



Serving Fishtown, Kensington, & Port Richmond since 1985

Farm to Families at The Garden Center



Getting fresh, affordable local produce each week just got a lot easier! Starting this summer NKCDC began participating in the Farm to Families program, providing weekly boxes of fresh local fruit and vegetables to all interested residents.

Every Thursday from 4-7pm neighbors can stop by the NKCDC Garden Center (located at Frankford & Berks) to pick up pre-ordered boxes of fresh local food, view cooking demonstrations, and learn more about the program.

Boxes cost either \$10 or \$15, with the larger box containing a larger portion of produce. Each week's food is a random selection of what's currently in season at local farms within a 100 mile radius.

"The concept is to bring fresh food to families all year round," says Arianna Hall-Reinhard, AmeriCorp VISTA at NKCDC. Unlike Community-Supported Agriculture programs (CSAs) there is no large upfront cost to participate, and food is available every month throughout the year.

A program of the St. Christopher's Foundation in conjunction with the Self-Help and Resource Exchange Food Program (SHARE), Farm to Families has several distribution locations throughout the city. Other nearby sites include Norris Square Neighborhood Project and The Lighthouse.

"We felt that this healthy eating initiative tied in perfectly with the ongoing work of Sustainable 19125," says Veronica Erenberg, AmeriCorp VISTA at NKCDC. "It's exciting to introduce people to new foods they may not be familiar with."

Cooking demonstrations will take place each week courtesy of the Health Promotion Council, which will provide simple and tasty recipes for those cautious of unfamiliar foods. "The produce provided each week is random, so it's exciting to see what's in season," explains Hall-Reinhard. "It's sort of a grab bag of healthy food. Adventurous eaters and parents concerned about their kids' diets would love this program."

Orders are placed a week in advance, and can be paid for by cash, check, EBT vouchers, or Farmers Market Nutrition Program Vouchers. A la carte items such as meats and eggs can also be ordered. So far over 70 families have been routinely placing weekly orders at The Garden Center.

For more information on Farm to Families or to register and place an order, stop by The Garden Center any Thursday between 4-7pm or contact NKCDC at 215-427-0350 x 110 or f2f@nkcnc.org.



At Kensington Farms, A Community Grows

Urban farming has long been a tool for neighbors to build community and grow fresh food for healthy lifestyles, and a group of residents in Kensington have been harvesting their own communal crops this season.



Kensington Farms, located just south of Frankford & Cambria in a vacant lot next to the Fresh Start Foundation, has become a veggie-filled oasis in a neighborhood ripe with potential. Volunteers who attended last year's NeighborWorks Community Leadership Institute have teamed up with the Fresh Start Foundation and other volunteers to plant, weed, and harvest the farm.

So far neighbors have grown Japanese eggplant, radishes, sweet basil, spicy globe basil, lemon thyme, oregano, cilantro, zucchini, yellow squash, tomatoes, and spicy Thai hot peppers.

"It's something that has gotten a lot of people in the community stopping by," says Lissette Colon, a neighbor who lives on the block. "We keep telling people to come and join us and pick stuff. It's for us!"

All food grown on the farm goes directly to the Fresh Start Foundation and

surrounding residents. Neighbors are encouraged to stop by on Mondays between 3:30pm and 5pm to get free vegetables.

There will be a special Fresh Food Briefing at the farm on Monday, July 25th from 4-7pm. NKCDC staff will be on hand to discuss updates and future ideas for the farm, as well as a presentation on the Farm to Families program providing locally sourced produce to neighbors of all incomes. For more information contact Jennifer Brodie at 215-427-0350 x 137 or jbrodie@nkcnc.org.

events CALENDAR

July

- 23 Do-It-Yourself Rain Barrel Workshop
11:00am - 1:30pm
NKCDC Garden Center
Frankford & Berks
- 23 NKCDC Tire Round-Up
Volunteers needed!
call 215-427-0350 x 119
- 25 Fresh Food Briefing
4pm-7pm
Kensington Farms
Frankford & Cambria
- 28 Solar Info Session
6pm - 8pm
NKCDC Garden Center
Frankford & Berks
- 30 E-Waste Recycling
12:00pm - 3:00pm
NKCDC Garden Center
Frankford & Berks

August

- 10 Sustainable 19125
Farm Dinner
6pm - 9pm
Call 215-427-0350 x 104
- 11 Healthy Neighborhood
Nights! @ CWEP
4pm - 7pm
Frankford & Somerset
- 13 Worm Composting
Workshop
11:30am - 1pm
NKCDC Garden Center
Frankford & Berks
- 18 Healthy Neighborhood
Nights! Pop's Playground
4pm - 7pm
Trenton & Hazzard



Sustainable 19125 Workshop Series

staff NEWS



Welcome to Carla Castillo, NKCDC's new Community Engagement Director. Carla has a long history of doing community development work in Philadelphia, including prior roles at Recyclebank, the Reinvestment Fund, and the Redevelopment Authority. Carla received a B.A. in Latin American History from UCLA, and two Masters from Penn - one in Urban Planning and another in International Development & Appropriate Technology.

Goodbye to Adé Fequa, who is leaving NKCDC after four years as the Director of the Kensington Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KANAC). Kevin Musselman, who has been NKCDC's Community Relations Specialist for the past five years, will step in as Interim KANAC Director through 2011.

business NEWS

NKCDC recently received a grant from the City's Commerce Department for commercial corridor maintenance, which includes picking up trash on sidewalks and removing graffiti as well as a larger educational and outreach component to engage property and business owners.

NKCDC will hire a commercial corridor steward to keep parts of Girard Avenue, Frankford Avenue, Allegheny Avenue and Richmond Street corridors clean and inviting for customers, perhaps enticing new businesses and residents to locate in the area. The program is scheduled to begin in September. For more details contact Angie Williamson at 215-427-0350 x 111 or awilliamson@nkcdc.org.

PACDC Blue Ribbon Award

NKCDC recently received the 2011 Blue Ribbon Award from the Philadelphia Association of Community Development Corporations (PACDC)!



The award, presented at PACDC's Annual Gala on May 19th, recognized NKCDC's ongoing efforts around the Big Green Block, a model of sustainable urban development and neighborhood pride located between Front Street & Frankford Avenue from Norris Street to Palmer Street.

Through partnerships with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society, the Mayor's Office of Sustainability, Philadelphia Department of Parks and Recreation, the Philadelphia Water Department, Mural Arts Program, PennFuture, the School District of Philadelphia and others, the Big Green Block has resulted in over \$4.5 million of green infrastructure improvements to the site.

From worm composting to solar roofs, Sustainable 19125 is hosting a long list of free workshops this summer at the NKCDC Garden Center! Check out all the details on page one of this newsletter!



computers, televisions, and other electronics for proper recycling.

The summer of will culminate with the Sustainable 19125 Farm Dinner on August 10th. Green Guides, resident leaders who have spent the past year promoting green, energy saving tips to neighbors on their block, will be

celebrating a year's worth of accomplishments with a locally-sourced dinner at the Garden Center. Awards will be present for special achievements in Going Green!

Do-it-yourself rain barrel workshops provide participants with all the supplies they need to install their own rain barrel to their home downspout. With the dog days of summer in full swing, now is the perfect time to start watering your thirsty garden with recycled rain.

Special workshops are also planned for solar roof presentations and worm composting. A special e-waste collection date on July 30th is also scheduled, allowing residents to drop off their old

For more details or to register for any of these events email sustainable19125@gmail.com. Also, be sure to check out the new interactive green map at www.sustainable19125.org.

Emergency Homeowners Loan Program

Due to recent state budget cuts, homeowners who are delinquent on their mortgage are now at a crucial time to apply for funding before it disappears completely. As of July 1st the PA Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) is no longer accepting applications for the Home Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP). A long-established state program designed to prevent foreclosures, HEMAP has not been included in initial state budget proposals for the new fiscal year.

For homeowners facing delinquency or default on their mortgages, a similar program is still in place for the next few weeks. The Emergency Homeowners Loan Program (EHLPL), which functions similarly to HEMAP, has funds available through September 30th.

"It's imperative that homeowners who are facing foreclosure apply now," says Joe Filipksi,

NKCDC's Foreclosure Prevention Specialist. "With the elimination of HEMAP these limited EHLPL funds can mean the difference between saving or losing one's home."

According to HUD, EHLPL is designed to provide mortgage payment relief to eligible homeowners experiencing a drop in income of at least 15% directly resulting from involuntary unemployment or underemployment. Applicants must have a total household income equal to or less than the greater of either \$75,000 or 120 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for a household size of four. Applicant must be at least three months delinquent on payments and have received notice of pending foreclosure from the lender.

Don't wait— schedule your appointment with a housing counselor today! Call 215-427-0350.

Streetscape Improvements for Girard, Columbia

Two major connector streets in Fishtown, Girard Avenue and Columbia Avenue, will soon be further enhanced by additional infrastructure.

Streetscape improvements along Girard Avenue from Front Street to Montgomery Avenue are underway as part of ReStore Philadelphia Corridors. Once complete the corridor will boast new sidewalks, curbing, street trees and lights.

In addition, three new murals have been installed along Columbia Avenue leading to Penn Treaty Park. A major connector between Penn Treaty Park and the neighborhood, Columbia Avenue has been identified as a priority within NKCDC's Riverfront Plan and the City of Philadelphia's Green Plan. The murals, which are part of the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commissions "Take Me to the River" program, serve as beacons of colorful imagery directing folk's attention to pathways leading to Penn Treaty Park and the Delaware River.

These two projects converge at the intersection of Girard Avenue and Columbia Avenue, a special

gateway between a waterfront connector and a main commercial corridor. With support from DVRPC and the Preservation Alliance's Vital

Neighborhoods Program, NKCDC has commissioned two light columns at this intersection. These illuminated pieces of public art will invoke the history of the area, from the historic signing of the Penn Treaty to the Lenape Indian walking paths.

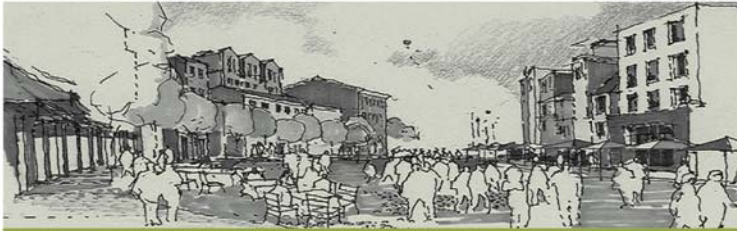


The design and imagery are almost finalized and will look similar to the image at left. Words and design in the metal frames reflect light and outline a story of the greenway as well as historic references to the neighborhood.

These columns were designed by Studio Bryan Hanes with the help of a neighborhood steering committee made up of nearby residents. NKCDC hopes to have the two light columns installed this fall.

For more information on any of these streetscape projects contact Angie Williamson at 215-427-0350 x 111 or awilliamson@nkcdc.org.

NEIGHBORHOOD



ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

Lehigh Viaduct Coalition

The Lehigh Avenue Viaduct, which includes multiple abandoned rail lines and one occasionally used Conrail line along the Delaware riverfront, is viewed as both a neighborhood challenge and an asset. Currently a place which only drug addicts, prostitutes, and graffiti artists frequent, this large piece of land owned by Conrail has the potential to become a great community greenway.

Many proponents of public space and urban design have presented this large border strip of open space as an ideal walking and biking trail and picnic grounds, a vision that would tie in perfectly with the Central Delaware Riverfront Plan. But first, some major cleaning has to take place.

Through the creation of the Lehigh Viaduct Coalition earlier this year, conversations have begun with Conrail about stabilizing this area with new fencing and other improvements. Created by the Office for Community Development of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, coalition members including NKCDC, Hispanic Association of Contractors and Enterprises (HACE), Cardinal Bevilacqua Community Center, East Coast Greenway Association, the Streets Department, the Managing Director's Office, and the Central Delaware Advocacy Group have been meeting with Conrail over much-needed improvements.

The goal of the Lehigh Viaduct Coalition has been to create a safe and clean area around the tracks to prevent illegal activities and improve the area for residents along the tracks. "We're working together to foster this relationship with Conrail to beautify this potential greenway," says Ade Fequa, outgoing KANAC Director.

So far Conrail has been receptive, implementing large-scale phased cleanups along key areas of the viaduct. In recent months the company has installed several barricades near Kensington Avenue and Martha Street, cleanup up over 200 dumped tires near Front & Mascher, and repaired fencing along a residential block known for drug activity. Conrail even changed its policy regarding public cleanups, allowing volunteers supervised by Conrail employees to enter the viaduct and cleanup debris. The April 2nd Philly Spring Cleanup organized by the Mayor's office included volunteers from HACE, NKCDC, and the Streets Department joining Conrail in their efforts.

And according to Conrail, the long-term vision for public open space along the viaduct isn't too far-fetched. "Conrail has been receptive to the ideas proposed in public plans," says Fequa. "So far they seem very willing to negotiate."

2011 Neighborhood Tire Round-up



On Saturday, July 23rd NKCDC along with the Fishtown Neighbors Association and the Olde Richmond Civic Association will be participating in 2011 Philadelphia Tire-Roundup. Started in 1995 by the Streets Department Sanitation Division and implemented by the Philadelphia More Beautiful Committee, the Tire-Roundup is a rare opportunity for community groups to properly dispose to discarded tires. There is no limit to the number of tires that can be collected.

Volunteers are encouraged to meet at the NKCDC Garden Center at 10am that Saturday. If you know of a specific location in the 19125 or 19134 zip codes with an abundance of illegally dumped tires, or would like to donate your time and vehicle for the Round-up, please contact Tom Potts at tpotts@nkcdc.org or 215-427-0350 x 119.



Greater Philadelphia Cares Cleanup

A special Great Streets Summer Cleanup (pictured above) was held on the morning of Saturday, July 2nd as the Kensington Neighborhood Advisory Committee (KANAC) partnered with Greater Philadelphia Cares to conduct a massive cleanup in the 19134 area. Over 160 volunteers traveled by bus from New York City for this special day of community service. Many of these participants came from countries all over the world as part of an international program to fight blight in urban areas.

With a goal of reinforcing the efforts of current block captains to create more manageable vacant lots, these visiting volunteers teamed up with Kensington neighbors to pick up trash, sweep streets, and learn more about organizing efforts underway in the area.

"The neighbors were ecstatic," says Ade Fequa, KANAC Director. "Not only did the volunteers help to make a huge impact in our neighborhood but they also learned a few things about organizing in blighted communities." For more information on this project and other upcoming cleanups contact Jennifer Brodie at 215-427-0350 x 137 or jbrodie@nkcdc.org.

Healthy Neighborhood Nights!

NKCDC's Neighborhood Advisory Committees will be hosting two special Healthy Neighborhood Nights! during the month of August. A long list of nonprofits and other organizations will be present to provide resources to the community.



Thursday, August 11th - 4-7pm
Community Women's Educational Project (CWEP)
Frankford & Somerset

Thursday, August 18th 4-7pm
Pop's Playground, Trenton & Hazzard

Confirmed attendees include Health Partners, Fresh Start, 24th Police District, PGW, and Third Federal Bank. Hot dogs on the grill, a DJ, and activities for kids will all be present to ensure all attendees have a good time! For more information contact Carla Castillo at 215-427-0350 x 122 or ccastillo@nkcdc.org

Inside NKCDC - Summer 2011

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MEASURE YOUR IMPACT

www.sustainable19125.org

- Post your green actions
- Calculate carbon use
- Learn what green actions your neighbors are doing
- Locate green resources and events near you

Sustainable 19125 is an innovative partnership among residents, businesses, and government & nonprofit partners to make 19125 the greenest zip code in Philadelphia. This community-driven initiative is led by NKCDC with the support of the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society. Visit our new website to get involved!



Want Affordable Healthy Food?

INTRODUCING

Farm to Families

A WEEKLY FRESH FOOD PROGRAM!

- Fresh, healthy food - only \$10 or \$15 per week!
- Local fruits, vegetables, eggs and poultry!
- Weekly pickups Thursdays 4-7pm at the NKCDC Garden Center (Frankford & Berks)

To register call 215-427-0350 x 110



Contributions to NKCDC are tax-deductible and can be made online at www.nkcdc.org or via United Way to Donor Choice #6066. Thank you!