

Allegheny West

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

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Congressman Dwight Evans, who represents the 3rd Congressional District in Pennsylvania is someone who can walk through one of the areas in his district, see a space of vacant land, and envision such things as a supermarket, charter school, or shopping center. No stranger to supporter development projects that make sense, from his days as a Pennsylvania State Representative, to now, being a United States Congressman, Evans keeps his eye on the prize and that's his beloved Philadelphia. So when Congressman Evans was first invited to come and do a walking tour in an area of the Allegheny West neighborhood of North Central Philadelphia, he didn't hesitate to accept the invitation.

Encouraged by what he saw in May, when he did a walking tour, Congressman Evans has since come back to the Allegheny West community with 18 of his staffers, some from the Washington D.C. office and others from his district office on Ogontz Avenue.

Ron Hinton, President of Allegheny West Foundation, (AWFG), a respected nonprofit organization in the neighborhood operating since the mid 1970's, AWF has a track record for taking old eyesores in the community and making them into usable spaces. Under the leadership of Ron Hinton, when PNC Bank closed a very small branch they used to operate in



photo by Thera

Congressman Evans Does Walking Tour in Allegheny West Community

by Thera Martin

the 2200 block of W. Hunting Park Avenue, the building was donated to AWF. What did Ron Hinton do with the building? For over ten years, after converting the space into a version of a Mom and Pop corner store, he named the business The Tasty-Kake Thrift Store. Popular until the day the store closed this past Spring of 2022, it was best known for the TastyKake products on their shelves, bread, all assortments of old-school candies, juice, milk and other staple products.

Even as you read this article,

the brand new Allegheny West Plaza is being built at 2200 W. Hunting Park Avenue. It will be a 4 story, 44 unit apartment complex for low income senior citizens. This development project is projected to be completed by the end of January 2023.

On the walking tour, September 1, Congressman Evans and his staff got to see the Allegheny West Plaza, just short of 4 months from completion. They saw the vacant lot at 3030 N. 20th Street where Ron Hin-

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Congressman Dwight Evans along with Ronald E. Hinton, Jr., President of Allegheny West Foundation (AWF), on walking tour in the Allegheny West community. In this photo they are standing at the construction site of the soon to be completed Allegheny West Plaza Apartment complex for low income senior citizens at 2200 W. Hunting Park Avenue.

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Eye On Our Youth and Education

An Allegheny West Newspaper Staff Report



Allegheny West Foundation has been working to uplift young people from our community since its inception in the mid 1970's. Allegheny West Foundation was one of the first groups of nonprofit organizations in Philadelphia to be selected to help operate a summer youth jobs program. One of the first ever summer youth job programs to come Philadelphia was the Phil-A-Job program. 8th District Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cindy Bass was one of the

teen students in the 1970's who had her first job experience through Phil-A-Job. Where did she work? Under the auspices of Allegheny West Foundation.

All these years later and AWF is still determined to assist some of our area youth in gaining employment each summer, even through the pandemic. Not only does a small team of people headed up by Jacque Louis operate a summer jobs program. For many years, AWF workers also oversaw an afterschool program, during the school year for area teens, as well as for youth in elementary and middle school in more recent years. Since the pandemic, all of this has been more than a notion. "When you have a dedicated team, albeit a small team, and a mind-set that we won't let our youth down, you get the job done", says Jacque Louis.

"In the past, there have been some years when we had as many as 60 or 70 different work sites for our youth", Jacque Louis commented. "Every summer is different in terms of the numbers of youth we are allotted to assist with summer employment. Some years we were able to get jobs for up to 350 teens. Other years, we may have had 200 teens. In more recent years due to the Coronavirus, we've had about 100 youth, which is still a lot to manage and manage

remotely, at that. For the summer of 2022, we had 85 job slots for youth to fill."

Even though teens were not able to have the full in-person work experience, ranging from working at a State Senator's office, to working at a Sneaker Villa, or at Lorraine's Upscale On Sale Fashion Boutique on North 22nd Street, like they've done in the past, students still had an opportunity to learn what American workers are experiencing, as we still live in somewhat of a pandemic health concern. Many American workers are still working remotely. Our youth workers had quite a few work assignments that had to be completed online. so They absolutely got to see what much of the American workforce is doing nowadays, working from home. It demonstrated to our youth that you still have to be disciplined and get the job done, even when you have employment that will allow you to work remotely.

Jacque Louis offered an overview of what AWF is doing, in terms of education and lifting up our youth. "Our 21st Century Grant just ended. That was for our high school students in the afterschool setting. That ended in December of last year. It was a five year program. Obviously with Covid, the last two years, most of our work has been done remotely, except

for the Fall of 2021. Also as part of our programming, we've been serving elementary school age children and middle school students, grades third to sixth. That is currently still happening through Peirce Elementary School. As we all know, Peirce students are temporarily attending other area schools since the Peirce School is being rebuilt from the ground up. It's been a bit difficult, but we're still moving along. The C-9 programming will continue into the Fall. C-8 has been completed. Currently in terms of after school activities, we are no longer serving high school students."

Jacque Louis said that over the summer of 2022, AWF was granted 85 slots for teen youth workers. For the students who didn't call out sick or take a vacation day, they earned almost eleven hundred dollars over the six weeks they worked part time for twenty hours a week, each week. We prioritized our zip codes, and any time we have to work with local schools, be it Dobbins, Gratz, Strawberry Mansion, Randolph Skills Learning Center, and other students in our service area, largely zip codes 19140 and 19132, it is a plus.

Over the summer, we had our student workers reimagine what

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west
FOUNDATION

Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper

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The Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper is owned and operated by the Allegheny West Foundation. The paper has a press run of 20,000 copies and is circulated door to door, throughout the 19132 and 19140 zip codes. It is also circulated through drop-offs at area businesses along North 22nd Street and around the Allegheny West community of North Central Philadelphia.

The newspaper was founded in 2013 by Ronald E. Hinton, Jr. and is designed to share positive news stories about our community, offer affordable advertising for small business owners, and give updates on some of the work our elected officials are doing.

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NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER



(Left) This photo is at 20th & W. Toronto across the street from 3030 N. 20th St. where there's a vision for a 5 story low income apartment complex for seniors. Congressman Evans staff is pictured here w/Ron Hinton **(Right)** Ron Hinton and Committeeman Vernon Reynolds outside in front of Allegheny West Plaza, a 4-story, 44 unit seniors apartment complex soon to be completed

Walking Tour

Continued from front page

ton, through AWF, hopes to build Clearfield Apartments. This development project will sit where once there was a vibrant and busy series of factories and other businesses. After the 1960-'s civil rights riots, like in some other major market cities, factory owners chose to flee, rather than stay and rebuild. Factories in Allegheny West that once employed many of the people who lived in the area, became vacant shells. The buildings deteriorated over time and became havens for illegal activities.

Ron Hinton stated, "Because the factories had structural concerns, some had asbestos issues and other problems, the only thing to do was tear them down. With Federal state and city funding, the goal is to rebuild our community and addresses such as 2200 W. Hunting Park Avenue and 3030 N. 20th Street are places where

we expect the rebuilding to continue". Hinton also showed Congressman Evans and his staff his vision for the old Citizens Bank parking lot in the 2900 of N. 22nd Street, behind the bank building. AWF owns two lots behind the old Bank, which extends back to Indiana Avenue. On those two lots, Ron Hinton plans to build a two story Food Distribution Center. As part of the community outreach that AWF is involved with, operating a free food give-away once a week, on Wednesdays has become a major commitment for Allegheny West Foundation. Hinton shared, "Truth be told, we've had a fully operational food bank for years, that we ran partially out of the Panati Recreation Center, and partially out of the old AWF TastyKake Thrift Store building. Generally, we would distribute food to about 200 people once a week. However, when the pandemic hit and so many people lost their jobs, there were people in our community that would have gone hungry were it not for organizations like AWF. Even now, although the number of positive cases of Covid have di-

minished greatly, we're seeing 400 to 500 people coming to us, looking for free food weekly. The Panati Recreation Center must close temporarily, as the building will be torn down and a new recreation center will be built, hopefully in the next two years. Meanwhile, until further notice, food will now only be distributed twice a month on Wednesdays."

Hinton added, "Allegheny West Foundation needs a place to keep the food that we distribute weekly, with top standard refrigerators, etc. The goal is to have the AWF Food Distribution Center built and in operating in the next 12 months".

The Evans team also stopped by the site where the brand new Peirce Elementary School is being built at 23rd and Cambria Streets. This is a development project of the Philadelphia Public School District. AWF has been playing a critical role as one of the connectors in the community, to get the word out, every time there's been a public meeting about next steps with the new school.

During the walking tour, Congressman Evans talked about

who it was that lifted up Ron Hinton, as he was at the early stages of his career as a community leader in the Allegheny West community. Evans stated, "It was a Republican by the name of Phil Price, who's like 90 something years old now, and Nelson Harris, who both worked for the TastyKake Baking Company as senior executives. They were both forward-thinking corporate leaders and they liked what they saw in Ron Hinton. So they formed an alliance with him. Ron Hinton was the point man. He did most of the networking and in your face community engagement. It was that alliance they built that made the difference. When I look at some of the projects Ron Hinton envisions developing in this community, and as we stand here in front of the soon to be completed Allegheny West Plaza Apartment building, which was Ron Hinton's vision, I understand that this is all a part of the effort for violence reduction. There is a connection of opportunity here and this man, Ron

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A Message from Our Publisher Ronald E. Hinton, Jr. President, Allegheny West Foundation



Some people may wonder, why did Allegheny West Foundation get in the community newspaper publishing business nine years ago? I decided to start publishing a quarterly newspaper for our community, because it's been approximately 20 years, since our area had a community newspaper. We love the idea of a paper dedicated to sharing information for and about our part of North Central Philadelphia. I wanted to create a newspaper that would have affordable advertisement space for the small business owners in our area. I also wanted to create a publication that

would share some good news stories; while also printing information about crime and safety in the neighborhood.

While we appreciate and respect mainstream media for publicizing some of the positive stories that happen here, more often than not, what you see on mainstream media are the news items about the violence.

The last time we printed the Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper was in December of 2019, just prior to the pandemic becoming our reality. Business owners who have traditionally advertised in our paper since our inception, were forcibly shut down. It didn't make sense for them to advertise under the circumstances, so printing the paper went on the back-burner.

What became more urgent for our non-profit, the Allegheny West Foundation, was to be able to have free food to distribute to families five days a week during the height of the pandemic in 2020. With the help of such organizations as New Courtland, Philabundance, Share Food

Program, Blessings of Hope, Philly Food Rescue, Find Your Faith, Archdiocese of Philadelphia, Philadelphia Parks and Recreation, Jeff Brown's Shop Rite Supermarkets, and two of our area elected officials, PA State Senator Sharif Street and City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, AWF was able to lead the way in our area of the city, feeding families and individuals in need. During the scariest part of the pandemic, before an immunization was created to address Covid, AWF had a group of diehard volunteers who just kept showing up, day after day, to see what they could do to help us distribute food. I can never thank all of them enough. I have to thank Vernoca, (Tutie) Edwards, Vernon Reynolds, Twin, Tyrone Smith and Ezzard Guyton for their tireless work assisting with our food distribution program. If I missed a name, it was a slip of the mind; and not of the heart.

There are people from our community who have a new vision for this area of the city. I am amongst those who are daring enough to be-

lieve we can rebuild our neighborhoods. We can make our community better and stronger. We can save our children and be there to support our elderly. We can create jobs and opportunities.

When people tell me what we can't do, that just charges up my batteries to work smarter and harder to prove them wrong.

I hope you enjoy reading this new edition of the Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper. The goal is for it to be a quarterly newspaper again. With support from area leaders and small business owners who can step up and advertise, we plan to be a voice for the people of the 19132 and 19140 zip codes for years to come.

In between printing the newspaper quarterly, we plan to keep our community informed and connected through social media, via email blasts, flyers, newsletters on occasion, if need be, and word of mouth. Stay tuned.

Ron Hinton, Jr.



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Deliverance Evangelistic Church hosted Wonderful Community Festival and Street Renaming Event September 17th



Pictured left to right is Reverend Glenn Spaulding, current pastor of Deliverance Evangelistic Church, Philadelphia 8th district Councilwoman Cindy Bass, Congressman Dwight Evans and retired Philadelphia Philadelphia Sheriff Jewell Williams at the street renaming for the founder of Deliverance, Reverend Benjamin Smith.

The Deliverance Community Development Corporation, in conjunction with Deliverance Evangelistic Church Ministries, hosted a Health and Wellness Community Day, Saturday, September 17th from 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Many of the activities unfolded on the grounds of the church. The day included a performance by Gospel recording artist Norman Hutchins, the Vessels of Honor Flea Market, and a street renaming ceremony in honor of the founder of Deliverance Evangelistic Church, Pastor Benjamin Smith, Sr. Pastor Glen Spaulding who has been the Senior Pastor for over 20 years hosted this historical event. The members who came out all said they believed that Saturday, September 17th, was an extra special day for Deliverance, for the legacy of Pastor Benjamin Smith Sr., and for the community. The event featured health pavilions for children and seniors, because they know that health is a critical issue in the community which often requires bringing the healthcare providers right to the people. They were also pleased that while supplies lasted, they were able to distribute free gun locks for those that need them, free haircuts, courtesy of students

from the Murrell Dobbins High School Cosmetology and Barbering program. and there were some back to school supplies for children. Thanks to Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, there was a street renaming for the 2100 block of West Lehigh Avenue, down to the 2200 block of W. Lehigh Avenue. It has been renamed Pastor Benjamin Smith Avenue, deservedly so.”

Pastor Smith was ordained in June of 1958. Over his years of preaching God’s word, he became noted for preaching the unadulterated Gospel of Jesus Christ. He always emphasized ‘‘Kingdom Building’ by winning lost souls to Jesus Christ. He always gave God all of the glory and praise for what was accomplished throughout his many years of full-time ministry. He was the Founder and Senior Pastor of Deliverance Evangelistic Church for 41 years. If Pastor Benjamin Smith ever touched your life, or the life of someone you know, you are invited join Deliverance Evangelistic Church, all its ministries, and the Deliverance Association on September 17th as they celebrate him at 2:00 p.m. at 21st & Lehigh Ave. Philadelphia, PA 19132

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A Message from Allegheny West Foundation, (AWF)



Spotlight On Business

Introducing Businessman Willie Seward, 94 Years Young

by Thera Martin

Can you imagine operating a business for over 50 years? That's exactly what 94 year old Willie Seward has done, and he's still going to the office at least four days a week at 2819 N. 22nd Street, along the popular North 22nd Street Business Corridor. The name of his business is Willie Seward Realty and over the years, he's helped thousands of people get nice homes or apartments to live in, not just in North Philadelphia, but in several other areas of the city as well. Willie Seward is well known and he's well respected. He's about business and he has a no-nonsense demeanor. If you're one of the people lucky enough to get to know Mr. Willie, you'll find that he has a heart of gold and in many different ways over the years, has demonstrated his love and commitment for community.

Willie Seward opened Willie Seward Realty on North 22nd Street in 1983, and to this day, his business is still in operation with a small, very dedicated and loyal staff.

He was born in the Oine community of Warren County, North Carolina. June 10, 1928. He was the youngest of seven children. He graduated from the Warren County Training School in Wise North Carolina in 1946. In 1948 Willie Seward moved to Philadelphia, first living with his sister. Shortly after that move, he was drafted into the Army and served in the military until he was honorably discharged on October 15, 1951. Upon his return to Philadel-



Pictured here is Willie Seward and Philadelphia 8th District City Councilwoman Cindy Bass at his 94th birthday observance at the Chart House at Penn's Landing.

phia, he joined Second Antioch Baptist Church, where he remains an active member. In 1953 Willie Seward married the love of his life, the late Beatrice Seward. They were blessed with two daughters, Denise Gause and Vandelyn Davis. He also had one son who passed away. Willie Seward became employed by the city of Philadelphia in 1955 and became president of Local 457 in 1962. He served as President of that Union until 1965 at which time he became a full-time real estate sales associate and started his own real estate business.

He studied real estate appraisal and law and ethics at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School and became a licensed real estate broker in 1969. He has served on and participated in numerous professional real estate organizations throughout the years including, but not limited to Life Member, National Association of Real Estate Brokers. He was recognized as Realtist of the year in 1987. He also served as chairman of the public affairs committee from 1984-87. He was assistant treasurer from 1982 to 1987. He was a board member for Home

Owners Association of Philadelphia from 1972 to the present. He also served as president from 1983 to 1984 and from 1986-1987 and from 1997-1998. He is a member of the advisory board of United Bank of Philadelphia, Member, Associated Real Estate Brokers of Philadelphia, Inc., 1965 to present, including two, two-year terms as president. He was also a member of the board of directors of the Associated Real Estate Brokers of Philadelphia, Inc., from 1974 to 1998.

Willie Seward has also always been very active with the North 22nd Street Business Association, from early on, not too long after the organization was founded. He remains a part of the North 22nd Street Business Association now. Seward has served as a past executive board member for the North 22nd Street organization and he's been an office holder with that body. He was a member of the Mayor's Fair Housing Commission for eight years under Mayor W. Wilson Goode. He was also a member Board of Directors, Greater Philadelphia Realty Board, where he served as President, at one time. He's a member

of numerous community organizations and affiliations.

As Willie Seward looks back on all his years of being a successful businessman, here's what he had to share. "The real estate business is a tough business to be in, however when you work smart and you work hard, you can meet with success. I've also had good people who worked for me and that too helped me to become successful. It wasn't an "I" thing. It has been a "we" thing. I have a great staff. I actually started my real estate business in 1969, but I wasn't on 22nd Street back then. My first office was at 23rd and Lehigh. I moved to North 22nd Street about two years before the MOVE house bombing down on Osage Avenue. The MOVE bombing was in 1985. I moved my business to North 22nd Street in 1983. Wilson Goode was Mayor at that time."

In terms of the history of North 22nd Street, Willie Seward came along at a time when the merchants along that business corridor were cohesive and supportive of each other. "They understood the importance of sticking together. It was challenging to get cooperation back in the 1980's, but now, it's a tremendous struggle to get today's business owners to come together for meetings, to pay dues, to even understand why dues are important for a business association to have. A lot of today's business owners cry the blues when you ask them to pay membership dues. Membership dues would take care of things like snow removal when the city is too busy to send out workers from the streets department. Dues would help pay for small beautification projects along our business corridor and would help support a community festival every summer, when we used to host that. Membership dues would pay for such things as extra clean-up people on the weekends, to sweep our sidewalks and for holiday decorations

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REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

**U.S. Congressman Dwight Evans, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, PA State Senator Shariff Street,
PA State Senator Vincent Hughes, PA State Rep. Darisha Parker,
City Councilwoman Cindy Bass and City Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.**

The Allegheny West area of North Philadelphia has some solid elected officials who represent us and work every day to try and make things better for our city, for our state and for the nation. We don't have enough space in this newspaper to tell you all the legislation each of them has been pushing or has introduced, nor can we tell you about every event they've hosted in the community to uplift constituents and residents. This is just a small sampling of some of the issues or work they've been about in the last six months.



Congressman Dwight Evans Aug. 17th Congressman Evans and Congressman Brenden Boyle co-hosted a press conference to talk about a recent success for Democrats and for President Biden, The Inflation Reduction Act. The Inflation Reduction Act lowers Pennsylvania families' costs, creates nine million good-paying jobs, combats the climate crisis, and dramatically reduces the deficit. It is fully paid-for by closing loopholes on billionaire corporations that pay nothing in taxes. This legislation is a monumental step forward in House Democrats' fight to build a fairer, cleaner economy by focusing on putting People Over Politics: lowering costs, creating better-paying jobs, and building safer communities for all.

Congressman Evans voted August 12th, for the landmark Inflation Reduction Act, which is

designed to deliver lower costs for energy and health care; fight inflation; and take massive steps on climate change and affordable clean energy. "This is a historic day! This bill will lower families' kitchen-table costs, and create millions of good-paying jobs as we deliver the most significant U.S. action on climate in history – restoring American leadership on climate and taking a major step to save current and future generations from the worst effects of climate change," Evans said. "This House vote is the last vote needed to send this bill to President Biden so he can sign it into law."

Evans voted in support of the landmark Inflation Reduction Act, which is designed to deliver lower energy and health care costs, fight inflation, and take massive steps on climate change and affordable clean energy. This legislation passed in the House.

Congressman Dwight Evans (D-PA-3rd) and state Sen. Art Haywood (D-Phila./Montgomery) have called for passage of a "red flag" gun law in Pennsylvania. Evans voted Friday, June 24th, for the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which President Biden quickly signed into law. That federal act will incentivize states to implement extreme risk protection order laws, also known as "red flag" laws, to keep weapons out of the hands of individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others. Pennsylvania currently lacks such a law.

Congressman Dwight Evans (D-Pa.-3rd) today announced his more than \$51 billion, seven-point plan to fight gun violence in Philadelphia and around the country. Evans unveiled his plan at Temple University Hospital, which treats many of the city's gun violence victims. The plan is available online at evans.house.gov. "Over the last two years, Philadelphia and com-

munities across America have suffered from a surge in gun violence – a second epidemic. This is a national problem – it is not just happening here. I have co-sponsored and voted for legislation in Congress, but I wanted to look for ways to do more. This epidemic of gun violence demands an all-hands response – federal, state and local government – and more community involvement. We must use all the tools in the toolbox to save lives!" Evans said

U.S. Senator Bob Casey



Senator Casey earlier this month, along with other Senate Democrats, capped off a historically productive legislative session with one of the most significant pieces of legislation in modern American history: The Inflation Reduction Act. House Democrats passed the bill in August, sending it to President Biden's desk to be signed into law." I am proud of all that this Congress has so far accomplished," said Senator Casey. We've made transformational investments in the U.S. economy and American workers. Between the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and now the Inflation Reduction Act, we have passed legislation that will boost the economy and create jobs in our infrastructure, supply chain, domestic manufacturing and clean energy sectors. I look forward to building on these successes and continu-

ing to deliver results for Pennsylvania".

Sen. Bob Casey has been one of Pennsylvania's, last lawmakers on Capitol Hill calling himself a "pro-life Democrat,." He changed his stance back in May of this year, saying he would support a bill to write abortion rights into federal law following the Supreme Court's leaked draft decision that would overturn the landmark Roe v. Wade ruling. Casey, serving his third term, is not just any Democrat in the abortion debate. His father, a former two-term governor of Pennsylvania who opposed abortion rights, signed legislation that spawned another landmark abortion case, Planned Parenthood v. Casey. He cast his new position as a reaction to what he characterizes as an unforeseen move by Republicans in Congress to try to effectively ban abortion nationwide.



PA State Senator Shariff Street reacted to the June 24th decision by Supreme Court on abortion. "Today's US Supreme Court ruling is an attack on reproductive rights that endangers the health and lives of women across the United States. Most Americans and Pennsylvanians support upholding Roe v. Wade and its limited protection in Pennsylvania – by the stroke of Governor Wolf's pen – is tenuous as we approach the end of his final term. The US Supreme Court's ruling is not only unsettling, but un-

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

U.S. Congressman Dwight Evans, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, PA State Senator Shariff Street, PA State Senator Vincent Hughes, PA State Rep. Darisha Parker, City Councilwoman Cindy Bass and City Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.

American in its imposition of a moral position inconsistent with the nation's majority opinion.

May 25th Senator Street was amongst other Democratic PA State Senators who presented a letter to their senate Republican colleagues about combatting violence. In the letter, the caucus calls on the Republican majority to act on "reasonable and responsible legislation and appropriations" that does not infringe on Second Amendment rights but will help keep guns away from bad actors and support gun violence prevention. Senate Democrats list seven bills that have been introduced to mitigate gun violence but have sat in committee with no discussion or votes. They also highlight how American Rescue Plan dollars and Pennsylvania's current budget surplus can be used to help communities prevent horrific violence.



PA State Senator Vincent Hughes, August 12th, Governor Tom Wolf was joined by members of the General Assembly, housing advocates and stakeholders in Philadelphia to celebrate the critical \$375 million investment in the 2022-23 budget addressing the affordable housing crisis. "We heard the calls from people across Pennsylvania to address the workforce and affordable housing crisis," said Sen. Vincent Hughes. "We fought for change and won with this major and historic \$375 million housing investment, on top of the \$55 million already in the budget. We

can't wait to roll out these programs and we will continue to fight to make sure Pennsylvanians have access and the right to safe and affordable housing."

In response to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania's ruling in August, upholding the state's mail-in voting law as constitutional, State Senator Vincent Hughes issued a statement August 2nd. Here's a portion of what he said. Statement: "I am pleased to see this ruling and to see democracy prevail. Act 77 is a historic, bipartisan measure that gave all Pennsylvanians a safe, secure, and legal way to exercise their fundamental right to make their vote count. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle overwhelmingly supported this legislation in 2019. It is a shame that after record-breaking turnout in the November 2020 election, some of the same Republicans who supported Act 77 decided to fight to strip voters of their rights. My colleagues in the Senate Democratic Caucus and I will continue to fight to protect your right to vote in-person and by mail. This is a great day for democracy and for voters across the commonwealth."



Cindy Bass, 8th District City Councilwoman

Philadelphia City Council member Cindy Bass, who represents the 8th Council District had concerns about what she says was a lack of equitable distribution of funds among councilmanic districts to make improvements to

their community facilities like parks, playgrounds, libraries, and recreation centers, particularly in the neediest districts. It's all about the Philadelphia Rebuild funds. Interestingly enough, one district that abuts Councilwoman Bass with potentially less need, for example, is slated to receive about \$20 million more than Council member Bass's 8th district. During a Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee hearing back in June, Councilwoman Bass asked for deeper clarity surrounding the rationale, formulas and methodology used to determine these funding allocations.

Once the councilwoman voiced her concerns, before we knew it, the decision to cut some of the funds for the 8th District, which is in great need, was rethought. Go Councilwoman Bass. Do that!

That's what we like. Elected officials who are unafraid to speak up and speak out for the people they represent.



Curtis Jones, Jr. 4th District City Councilman

Curtis Jones Jr.'s 4th District includes Allegheny West, Belmont Village, East Falls, Manayunk, Overbrook, Overbrook Park, Roxborough, Wynnefield and sections of West Philadelphia. Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. is a champion for education, an ally for criminal justice, and a friend of the environment. Major pieces of legislation include: The Philadelphia Home Rule Charter change to make the Mayor's Commission on

African American Males a permanent department; Amendments to Philadelphia's "Ban the Box" legislation that that further restricts the ability of city agencies and private employers to probe an applicant's potential criminal background; The "CVN Bill" which allows police officers to use their discretion for certain offenses, such as disorderly conduct and public drunkenness, to avoid arresting the individual, and instead issue them a civil citation of \$100; The partnership with the School District of Philadelphia and the Philadelphia Eid Coalition to recognize both Eid al-Fitr, the end of the holy month of Ramadan and Eid al-Adha which commemorates Hajj.

Councilmember Curtis Jones, Jr. lead the charge to enforce new public safety regulations for fire escapes, create the Philadelphia Mortgage Diversion Program, which prevented thousands of residents from losing their homes, along with a second moratorium on Sheriff Sales during the month of January 2011 to further protect, preserve and defend the homes of Philadelphians, and The Philadelphia Internship Tax Credit, which will allow high school, college, and vocational students in our City to receive a stipend for their work.



PA State Representative 198th Legislative District, Darisha Parker, Op-Ed Solutions Not Ex-

See "Report to People" page 11

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER



File photo from the grand opening of the Venango House in 1982

Venango House Apartments for Senior Citizens Observed 40th Anniversary, Sept. 9th

An Allegheny West Newspaper Staff Report

The Venango House Apartments, which officially opened on May 17, 1982, observed 40 years of being a place senior citizens can call home, in the heart of the Tioga neighborhood of North Philadelphia. Located at 2104 W. Venango Street, a couple staff members of Venango House and Winn Management Company are planning the 40th anniversary event for Friday, September 9, 2022, from 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The anniversary observance will take place inside the community room and the patio area at the Venango House.

One of the event organizers Dorothea Grier, who is the Community Coordinator at Venango House stated, “Since the pandemic, our residents have had very little to look forward to, in the effort to stay isolated and healthy. The anniversary celebration brought them out of isolation. Now that the Covid numbers are much more so under control, everyone was looking for-

ward to attending the event. Believe it or not we still have two of the original residents of the Venango House, Michael Gilchrist and Lynne Cook, who still live here. We also celebrated our residents that are 90 plus and 80 plus years old. Residents who are 90 years of age or older, who have been with us since 1982 include Willie Mae Rawls, Mary Wallace, Bertha King and Lizzie Earving. Residents who are 80 years of age or older and who’ve been with us from the start include, Alberta Clark, Frank Ruffin, William Mc Nary, Kay Cheaton, Queenie Custes, Mary Weather, Elder George Mangualt, Elder Walter Stewart, Charles Livingston, Harvey Jefferson Loretta Franklin, Jerome Jones, and Delores Plowden. Most of them will be in attendance for the anniversary celebration and they will receive special recognition”

The Venango House is a Housing and Urban Development (HUD),

but owned by Winn Management Company. It has 106 apartments with 126 residents living there currently. Initially, according to Dorothea Grier, it was late Ward Leader Al Stewart, (who later went on to become the Councilman representing the 8th Council District), along with several other community leaders who pushed for an apartment building to be built in the community, specifically for low-income senior citizens. “All of the residents who ultimately moved into the Venango House when it was brand new, were residents who lived in the 19140 or 19132 zip codes. In other words, they were from the community. Community Activists and other leaders from the Tioga neighborhood, saw that a lot of the senior citizens who were still living in their row houses, were aging and in need of an easier way to live, that would be safe and would have Winn Management team on site to assist them with various is-

sues, if needed. Rome wasn’t built overnight, and nor was The Venango House. The concept got started in the mid 1970’s and it took from then, until 1982 to make Venango House a reality. People aged 62 and up who qualify can live there. Venango House features one, and two bedroom apartments. It was designed to provide its senior residents with a fulfilling lifestyle. Venango House offers a full range of services including daily activities, a community room, an outdoor patio and garden area, a laundry room, off-street parking, 24 hour emergency answering service and 24 hour maintenance service.

Donna Murray is the property manager at the Venango House and she’s worked for Winn Management for 25 years. Sherwood Barker, who heads up the maintenance team for Venango House for 27 years.

Dorothea Grier, who has worked at Venango House for the last 25 years also shared, “Community members are the ones who first urged leaders back in the mid 1970’s to build the Venango House. One of the things I greatly appreciate about our community, The people who live in the Tioga area of North Philadelphia, we care about our elderly. From the time Venango House was built, up until this day, people who live in the community still try to look out for our seniors any way they can”.

Walter Stewart, a gospel radio personality in Philadelphia for over 50 years, most of his broadcast time spent on WHAT Radio station, is one of the longtime residents of the Venango House. Although he is now retired, Walter Stewart will be the master of ceremonies during the program.

Longtime community activist and democratic committeeperson for the area around Venango House, Verna Tyner shared, “Venango residents have always been very special to me. I served as their committeeperson for 30 years. If I couldn’t depend on anyone else coming out to vote, I always could depend on the seniors who live at Venango House. We held candi-

See “Venango House” page 13

REPORT TO THE PEOPLE

**U.S. Congressman Dwight Evans, U.S. Senator Bob Casey, PA State Senator Shariff Street,
PA State Senator Vincent Hughes, PA State Rep. Darisha Parker,
City Councilwoman Cindy Bass and City Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr.**

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cuses, People Are Dying Every Day

Here we are again. Today, yesterday, two weeks ago, last month, last year and how many years past?

Gun violence. Mental health issues. We keep talking about it. We keep talking around it. Yet nothing is done. Nothing. Waiting for consensus. Waiting for compromise. Waiting. At what point do we realize that every measure that addresses the list of guns available to the public, increasing mental health issues that are plaguing our citizens – with neither issue decreasing, slowing down or stopping – could potentially save lives? My point is this: any measure addressing these issues could be a move in the right direction. Any measure will be more than what we have now which is nothing.

Yes, the conversation is larger than just a couple of bills. But gun violence and mental health have touched every corner of the commonwealth. So essentially it touches every life in those corners as well.

Some things we can do: Raise the age to access for guns. Ban assault weapons. Fund mental health positions in schools. Increase funding for boots-on-the-ground organizations who deal with gun violence daily (money from the state budget last year awarded grants). Properly invest in our neighborhood schools regardless of zip code. Increase investments in our recreation centers, programs for after school activities and stipends for men and women in Zip codes plagued by poverty and violence.

Let's face it, COVID changed everything. The normal activities we were used to and those that helped us stay integrated in our communities really went out the window with the pandemic. We're afraid to leave our homes for fear of illness. And it just keeps coming. Wave after wave of variants to this coronavirus keep popping up leaving folks anxious, frazzled and depressed. Then when there seems to be a break and we can resume our lives, we have the constant barrage of gun violence that sets us back yet again and keeps us in our homes. It's bad for our mental

health, it's bad for the economy, it's bad for our cities and it's bad for our neighborhoods.

You fear sitting on your front porch having a morning cup of coffee because you don't know if it will be the last time you do. The constant threat of gun violence is pressing, even suffocating. And that, coupled with the pandemic, has set us on a path that is unsustainable.

Even our worship time has suffered. Where we would gather on a Sunday to sing praise and meet with neighbors and fellow worshipers, that has largely gone away. There is no conflict resolution, no forgiveness, no grace and kindness, all things we learn in that religious space. We live in a world where high end lifestyles are glorified and everyone believes they deserve everything – that they deserve all they can get, be, and do. Yet who is glorifying neighborly kindness, safe streets where our little children play, clean schools where our children learn? Why is it that we need weapons made for war to live on our streets? Why do we need to provide access to that? I don't believe

anyone thinks we do but this notion that it will chip away at law abiding citizens' rights to access other guns is ludicrous. It is a rally cry from the NRA and a false narrative that is killing this state and our country.

In Philadelphia, our mayor and district attorney have been on national television pointing fingers at each other. Why? It's disgusting to hear negative comments from elected leadership. Many of us are working together to collaborate for solutions and move past problems. Now isn't the time to continue to disagree - today we're demanding you get your acts together. We need serious plans for serious solutions. Parents and guardians - if you have a repeat offender in your residence, please call local, state or national authorities anonymously. You can help curb the tide of repeated violence in our neighborhoods.

And just to reiterate, the problems that plague Philly are everywhere. Gun violence is on the rise in Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Erie, Scranton, York, Reading, Allentown. We can't just lay down, waiting for this to end.

Education

Continued from page 3

we, (AWF) can do in the community to make a positive difference. The AWF food giveaway has become a staple in the community at Panati Rec Center. We are trying to leverage that opportunity and so we had some of our students conducting surveys with 200 area teens, on-line. We wanted the youth to have a better understanding and knowledge of what other teens are thinking and what they'd like to see in terms of programming, once the new Panati

Recreation Center building is completed. We had another group of our summer youth workers helping to oversee a summer camp experience for younger children, in the park, (actually on the grounds of Panati). We were really trying to bring back some of the energy that Panati used to have before Covid. We're also still working with partners. We work with the Blues Babes Foundation which is an organization founded by Philadelphia's own, R&B and Jazz singer Jill Scott, who was brought up in North Philadelphia. Ten of our students got to work with them".

For the Fall we are really trying to reimagine the afterschool ex-

perience. Young people have been telling us that they want to help address poverty. What we want to do is link up students with potential part time work experiences they can do after school, as long as their grades are on-point, and their behavior in school is on point, You don't have to be a straight A or B student to get help. We just need to know you are putting your best effort forward in school and your grades reflect that. Those are the young people we still want to try and monitor and assist with finding part time jobs, even during the school year. We're still working to find ways to partner with businesses and different career paths

and putting that into the "Teen Experience", that young people will be going through. We also want to work with Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, (CHOP), to give them information about teen adolescent development so they are better prepared and understand what they are going through physically. We also want them to face the community and be ready and prepared for the challenges around them. A strategic plan is being fine-tuned right now. We have some other Fall activities already lined up. We're thinking differently, broadly and beyond the notion of just after school."

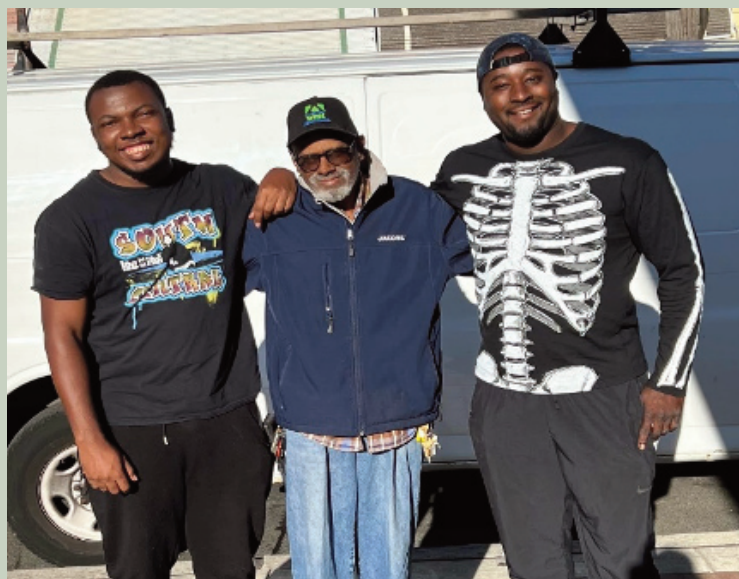
NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

Teamwork makes for dream work

Allegheny West Foundation is pleased to introduce to our community, our three newest hires. (Left to right).

Quadir Smith, who was a part of the 2022 summer youth job program. He did such a great job, he ended up with regular employment with AWF.

Tyrone Smith is retired from Gaudenzia House as a Drug & Alcohol Recovery Counselor. He's a former member of the AWF Board of Directors, and



now leads the AWF Community Ambassadors.

The third individual pictured is Louis Upshaw. Upshaw operates a small floor cleaning business,

See "Teamwork" page 14

Business Spotlight

Continued from page 7

and advertisements to promote all the stores".

The apple sure doesn't fall far from the tree. Seward's daughter Denise Gause is the founder and original owner of the very popular Denise's Bakery on North 22nd Street. Denise Gause successfully operated her business for almost 30 years before retiring a few years back and selling the business to her niece Kesha Davis and her business partner.

"A bit of advice for up and coming business owners who want to be in business, is be ready to work smart and work hard. Be prepared to show up every day and pay attention to your business. When you start earning money, reinvest

it back into your business," said Willie Seward. "He added, "No matter what keep on going."

Councilwoman Cindy Bass was on hand to help Willie Seward Celebrate with his family, friends and colleagues on June 10th, his 94th birthday. The councilwoman came with a wonderful proclamation from the city of Philadelphia signed by all 17 City Council members.

Now Councilwoman Bass and her staff are working on getting the 2800 block of North 22nd Street renamed Willie Seward Way. The Councilwoman's staff is also working on honoring Ray Murphy, a longtime friend and confidant of Willie Seward, who operated a successful business in the 2900 block of North 22nd Street. If all goes well, before the new year, we should have two blocks of North 22nd Street renamed to honor these two very worthy longtime business owners on North 22nd Street.

Dave's Meat Market

"The Best Little Butcher Shop In Philly!"

All Your Turkey Needs

- Ribs
- Chops
- Bacon
- Breakfast Sausage

Soul Food

- Chitts
- Ox Tails
- Goat Meat
- Maws, Ears, Tails

Beef, Pork, and Chicken

- Steak
- City Dressed Pork
- Chicken Chops
- Deli Counter

And much, much more!

Dave's Meat Market is not only your premier butcher for quality meats, but your local deli counter and grocer. We offer your main course, as well as everything else you need to complete your meal -- from side dishes to produce to condiments. **Check out our specials!**

Family-owned and operated for over 75 years, we match our quality meat with friendly, personal service.

2831 N. 22nd Street, Phila., PA 19132
215-228-6840

www.DavesMeatMarket.com

We are open Monday - Saturday, 8:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

One of Philly's best kept secrets!

Trying To Start A Business, Or Already In Business But Need Help? Connect With The City of Philadelphia Commerce Department

You've heard the saying, "God Bless the Child That Has His or Her Own? What a very true statement that is. For people who are

Venango House

Continued from page 10

dates nights and community meetings there to keep residents informed. I also really enjoyed working with the staff, Donna, Ms. Grier and Woody. Congratulations on your anniversary and I wish you all much peace and enjoyment in the days to come. I love me some them."

business-minded, the idea of being your own boss, can be very appealing. There's nothing to it, but to do it, thinking positively. If you have a vision or a dream, darn it, claim it and work to make it become a reality.

You must have a plan.

Those who fail to plan, plan to fail. You don't want that to happen, so get to planning. Here's some of the basics of what one should do, who wants to go into business:

Decided what kind of business you're interested in owning. Then do research on that kind of business and how successful that kind of business is. Find out about your competition. Are there other similar businesses in the area you want to work? If there's a ton of duplicate kinds of businesses in the same area, you might want to revise

your plan. You need to find out how much it will cost to start your business. Consider if you can operate your business from home, or do you actually need a location and what costs will that be?

What will be your basic expenses to get your business up and running? In short, you need a business plan. If you don't know how to write one, you can Google it online, and there's step by step directions on how to create your business plan.

If you still feel uncomfortable with the idea of actually drafting the business plan and creating a budget on your own, ask for help. You can contact the Fox Business Center at Temple University. Fox Business Center can be reached at 215-204-7676. They offer free advice and some limited services

to assist new business owners and already existing business owners. You can also reach out to the Enterprise Center. They can be reached at 215-895-4000. They offer some excellent services for business owners as well. You can also reach out to the City of Philadelphia Department of Commerce Business Services Office. That phone number is 215-683-2042. No matter what, you will need to be in contact with them because in order for you to operate a legitimate business in the city of Philadelphia, you must apply for a business license and that comes through the City of Philadelphia Department of Commerce. By the way, currently a business license in Philadelphia costs \$300.00.

Festique Boutique & Accessories

3147 N. 22nd Street, Philadelphia, PA 19132 215-227-2580

Open Mondays – Saturdays, 11:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. Available for small parties and "Girls Night Out"

www.shopfestique.com



Sherri Ray, Owner

We sell costume jewelry, handbags, leggings, ladies' apparel in all sizes, hats, scarves, and adult toys

For the ultimate shopping experience, come shop at Sherry's
Festique Boutique at 3147 N. 22nd Street.

You'll come back again and again!

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

Walking Tour

Continued from page 4

Hinton has not given up.”

Ron Hinton commented, “There’s two kinds of politicians in this city. There’s the kind I won’t even waste my breath talking about, and then there’s the kind that demonstrate they’re not afraid to get involved with doing the hard stuff. Congressman Evans record speaks for itself. Congressman Evans is known for helping to get state of the art supermarkets built where there was once food deserts. He’s known for taking a good portion of Ogontz Avenue and having that revitalized. He’s supported getting charter schools in his district and very recently, he’s partnered with PA State Senator Art Haywood to help save Chestnut Hill Hospital from closure, just to name a few of the accomplishments under his name.”

“I’m about economic development in the community where I lived and grew up and went to school at Muriel Dobbins High School. I reached out to Dwight Evans to say I need some planning money because we want to do some “out of the box” development in our service area. I want to own a grocery store. Not because I want to own a grocery store, but because I

want to say that the next tax credit project, with fifty apartment units for senior citizens, with a twenty-thousand square foot grocery store on the first floor will ultimately be owned by one of your sons or daughters, in the neighborhood where they grew up. Who are they going to employ? Some would say, don’t hire from the neighborhood because you’re going to lose money. That’s why we have Poppy stores on every corner. They’re making money. So what I’m saying is, we have a different vision for how to look at development in neighborhoods like Allegheny West. We picked one of the most challenging large vacant lots in our area, as a location to build a five story apartment complex with a food co-op and space for several small business on the first floor, and with senior apartments upstairs. If we can change this, we can change anything. I looked around and said who do I go to and the answer was Congressman Dwight Evans, PA State Senator Sharif Street and City Councilwoman Cindy Bass. They get it. If you listen to us, when we say development is going to happen, it’s going to happen.”

Teamwork

Continued from page 12

based in N. Philly and works for AWF as needed. Together all three handle a myriad of responsibilities for AWF, ranging from doing trash clean-ups along Fox Street right off 22nd, and along W. Allegheny Avenue and W. Hunting Park Avenue, from 22nd down to the 2600 blocks. They assist with food giveaways when AWF distributes food outside in front of Panati Rec Center. They also assist in keeping AWF properties clean and trash free, amongst other assignments.

Introducing One Day At A Time, Cleaning Ambassadors



Along the North 22nd Street Business Corridor, we have (4) individuals who are the Cleaning Ambassadors. They are subcontracted by AWF, to help keep our business corridor clean. Sporadically, the ODAAT Cleaning Ambassadors change from one person to another. They are a great team, and we appreciate the work they do to help us uplift our community!

“Save These Dates” For Important Upcoming Events or Meetings

Wed. Oct. 12th, The School District of Philadelphia will hold a public Zoom meeting to give an update on the building of the new T.M. Peirce Elementary School at 23rd and Cambria Street. For the Zoom Logo information, contact the School District or the office of City Councilwoman Cindy Bass. The meeting starts at 6:30pm-7:45pm

Tues. Oct. 11th, Community Action Group, (CAG), host its monthly community meeting.

Tues. Oct. 18th, AWCA-RCO host its monthly community

meeting at the New Courtland Life Building, 1900 W. Allegheny Avenue.

Mon. Oct. 24th, Last day to register to vote before the November General election.

Tues. Nov. 1st, Last day to apply for a mail-in or civilian absentee ballot.

Tues. Nov. 8th General Election Day. Polls open at 7am in PA and stay open until 8pm. This date is also the last day for County Boards of Elections to receive voted mail-in and civilian absentee ballots

General Election Day

Polls Open at 7am
Remain Open until 8pm

Go Vote.

Let your voice be heard!





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- Addiction Services
- Homeless Outreach
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- Youth Recovery Mode (YRM)
- Encampment Resolution Team
- PAD Program
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2532 N Broad St. Philadelphia, PA 19132

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

**Whether it's
THANKSGIVING,
CHRISTMAS,
NEW YEARS', or
Some other
significant
Holiday,**



The **North 22nd Street Business Association** and all the Merchants along the North 22nd Street Business Corridor, Encourage you to shop with us! The Official North 22nd Street Business Corridor runs from **22nd & W. Lehigh Avenue to 22nd & W. Allegheny Avenue.**

SOME OF OUR PREMIERE BUSINESS OWNERS INCLUDE:

- Precious Babies Learning Academy, Inc.**
2839-41 N. 22nd St., 215-223-9111
- Dave's Meat Market**
2831 N. 22nd Street, 215-228-6840
- Willie Seward Real Estate**
2819 N. 22nd Street, 215-223-5370
- Dr. M. Malik DDS**
2919 N. 22nd Street, 215-227-0107
- Denise's Delicacies**
2916 N. 22nd Street, 215-225-5425
- New Hollywood Cleaners**
2846 N. 22nd Street, 215=229-4200
- D's Caribbean & American Food**
3009 N. 22nd Street, 215-226-1973
- Jazzy Shears Hair Studio**
3001 N. 22nd Street, 225-221-JAZZ (5299)
- All That Nail Salon**
2953 N. 22nd Street, 215-228-0808
- Pacific Fish & Seafood**
2918 N. 22nd Street, 215-227-7720
- Shrimp Express**
2205 W. Indiana Avenue, 215-228-3336

- Lorraine's Upscale On Sale Boutique**
2827-29 N. 22nd Street, 215-227-2369
- Parent Power**
2743 N. Opal Street, 215-317=1044
- Eric Holt Optical Co.**
2801 N. 22nd Street, 215-226-0355
- Salon Brilliance**
2935 N. 22nd Street, 215-309-2337
- Stop and Save Check Cashing**
2933 N. 22nd Street, 215-225-8910
- Phresh Prints Ink**
2825 N. 22nd Street, 267-687-7483
- Festique Boutique**
3147 N. 22nd Street, 215-227-2580
- BuBu's Stop & Go**
3153 N. 22nd Street
- Rainbow Electronics**
2861 N. 22nd Street
- Sutton Electronics**
2807 N. 22nd Street 215-228-0869
- Kaptivating Kidz Child Care**
2934 N. 22nd Street , 215-205-5147

- Me Shelley Beauty Salon**
2840 N. 22nd Street, 267-784-5678
- Patriot Pharmacy**
2951 N. 22nd Street, 267-800-7087
- King Beauty Supply**
2931 N. 22nd Street, 215-278-2912
- Grand Entrance Venue**
2850 N. 22nd Street, 215-367-1658
- Semaj Exterminating**
215-228-7062
- Ummi Dee's Burger Bistro**
2805 N. 22nd Street 215-221-6166
- Farber Hardware Store**
3006 N. 22nd Street, 215-228-8355

**Welcome New Businesses To
N. 22nd Street!**

- Mama Shan's African & Soul Food Cuisine**
2957 N. 22nd Street, 215-648-3944
- Victorious Islamic Place**
2941 N. 22nd Street 215-600-9927
- Be His Eye Candy Boutique**
2929 N. 22nd Street, 215-298-0078
- Chuck's Seafood**
2836 N. 22nd Street 267-773-7959
- Benjamin Jewelers** 2909 N. 22nd Street,

Ken Curry,
President of *The North 22nd Street Business Association*