Manayunk, where you will find a statue of a pretzel, and it will be, naturally, resting on a pedestal.

Look, if you dig Rocky, he's all yours. Go have a nice time with the bronze Balboa at the base of the Art Museum, commune with your movie prop and feel all Philadelphian.

FOR THE RECORD - CLEARING THE RECORD, PUBLISHED NOVEMBER 22, 2006, FOLLOWS: A story in the Magazine section yesterday about Pretzel Park misidentified the SEPTA train line that runs past it. It is the R6 line. Also, the schools near the park, where vendors sold pretzels to children, are St. Josaphat's and St. John the Baptist.

But if you are looking for a piece of pop art created specifically for people in this city, an expression of whimsy that speaks to our inner yearnings, that, friends, would be the pretzel.

Or should we say, The Pretzel.

They filmed a movie here too, M. Night Shyamalan's Unbreakable, though that was before the pretzel sculpture was hauled over in the back of a pickup and erected on its pedestal a year ago. (And where else but on a pedestal would an artist situate a monument to a pretzel in this town, huh? And the rivets are the salt, OK?)

Upon gazing at the 9-foot-high silver-colored pretzel, you might say: Is this a great town or what? But you may also ponder: Can a pretzel made of galvanized steel actually be a soft pretzel?

And, more darkly, you may also think, could this pretzel in all its pretzelness actually be modeled after . . . a New York pretzel? And would that twist, perversely, be the thing that makes this such a Philadelphia story?

For even as the Rocky statue has been feted and fetishized and romanticized into a place allegedly near and dear to this city's epicenter, the pretzel statue has stood virtually unnoticed a block above Main Street in Manayunk, oxidizing in near-total obscurity.

"It's like the Clothespin," said Kevin Smith, president of the Manayunk Council, which spearheaded the renaming of Manayunk Park to what residents always called the grassy plateau bounded by Silverwood, Cresson and Cotton since its creation in 1929 - Pretzel Park.

(The reasons for the name include the pretzely shape of the park's sidewalks, the pretzel factory nearby, or the fact that a pretzel vendor would sell pretzels there to the kids from nearby St. Joe's.) "It becomes a way to describe a place: 'Meet me at The Pretzel.'"

And so we do, gathering at The Pretzel, a 1,200-pound galvanized steel creation of Philadelphia artist Warren Holzman, situated at the top of the park's original steps that lead up to the park from Cresson Street below, lit up at night and visible to people passing on SEPTA's R7 along the elevated tracks.

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People from out of town come to see the rocky statue," says Holzman, 33, an artist trained as a blacksmith who works out of a studio on North Mascher Street. "People from up the hill come down to see the pretzel statue."

He adds: "There's really no hidden meaning. It's a pretzel on a Greek column. It's very literal. There's really no esoteric symbolism. It's a cliché. When something's on a pedestal, it's important."

As opposed to . . .

"The Rocky statue really has nothing to do with Philadelphia," Holzman says. "It's a pop culture icon. It speaks nothing of the people here. I think the people of Philadelphia deserve better."

Holzman has done other art for city parks, including a folk art archway in Campbell Square, at Allegheny and Belgrade. His work is included in the Art in City Hall show "Metals and More," now on the second floor of City Hall.

The friends of Pretzel Park, run by Jane Glenn, commissioned the sculpture initially as a sign for the newly renamed park about a year ago. They have also planted American elm trees, and added a dog run, a park house and a new playground. In the summer, there was a samba in Pretzel Park; in the past, it's been a polka. Holzman suggested the statue idea, and the deal was done, funded with a \$6,000 state grant.

But as with so many a Philadelphia story, there is a twist that some might call a mistake, over which we must still obsess. For once again, kind of like Ed Rendell, at the heart of this Philadelphia story is a New Yorker.

At the time of the commission, the friends of Pretzel Park had discussions about whether the pretzel statue should, literally, be shaped like a Philly soft pretzel (more oval-y and vertical than rotund and horizontal, in other words) or a more generic pretzel (New York or, maybe, Bavarian, or stadium concessionary - but not Philly).

Glenn: "Doing a Philadelphia pretzel is more complicated."

Smith: "I don't know how you would balance a Philadelphia pretzel. It would be an awkward shape, artistically."

Ask Holzman, a native New Yorker, why not a Philly pretzel for his model? He says: "You ever eat one of those?"

"It's for all the New Yorkers coming to Philadelphia," he says. "We wanted something that was generically pretzelish, easily recognizable."

Also industrial, like the roots of Manayunk, where against the backdrop of the river you can see phone towers and wires and defunct lettering for "Manayunk Bottling Works."

Liz Krotee, hanging in the park with her 1-year-old son, Don, finds the essence of her town in The Pretzel. "I like it because it's metal, and Philadelphia is so industrial against nature. It's beautiful, but there's buildings and wires."

Terry Hatcher, 57, hauling a box of cigars to his job at B&B cigars, cutting down through the park to Main Street, adds: "It's very realistic. It's sort of like from the Dali era. It represents the park. It just needs some mustard sprayed on it."

Not to worry, it can always be redipped to get rid of any mustard. It's maintenance- and vandal-proof, Holzman says. Plus, much like the Button at Penn, you can climb on it, and try to throw a ball through it.

One thing it's not is symmetrical. "We would have objected to it being completely symmetrical," Smith says. "At least I'd like to think we would have."

Contact staff writer Amy S. Rosenberg at 609-823-0453 or arosenberg@phillynews.com.

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FEATURED ARTICLES



Miley Cyrus' twerking moves disturbed some, garnered groans

TONIGHT: LEARN ABOUT POSSIBLE IMPROVEMENTS TO PRETZEL PARK

Pretzel Park, located just a block off of Main Street in Manayunk, provides neighborhood residents with several amenities including a dog park, a playground, and public green space.



Delicious



Green space

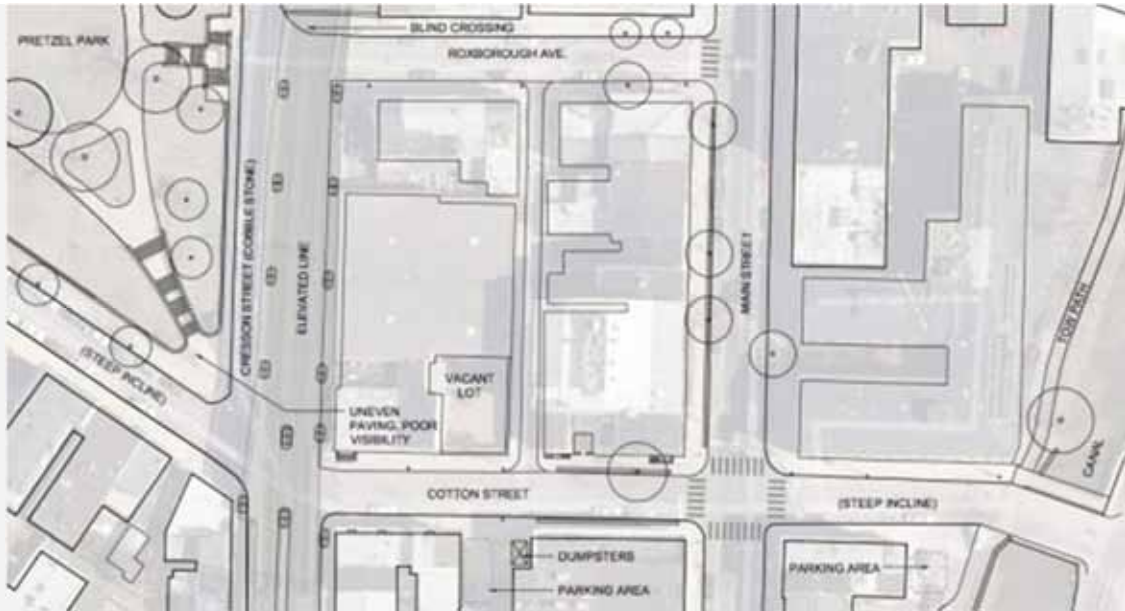


Fun for kids



And dogs too

Because of the nature of the topography in the area (steep, mostly), awareness of and access to the park from Main Street is severely hampered. Numerous area stakeholders, including [Manayunk Development Corporation](#), [Schuylkill River Project](#), and [Friends of Pretzel Park](#) were able to procure a grant to retain the [Community Design Collaborative](#) to come up with a plan to better link the park, Main Street, and the Manayunk Canal. The idea is to increase access to the park for visitors to the area, including Main Street shoppers, and folks using the Schuylkill River Trail. And, of course, make the park better for people who are already using it.



A look at the current situation

Community Design Collaborative has come up with a number of recommendations for improving visibility of the park, access to the park, and the pedestrian experience approaching the park. The most interesting improvements involve regrading the entrance to the park at the corner of [Cresson and Cotton Sts.](#), which represents the park's most logical access point from the south.



The current view is not so welcoming



One of the possible changes to the entrance. So much better.



Aerial view

There are, of course, numerous additional recommendations that would dramatically change the surrounding streetscape. But to get the details on the other aspects of the report, you're going to have to go to [4312 Main St.](#) **tonight at 7:30pm** for a full presentation of the Community Design Collaborative team's findings and recommendations. No word on whether pretzels will be served.



There's a lot going on here

As for whether any, some, or all of these recommendations are ultimately implemented, it will depend on fundraising efforts by organizations and residents in the area. Hopefully, many of these improvements will take place in the years to come, and Pretzel Park will be even more utilized and appreciated by all.

Sen. Casey promises to push for SEPTA funding in Washington
26 minutes ago

Another measure of how Pa. bridges are in sad shape
1:44 pm

Lockdown lifted at Timber Creek Regional High School in Gloucester Township
1:22 pm

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A 'picnic perfect opportunity' at Manayunk's Pretzel Park

May 4, 2012

By Matthew Grady for NewsWorks



Rate This: ★★★★★ (2 votes)

[Ask a question](#)

Today marks a new tradition at Manayunk's Pretzel Park – a monthly concert series that coincides with First Friday events held on Main Street and across the city.

The Friends of Pretzel Park's First Friday Concert Series runs from 6 to 8 pm and is free to the public.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs and blankets for what's been described by event organizers as a "picnic perfect opportunity."

Pretzel Park is situated on the corner of Cotton and Cresson streets in Manayunk, not far from Main Street's numerous attractions.

Performing this Friday is local musician James Klueh, who was described by FOPP member Dave Bass as blending traditional Mississippi Delta blues riffs with pop-stylings.

Bass said that local civic leaders suggested Pretzel Park as an ideal site for concerts and community-building.

"For about two years," he said, "(we) staged a few park events that turned out well and suggested the potential for a program with more events."

The result was twofold: the Pretzel Park concert series emerged, as well as the formation of a strong park-based volunteer organization.

"I would consider the completion of the Park Concert Series a worthy achievement," he said. "It should be very enjoyable."

The First Friday Concert series runs through September, and is supported by FOPP, the Manayunk Neighborhood Council, and the Manayunk Development Corporation.



The Friends of Pretzel Park's First Friday Concert Series runs from 6 to 8 pm tonight and is free to the public. (Megan Pinto)

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BLOGS

SHAPIRO ON THEATER

Howard Shapiro

Dig Dirt and Music at Friday Pretzel Park Event

ark cleanup leads up to Manayunk First Friday concert.

posted by [Sam Fran Scavuzzo](#) (Editor) , September 07, 2012 at 02:55 AM

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he Friends of continue its neighborhood outreach effort with a park cleanup and free concert Friday in Manayunk.

- 1 6

he park, located at 4300 Silverwood St., invites residents out at 3:30 p.m. for a cleanup Sept. 7, followed by live music from [Cris and Lou](#), beginning from 6 to 8 p.m.

Manayunk Neighborhood Council member David Bass reports "participation is up" at the park, and said young mothers have become very involved in the cleaning and greening initiative.

On Friday, volunteers will to clean out the flower bed at the park's corner, near Rector and Cresson streets. This initiative is part of the Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Green Machine project, and leads up to a planting, scheduled for Oct. 20.

In addition, MNC President Kevin Smith said: "There will be wood chips galore to play in and spread around in the dog run, so there's plenty to do."

Neighbors may also pick up a free plant from what is dug up.

The music, part of Manayunk's First Friday events, brings together both children's music, and, later, adult tunes—all from Cris and Lou.

Programming at the park will continue through the fall. Two groups—Harper and Zorro Gato—will perform Oct. 5, and a fall festival set for Oct. 27 is also in the works.

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First annual Pretzel Park Fall Festival to include pumpkin painting, live music and costumed parades for kids and dogs

October 25, 2012

By Yasmein James for NewsWorks



Rate This: ★★★★★ (1 vote)

[Ask a question](#)

This Saturday, Manayunk's Pretzel Park will be full of superheroes, princesses and four-legged hot dogs for the First Annual Fall Festival from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Ann Tetreault, owner of The Spiral Bookcase, said the event was created to raise awareness about The Friends of Pretzel Park, who organized the event, while providing a day full of fall activities for local residents.

"We want to show how neighbors can really make a difference," said Tetreault. "We have already done a lot to improve the park and try to bring activities to the park and we are hoping that other people will see that and want to get involved so that we can continue to have a more vibrant community center."

The family-friendly event will include face and pumpkin painting, a pumpkin toss, a costume parade and contest for kids, a costume dog parade and a performance by Merge Dance Studio. Children will also be able to play at the coloring station for a chance to have their artwork displayed at a local business for First Friday.

Live music will be performed by local musicians Chris and Lou, Jame Klueh, Wolves in White, Laura Cheadle and EDO from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. There will also be a special guest appearance from Stella the Maneater from Manayunk, the host of the 1980's hit show Saturday Night Dead.

At 6 p.m., guests can watch the 1944 feature Film "Voodoo Man," which features Dr. Richard Marlowe, who is trying to reincarnate his late wife by transferring the life essences of women he has imprisoned in the dungeon of his mansion.

In addition to the festival, attendees will also be able to participate in "Halloween in Manayunk" with early trick-or-treating opportunities at local businesses from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Participating stores will be marked with a fall display by the door and plenty of candy.

Raffle tickets will be sold for a chance to win gift baskets and cards donated by local businesses such as Latitudes and Longitudes, The Little Apple, and Meadowsweet Vintage. The raffle's proceeds will go towards the greening and beautification efforts of The Friends of Pretzel Park.

The event is free and open to the public. For the full schedule of events, go to friendsofpretzelpark.org.



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NEW JERSEY

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Kids show off their costumes and pumpkin painting creativity at inaugural Pretzel Park Fall Festival

November 1, 2012

By Zach Shevich for NewsWorks

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Ask a question



A miniature Superwoman participates in the pumpkin toss at Pretzel Park. (Zach Shevich for NewsWorks)

Before Hurricane Sandy swept through the neighborhood, residents of Manayunk spent the weekend celebrating the Halloween season at the Pretzel Park Fall Festival. Parents looking to catch some of the tranquil fall air brought their kids and dogs, many of whom were in costume, to the Manayunk park on Saturday for the all-day Halloween event.

The day kicked off at 9 a.m. with a 5K costume run to support the DePaul Catholic School at Bryn Mawr Running Co., before children started strolling into the park. The costumes kept coming with the costumed dog parade, featuring "bumblebees" and "SuperDogs," and the children's costume parade and contest later on.



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Philly Fringe reviews: 'The Ballad of Joe Hill,' 'Where (we) Live,' and 'The Object Lesson':

The Ballad of Joe Hill. You may have dreamt you [More »](#)

GROUND LEVEL

Joan Kurylak, from the Manayunk Roxborough Art Center, helped to set up and run a booth that offered face painting and pumpkin painting.

"We're letting kids explore their creative side a little bit," she said before chuckling. "We've seen a lot of abstract work. Really cute Jack-O-Lantern style faces and other kinds of designs we've been coming up with. It's cool to see what they do."

Families were able to set up in front of a picturesque fall/Halloween scene by the pretzel statue for family photos, where even Dorothy was able to get her picture taken with Toto. Merge Dance Studio also set up a special performance in the park in the afternoon.

Local mom Karen Castrovallo planned to spend a few hours in the park with her daughter after receiving a flyer about the event in the mail a few weeks ago.

"We heard about the dancing and the pumpkin painting. [My daughter] likes the pumpkin throwing and getting candy."

Karen's daughter, Madison, was at the pumpkin painting booth focusing on a scary creation of her own.

"I'm making it kind of look like it's bleeding around its eyes... it has four teeth on the top and two teeth on the bottom," she said.

With live music and a Twilight screening of Bela Lugosi's classic film Voodoo Man, parents, kids, and dogs alike got to spend a fun, long day in the park celebrating the Halloween spirit in the calm before the storm.

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Thank you! — Ann 2012-11-01 14:58

A very big thank you to the Friends of Pretzel Park and everyone who helped!

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More info:

- [First annual Pretzel Park Fall Festival to include pumpkin painting, live music and costumed parades for kids and dogs](#)

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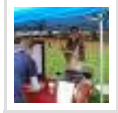
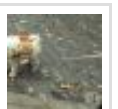
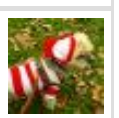
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Dogs and Kids Spook Pretzel Park

Halloween celebrated in Manayunk.

Posted by [Sam Fran Scavuzzo](#) (Editor) , November 01, 2012 at 03:36 AM

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Before Hurricane Sandy descended on the East Coast, it was a simpler time. On Saturday, days before the uncharacteristic October storm hit the Delaware Valley, residents gathered at Pretzel Park for the inaugural Fall Festival.

Kids, parents and pets alike paraded around the Manayunk park, in addition to a stroll on Main Street. Live musicians, face-painting and fall related events dotted the day.

Here, a pet parade, with costumed owners, too, is seen at Pretzel Park.

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Yay family!!!

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Manayunk: Farmer's Market Finds Fans at Pretzel Park

JUNE 25, 2013 (ONE COMMENT)

By Kayla R. Cook and Sean Michael Smith

Saturday's have become shopping days for visitors to Pretzel Park in Manayunk.



Pretzel Park was taken over this Saturday by Manayunk's farmer's market.

This past Saturday marked the fourth time the center of the popular park has been transformed into a marketplace with fresh locally produced foods for sale.

The farmer's market is put on each week by the Manayunk-Roxborough Food Co-op. Alexandra DiFilippo serves as the market's manager and said that the idea behind the market was to make a consistent supply of fresh food available to the community as well as to raise awareness of the co-op.

The market was first held on May 25 and featured just three food vendors. This past week, the market featured six food vendors and also featured two local artists to compliment the Manayunk Arts Festival that was taking place over the weekend.

DiFilippo has big aspirations for the market going forward.

"I have this secret to desire to be the best in the city," she said. "Just really the best quality and freshest food available."

She also said that the market is looking to offer an even wider variety of foods in the near future. She mentioned the possibilities of bringing in a seafood vendor as well as having products like raw milk and cheese available.

Carrie Comeau of Manayunk visited the market Saturday and was excited to see fresh food available.

"It's really nice to be able to buy local food."

Comeau is also excited to hear about the food co-op and said that she would "absolutely" think about getting involved with it.

The Co-op

Discussions about the Manayunk-Roxborough Food Co-op were first held in April of last year. DiFilippo is a member of the Food Co-op and said the group just recently selected an interim board, became incorporated and is now accepting membership.

For those unaware, a food co-op is essentially a collectively owned grocery store where members have a voice in what types of foods are offered and how the store is run.

DiFilippo said that while the farmer's market is currently serving as the vehicle to bring fresh food into the community, the goal is to ultimately secure a permanent building location for the co-op.

The group is currently working with a person from Philadelphia University on finding the best location for that building, but she said that right now it looks as if the co-op location will be a retrofit and not a brand new building project.

But before any real action can be taken on a building, the group must first garner enough support in the community to warrant such a move, which the farmer's market is helping to do

Money also needs to be raised in order to move forward with the plans for a building and a number of fundraisers have already been held.



Vendors offer their fresh produce to customers at the market.

suggesting an \$8 donation for the movie night where the group will be screening the film "American Meat – A Leave It Better Story" which looks at the current state of meat production in America.

The Reasoning for a Co-op

"For me, the reason it's worthwhile is because the systems that exist in the food industry and with the grocery stores, I really feel it's a broken system," DiFilippo said. "The food co-op is a way for all of us who disagree with what's happening to get together and say 'this is what we want. We want fresh food that is grown locally. We want health to be a priority. We just want the freshest and the best.'"

A report released by the Philadelphia Department of Public Health in May 2011, called Philadelphians' fresh fruits and vegetables intake "poor," as only 10.5 percent of adults were eating the five daily servings that is recommended by the USDA. The report also called the number of children in the city meeting suggested USDA servings as "equally poor" with only 11.6 percent reaching the five daily servings recommended.



Fresh fruit was made available for purchase to every customer.

DiFilippo said she could see why this problem exists.

"Within walking distance you can get a cheesesteak and penny candy, but you can't get fresh fruit and vegetables."

Asked if she believed that food co-op's can serve as a solution to these troubling numbers, DiFilippo said that she "hoped so," adding that "as long as there is a desire in the community, a food co-op is a fabulous idea."

For more information about the Manayunk-Roxborough Food Co-op, or to find out more about the farmer's market, you can like their Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/manayunkfoodcoop> (<https://www.facebook.com/manayunkfoodcoop>) or contact them via email at manayunkroxboroughfoodco.op@gmail.com.

Slideshow: Local Artist, Robert Rapisarda, Shows Off Wood Art at Manayunk Farmer's Market

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