



Business Newsletter

Save the Date!

Vol. 10 Issue 4

Fall 2010



On **Friday, December 3rd**, area business will participate in the 2nd Annual Neighborhood Holiday Walk! Participating businesses and galleries will have holiday treats and plenty of gift ideas as you start your holiday shopping season. Check www.frankfordavearts.org for details in the future.

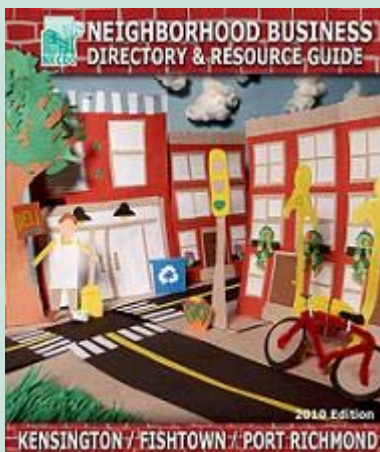
PECO Rate Caps Set to Expire



On December 31, 2010, the long time cap on PECO electric generation rates will expire. What exactly does this mean?

The answer is complicated and confusing. In 1997 the Electricity Generation Choice and Competition Act allowed Pennsylvanians to be some of the first residents in the country to be able to choose the supplier of their electricity. Rates were capped at 1996 levels in this bill to ease the transition into the competitive market. So while users have had the option to choose a supplier for years, not all areas of the state had a competitive market place. In the last two years, new energy suppliers have emerged on the market, understanding that without a rate cap, customers will be looking for the best deal.

2011 Business Directory - Last Chance for Ads!



Ads start at \$115 and will be printed in 8,000 copies distributed

Many options are available for small businesses and large manufacturers. Not only do customers have several options for distributors, there are even more choices when it comes to picking a supplier. PECO Energy (an Electric Distribution Company) alone has 24 suppliers of energy. Each supplier offers different products depending on the users, or rather the customer class. Right now, suppliers have been aggressively marketing a variety of products to larger manufacturers in the city. This is because the price to compare (PECO's default rate) for this customer class, was released back in the spring. The price to compare allows these various suppliers to determine which kind of products they need to design to be attractive to new customers. Many of the industrial businesses that are members of the Richmond Corridor Association (RCA) or the Port



in and around the neighborhood.
Contact Henry to reserve your space by October 22nd. 215-427-0350 ext 124 or hpyatt@nkcdc.org

[Click here for ad form](#)

Facade Improvement of the Quarter

**Plume Salon
111 E. Girard Avenue**



**For more information on the facade improvement grant and how NKCDC can help you improve your businesses facade -
Contact Sarah Corlett
215 427 0350 x 111**

Looking for a Commercial or Industrial property?

Check our online [Property List](#) and sign up to receive monthly updates.

Visit our website at www.nkcdc.org to sign up or email Henry at hpyatt@nkcdc.org be added to the list.

For more information on how we can assist your existing or start-up business, contact-

Sarah Corlett
Economic Development Director
Email: scorlett@nkcdc.org
Phone: 215 427 0350 x 111

Also Visit:

www.frankfordavearts.org
www.Fishtownbusiness.org
www.kinetickensington.org

Richmond Industrial Development Enterprise have been working with brokers and attorneys to secure contracts with suppliers that will provide the most savings. Some manufacturers have joined forced through the Manufacturer's Alliance of Philadelphia to seek out group plans that could result in even greater savings.

Small businesses in mixed-use buildings, commercial buildings or even smaller industrial buildings have not been approached by energy suppliers yet. This is because PECO has not released it's price to compare for this particular class of customers. Once this happens in November, PECO suspects the energy suppliers will begin developing products and marketing packages for small businesses. PECO is the default supplier for those businesses and residents that do not actively seek out alternative energy suppliers. A PECO representative in the economic development department says that most likely PECO's default price on electric generation will be higher than other suppliers and encourages businesses to look carefully at all their options. Of course, the biggest change to all of this is that electric generation rates will be based on their open market value.

Businesses and property owners interested in learning more should visit www.papowerswitch.com. Proactive property owners should also consider ways to reduce energy consumption. The City of Philadelphia Commerce Department has an Energy Efficiency Rebate Program - business or property owners can be partially reimbursed for improvements made to a building that reduce annual energy consumption by 20%. Using less energy has a positive environmental and financial impact. For more information on this incentive, contact Economic Development Director @ NKCDC.

Fishtown Area Business Association

FABA

www.fishtownbusiness.org

Updates

As of September, FABA has a new Board. Congratulations to the following business owners!

Paul Kimport, Johnny Brenda's, President
Mike Dispero, Bookspace, Vice President
Sharon Morgan, Third Federal Bank, Treasurer
Mary Freihofner, Affordable Skin Care, Secretary
Deborah McCullough, O'Reilly's Pub
NKCDC Representative

Please join this board the first Wednesday of every other month at the general membership meeting to network with fellow entrepreneurs, to discuss joint marketing initiatives and to find out about the latest city developments impacting small businesses.

Visit www.fisthownbusiness.org to see a list of current members and to learn about member benefits, including access to group health plan rates through FABA's association with the Greater Philadelphia Chamber of Commerce.

Next meeting will be December 1st @ 6 pm, Third Federal Bank, 136 W Girard. Members and non-members welcome.

Kensington Community Food Co-op: Shop Local Program



Your store. Your food. Your neighborhood.

For nearly 2 years, a dedicated group of Kensington residents have been working on a plan to bring a cooperative grocery store to this community. As a community owned business, a successful food co-op requires all members are also looking out for the best interest of the community. And from the very beginning the leaders of the KCFC have been dedicated to bringing fresh, healthy and affordable foods to the neighborhood.

This group of entrepreneurs is thinking of everything. Recently the group completed a feasibility study funded by the Local Initiative Support Corporation, all while continuing to educate the community about what being a co-op means. Their intention of slowly building a strong membership base starts with education. Now as they work to complete their business plan, the leaders are aggressively seeking additional members or 'owners' of the co-op in hopes of generating enough capital to make the vision of the store a reality.



Membership to the co-op is only \$200 which you can pay in monthly installments of \$40 over 5 months. If you opt to pay the membership in full up front, a \$20 discount is offered. In addition to being a stakeholder in

the project's mission driven development and eventual operation, the folks of KCFC have made sure plenty of other perks are included. On Thursdays and Saturdays at Greensgrow Farm on Cumberland, KCFC has a table offering discounts on dried bulk goods like beans and rice. And more recently Board member Dina Richman has been working to launch a Shop Local Program. Listen up neighborhood businesses! As a business partner, KCFC will encourage their contacts to patronize your business by advertising you in quarterly newsletters, on the KCFC website and through other media outlets. All the business agrees to do is offer a discount to the co-ops growing membership base. Co-op members will receive a discount card when the program launches at the end of October, as well as a list of participating business partners.

Different businesses have different needs. Dina will work with each business to come up with an incentive that works with each business model and keeps owners in their comfort zone. Some current business partners include Affordable Skin Care, Barefoot Community Acupuncture and Greensgrow Farm. With a growing membership each day, this is a terrific program to expand a store's customer base. To learn more about the program, e-mail dina@kcfoodcoop.com or call her at 215-704-2897. A business partner application is also available on the website at www.kcfoodcoop.com.

If you have additional questions about membership and about how the co-op works, KCFC will be hosting a public informational session on November 17th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at the [Philadelphia Brewing Company](#). KCFC and the Mascher Dance Co-op will also be hosting a joint fundraiser on November 11th. This artist-run, experimental dance lab for Philly-based movement artists will have performances at 155 Cecil B. Moore and all proceeds will go to support both groups.

Questions or comments? Please send us an email at info@nkcdc.org

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