

Allegheny West

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSPAPER

Realizing Our Neighborhood's Dreams • www.alleghenywestnewspaper.com

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Councilwoman Bass Introduces Tax Amnesty Legislation



8th District City Councilwoman Cindy Bass says she is just as enthusiastic about representing the 8th Council District today, as she was seven years ago when she was first elected. There are many initiatives she could point out that she's proud of, but most recently, here are a couple things to point out. March 14, 2019, Councilwoman Bass introduced a bill to provide for tax amnesty and delinquent tax repayment plans for Philadelphians with delinquent taxes owed between 2009 and 2019.

Under the bill, tax delinquent individuals who are able to pay the full principal amount owed will have all interest and penalties waived. Tax delinquent individuals who are unable to pay

the full principal amount owed will have penalties waived and interest lowered, and will be enrolled into a repayment program with the Department of Revenue.

According to current Revenue Department figures, Philadelphia is owed more than \$150 million in collectible delinquent tax revenue.

The tax amnesty bill would provide relief for the following taxes: Amusement tax, Mechanical amusement device tax, Parking tax, Real estate tax, Realty transfer tax, Wage and net profits tax, Net income tax, Realty use and occupancy tax, Liquor sales tax, Hotel room rental tax, Business privilege tax, Vehicle rental, and Excise tax on outdoor advertising transactions.

"This amnesty program closely

resembles tax amnesty initiatives employed by the City of Philadelphia in the past. That is how I know that this is something we can do, and must do, if we want to see a more financially healthy City," Councilwoman Bass said.

The bill received bipartisan support and was co-sponsored by Councilmembers Kenyatta Johnson, Jannie Blackwell, David Oh, Mark Squilla, Curtis Jones, Maria Quinones Sanchez, Blondell Reynolds Brown, Derek Green and Al Taubenberger. It will be heard in the Council Committee on Finance.

In February, Councilwoman Bass stood with community stakeholders, representatives from City departments, Community Leadership Caucus members, and 8th District residents to launch the Community Leadership Caucus Camera Program. The innovative public-private partnership will install home security camera systems on the houses of eligible 8th District residents at no cost to them to help combat crime and dumping.

"In neighborhoods like Nicetown, where we are today, some of the most chronic quality of life issues constituents face include trash and dumping, violent and nonviolent crime, nuisance and blighted properties, and illegal

Continued on Pg. 3



PA State Senator Sharif Street, Esq.

Senator Sharif Street Says Some With Life Sentences Should Be Considered For Parole

In the near future, I plan to reintroduce legislation that would make it possible for those sentenced to life imprisonment to eventually have an opportunity for parole in Pennsylvania. While this legislation has evolved after meetings with various stakeholders, it is based on SB942 which I introduced in the last session.

Pennsylvania has over 5,250 people serving a life sentence in our state prison system – more than all but one other state in the country. All life sentences in Pennsylvania are imposed without the possibility of parole. This means that individuals sentenced to life imprisonment may not be considered for parole, no matter how much they have reformed themselves and no matter how unlikely they are to re-offend. Those sentenced to life without parole in Pennsylvania also have no chance at release when they grow so ill or elderly they pose little to no risk to the public. Not only does this

Continued on Pg. 3

Councilwoman Bass's Tax Amnesty

Continued from Pg.1

construction," Councilwoman Cindy Bass said. "Through the 8th District Community Leadership Caucus Camera Program, we are working to help eradicate those issues once and for all."

Bass was joined by Streets Commissioner Carlton Williams, Northwest Police Division Inspector DeShawn Beaufort and other members of the Philadelphia Police Department Northwest Division, Majeedah Rashid and Zakarriya Abdur-Rahman of Nicetown CDC, the Universal Muslim Business Association, and Zion Baptist Church for the announcement.

Councilwoman Bass launched the neighborhood security initiative through her 8th District Community Leadership Caucus. Started in 2016, the Caucus provides residents with the tools and resources they need to help improve quality of life in their neighborhoods. Homeowners who are active participants in the Community Leadership Caucus are eligible for the program. Camera recipients must also enroll in the Philadelphia Police Department SafeCam program so that the security camera video may be streamed to the police department.

Representatives from Streets and the Northwest Police Division praised Councilwoman Bass for her initiative and expressed belief that the home security program will help support their

departments' work.

"Cameras like this make a difference," Commissioner Williams said. "Now we can track down [people who dump] and make examples of them."

"Most importantly, this will encourage community involvement," Inspector Beaufort said.

Representatives from State Senator Sharif Street's office and the Office of Representative Rosita Youngblood also attended the camera program launch.

Councilwoman Cindy Bass represents the 8th Council District, which includes Germantown, Mt. Airy, Nicetown, Tioga, Chestnut Hill, portions of Logan, Olney, Feltonville and West Oak Lane. She is Chair of Council's committees on Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs and Public Health and Human Services.

This is an election year for all 17 City Council members, including Councilwoman Bass. She has no Democratic opponent running against her in the upcoming Tuesday, May 21st Primary Election. There were 2 people who were going to run against her. However, both opponents are now out of the race.

The Mayor's Office is up for grabs, as is the Sheriff's Office, the Registrar of Wills, and three seats in the City Commissioners Office, as well as several judicial seats.

Choose Or Loose On May 21st!



Tuesday, May 21, 2019 is Primary Election Day in Pennsylvania. Here in Philadelphia, the polls open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 8:00 p.m. Please exercise your right to vote!

If you do not know where you should go to vote, call the Philadelphia City Commissioners office at 215-686-3460.

If you witness anything that you think is illegal happening on election day, related to voting, call the Philadelphia City Commissioners Office, or call the Committee of Seventy at 215-557-3600, or call the District Attorney's Office. You can also always call 215-686-VOTE and they'll direct you to the right office for further assistance.

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Senator Sharif Street Parole For Life Sentences

Continued from Pg. 1

represent an injustice to an individual who is a model inmate despite having no chance at life outside of prison, but it also creates an avoidable expense for the corrections system – and the taxpayers who fund it – by incarcerating individuals longer than necessary.

Many people serving life without parole did not kill anyone. Many have been convicted of the Felony Murder Rule (Second Degree Murder) which charges accomplices/co-conspirators as murderers, even if they had no knowledge a murder was being committed. Some are serving because they were convicted of more than three instances of violence.

are also many survivors of domestic violence serving life without parole from convictions before PA passed a "Battered Spouse's Defense." Those women would not be serving life today but were charged with First Degree Murder in the 80's and earlier and have no chance at parole.

This bill creates no right to parole, so it will not allow our most dangerous inmates to go free. The Commonwealth's Board of Probation and Parole will continue to responsibly reject requests for parole from those who do not deserve it, or who present too great a safety risk to the public, just as it does today for Third Degree Murder cases which do not carry a life sentence in PA.

This legislation has gained significant backing from a broad, bi-partisan coalition from civil liberties groups like the ACLU to more conservative groups like Americans for Prosperity, from criminal justice reform groups like the Coalition to End Death By Incarceration to victim advocate groups like

Mothers in Charge.

This bill has some significant differences to SB942 and HB135 introduced in the last session, which created parole eligibility for all lifers after serving a 15-year sentence. Modeled after how juvenile lifers are treated in current statute, it sets parole eligibility in the following way: 25 years for those convicted of Second Degree Murder, and 35 years for those convicted of First Degree Murder.

There is an exemption for anyone who is convicted of murdering a law enforcement officer, who will continue to receive a life without parole sentence. The legislation is drafted to be retroactive allowing for lifers to apply for parole as they become eligible.

The bill also creates the State Office of Re-Entry Programs within the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime & Delinquency (PCCD). The office will work with agencies and non-profit service providers to bring consistency to how prisoner reentry is managed before and after release from incarceration. It will also coordinate all state grant funding for re-entry programs.

Like the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, the bill quantifies savings to the commonwealth based on these changes and reinvests those dollars in certain designated criminal justice programs. It creates a "Life with Parole Reinvestment Fund" in the State Treasury to receive those funds and provides for their disbursement to PCCD to fund re-entry programs and Victim/Witness Services programs and to the Department of Corrections to fund the Office of the Victims Advocate, the Board of Probation & Parole and State Parole Officers.

Stay tuned for new developments with this legislation.

Congressman Dwight Evans Says, Make Move Like Trump To Help Revive Our Schools

Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-03) today provided this written testimony to the House Education and Labor Committee in support of two bills that would make more than \$100 billion in repairs to our nation's schools, including Evans' own bill:

"Thank you, Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx, for allowing me to provide written testimony. I would like to thank the Committee on Education and Labor for voting out Chairman Scott's Rebuild America's Schools Act, H.R. 865, which I strongly support.

"This bill is needed, now more than ever, because across our country there are children and teachers who are wearing coats in their classrooms to stay warm, crowdsourcing to raise funds that will repair broken air conditioners ahead of summer months, and so much more.

"In the city of Philadelphia, tens of thousands of children are attending schools that have had lead in the water, lead dust from chipped paint, and asbestos fibers in settled dust. Although city and state officials have put a limited amount of joint funding toward these issues, the School District of Philadelphia needs federal help to ensure the safety of our beloved children and teachers.

"However, what is happening to school facilities in Philadelphia is not isolated to my city – there are crumbling school buildings throughout the nation and this problem needs to be addressed and included as we discuss infrastructure in Congress.

"Our youngest and brightest learners should have high-quality school facilities so they can achieve their dreams. Instead, too many of them are trying to learn in subpar facilities – even though we expect exceptional results.

"I support Chairman Scott's bill because it would use both grants and tax credit bonds to make a major,



badly needed wave of repairs to schools across this country, in red, purple and blue districts and states – and it would create 1.9 million jobs. That is a win-win!

"I serve on the Ways and Means Committee, where this bill has been referred, and I strongly support this legislation.

"I would also like to urge support for my related bill, the Rehabilitation of Historic Schools Act, H.R. 158. Among other tools, Chairman Scott's bill would use Qualified Zone Academy Bonds and qualified school infrastructure bonds. My bill would make another tax credit available as a tool in the toolbox to repair our children's schools so they can succeed in education and in life.

"I propose to use the same federal rehabilitation tax credit that President Trump used to renovate an old post office building in Washington, D.C., into an upscale hotel. I believe we can and should put the same tax credit to work 'For The People,' because the time is now to repair our children's schools.

"I also believe my bill can attract bipartisan support in part because it has private-sector involvement. We can use these tax dollars to leverage private investment for a greater total impact. We get a better return on investment, we create jobs, and we improve our children's education and their futures. This is something I think we can all agree on!

"If any of you would like to co-sponsor my bill, or if you have a question about it, I invite you to reach out to me or my staff. I look forward to working together with you to make schools better for the next generation all across America."

s represents the 3rd Congressional District, which includes Northwest and West Philadelphia and parts of North, South, Southwest and Center City Philadelphia.



Democratic Caucus Secretary
REP. ROSITA C.
YOUNGBLOOD
198th legislative District
Philadelphia County

Rep. Rosita C. Youngblood Says Get Free Assistance With Your Property Tax/Rent Rebate

Forms for Pennsylvania's Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program for the 2018 tax year are available – and my office staff is ready to help you file yours for free!

The rebate program benefits eligible Pennsylvanians 65 or older, widows and widowers 50 or older, and people with disabilities 18 or older. The income limit is \$35,000 a year for homeowners and \$15,000 annually for renters. Half of Social Security income is excluded and the maximum standard rebate is \$650.

Claimants must reapply for rebates every year because they are based on annual income and property taxes or rent paid each year. Spouses, personal representatives or estates may file rebate claims on behalf of deceased claimants who lived at least one day in 2018 and meet all other eligibility criteria.

The rebates normally are distributed by the Department of Revenue beginning July 1. So, the sooner you file, the sooner you will receive your money.

Representative Rosita C.

Youngblood's Office is located at 310 W. Cheltenham Avenue in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. The office phone number is 215-849-6426.

Does Your Teen Want A Summer Job?

If your young person, ages 13-18 wants a summer job, the time to apply is right now. Not next week, but right now!

You need to register for this year. If you haven't already, please click Register. Please do not register with a school e-mail address as these addresses are often unavailable to students during the summer.

Please be aware; as a result of updated regulations from the Pennsylvania Departments of Labor & Industry (L&I) and Human Services (DHS), eligibility for participation in Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) programs may be verified based on pre-determined qualifications, including family size and income. To do this, Philadelphia Youth Network (PYN) and its agents and partners may need to verify income information and, where necessary, to document eligibility for services, as well as to share personal, financial, or academic information to organizations including, but not

limited to: schools, employers, youth-serving organizations and government agencies (including the Department of Public Welfare and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania) for the purpose of determining income and programmatic eligibility and PYN's agents and partners in the course of attempting to secure placement for employment.

Please feel free to call the Work Ready Philadelphia hotline at 267-502-3742 or email us at youth@pyninc.org for more information.

You can also contact the Allegheny West Foundation, which operate under the auspices of the Work Ready Philadelphia program for a summer job. To learn how to apply for a summer job through Allegheny West Foundation, call 215-225-1019. Students who want to work through the Allegheny West Foundation summer job program must apply at the Allegheny West Foundation Thrift Store, (formerly the Tasty Kake Thrift Store) at 2236 W. Hunting Park Avenue, Mondays-Saturdays, between the hours of 10am-4pm. Call before you come.

Bring a copy of your birth certificate with you, your social security card and a copy of your working papers.

Are You In Business And Want To Feel More Secure?

Then you want to know about the Safe-Cam Program. The Business Security Camera Program reimburses commercial property owners and business owners for the installation of surveillance cameras, to make their location safer for shoppers and the community. The program provides a 50% reimbursement (of up to \$3,000) for the total cost of eligible safety camera installations for a single commercial property. The ultimate goal of this program is to improve the safety, vitality and economic performance of neighborhood business districts throughout Philadelphia. See the Commerce Business Security Camera Program Guidelines (below) for complete program details.

Eligibility:

Applicants must meet the following criteria:

The applicant must be the owner of a commercially occupied property, an operating tenant business with approval of the property owner or an established business association or community based organization representing a number of businesses in a particular area.

Must be operating legally, properly registered, licensed with the City of Philadelphia and current with all city taxes, including but not limited to revenue, licenses, water revenue billings, etc.

Must apply to install a camera that meets the criteria established in the Business Security Camera Program application (see application for more details).

For more details log on at business.phila.gov and click on safe cam program.

How to apply for Small Biz grants

Got a storefront that looks bad and you want to give it a facelift? Then you may be interested in the Storefront Improvement Grant. The program can reimburse up to 50 percent of the cost of eligible improvements to a maximum of \$10,000 for a single commercial property, or up to \$15,000 for a multiple-address or corner business property. Call the city of Philadelphia Commerce Department for more details at 215-683-2100



*Pictured here, Bria Jackson, AWF Instructor for summer Jobs Program, signing student up for work at the AWF Thrift Store, March 2019.
Photo by Thera*





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Ron Hinton, Jr. President AWF and Jacques Louis Director of Education Programs at AWF Recruiting youth at Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church March 17, 2019

A Report On The Philadelphia Sheriff's Office



(Photo, left to right) First man unidentified, Sheriff Jewell Williams, Fareed Ahmad, Joey Temple, Retired Phila. Police Commissioner Sylvester Johnson and Sid Booker

by Thera Martin

The Philadelphia Sheriff's Office has made some great movements forward since the days of our last Sheriff in the city, John Green. Largely, its been about progressive with technology. As technology improves, services improve.

In the past before Jewell Williams became the Sheriff, \$27 million dollars in delinquent taxes and fees were given back to the city budget after the Sheriff office staff did its job. Under the leadership of Sheriff Jewell Williams, most recently \$54 million dollars in delinquent taxes and fees have been returned to the city budget. It used to take 120 days for a new property owner to receive a copy of a deed from the city of Philadelphia. Under the leadership of Sheriff Jewell Williams, that time has been cut down to 21 days. The Sheriff's Defendant Asset Recovery Team, (DART) is responsible for identifying and locating owners who are owed excess funds for properties that sold at a Sheriff

Sale for more than the debt owed. Last year, a record \$3.8 million dollars went back to more than 132 individuals, totaling more than \$17.3 million dollars since Sheriff Jewell Williams took office.

When you ask the current Sheriff about just a few of the things he's proud of about his tenure as Sheriff he stated, "Under my leadership I created the Talk It Out, Don't Shoot It Out Campaign. Over the summer of 2018 I launched a gun safety campaign where I encouraged young people in particular, to have a peaceful summer by avoiding gun violence. I made sure that "Talk It Out, Don't Shoot It Out" posters were distributed at community evets, in neighborhood stores and through community organizations. Through my office, we also distributed 11,425 free gun locks around the city to parents and other adults who have legal guns in their homes. I also sponsored a series of Gun Buy-Back events at various locations around the city. My office invested in a state of the art web site to make it easier

for people to access information and interact with the Sheriff's office about property taxes, property sales, obtaining protection from abuse orders, or a voiding foreclosures. My goal is to continue to implement changes that improve our services to the

public."

We would note that the Allegheny West Foundation is a 501 C-3 nonprofit organization and we do not endorse any political candidates. We are simply outlining progress that's been reported in the Philadelphia Sheriff's Office.

We would also note that Sheriff Jewell Williams does have three Democratic opponents running against him in the upcoming Tuesday, May 21st primary election. They are Malika Rahman, Rochelle Bilal and Larry King, Sr.

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Bishop Mary Floyd Palmer

Bishop Mary Floyd Palmer To Lead Philadelphia Council of Clergy, Based on N. 22nd Street

Bishop Mary Floyd Palmer, President, Philadelphia Council of Clergy

The Philadelphia Council of Clergy, (PCC), founded by Bishop Anthony Floyd, made history during "Women's History Month", 2019. PCC installed its first ever woman, presiding Archbishop, Mary Floyd Palmer.

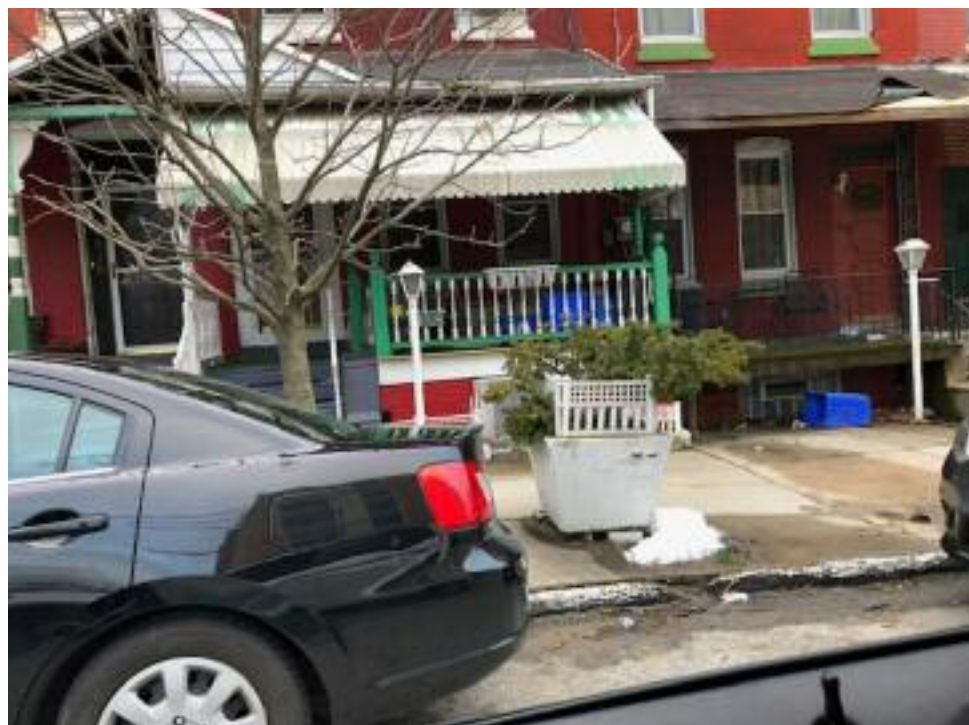
The Philadelphia Council of Clergy, Inc. is a non-profit organization founded in 1994. This is an ecumenical group of multi-cultural faith-based leaders who desire is to alleviate suffering, overcome oppression, foster justice and peace, not only in Philadelphia citywide, but all communities where we work and live, having impacted over 600,00 people locally, nationally and internationally. As religious leaders, the PCC network promotes a unified relationship with government officials and the social and economic advancement of local and national pastors and their members.

The headquarters for the Philadelphia Council of Clergy is at 2644 N. 22nd Street. The phone number is 833-722-4748.

Bishop Mary stated, "I look forward to working with the clergy of this community, many of whom which I already know. I also look forward to working with such organizations as the Allegheny West Foundation, Parent Power, Dobbins High School and other stakeholders in the community to help strengthen our community.

We want this community to know that once we complete a facelift of our headquarters, we want to welcome community in, for meetings as well as for prayer and special programs and trainings.

I am the first woman in Pennsylvania history to be ordained an Archbishop in the Nondenominational Faith, or in any other faith, for that matter. I am humbled and moved for this new responsibility and honor, and every day, I will be asking God to order my steps."



The Philadelphia Neighborhood Home Preservation Loan Program

What is it and how does it work?

Restore • Repair • Renew is a new initiative of the City of Philadelphia and Philadelphia Redevelopment Authority (PRA) to help Philadelphia homeowners access low-interest loans to invest in their properties. Lenders participating in the program are offering 10-year, 3% interest loans that range from \$2,500 to \$24,999 to eligible homeowners.

• Restore • Repair • Renew loans can fund a range of home repairs that focus on health, safety, weatherization, accessibility, and quality of life. The goal of the program is to help Philadelphians improve their homes and strengthen their communities.

Who can apply?*

Philadelphia homeowners:

- Whose primary residence needs repairs
- With credit scores above 580
- With homeowner's insurance
- Who have paid their property

taxes or are in a payment agreement with the City

* Additional underwriting criteria: Borrowers must have a loan-to-value ratio at or below 105% of after rehab-value and a back-end debt-to-income ratio at or below 43%.

What repairs are eligible?

- Roof, siding, foundation, and masonry
- Sidewalk and driveway resurfacing/replacement and outside stair repair
- Window and door repair and replacement
- Adaptations that allow for easier access to and mobility within a home
- Fixtures, plumbing, sewer and waterline repairs and replacements
- HVAC system and water heater repair or replacement
- Electrical repairs
- Treatments related to lead based-paint

Mold and radon mitigation And other health and safety related repairs. To learn more, call The Philadelphia Council for Community Advancement at 215-567-7803.



Dot Newton

Deliverance Community Development Corporation

Dot Newton is Director of Deliverance Community Development Corporation.

Deliverance Community Development Corporation (DCDC), is an affiliate of the Deliverance Evangelistic Church and was initially established in 2002 under the name Deliverance Center of Hope, by leaders of the Church. The need for a community service component grew out of work at the Church in the areas of social services, cultural enrichment, family life services, and outreach to the surrounding community.

DCDC works closely with community partners, city officials, politicians and various city departments and programs such as Philly Rising to address violence, unemployment, ex-offenders and other ills in the community, via jobs fairs, gun buy-back programs, youth development, expungement clinics, etc.

To learn more about what they do, call 215-226-7600.

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Community Redevelopment at Panati Recreation Center Will Be Revived !



After much work, energy and thought, Panati Recreation Center in the 3000 block of North 22nd Street, (22nd and Clearfield), will be one of the public buildings that will be fixed thanks to a city effort called "Rebuild". 8th Council District City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, after much thought, lots of investigation, work and energy, has deemed that Panati Recreation Center is one of the public buildings in her district that is in desperate need of help. The grounds surrounding Panati got a 1.3 million dollar boost in 2015, with a new playground, water park and walking area for the community. The basketball courts were re-coated and now its about addressing the building itself.

Through a program called "Rebuild", sooner, rather than later, residents of the Allegheny West area of North Philadelphia will have a fabulous new recreation center where they can come and enjoy exercise, community meetings, workshops, an after school program for teens, and more.

Rebuild is Philadelphia's program to improve parks and rec centers, playgrounds and libraries across Philly neighborhoods. Most sites that are selected for a facelift or a rebuild, will be funded through bonds paid for by the Philadelphia beverage tax. It has three primary goals: Revitalizing parks, recreation centers, playgrounds and libraries, Empowering and engaging with communities, and Providing economic opportunities for all Philadelphians. If all goes well, the Panati Recreation Center Rebuild project may begin before the end of 2019. In one big voice, the community says, "Thank you Councilwoman Bass for seeing our need, for hearing our cry for help and for standing up for us to make it become a reality that soon we'll have a new recreation center at 3101 N. 22nd Street.



It's Best With Allegheny West

There's a Fireball On North 22nd Street

Stay tuned for more details.

Ribs-R-Us Is Coming To N. 22nd St!



By Thera Martin

There's a fireball on North 22nd Street and like big stars and celebrities, she goes by one name, Abrielle. Most times if you see her, her hair color is green and she's gorgeous.

But don't let her looks fool you. This tiny, five foot little lady is a powerhouse and a business woman determined to make it to the top.

Almost three and a half years ago she opened Salon Brilliance, the premiere beauty salon along the North 22nd Street business corridor, located at 2935 N. 22nd Street. It is the largest, full service salon on N.

22nd Street. About one year ago, she opened Brilliance Hair Extensions & Beauty Supply Store at 3000 N. 22nd Street and by July of 2019, she'll open a brand new women's clothing store that will also feature some men's clothing at the address of the old Tommy's Men Store on N. 22nd Street, located at 2917 N. 22nd Street. She said, "I don't want to spill the beans about what kinds of clothing I'll be featuring in my store. I want to keep that a surprise, but trust me, my customers are going to love what I have to offer."

I can tell you this. The name of the store is going to be "Experience The Brilliance."

Great things are happening along the N. 22nd Street Business Corridor. For years the Peirce Elementary School sat on the 2800 block of N. 22nd Street, vacant, looking lonely and unattended. Allegheny West Foundation acquired the building with the support of the city of Philadelphia Commerce Department a few years ago, and now, by mid-summer, Mr. Luther Tollerson, proud owner of Ribs-R-Us will be moving his popular business there. Ribs-R-Us has been in

existence for 12 years at 4912 N. 5th Street, but Luther says he's had his eyes on N. 22nd Street for quite some time. He stated, "It's been quite a process getting to the point where we are today, but finally I can see the rainbow at the end of the tunnel. Thanks to the good people at the city of Philadelphia Commerce Department and Ron Hinton from the Allegheny West Foundation, who has helped to guide me, by mid-summer of 2019, I expect to be hosting a Grand Opening for the new location of my business. I can't wait. This is a dream come true."

I was a furniture salesman and an insurance salesman, for all my life. I sold insurance and investments and annuities and retirement annuities to the school

district. Before that I was a furniture salesman at Strawbridge and Clothier and I actually sold furniture to the Strawbridge Family. Many times I was at their home. I was fortunate to get in there at a young age. But in my heart and in my mind, I always wanted to be in the restaurant business. Twelve years ago that's just what I did.


Some of my recipes come from an older gentleman who is from Georgia. He had been cooking all his life. He's about 88 years old now. He helped me a long time ago and he taught me a lot. It's a Georgia style barbeque technique I use. We make our own sauces, both hot and mild. All our foods are homemade, from the macaroni and cheese to the potato salad, to the sweet potatoes. Our signature things like our corn bread has a tremendous sweet taste to it. Our beef brisket, it's a beef short rib. We use a beef short rib and their cut more like a steak and the meat just falls off the bone the way we prepare it".

Hold onto your hats everybody. "Ribs-R-Us" is on its way to the 2800 block of N. 22nd Street.



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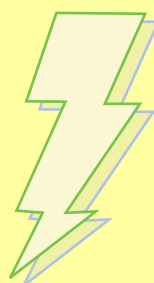
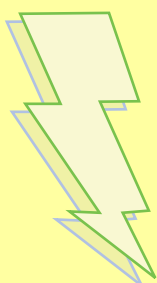
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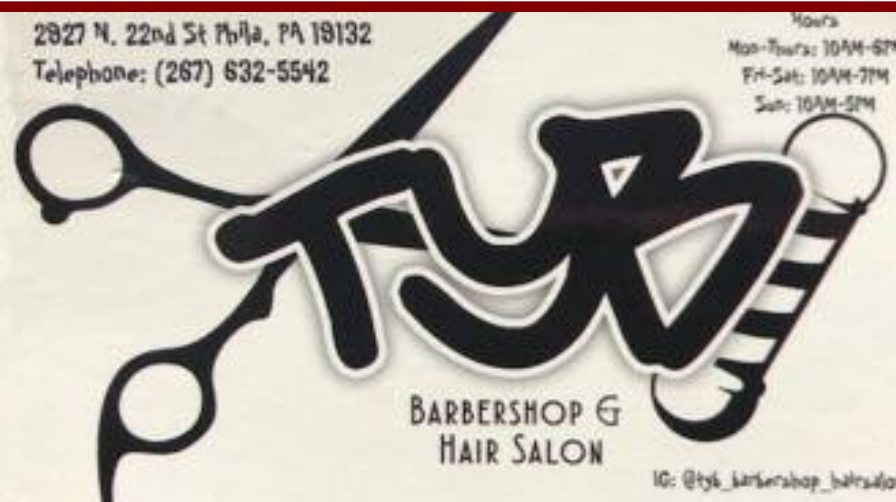
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The Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia

The Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia is located at 1939 W. Venango Street in the heart of North Central Philadelphia and they offer a variety of services for the community that range from an after school program for youth, to an adult day care program, to adult education classes and more. Strengthening and supporting families, Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia continues its promise to the community - neighbor helping neighbor, transforming lives one person at a time.

The Sisters of Mercy have worked in partnership with the working poor of the Tioga-

Nicetown community for more than 35 years resulting in adult and child care programs. In 1997 Mercy Neighborhood Ministries (MNM) was founded and incorporated in 2003. In 2004 an abandoned warehouse was purchased and renovated into a 'green building'. In 2009 the Mercy Family Center opened its doors as the first USBGC silver - level certified green building in North Philadelphia and one of just nine silver-level certified in the city.

Mercy Neighborhood Ministries of Philadelphia, Inc. is a registered 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization. Call them at 215-227-4393 to learn about all their programs.

Allegheny West Foundation and Uplift Inc. Partnering For Summer Jobs For Youth



By Thera Martin

In order to assist more teens in the North Central part of Philadelphia get prepared for summer jobs, the Allegheny West Foundation, (AWF), and an organization called Uplift Inc. are partnering for some job training and jobs for six weeks for teens over the summer of 2019.

Uplift, Inc was founded by Jeff Brown, owner of 12 Shop Rite Supermarkets in the Philadelphia area. Uplift Inc. trains Ex-offenders and other people for work at Super Market and other job locations.

Atif Bostic, Executive Director of Uplift, Inc., commented, "Essentially, Uplift Inc. started out as a re-entry workforce program for adults. We now welcome not only returning citizens, but other people who are challenged to find employment. Uplift Inc. started out as a supermarket based, on the job training program designed to create employment opportunities for re-entering citizens."

Today we've expanded and we train in other areas as well and we also work with people who are not ex-offenders, but who have difficulties getting employment. Our

program develops hard and soft skills and each participant that completes the six-week classroom portion of the program will be hired by Brown's Supermarket in Philadelphia, or at other work locations.

Over the summer of 2019, we are pleased to work with the Allegheny West Foundation and 18 year olds who are a part of their summer jobs program. We'll select approximately 20-25 of their best students who are at least 18 years of age for our training program. Once they successfully complete their six week training, it can possibly develop into a job for them that will last even after the summer job program concludes".

If you'd like to learn more about this job training program for people who have recently come home from incarceration, or are having a hard time finding work because you need some job training, email Uplift Inc. at: info@upliftsolutions.org, or call Allegheny West Foundation at 215-225-1019 and ask for Mr. Ron Hinton.

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Allegheny West Plaza, A Place We Hope Seniors Can Soon Call Home

The Allegheny West Foundation Plaza will be a vision come true for Allegheny West Foundation President, Ronald E. Hinton, Jr. He's been working on making this project a reality for almost four years now and he's determined to keep working on it, until his vision becomes a reality. It's all about having the funding and full support of government from every level, to make it happen. The Allegheny West Plaza will be a Passive House Senior Living Community. The address: 2221-31 W. Venango Street, Philadelphia PA 19140. The Allegheny West Foundation Plaza will be a Senior Citizens' Living Community that will be an exciting mixed-use project that will bring 45 units of affordable senior housing to low-income individuals (62+), retail commercial space, and AWF consolidated office space in the



Allegheny West/Tioga neighborhood of Philadelphia. AWF currently has ownership of the entire project site and zoning. The project involves the demolition of 2 existing one-story buildings and new construction of a 55,295 S.F. four-story structure. The project will consist of 45 one-bedroom apartments, ranging from 696 S.F. to 760 S.F. (handicap) which will be located on floors 2, 3, and 4. The building is designed with

energy efficiency at the forefront and will meet Passive House standards. Each unit will include fully equipped kitchens with dishwashers, among other amenities. The residential portion of the building also contains a 1287 square foot community room in which residents can gather with each other and entertain family and friends, a mailroom, a shared laundry room, and a rental office on the ground floor. A landscaped

parking area provides space for 14 cars. Allegheny West Plaza will be 100% visible and include 12 fully accessible units (2x as many as required) plus 4 units for individuals with sensory impairments. In the development there will be a 5470 square foot corner commercial space (the residential and commercial portions of the building will have separate entrances). A portion of the space will be occupied by the Tasty Thrift Shop, which AWF operates and a portion will be available to other commercial use. Residents of AWF Plaza will have easy access to necessary services and new job opportunities and excellent access to transportation.

- Services: Provided by NewCourtland, less than a mile from the LIFE Center.

The Allegheny West Plaza project has gotten full support from the Community and form elected officials including: PA State Senator Sharif Street, Congressman Dwight Evans, City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, PA State Representative Rosita C. Youngblood, former PA State Senator Shirley M. Kitchen, Democratic Committeeman from the area, Vernon Reynolds, recent past president of the AWF/NAC, Regina Smith, President of North 22nd Street Business Association, Ken Curry, President of the North 22nd Street Business and a host of other area leaders and residents.

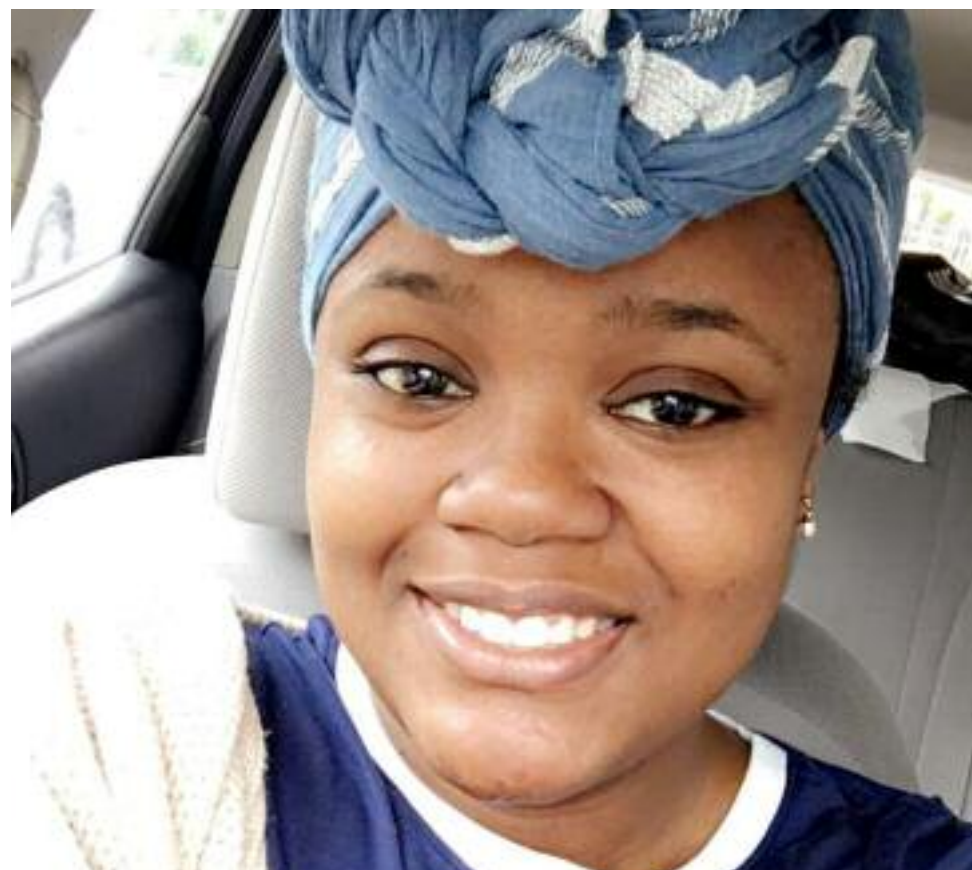
- The land where the Allegheny West Plaza will be built is 100% owned by Allegheny West Foundation and the zoning for building there is complete. By late Spring of this year, we should know if this is the year, AWF will get the nod that all the money and approvals are in place for the building to begin.

Allegheny West After-School Alumnae On Way To Masters Degree

My name is *Nicole Dupree*, I participated in the Allegheny West foundation program from 2007 to 2010. I attended Philadelphia Electrical Technology Charter High school in Center City. After high school I attended Mansfield University, where I obtained my B.S in Psychogy. To put it shortly, I would not have been as successful on my journey with out the Allegheny West Foundation. A-West taught me how to apply to jobs, complete college applications, and offered me SAT prep classes. The Allegheny west foundation has also taken me on countless college tours, I was able to truly see my options, I did not have a limit. I have gained experiences that will carry me further through my career. I am currently a graduate

student attending Jefferson University studying Trauma Counseling. I am truly thankful

for what this program has done for me, that is why I am helping my nephew apply to be a



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