

## March 2011 Newsletter

### **Jobs for Somerville Demands that Board of Aldermen Guarantee Local Jobs**

Over 100 Somerville residents and union activists gathered at a public hearing on February 17th to ask the Board of Aldermen for good local jobs at the MaxPak site and beyond. Members of SCC's Jobs for Somerville Committee, like Jose Leiva, Mary Jo Connelly and Sarah Shugars, testified to encourage the Board of Aldermen to pass a strong local hiring ordinance like those that exist in many neighboring cities, including Boston and Cambridge. Supported by a wide coalition of labor unions and community groups such as Save Our Somerville (SOS) and the Jewish Labor Committee, Jobs for Somerville successfully convinced the BOA to get local hiring legislation (proposed by Alderman Bruce Desmond as an amendment to the Responsible Employer Ordinance) moving as quickly as possible. Meanwhile, the Legislative Matters Subcommittee will also demand that MaxPak developer Ted Tobin appear in front of the Board to defend his failure to enter in to a Project Labor Agreement with local and union labor. For more information about Jobs for Somerville, contact Cecily Harwitt at 617-776-5931 x226.

### **Saint Polycarp Village is Taking Another Step Forward!**

SCC's biggest development project, Saint Polycarp Village, is about to take another big step forward! Construction will begin on Saint Polycarp Village Phase II (SPV II) within the next several weeks. SPV II will consist of 29 all affordable rental units, a playground, a community room and open space. Four of the rental units will be reserved for formerly homeless families or individuals. Two will be reserved for families or individuals with physical disabilities.

Plans for Saint Polycarp Village Phase III, the final phase of development, are also underway. Phase III will consist of 31 units of all affordable rental units, with several reserved for the homeless. Like Phase I, Phases II and III will be built as energy efficient, healthy and sustainable as possible. We hope to provide a good amount of additional open space in this phase as well.

We will be presenting revised plans for Phase III to the Zoning Board of Appeals on Wednesday March 16th at 6pm at City Hall. As part of our request, we will be asking for a reduction in the amount of parking required by zoning. Car ownership by our residents is less than one car per household but city zoning requires 1.5 to 2 spots per unit. Reduced parking will allow us to pave over less of the site, have a bigger open space and minimize the chances of the flooding we have been seeing in many areas of the city recently. Please come and speak out in support of adding needed affordable units in Somerville.

A community meeting will be scheduled shortly to discuss the start of construction on SPV II and the Zoning Board application for SPV III. Stay tuned for more information.

We are looking forward to seeing these new phases of development add additional livelihood to the Saint Polycarp Village site and the neighborhood!

### **Save The Date: 8th Annual Save Our Homes Walk Sunday May 15**

This years 8th Annual Walk to Prevent Homelessness will be held on Sunday May 15th, 2011. If you would like more information please contact Sam at 617-776-5931 x225 or Shannon at 617-776-5931 x238.

### **SCC Is Happy To Announce Our Next Frist-Time Homebuyers Class!**

SCC's Financial Education Program is happy to announce we will be offering a First-Time Homebuyer Class in March/April 2011. The four-session, 12-hour class will feature presentations by a real estate agent, a lender, a home inspector, a real estate attorney, and an insurance agent, in addition to SCC staff, and it will teach you

everything you need to know before you start the process of buying your first home. Upon completion of the course, participants receive a certificate that enables them to access products geared specifically towards first-time homebuyers, such as SoftSecond. The class will be conducted in English from 6 to 9:00 p.m. on March 28 and 30 and April 4 and 6. The registration fee is \$35 per participant. To register, please contact Thais DeMarco at 617.776.5931 ext 233.