

# Philadelphia Inquirer

January 10, 2004

Section: LOCAL NEWS PHILADELPHIA & ITS SUBURBS

Edition: CITY-D

Page: B01

## Frenzy over the Eagles hits close to homes

The influx of fans for tomorrow's game has people who live near the stadium fearing for their parking, peace and quiet.

Neighbors to fans: We need our space!

*Murray Dubin INQUIRER STAFF WRITER*

The regionwide fan frenzy surrounding tomorrow's Eagles game extends into the neighborhoods closest to Lincoln Financial Field.

Residents there want the Eagles to beat the Green Bay Packers, too, but they have another wish as well, a plea to football fans:

Stay away from my parking space!

"It's horrible," says Marc Farina, 34, who lives on the 2900 block of South 15th Street. "They park all over. We don't go out during a game, we don't move the car. They even double-park and block me in.

"It's like a snowstorm. You know it's coming, and you just don't move."

While it is not difficult to find others like Farina who hunker down on Eagles game days, community leaders say that the problems of traffic and noise and drunken fans - while still a concern - have lessened.

"It's gotten better than last year," says John Furey, president of Broad Street West Civic Association.

"Lots of people are still walking to the games, like they did when it was at the Vet," he says. "The few hours before the game, people from Jersey and Delaware drive around and look for spots on the street and in the schoolyard at 17th and Bigler. What we did is, we have volunteers, and we just let neighborhood people park there on game days. It provides 150 additional spaces."

Furey adds that the noise from helicopters "can be a nuisance, but all in all, it's once in a lifetime where it gets that extreme. People get used to living with the congestion and noise."

At Hairum, a hairstyling salon at Carlisle and Bigler Streets, owner Rita Peckerofsky says she'll be stuck in her house for a big chunk of Sunday, unable to move her car or have guests. But it's no big deal.

"I think it's great for the city. I like Philadelphia to be known," she said.

Shawn Jalosinski says that hard work by the police, the sports teams, and neighborhood leaders has reduced the impact of more than 70,000 fans streaming into a small slice of South Philadelphia.

He says the rescheduling of a planned Sunday Phantoms hockey game and the efforts by police to keep fans from parking in the neighborhood have lessened the problem.

But Jalosinski, who heads the **Sports Complex Special Services District**, says people still shudder and complain as the game day approaches.

"Yeah, they complain all the time," says Pat Coleman, behind the cash register at Amato's Market, Pollock Street between 15th and 16th. "They're mad. They don't want to lose that parking

spot."

Theresa Santosusso, who works part time in the Hairum salon, says that people are worrying about the traffic, but that they are also talking about the game:

"Come on, it's the Eagles," she says.

Which brings us back to Mr. Farina, the man who likened Sunday's fans to a snowstorm. Sure, there are lots of cars and people and helicopters and blimps and nosy reporters who darken the skies of the neighborhood like so many locusts.

But, at least, when the game starts, he can go inside, turn on the television, and root for the Eagles. Right?

He does not look pleased. Then you notice the hat on his head. It is not the green hat of an Eagles fan. Oh, no.

Farina: "I'm a Cowboys fan."

Contact staff writer Murray Dubin at 215-854-2797 or [mdubin@phillynews.com](mailto:mdubin@phillynews.com).  
Tips on how and when to get to the Linc for tomorrow's game. E5.

Illustration:PHOTO  
APRIL SAUL / Inquirer Staff Photographer

Rita Peckerofsky knows she'll be stuck in her house, unable to move her car. But she doesn't mind. "I think it's great for the city," she said. "I like Philadelphia to be known."

Copyright (c) 2004 The Philadelphia Inquirer