



CALENDAR

October 18th

Fall Festival
NKCDC Garden Center
11am - 6 pm
See page 4 for details

October 22nd

Business Breakfast
8 am - 9 am
See page 2 for details

October 24th

KANAC
"Great Street Cleanup"
9 am - 1 pm
See page 3 for details

November 3rd

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

November 7th

First Friday on
Frankford Avenue
www.frankfordavearts.org

November 8th

Pop's Playground
Beef & Beer Fundraiser
7 pm - 12 am
VFW Hall
2535 Frankford Avenue

November 12th

KANAC Free Flu Shot Day
w/ Quality Community
Health Care
10 am - 12 pm
2423 E. Allegheny Avenue

November 15th

Low-Cost Mobile Pet Clinic
Coral Street Arts House
see page 4 for details

November 18th

First-Time Homebuyer
Workshop
call 215-427-0350 for more
information

INSIDE NEW KENSINGTON

2515 Frankford Avenue Philadelphia, PA 19125

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FALL 2008

Fun Raising at Pop's Playground

When the community organized a rededication ceremony for Pop's last year, neighbors knew that positive changes would take place to enhance this once abandoned playground located at Trenton and Huntingdon. What people didn't realize was how quickly those changes would begin to take place.



Partnering with Weed and Seed, the Clay Studio and the Center for Emerging Visual Artists, the Friends of Pop's Playground held a summer arts camp over the course of eight Saturdays throughout July and August, with a special BBQ event at the end of the summer to

celebrate all the works of art the kids had created. In addition, Thursday night became known as Movie Night, with fresh popcorn and features such as "The Incredibles" and "The Goonies" drawing crowds both young and old.



In addition to the art camp, NKCDC and the Friends of Pops Playground have partnered with Neighborworks America, Franklin Paine Skate Park Fund, and the Philadelphia Recreation Department to complete the beginning stages of a multi-use skate park and Pop's Dog Space, a community dog park. The skate park, which will double as a sculpture garden, features concrete ramps and obstacles which

make less noise than their wooden counterparts.

Several large organizations and famous names have taken notice of the projects, offering their support. On the afternoon of Wednesday, August 27th volunteers from Genworth Financial and Athletes For Hope poured concrete, laid brick, and began the foundation for two

large skate ramps along the inside of the proposed skate park. A second event took place on Saturday, September 20th, where Boost Mobile and several members of their professional skate team presented Franklin Paine with a check to finish the ramps.

Athletes who have participated in the creation of the skate park include former Philadelphia Flyer Chris Therien and professional skateboarder Tosh Townsend.

The skate space is generating a lot of excitement in the neighborhood," says Tina Brown-Burke of Friends of Pops. "I live right around the corner and I couldn't be happier with all the positive changes!"

For the latest updates on the skate park, Pop's Dog Space, and other upcoming activities at Pop's Playground, please visit their website www.popsplayground.org.



NKCDC Offices Go Green: Our Commitment to Sustainability

As our communities continue to focus on addressing issues of sustainability, NKCDC has taken additional steps to reduce its own carbon footprint. An internal ecological audit was recently conducted to evaluate energy usage around the office and to develop a behavioral green policy to reduce NKCDC's environmental impact. In its efforts to "Go Green," NKCDC has committed to take the following steps:

- Printing double-sided on all documents, and reducing unnecessary printing
- Recycling print cartridges

- Turning off computers, printers, and office lights when not in use
- Ordering recycled office supplies when possible
- Reducing paper towel usage and eliminating the use of disposable flatware
- Using public transportation and Phillycarshare
- Donating old computer equipment to be recycled
- Switching all light-bulbs to low-energy compact fluorescent bulbs (CFLs)
- Continuing to print our newsletter and other publications on recycled paper!

The Garden Center Hosts Green Jobs Event



Representatives from the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society promote buying local.

As a result of so many organizations addressing the need to go green, much focus has begun on the creation of green collar jobs such as solar panel installation, home weatherization, and green roof creation.

On Saturday, September 27th the NKCDC Garden Center hosted a "Green Jobs Now!" Action Day event to showcase organizations that are currently employing green collar workers and explain how neighbors can support green collar job legislation.

City-wide partners involved in the event included the Sustainable Business Network of Greater Philadelphia, the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Empowerment Group, the Sierra Club's BlueGreen Alliance, PennFuture, the Water Department, and the

Mayor's Office of Sustainability.

"Not only does the green economy address long-term issues of sustainability by creating a healthier environment, it also creates a lot of new jobs," explains Marlene Buck, NKCDC's Land Use Director. "Imagine if young people were trained on solar-panel installation or gardening on green roofs. These positions are now in demand, and offer a living wage."

In addition to promoting green jobs, the Garden Center event also featured a free herbal workshop conducted by certified herbalist Catherine Birdsall. For more information on upcoming events and workshops at The Garden Center, please visit NKCDC's website www.nkcdc.org.

Business Breakfast



**Wednesday
October 22nd
8 – 9 am
Portside Arts
Center**

2531 E. Lehigh Ave.

This quarterly Business Breakfast will be hosted by the Portside Arts Center, which offers creative workshops for all age groups. For more information about the center, please visit www.portsideartscenter.org.

Leanne Krueger-Braneky of the Sustainable Business Network (SBN) will be talking about the benefits of an SBN membership and what it means to operate your business with a triple bottom line. Learn about the upcoming Social Venture Institute as well. Contact scorlett@nkcdc.org for more info.

Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)

Beginning **November 3rd**, 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:

**\$15,600 for 1 person;
\$21,000 for 2;
\$26,400 for 3;
Each additional person add \$5,400**

In addition to proof of income for all household members, applicants must also provide recent bills and oil receipts. Crisis grants up to \$300 are approved for families with heating emergencies, such as heater repair problems, no oil, or shut-off notices.

Applications will be taken by appointment only. For more information on required paperwork and to leave a voicemail for a follow-up, please call 215-427-0622.

Staff News



Welcome to Manny Citron, NKCDC's new Neighborhood Advisory Committee Director! Manny has previously worked as a community organizer with the United Way of Central Ohio, as well as Katrina relief efforts along the Gulf Coast.

Welcome to Ryan Briggs, NKCDC's new Frankford Avenue Corridor Coordinator. Ryan is a recent Temple graduate who most recently worked at the Girard Coalition.



Welcome to Jennifer Orta, NKCDC's new Neighborhood Advisory Committee Assistant! Jennifer previously worked as the C.H.I.P. specialist at Concilio.



A. J. Thomson of the Fishtown Neighbors Association shovels debris from a storm drain outside the Shissler Recreation Center.

Neighbors Clean Frankford Avenue for the Fall

You may have noticed Frankford Avenue looking a little cleaner lately. That's because over 40 volunteers from the community came out on the morning of Saturday, October 4th to participate in the annual Frankford Avenue Fall Cleanup.

In total over 150 bags of trash were collected between Girard Avenue and Lehigh Avenue. Numerous large bulk items were collected throughout the day and were picked up with the help of the Philadelphia Citywide Development Corporation.

"It's great to see so many neighbors involved," said Kevin Gray, who helped clean up along Norris Street

right off Frankford. From couches to tires to fallen branches, the Arts Corridor was swept free of debris.

Volunteers celebrated a job well done with a BBQ at Philadelphia Brewing Company. Additional food and beverage was provided thanks to the East Kensington Neighbors Association, Whole Foods, Kissin Fresh Meats, Fishtown Beverage, Thriftway, and Dunkin Donuts.

If you're interested in scheduling your own block cleanup, please contact NKCDC's Neighborhood Advisory Committee at 215-427-0350 x 119.

NEIGHBORHOOD ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

Community Briefing Reviews Visions for Our City

Representatives from PennFuture's Next Great City Initiative as well as the Central Delaware Advocacy Group (CDAG) were on hand at the NAC's quarterly Community Briefing, which was held September 23rd at the Fishtown Recreation Center.

The Next Great City Initiative, a list of ten common sense and cost-effective action steps developed by PennFuture during last year's mayoral race, helped set the stage to encourage progressive change in Philadelphia. Christine Knapp of PennFuture stressed the importance of community support for these action steps, which include cleaning vacant lots, planting more trees, and encouraging zoning reform.

Knapp urged neighbors to attend the Citizen's Assembly on Park Reform meeting to be held **October 20th** at 6 p.m. at Friends Select School along the Parkway. "We support the merger of Philadelphia's parks and recreation systems, and believe the public should be informed and involved," explains Knapp.

Rene Goodwin of CDAG updated the community on the status of the resident-driven plan created as part of Penn Praxis's Action Plan for the Central Delaware. One of the most ambitious elements of the plan, the creation of a continuous seven-mile trail stretching along the waterfront, "will soon get underway" in South Philly, says Goodwin.

For more information on either The Next Great City or CDAG, please visit their respective websites at www.nextgreatcity.com and www.centraldelawareadvocacy.org.



Frankford Ave. Business Association Planned for 19134

Members of the Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KANAC) have begun to organize a business association within the 19134 zip code. Businesses along Frankford Avenue between Lehigh Avenue and Frankford Creek are encouraged to participate in this effort to address resident and business needs in the community. KANAC plans on creating a small business directory and assisting businesses in obtaining resources to improve their productivity. For more information please contact KANAC at 215-426-6862.

Inside New Kensington - Fall 2008

Editor: Kevin Musselman

Contributors: Ade Fequa, Brian James Kirk

The Changing of the Guard: Celebrating the Life and Work of a Community Leader

As Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC) Director for NKCDC, Duane Wilcox has for the past seven years been the guy neighbors could go to if they needed help organizing a block cleanup, getting zoning approved, or reporting a drug corner. So when a crowd of over a hundred of his closest friends, family, and fellow community leaders came together the evening of September 26th at the Philadelphia Brewing Company to wish him a happy retirement, the moment was celebratory yet bittersweet.

"It's been such an honor working with the community over the years," Duane said as he accepted the Golden Broom Award, a parting gift from his friends at NKCDC to symbolize his efforts and spirited leadership in participating in and helping to organize numerous neighborhood cleanups. Over the years Duane has made it his mission to partner with neighborhood leaders to help organize projects for the betterment of the community. From cleanups at Pop's Playground to the early formative stages of the East Kensington Neighbors Association, Duane's passion has been to assist neighbors in empowering themselves and others.

The role of the NAC, consisting of neighbors elected by members of the community, is to serve as a liaison between the community and city agencies. Members bring attention to issues which in turn can be addressed through local or state resources. "It's been such a rewarding experience to work with so many people who care so much about their communities," says Duane.

With Duane's retirement comes a fresh face at the NKCDC office. Manny Citron, a Queens native whose community organizing efforts include work in Columbus, OH and the Mississippi Gulf Coast, is looking forward to working with neighbors in addressing their concerns. He has big shoes to fill, but he's ready for the challenge.

As for Duane's future plans, he doesn't plan on slowing down. "Those of you who know me know that I can't be idle for long," he explains to the crowd. "I might get involved in some sort of community work in the future." While the organizer in him still thrives on, Duane doesn't try to hide his excitement over the relaxation that comes with retirement. "I look forward to visiting some of those national parks I love so much."

To get involved with the NAC or for community assistance, please contact NKCDC's office at 215-427-0350 x 119 or visit www.nkcdc.org.

KANAC Gears Up for the "Great Street Cleanup"



KANAC and community leaders have scheduled a large cleanup event in the 19134 zip code. Student volunteers from YouthBuild Philadelphia will assist KANAC on the morning of **October 24th** from 9am - 1pm in cleaning up several vacant lots in the Kensington area.

Cleanup locations include Frankford and Sterner, Frankford & Silver, Frankford & Lehigh, and Birch & Jasper.



Laura Semmelroth, fellow community organizer, presents Duane with the Golden Headphones Award, for all the great listening he's done with the neighbors.

"We're looking forward to having students from our area pitch in to clean up the neighborhood," says Ade Fequa, KANAC Coordinator. KANAC members identified these specific areas to clean based on the organization of the surrounding community.

YouthBuild volunteers will have lunch donated courtesy of the Health Partners Foundation. For more information on these organizations or to plan a cleanup in the 19134 zip code, please contact the KANAC office at 215-426-6862 or stop by the office at 2423 E. Allegheny Avenue, Monday - Friday between 9am and 5pm.

INSIDE NEW KENSINGTON

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THE GARDEN CENTER
OF NEW KENSINGTON COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



Fall Festival
Sat. October 18th
11 am - 6 pm

Face painting, magicians, pumpkin carving,
and fun for all ages!

Fall Hours: Wed, Thurs & Fri 1 - 6 pm, Sat & Sun 11 - 3 pm

Offering high-quality, low-cost plants, workshops, and free compost & mulch since 1997. Proceeds reinvested in the community via NKCDC's award-winning Land Use Management Program.

1825 FRANKFORD AVENUE 215-739-6910



Hope Animal Resource Center
Spay/Neuter Program

Low-Cost Spay/Neuter and Vaccine Clinics

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



Sat. November 15th
Coral Street Arts House
Coral & Hagert Streets

Cat spay \$75/neuter \$60
Dog spay \$90/neuter \$80

Vaccinations, leukemia tests, heartworm tests, and other services also available. 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 by mail or via United Way to Donor Choice #6066. Thank you!