

New Kensington Community Development Corporation

FRANKFORD AVE ARTS CORRIDOR NEWSLETTER

Volume 14

November 2007

UPDATES - Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor

As the cooler weather and shorter days slowly roll in, the arts corridor heats up!

This summer and autumn has proved to be an exciting one for the residents of Fishtown, East Kensington and Port Richmond.

For starters, the Walking Fish Theatre officially opened its doors at 2509 Frankford Avenue in August. Michele Pauls and Stan Heleva welcomed residents and visitors during the Fringe Festival with multiple performances thru September 15th. Currently the theatre is hosting Comedy Improvisation Classes and just launched the Family Theatre Series November 3rd. Visit www.walkingfishtheatre.com for more details.

First Fridays on October 5th proved to be bigger and better than ever for Frankford Avenue. With the relocation of former Highwire Gallery from Center city and the opening of Villa & Hut, the corridor was hosted 6 openings! In addition to the newest joints, Germ Bookstore and Gallery, Rocket Cat Cafe the New Kensington Garden Center and of course Bambi Gallery all featured the works of various local artists.

Three new art racks decorate the avenue. Over the summer four artists worked tirelessly on the design and fabrication of these neighborhood favorites. Check out *Slurpie the Serpent* (2509 Frankford Avenue), the *Bench Rack* (2442 Frankford Avenue) and the *Growing Rack* (1867 Frankford Avenue). Artists are respectively, Andrew Brehm and Merinda Merinsky, Micah Hanson and Sandra Webberking.



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★ LATEST NEWS

Business of Art Workshop Series**Coral Street Arts House**

In a unique partnership with Temple University's Small Business Development Center, NKCDC is able to provide educational opportunities for artists to learn how to run a successful business.

For more information about upcoming workshops, CALL Laura Semmelroth at 215-739-0310.

Welcome New**Businesses!****Highwire Gallery**

has officially moved to 2040 Frankford Avenue. Stop in and check out the new space. **Highwire Gallery** has an opening on the first Friday of every month.

HOURS



Slurpie



Bench Rack



Growing Rack

Frankford Avenue is about to get a little bit brighter! NKCDC received funding from the William Penn Foundation to provide pedestrian level lighting on buildings along the corridor. These decorative fixtures not only look great, they use high intensity discharge bulbs that are energy efficient and cost effective to the building owners or tenants. Approximately 10 buildings along Frankford Avenue selected the fixtures that best fit their needs. The lighting will make the street feel safer and more vibrant - encouraging pedestrian activity in the evening. Installation has started and will take place over the coming weeks.



In addition, the city of Philadelphia announced in October that it is investing an additional \$1.5 million towards streetscape improvements planned for the arts corridor from York Street to Palmer. This money will be combined with the \$1.8 million already raised to ensure that the community-based plan for sidewalks, street trees, benches, signage and public art will come to fruition.

Check out the new Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor website as well. This website includes an interactive map that highlights the businesses along the avenue and some of the public art projects that have been installed in the last several years. www.frankfordavearts.org

**"The Other Woman" (a ladies art collective)
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH
6 - 8 PM**

DUAL SITE EXHIBITION!

**Kelly & Weber Fine Art
201 Gallery**

**Coral Street Arts House
2446 Coral Street**

Thursday 12-4 pm
Friday 3-7 pm
Saturday &
Sunday 12-5 pm

Villa & Hut
1105 Frankford
Avenue

www.villaandhut.com
215-425-1014

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handcrafted and
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News and Events

Portside Arts Center Fundraiser

Join Kim Creighton and her team for fun, food, prizes and drinks while supporting efforts to provide the community with creative arts instruction. Portside Arts Center will be located at 2531 Lehigh Avenue.

When: November 17, 2007

Where: V.F.W. Post #22

2535 Frankford Ave, 19125

Call 215-427-1514 or e-mail portsideartscenter@verizon.net for more details.

MORE Bambi Gallery

Only a few more weeks to stop in and get a glimpse at the work of Photographer Dominic Episcopo. Deadline for seeing these spectacular

Crane Arts Building
1400 N. American Street
Philadelphia, PA 19122

Philadelphia, PA 19125

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
Experience First Fridays on Frankford Avenue
December 7th

★ FEATURED BUSINESS



Fishtown Jewelers

Frankford Avenue welcomes another new business along the arts corridor this season. Kathleen Treude-Vaughn and her husband Tom Vaughn, co-owners of Fishtown Jewelers, have poured many hours into their store at 1617 Frankford Avenue.

This lovely gem along the corridor stocks fine jewelry such as engagement rings or a sparkling pair of diamond earrings. But don't be deceived - Kathleen believes jewelry is something to be enjoyed by everyone. Fishtown Jewelers is also home to necklaces, bracelets and earrings made by local artisans. This neighborhood jewelry store is one of only two locations in Philadelphia to sell Trollbeads. A customer selects a silver or gold bracelet and then chooses silver, gold or glass Trollbeads that represent the individual's personality - and the beads start as low as \$19!

Kathleen has been dreaming of owning her own jewelry store for years. Her passion for jewelry runs in the family as her brother, Kevin Ferguson, has a line of his Irish-inspired jewelry for sale at Fishtown Jewelers. Kathleen spent 10 years working for Kevin at his store which is where she picked up her knowledge of quality jewelry and customer service. She merged her love for jewelry with her fondness for the kind people in the Fishtown neighborhood.



pieces...October 16th.

Next Opening! David Kessler: A Shadow World. **Friday, December 7th 6 - 9:30 pm.** Join neighbors and art lovers for another fantastic First Friday on Frankford Avenue.

PositiveSpace Meeting

Join neighborhood artists the 2nd Tuesday of every month @ Johnny Brenda's 7pm. Check out www.postivespace.net or e-mail organizers positivespacephila@gmail.com.

Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor Plan

The Frankford Avenue Arts Corridor Plan, completed last fall with the help of Market Knowledge, Group G, NKCDC, and a series of community meetings, is available online at www.nkcdc.org, under Neighborhood Plans, then in Frankford Ave Arts Corridor area. Posted bi-monthly, the goal of this newsletter is to keep people informed about arts-related development on Frankford Avenue and in the Fishtown and Kensington neighborhoods. If you know someone who would like to subscribe to this newsletter please have them send an e-mail to kmusselman@nkcdc.org. To unsubscribe to the list, place this request via e-mail as well to kmusselman@nkcdc.org

Kathleen and Tom took advantage of the momentum of the arts corridor when they decided to locate on Frankford Avenue. As a participant in New Kensington CDCs design consultation grant program, they received the professional services from Cicada Architecture. This firm put the couple's vision for the store into drawings that could be used by contractors for construction. Kathleen was also awarded a grant through the Empowerment Zone that assisted with some of the costs of renovating the building. It took hard work and determination to breathe life into this once vacant property.

The holiday season is approaching and Valentine's Day is just around the corner. Stop into Fishtown Jewelers to find that special gift for a loved one or a treat for yourself. You will be welcomed with a warm smile and beautiful jewelry that is both affordable and luxurious.

Fishtown Jewelers, 1617 Frankford Avenue, (215) 634-3277, Tuesday thru Saturday 10 am to 6 pm. Special holiday hours as well!

★ NEW KENSINGTON PROPERTY UPDATE

For Sale or Lease

2523-25 Frankford Avenue

Double property house plus garage, C-2 zoning. 1,600 sq ft listed at \$229,000. Prudential Fox and Roach. 215-627-6005

2218 Frankford Avenue

First floor commercial space for rent - cafe, boutique, restaurant. 1,000 sq ft with basement storage, \$1,500 a month. Call owner directly at 267-934-9809

2216 Frankford Avenue

For sale by owner, mixed use property on an exciting block of the corridor. \$370,000 Contact Ed Macy at 215-254-4318

Susquehanna and Blair Street

Newly constructed mixed-use development visible from Frankford Avenue. First floor commercial space about 1,000 square feet. Call Gene Corman at 201-696-6405.

1621-25 Frankford Avenue

1400 sq. foot room plus an office and garage. Owner would like to see a restaurant, cafe or bakery! Will build to suit, \$1,400 a month. Call Tom Vaughn at 215-771-7464.

1444 Frankford Avenue

Commercial space on the first floor - Dyer's Pub

*currently. Residential space on the 2nd and 3rd floor.
Listed at \$499,000. Century 21 Advantage Gold -
Roosevelt.*

[To view full property update click here.](#)

(Available Properties in the Empowerment Zone, [click here](#))

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