

Allegheny West

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER

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

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Senator Street and Councilwoman Bass team Up With Allegheny West Foundation and Other Groups To Provide Food for Those In Need During Pandemic

By Thera Martin

PA State Senator Sharif Street isn't just sitting in the comfort of his home, kicking back during the COVID-19 Pandemic we're under. He commented, "As we social distance, the work increases for some of us. Food security is more vital now than ever. I'm glad to volunteer and help provide a space for food distribution in the community with Grands As Parents, Inc. We will continue to work to shield and support our communities during this health crisis."

In this pandemic it should also be noted

Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cindy Bass and a handful of her staff have been out and about, geared up with masks and gloves, handing out bags of groceries to those hardest hit in her 8th council district due to the coronavirus and social distancing mandate. One of the groups she's partnered with is the Allegheny West Foundation, (AWF). At the AWF Town Hall, (the Panati Recreation Center) at 3101 N. 22nd Street), food is being given away, 5 days a week currently to help those in that part of the district. Councilwoman Bass commented, "We are pleased to be partnering with Ron Hinton, president of the Allegheny West Foundation, in making daily food giveaways possible. Some of the members of my staff are out on the front lines every day as they distribute food packages outside in front of Panati. Yes they wear the face masks and they wear the rubber gloves, but still they're commitment to serve makes me so proud. My



Left: Senator Street using his Germantown Office as food distribution center

Right: Senator Street participating in 1st ever Virtual PA Senate voting

that COVID-19 has pushed the button on virtual voting for the Senate in Pennsylvania, commented Senator Street. "Virtual voting in the PA State Senate has begun and thus far, they've voted to authorize \$50 million

for health care systems to assist in responding to the COVID-19 virus, as well as legislation to move the primary election day to June 2, 2020. The senate also passed a school code that made key statutory changes to ensure schools have the flexibility to continue educational programs while making sure our teachers can

still get paid, and a bill to make it easier for people out of work to collect unemployment compensation. It was a historic day for the PA State Legislature to vote for the first time with almost all of its members doing so, from remote locations."

Chief of Staff Tyrone Barge leads the team and they get the job done. When we first started doing this special food give-away, we thought we'd be doing it for just one week,



Councilwoman Cindy Bass Staff Members at Panati Recreation Center on N.

22nd Street, partnering with

Allegheny West Foundation to hand out free food

but then we extended this service through March and now into April. We wouldn't be able to do this without Bridesburg Commissary, Allegheny West Foundation and Philadelphia Police Officer Tina Willis from

the 39th Police District. It's really been a true collaborative effort. "

Councilwoman Bass added, "There's no part of our district that we don't touch. No part. We do that purposefully. We want to be in every neighborhood in my district, in good times and in the not so good times. We are continuing to work to serve our constituents. "

"I am just so thankful we have the kinds of elected officials who really care. We can count on them in good times and bad. They're always there ready to serve. Partnering with them and with the Catholic Archdiocese of Philadelphia, at Panati we're able to distribute food to upwards of 500 families a week, during this time", Ronald Hinton, President of Allegheny West Foundation confirmed. Every one involved with the food giveaway are following all the safe distancing protocols and we're getting the job done."

Allegheny West Foundation Still Here To Serve During Corona Virus Outbreak

By *Thera Martin*

Many of you who are receiving this newsletter know, that since the year 2013, The Allegheny West Foundation, (AWF), has been publishing a quarterly newspaper, designed specifically for the residents, business owners and stakeholders of the Allegheny West community, in the heart of North Philadelphia.

AWF hit a crossroads at the beginning of March of 2020 as we realized, like the rest of America, that this illness called the Covid-19 Coronavirus was not just going to go away in a few weeks. Instead, the number of confirmed Coronavirus cases keeps growing with each passing day.

Life as we all know it, has changed overnight it seems, and much of our city, our state and our nation are in shut-down mode.

Because of all these developments until further notice, the Allegheny West Foundation will not be publishing the Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper. In stead we will publish a newsletter, which will be available at the AWF Community Thrift Store, located at 2236 W. Hunting Park Avenue. For the duration of the Coronavirus emergency, the store's regular hours of operation have been abbreviated. The AWF Community Thrift Store will now only operate 10am-2pm, Mon-Fri, until further notice. You can call the store at 215-223-3714.

We will also have community updates on our newspaper website which is: newspaper.com

And you can sign-up to have our AWF Newsletter emailed to you at:

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Important Tips To Keep You & Your Family Safe Through the Duration of The Coronavirus Pandemic

By *Thera Martin*

The experts are saying that "social distancing matters." It is said that it can help curb the Covid-19 pandemic. Essentially as much as humanly possible, stay home. Do not congregate, even with friends out on corners, in stores, or anywhere! Wash your

hands with hot water and soap for at least 20 minutes 10-15 times a day. Also wash your face several times a day and the opening to your nostrils, wash them with soap and water also. Other than when you wash your face, keep your hands away from your face.

If you feel sick in any way, self-quarantine immediately. If you start to feel worse, call your regular doctor and inform them of your symptoms. Your family doctor will instruct you from there, as to what to do next.

Do NOT just show up at a hospital emergency room.

Medical experts have to know in advance that you are coming so they can prepare safety precautions, ahead of your arrival at a hospital.

If you do not have a doctor, call the Coronavirus Hotline number at 1-800-722-7112.

They'll advise you on next steps.

What are the basic symptoms of Coronavirus?

Coronavirus disease is characterized by mild symptoms including a runny nose, sore throat, cough and fever of about 100 degrees. Illnesses can be more severe for some people and can lead to pneumonia or breathing difficulties.

More rarely, the disease can be fatal. Older people and people with other medical conditions such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease, may be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill. In severe cases of Coronavirus, people may experience difficulty in breathing.

Again, if you think you may have Coronavirus, first thing you need to do is to separate yourself from anyone else in your home. Then start making calls to medical experts for advice on next steps.

Stay Healthy. Be Safe. Wash your hands often!

To Keep Citizens As Safe As Possible, Mayor Kenney Has Made Some Major Announcements

Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney has a message for his city as weeks of coronavirus-related closures and social distancing continue with no official end in sight: the



Mayor James Kenney

spirit of Philadelphia remains strong.

In posted, the Mayor talked about the temporary silence the virus has created in the normally bustling metropolis.

"Today, the streets are quiet," Kenney wrote. "Most residents are heeding our order to stay at home. Businesses are shuttered. Playgrounds, schools, and houses of worship are empty. We are waiting, hoping, praying, and mourning those who were lost."



Dr. Thomas Farley

Dr. Thomas Farley encourages anyone who may have been exposed to COVID-19 coronavirus, either from a person who is already infected with it, or by traveling to an area where it's spreading, and has a fever or a dry cough to contact your doctor about getting tested. If you haven't traveled or been around someone who has COVID-19 coronavirus but have these symptoms, you should stay away from other people to avoid spreading whatever illness you might have."

The World Health Organization reports that more than 1,949,210 cases of the disease have been recorded around the world, with more than 123,348 deaths,(as of 4/14). The CDC reports 584,073 cases in the U.S., with 24,485 deaths, (as of 4/14).

For Businesses that Are Allowed To Remain Open During the Coronavirus Emergency

Unfortunately many businesses have been forced to close during the Coronavirus Pandemic such as barber and beauty salons, night clubs, recreation centers, churches and even funeral homes are being told that funeral services that must take place, should be condensed down to no more than 50 mourners. Those 50 mourners should stand or sit at least 6 feet apart, all for safety purposes. PA State Liquor Store are closed and restaurants are not allowed to have eat-in guests. You can only come pick up your food and leave. Bars are closed, movie theaters are closed. Of course the Flyers and Seventy-Sixers games are canceled until further notice and the Phillies baseball team opening games have been postponed indefinitely.

Business such as Supermarkets, gas stations, pharmacies, Home Depot, Laundry Marts, Target, Walmart, Mom and Pop corner stores that sell food, and other essential businesses like that, are allowed to remain open.

Help In The Near Future For Small Business Owners Negatively Impacted by the Coronavirus From The City of Philadelphia Commerce Department

All non-essential City of Philadelphia government operations are on hold until further notice. All city government buildings will officially be closed to the public as of Tuesday, March 17th Then beginning on Wednesday, March 18th, all non-essential City workers will not need to report to work.

Small business owners who are challenged to keep their heads above water during this time, can call the city of Philadelphia Commerce Department's Business Services office to answer questions business owners may have at this time. The phone number is 215-683-2100. Or email them at business@phila.gov Other plans are being developed at this time to assist small business owners, including special emergency loans for those who qualify.

Congressman Dwight Evans Announces Temporary Office Changes to Maintain Service to Constituents



Congressman Dwight Evans

As communities across the country respond to the Covid-19 pandemic, Congressman Dwight Evans (PA-03) has announced temporary changes to the operating procedures for his offices in Washington, D.C., and Philadelphia to ensure the safety of his staff and the public.

"I want to make sure that we both maintain service to constituents and do our part in necessary social distancing to 'flatten the curve' of cases so that our hospitals and health-care system can treat patients. During this pandemic, phone calls, email and other methods will allow us to continue serving constituents while reducing risks to everyone's health. These changes also mean that our four monthly mobile office sites are temporarily on hold," Congressman Evans said.

"I particularly want to spotlight our online privacy-release form that has already enabled many Philadelphians to request help from my office over the past year, well before this pandemic."

For many federal concerns, members of Congress are legally required to have a signed privacy-release form before their office can inquire about a constituent's case with a federal agency such as the Social Security Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs or Customs and Immigration. Evans' website enables constituents to complete the form and contact his office online at the same time. The secure form is available

at or www.dwightevans.gov

Congressman Evans' office will continue to: Receive and respond to telephone calls and electronic communication. Constituents who need to speak to a member of the team can call the Philadelphia office at 215-276-0340 or the Washington office at 202-225-4001.

Provide casework assistance. Constituents needing assistance accessing and navigating federal government services can continue to contact Evans' office via telephone or the online privacy release form. More information on casework services provided by Evans' office can be found at www.dwightevans.gov.

To sign up for Congressman Evans e-newsletter, just go to www.dwightevans.gov also strongly recommends everyone visit and for frequently updated information from federal, state and city medical professionals.

Evans represents Pennsylvania's 3rd district, which includes Northwest and West Philadelphia and parts of North, South, Southwest and Center City Philadelphia.

COVID-19 and your vote in PA:

The Primary Election date for PA was changed from April 28th to June 2nd. Friday, March 27th Governor Wolf signed senate bill 422, which rescheduled the election, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The last day to register to vote is May 18th if you want to participate in the June 2nd election.

How to do it: **now for an absentee ballot if you're home-bound or will be out of town on April 28, or for a mail-in ballot if you prefer to vote by mail but don't qualify for an absentee ballot.**

Your "invitation" to fill out a Census form online should have arrived by now. **Learn more about how to respond at www.dwightevans.gov. You won't get a paper Census form unless you fail to respond electronically, and if you don't return your paper form, an enumerator will knock on your door. Sounds simple, but two potential snags: a significant (if undetermined) percentage of households without internet access; and 135,000 fewer enumerators than in 2010.**

[WWW.DWIGHTEVANS.GOV](https://www.dwightevans.gov)

The Allegheny West Foundation Summer Youth Jobs Program:

Normally at the Allegheny West Foundation, we start interviewing teens, ages 13-17 and accepting job applications from them in mid-March. However, due to the Coronavirus emergency, until further notice we are putting the application process on hold. If your teen would like to be put on an email list, to be contacted when we start accepting applications, please email Kendra Harris, our Education Director at: kendra.harris@alleghenywestfoundation.org

To learn more about the Allegheny West Foundation or the Allegheny West Neighborhood Newspaper, log on at: www.alleghenywestneighborhoodnewspaper.com

PA State Senator Sharif Street, Philadelphia City Councilwoman Cindy Bass, City Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr., PA State Rep. Roni Green, PA State Senator Vincent Hughes, and PA State Rep. Danilo Burgess, have all postponed public events until further notice. Below are their contact phone numbers at their offices:





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Allegheny West Foundation and Area Elected Officials Getting Food To Those In Need



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