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Turning Over A New Green Leaf

As the autumnal leaves begin to turn shades of orange and gold, the 19125 zip code continues to get greener and greener. Major milestones have recently been achieved in Sustainable 19125, the community-led initiative to make the zip code the greenest in the city.



Additional greening and infrastructure improvements are underway between Front Street & Frankford Avenue from Norris Street south to Palmer Street. This area, known as the "Big

Green Block", is fast evolving into a national model for sustainability. The new Kensington Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA) High School is now open for the school year, with students enjoying smaller class sizes in a brand-new LEED certified facility. Geothermal heating keeps energy bills low, and green roofs help control stormwater runoff.

The Pennsylvania Horticultural Society has completed installation of two storm water infiltration basins in the parking lot at Shissler Rec Center, which will capture storm water runoff from Blair Street and the parking lot. Trees will be installed in these basins, reducing the amount of asphalt and

increasing tree coverage in the area. In addition, the sidewalk along Blair Street has been extended from the dead end by the parking lot to connect with Palmer Street to the south. These improvements should be complete by the end of October. A rain garden is also being planned for the intersection of Trenton and Norris.



The Green Blocks initiative, which involves Green Guides working as sustainability ambassadors on their blocks, is preparing for a second year of outreach and programming. "Our focus will be much more education-based," says Jamie Reese, who along with Toby Altman is working with NKCDC through the Americorp VISTA program to help guide Sustainable 19125 over the next year. New ideas including a composting club, a community garden resource guide, and a walking club bring explored. NKCDC is working in conjunction with PHS and Greensgrow Farms to identify opportunities for future workshops, as well as resources to provide Green Guides for outreach.

A Green Guide mobilization meeting is being planned for early November. If you're interested in greening your block or getting involved, please visit www.sustainable19125.org.

events CALENDAR

October

30 Pumpkin Carving at the NKCDC Garden Center Frankford & Berks, 12pm

November

1 Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) See page 2 for details

4 PAFA Family Art Series 5:30pm - 7pm Coral Street Arts House First in a 3-week series!

5 First Friday on Frankford Avenue 6pm - 9pm www.frankfordavearts.org

11 Helen Street Cleanup 9am - 12noon Helen & Somerset Streets See page 3 for details

13 Low-Income Pet Clinic Coral Street Arts House for appointments call - 1-800-738-4673

16 First-Time Homebuyer Workshop Coral Street Arts House For more information please call 215-427-0350

17 NAC Community Service Briefing - Weatherization 6pm - 8pm Coral Street Arts House

21 Philly Tree People Fall Tree Planting Event www.phillytreepeople.org

Eco-Aggression Smashed Up At Glassphemy!

For some, recycling is just plain boring. Tossing that glass bottle into a blue bin doesn't provide that same adrenaline rush as smashing it into a million pieces. Enter Glassphemy, a project brought to life by Macro Sea and recently presented at the Crane Arts Building during Design Philadelphia.



First conceived during last year's Infill Philadelphia conference and introduced in Brooklyn earlier this year, Glassphemy is a 20-by-30-foot steel structure lined with bulletproof glass. A person standing on one side can throw bottles at a friends, enemies, or loved ones standing safely behind the glass on the other side. What results is a visceral and psychological recycling experience which allows participants to safely let out some eco-aggression.

All the broken glass bottles created from Glassphemy, which was presented October 12th through 17th, were then extracted from the chamber and recycled into light fixtures and other functional artistic pieces.

"Philadelphia really fell in love with Glassphemy and it's easy to understand why," says Carryn Golden of the Community Design Collaborative. "The festival-like atmosphere of Glassphemy was such an innovative conduit for recycling at a community level."

Glassphemy was presented by InLiquid and the Community Design Collaborative, in partnership with NKCDC and the Kensington South Neighborhood Advisory Council (KSNAC). All proceeds raised from bottles sold will go back into the community through future beautification projects and public art initiatives. For more information please email info@nkcdc.org.



staff NEWS



Welcome to **Connie Ewerth**, NKCDC's new Part-Time Receptionist. Connie is a native of the neighborhood, born and raised in Olde Richmond. She attended Hackett Elementary, Penn Treaty Middle School, and the Creative and Performing Arts high school in Center

City. Prior to joining NKCDC Connie worked at Alpha Shirt Co. for the past nine years, doing everything from working in the mail room to providing customer service. Connie has two grown sons, one granddaughter, and enjoys visiting the shore with her husband.

Changes are abound in NKCDC's Economic Development Department. NKCDC recently said farewell to Business Resource Coordinator **Kathryn Doherty-Chapman**, who after 5 years has relocated back to her hometown of Portland, OR.

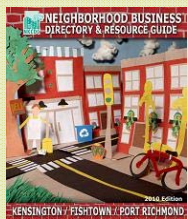


Sarah Corlett, who has been NKCDC's Economic Development Director for the past 4 years, is also moving home - back to Ohio. Her replacement sure will have big shoes to fill! NKCDC would like to express it's gratitude to both of these ladies for all their hard work over the years. Best wishes to you both in all your future endeavors!



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business NEWS



As our neighborhood continues to grow, so do the options for shopping and services. You may be surprised by the number and variety of businesses and within the 19125 zip code, as well as the services available in both 19125 and 19134!

NKCDC is in the process of developing the **2011 Neighborhood Business Directory and Resource Guide**. Now is the time to secure your ad space for next year's guide. As always, NKCDC lists all the businesses in the 19125 zip code for FREE and relies on sponsor businesses to pay for the costs of printing and design. This year NKCDC will print more copies of the directory than ever - 8,000! Please consider sponsoring this guide and marketing your business locally.

The absolute final deadline for submitting an ad is October 27th! For more information contact Henry Pyatt at 215-427-0350 x 124 or hpyatt@nkcdc.org.

Garden Center Workshops Help Community Flourish

NKCDC's Garden Center has been hosting a series of free fall workshops, which have attracted folks of all ages to this urban oasis at Frankford Avenue & Berks Street.

On Saturday, September 18th a dozen neighbors came out to "Mums the Word" a special workshop hosted by Garden Center volunteer Paul Olkowski, who demonstrated the proper care for chrysanthemums.



The following weekend Mike McGrath (pictured right), host of NPR's nationally-syndicated show "You Bet Your Garden" taught neighbors how to prepare their pansies and perennials for the fall. Over 30 residents came out to this free workshop, where McGrath provided advice on growing garlic, combating critters, and keeping peppers alive through the winter.

As a part of Sustainable 19125's ongoing rain barrel workshop series, over 20 neighbors came out on Saturday, October 16th to build their own rain barrel. These free do-it-yourself workshops provide attendees with all the tools and

materials needed to construct their own rain barrel. These workshops are scheduled throughout the year whenever a certain number of potential attendees express interest. If you'd like to participate in the next DIY rain barrel workshop, contact Sustainable 19125 at 215-427-0350 x 133 or sustainable19125@gmail.com.

In order to help you get ready for next spring, The Garden Center is now offering up to

50% off all perennials! This special offer runs through October, so hurry in to get your discount and start planting those perennials before the cold weather comes.

As always, The Garden Center will be celebrating Halloween with a special pumpkin carving event, featuring Dan the Pumpkin Man. Come out on Saturday, October 30th at 12pm to paint and carve pumpkins with your friends and family!

For more information on current stock and upcoming events at The Garden Center, please visit www.nkcdcgardencenter.org.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Beginning November 1st, NKCDC will accept applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). Homeowners or renters are eligible if annual gross household income before taxes is less than:

- \$17,328 for 1 person;
- \$23,312 for 2;
- \$29,296 for 3;
- Each additional person add \$5,984

In addition to proof of income for all household members, applicants must also provide recent bills and oil receipts.

Walk-in appointments are available Monday - Friday from 9am until 12 noon. For more information on required paperwork and to leave a voicemail for a follow-up, please call our office at 215-427-0350.

CRISIS grants may be available if you have an emergency situation and are in jeopardy of losing your heat. In the event you've applied for LIHEAP but still need additional assistance, NKCDC will be able to direct you to a CRISIS intake center. Or, you can apply in person at the Department of Public Welfare (Broad & Sedgley).

Neighbors Get a Taste of Riverward Restaurant Week

The Riverward Restaurant Week, which recently ran from October 3rd through the 10th, included eight great local restaurants offering fixed price menus for lunch and dinner. Participating restaurants included Johnny Brenda's (Frankford & Girard), Sketch Burger (Girard & Columbia), O'Reilly's Pub (Frankford & Lehigh), Starboard Side (2500 E. Norris Street), Hinge Café (2562 E. Somerset Street), Thang Long Noodle House (2536 Kensington Avenue), New Wave Café (2620 E. Allegheny Avenue), and Green Rock Tavern (2546 E. Lehigh Avenue).

Diversity was the key ingredient in River Ward Restaurant Week. From Port Richmond pierogies at Green Rock Tavern to spicy pho from Thang Long Noodle House, diners enjoyed an assorted menu as eclectic as the neighborhoods themselves.

For many first-timers to Riverward Restaurant Week, the week-long promotional event provided many new customers who may not have had these great restaurants on their radar.

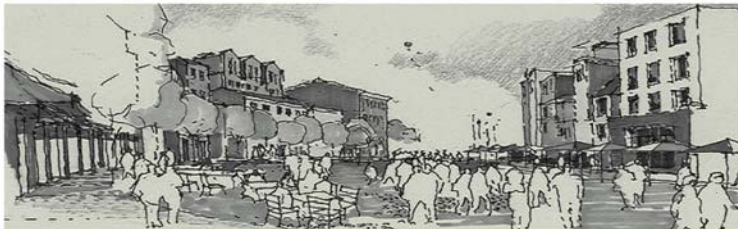


"The restaurant week exposure has been great for my establishment," says Tuan Tran, who's family owns Thang Long. "I am getting many first time customers due to the exposure."

Just because Restaurant Week is over doesn't mean these tasty menus options aren't still being served! Be sure to visit the Restaurant Week website, www.riverwardrestaurants.com for more information on these great local businesses!

If you own a business in 19125 or 19134 and want to get more involved, please contact Henry Pyatt at 215-427-0350 x 124 or hpyatt@nkcdc.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD



ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

Helen Street Neighbors Organized to Address Vacant Lot, Crime

The vacant lot on the 2700 block of Helen Street, situated just south of Somerset not far from the Market-Frankford subway stop, used to be a basketball court. In a bygone era this lot was home to organized street games and recreational opportunities for youth. Today it's trash-strewn wasteland which attracts illegal dumping and criminal activity. And the neighbors have had enough.

In August NKCDC began a dialogue with Weed & Seed, the 24th District, and local neighbors about ways to improve the lot. Over a dozen neighbors came out on the evening of September 28th to a public meeting with NKCDC to discuss possible strategies for beautifying the lot. Ideas ranged from trees, additional lighting, fencing, and benches.

Most importantly, neighbors believe an increased police presence in the area is needed to help deter crime. "We believe a strong partnership is necessary with the 24th Police District and the neighbors to address the issues around the lot," says Ade Fequa, director for NKCDC's Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KANAC).

Neighbors have expressed interested in creating a play space within the lot for younger children (ages 6-13). In a recent survey conducted by NKCDC, 69% of residents living in this area are dissatisfied with the availability of parks and playgrounds for young children.

A cleanup is scheduled for the lot on Thursday, November 11th starting at 9am. Neighbors on Helen Street and surrounding blocks are encouraged to come out and help. A second public meeting will be scheduled in the near future to explain additional programming available to homeowners, including the state Elm Street Program which provides façade and streetscape funding to homeowners. Weatherization materials and tree forms will also be distributed.

For more information on efforts surrounding Helen Street please contact Ade Fequa at 215-426-6862 or afequa@nkcdc.org.

Community Leadership Institute Programs

Community leaders who participated in last year's NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute (CLI) in Milwaukee recently wrapped up their year-long project, which involved reaching out to and supporting city registered block captains. Over 20 Block Captains from the 19125 zip code came to the Block Captain Block Party on Saturday, August 7th at The NKCDC Garden Center. Block Captains received free tools (pictured above, bottom) and had the chance to meet with representatives from local civics to get more info about staying engaged. Sandy Miranda from Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee (PMBC) was also on hand to sign up new block captains.

A dozen community leaders recently participated in the 2010 CLI, which took place October 21st through the 24th in Louisville, KY. These neighbors are in the process of developing their own small projects for their communities (one for the 19125 zip code, and the other for 19134).

Additional community projects which have been implemented as a result of past CLIs include spiral trash cans on Frankford Avenue and large planters distributed to neighbors in East Kensington. For more information on upcoming CLI projects please contact Tom Potts, NAC Director, at 215-425-0350 x 119 or tpotts@nkcdc.org.



"Living Sustainably" Bench Project

NKCDC and Norris Square Neighborhood Project partnered in designing benches for residents catching the number 5 and 54 SEPTA buses at Frankford & Somerset. Nine students designed and painted the benches (pictured above, top), which were previously located further south on Frankford Avenue but are being replaced for the current PennDOT streetscape improvements.

The new designs on the benches are the students' interpretation of "Living Sustainably", with green themes encouraging neighbors to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Each group of teenagers designed and hand painted each bench. For more information on this project, please contact Jennifer Brodie at 215-426-6862 or jbrodie@nkcdc.org.

Fall Cleanups Throughout the Neighborhood

Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KANAC) teamed up recently with the Community Women's Education Project (CWEP) to host a special Somerset Street cleanup. Volunteers from Fresh Start Foundation and William Penn Charter School came out on the morning of Friday, October 8th, to clean up Somerset between Jasper and Frankford, and Frankford Avenue from Somerset to Lehigh. A total of 80 volunteers collected over 120 bags of trash.

Over 70 volunteers came out on the morning of Saturday, October 9th to participate in the 19125 Neighborhood Fall Cleanup. NKCDC and the neighborhood civic associations once again teamed up to combine resources. Congratulations to the Fishtown Neighbors Association, East Kensington Neighbors Association, and Olde Richmond Civic Association for collecting over 240 bags of trash! Target areas such as Girard Avenue, Frankford Avenue, Jasper Street leading north from the York-Dauphin El station, and Thompson Street in Olde Richmond were all key focus areas during the cleanup.

Special thanks goes out to the Philadelphia Brewing Company for once again providing volunteers with a celebratory barbeque.

For more information on upcoming cleanups please contact Ade Fequa, KANAC Director, at 215-426-6862 or afequa@nkcdc.org.

Inside NKCDC - Fall 2010 Editor: Kevin Musselman



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THE GARDEN CENTER
OF NEW KENSINGTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

Fall 2010 Hours of Operation
Thursdays & Fridays 11am - 6pm
Saturdays & Sundays 10am - 3pm

Check out our website!
WWW.NKCDCGARDENCENTER.ORG

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 Hope Animal Resource Center
Spay/Neuter Program

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Spay/Neuter and Vaccine Clinics**

For cats and dogs of low-to-moderate income Philadelphians



Saturday, November 13th
Coral Street Arts House

Spay/neuter services for low-income pet owners. Vaccinations, leukemia tests, heartworm tests, and other services also available. Annual household income cannot exceed \$35,000. Pet owners with proof of Medicaid, Medicare, SSI, welfare, or disability are eligible for additional discounts.

To request an appointment or to find out if your pet is eligible, please email spayneuter@hopeanimalresourcecenter.org or call **1-800-738-HOPE.**

Contributions to NKCDC are tax-deductible and can be made online at www.nkcdc.org or via United Way to Donor Choice #6066. Thank you!