

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COALITION FOR YOUTH NEWSLETTER



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WHY CAN'T GUN VIOLENCE BE STOPPED



By Tia Pressley

On a hot Tuesday, June 26, 2007 the summer is just getting started with heat and humidity rising. This should be a time to relax and enjoy some time with your family. Sadly guns are prevalent and deaths and injuries continue to grow throughout Philadelphia, Camden, New York, and Harrisburg.

Policemen and community organizers worry that the summer's heat will "fuel the fire" of rising crime. But this week was different. An opportunity arose during this week for local legislators to step up and show some courage to act in "lowering the flame" of gun violence.

On this Tuesday, Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee Chairman Thomas Caltagirone (D-Breaks) pulled a bill requiring the reporting to police the lose or stolen status of all firearms.

This popular measure is designed to put obstacles in the way of straw purchasing (having legal person purchase firearms to be bought for or traded to criminals). This illegal trade puts handguns in the pockets of thugs and violent offenders.

This bill, called HB 29 was too much for the gun lobbyist and patrons in the industry, as it would likely have cut into that illegal handgun trade, also meaning fewer sales and lower profits for gun makers.

The gun lobbyists put pressure on Rep. Caltagirone and the bill was put on hold. The Representative was disappointed. "Who will tell the families of gunshot victims? Who will die or be wounded while you fiddle" said Rep. Caltagirone.



DOGS ATTACKS NJ WOMAN



By Thomas Clark

On Saturday, July 21, 2007, two dogs unexpectedly attacked a woman in Camden, New Jersey. The woman was rushed to Cooper University Hospital where she was in critical condition. She suffered from severe bites on her arms and legs and also her head.

The woman's name was Susan Magee who was 38 and was blind. Around 10 a.m. in the morning, Ms. Magee was heard screaming and yelling for help. Luckily, her next-door neighbor immediately called the police. The police responded quickly to save her.

When they entered the house, a mastiff rushed

to the door and attempted to bite the officer. The officer shot and killed the dog. When the other dog, a pit bull heard the shot, it ran to another room where it was captured by an animal control officer.

Camden police are still trying to figure out why the dogs attacked Ms. Magee. She told them that she was familiar with the dogs and did not know why they attacked her. Camden Police Chief Tom Riley stated, "There is a good chance she would keep her arm, but some of the injuries were permanent."



The pit bull was also found with puppies. The dogs were transported to the Cumberland County SPCA and the pit bull would be held for 10 days. They do not

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- Getting to Know The Background of Philadelphia
- Once You Start, It's Hard to Stop
- How Obesity is Affecting Your Children

CELL PHONES SHOULD BE BANNED WHILE DRIVING



By Tia Pressley

Cell phone use while driving leads to many accidents. The first state to enact laws making this illegal was in New York State in 2001. The goal of the law is to ban hand held cell phone while driving.

This also includes driving with a hand held personal digital assistant (PDA), texting, smoking, eating or drinking of any kind. All these activities can also be a hazard because it can lead to acci-

dents.

Researchers say that cell phones are one of the biggest issues because you are not focusing on the road. Instead, you are focused on your conversation and that's what causes accidents.

While performing an informal experiment, this reporter went to Broad and Girard to watch drivers. At this intersection during morning rush hour between 7:00am and 7:45am, I observed at least 50 percent of the drivers were using hand held cell phone and other devices.



COMMUNITY

KIDZONE YOUTH SAFETY AMBASSADORS



By Lyesha J Fleming

On July 16, 2007 there was a meeting held at Kidzone Philadelphia at 3:00 to discuss the matter of missing numerical addresses in the front

and back of living establishments such as homes or apartment buildings in Northwest Philadelphia.

The problem with the missing numerical addresses is that it is somewhat of a safety hazard when there is an emergency. Time is wasted since police officers and firefighters will have to search for the address.

The meeting was held to give awareness of

this problem, and to recruit youth to help implement safety on the streets of Philadelphia. The groups will be called the Youth Safety Ambassadors. They will be identified by lime green t-shirts that have Safety Ambassadors on the front, and a list of the sponsors on the back.

The Youth Safety Ambassadors will be collaborating with people from the 14th and 35th Philadelphia Police Districts, Kidzone Philadelphia, Louis E. Harris Center for Youth Development and many more.

The main goal is to make sure everyone is safe and has reflective numerical addresses on the front and back of their living establishments. "We'll start small and grow....Taking a couple of blocks at a time" says Trish Brad-

ley."

The Youth Safety Ambassadors will be tackling the problem on many streets around the Kidzone Philadelphia community, especially the residents where elderly people live and other houses where reflective numerical addresses are lacking.

The meeting was quite informative, and had a good impact on those who attended. There will be more meetings on the issue (location to be determined), and soon you will see the Youth Safety Ambassadors hitting the streets.

GETTING TO KNOW THE BACKGROUND OF PHILADELPHIA

By Lyesha J Fleming

Philadelphia is known to be the City of Brotherly Love, and is rich in diversity with a unique culture and history. Immigration really is a big part of how Philadelphia grew into what is it today. South Street, Chinatown, and sections of the 21st Ward are examples of the diverse ethnic groups the live throughout the city. Immigration is people entering into a new country to settle permanently. Philadelphia is full of people who come from different backgrounds, giving Philadelphia the true name of "Brotherly Love".

Historically Philadelphia, the city of Brotherly Love, is a city built upon immigration, which was accomplished by "new settlers" (which we would call immigrants today). The settlers came primarily in the mid 1600s from many places in Europe. William Penn also has a lot to do with the history of immigration here in Philadelphia through the 1600 and 1700 because he was given this land. That is how Pennsylvania got it's name. From Germantown to Parkwood, and from Parkwood to Lawncrest, Philadelphia is made up of more than 100 neighborhoods, 148 to be exact. These neighborhoods are made up of people with different ethnic backgrounds, and small



communities of people who have emigrated from countries throughout the world.

Philadelphia is the fifth largest metropolis city in the United States of America and many neighborhoods have changed as a result of new demographics.

For example, South Philadelphia today has changed dramatically from it's past demographics. There has been an increase in its population of immigrants from the countries of Vietnam, China, Puerto Rico, India, Sudan, Russia, Haiti, Dominican Republic, other smaller countries across the world. Other groups such as African Americans move just to live in sections of Philadelphia full of rich ethnicities from all over the world.

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SPORTS

MICHAEL VICK NEWS



By Gary White

On Wednesday, April 25, 2007 in Surry County, Virginia a search warrant was issued for a property owned by Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick. Vick didn't live there, but his nephew does.

The search warrant was granted to the Surry County Police, to search for a person they believed was on the property. While investigators were at the house, they discovered three buildings behind the home that housed several barking dogs. "When they had a chance to go to the site they discovered animal neglect," said Surry county Administrator Tyrone Franklin.



The dogs were also starved and abused. Michael Vick appeared for a hearing at 3:00 pm on July 26, 2007 at the Federal Courthouse in Richmond.

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For more information please contact
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PHONE: (215) 549-0220

WORKSHOPS

FINANCIAL GOAL SETTING AND HOW MUCH HOUSE CAN YOU AFFORD

Taking The First Steps
Budgeting Your Way To Home Ownership
Kid Powell

Show Me the Money: Tools for Taxes
HOME BUYING OPPORTUNITIES AND STRATEGIES

Getting Started: The Mortgage Process
Non-Traditional Housing Resources
Non-Traditional Housing Resources II:
Real Estate Auctions

The Agreement of Sale and Closing the Deal
Housing Options for Rentless

HOMEOWNER MAINTENANCE

The Ins and Outs of Homeowner Insurance Policies
Home Repair Open House presented by
Insulating Your Pockets While Insulating Your Home
A Home Weatherization Training & Energy Conservation
Open House

CREDIT CLINIC

Credit 1: (10:00 am – 11:40 am) Credit Repair
Credit 2: (2:00 pm – 2:10 pm) Credit One-on-One
Free Credit Reports w/ Mortgage Pre-Qualifications

HEALTH

ONCE YOU START, IT'S HARD TO STOP!



By Ebonee Plowden

Smoking is a hard habit to break because tobacco contains nicotine, which is very addictive. Almost everyone knows that smoking causes cancer, emphysema, and heart disease and that it takes at least 14 years away from your life. Also, it can cost a smoker thousands of dollars a year. So why are smokers still smoking? The answer is addiction.

Statistics show that about 9 out of 10 tobacco users start before they are 18 years old. Some teens start because they think it's cool. Some smoke because of peer-pressure.

The body does not need tobacco the way it needs food, water, sleep, and exercise. Many of the chemicals in cigarettes, like nicotine, and cyanide, are actually poisons that can kill in high enough doses. Smoking leads to people developing organ damage.



Teen smokers experience most of the problems adults experience plus more such as bad skin, smelly clothes and hair. Their athletic performances will reduce rapidly, they'll have a greater risk of injuries and slower healing time, and the risk of them getting sick will increase.

The best thing smokers can do is quit and the best thing non-smokers can do is stay smoke free. This will give them a lot more energy, better performances, better looks, more money in their pockets, and more life to live.

Teen smokers experience most of the

11 WORST THINGS TO EAT

Experts have come to the conclusion that 50% of all cancers are related to our diets. So here are ten of the worst things to eat or drink:

- Soda pop**
- Doughnuts**
- Cheese**
- S'mores Cereal**
- French Fries**
- Granola Bars**
- Pasta Salads**
- Fast Food Burgers**
- Bacon**
- Potato Chips**
- Fettuccini Alfredo**

In some fashion we DO become what we eat. It should be in our best interest to reduce our intake of refined sugar, fat and sodium while we increase our intake of fresh fruits and vegetables.

AIDS, WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

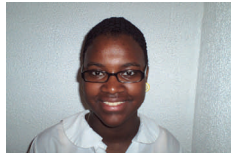


By Brittany Gilliam

What does AIDS stand for? It stands for *Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome*. Acquired- means you can get infected with it, Immune Deficiency- means a weakness in the body's system that fights diseases, and Syndrome- means a group of health problems that make up a disease.

A virus called HIV, The Human Immunodeficiency Virus, causes AIDS. If you get infected with HIV, your body will try to fight the infection. It will make special molecules called antibodies to fight HIV. They have a test that you can take to look for the antibodies and if you have them then you are HIV-positive.

HOW OBESITY IS AFFECTING YOUR CHILDREN



By Lyesha J Fleming

Obesity is one of the main problems that affect people from childhood to adulthood. Physical education is one of the subjects in the school curriculum that can combat this problem. So, can having a physical education program in the school curriculum change the amount of obese children in school?

It is said that, "as you get older your body grows and expands, and the only way for you to stay healthy is if you eat healthy and do some type of exercise or physical activity." Obesity in children is one of the roots of becoming overweight and unhealthy as an adult. When you are obese, you have more weight than is actually needed, allowed or

desired.

Physical Education is very important in school today because it gives the student an outlook on how you should eat healthy and exercise daily. Physical Education will help change the amount of obese children along with any type class about the human body and exercising. The only problem is most schools do not have physical education because they cannot afford it.

So, something has to be done to change this and to help people stay healthy. You do not change someone who doesn't want to be helped themselves. Something should be done for those who do care about their health and their young ones health.



WHAT IS LIFE LIKE?



By Mark Edwards

Is life really as bad as it seems, or is it what you make it to be? Some young black teens view the world differently. They say that the life they live is never good enough; it is hard, painful and a struggle.

To them, the life they live is real in every way. That may be true coming from their prospective and growing up where they were

raised. Many young teens are raised in struggling situations and they grow up thinking that life will always be struggling difficult them. So they may engage in "fast money." This may become their lively hood and the "fast money" they know is selling drugs. To them it is trying to survive; to others it is breaking the law.

It starts off as a desperation then they get "caught up in the game." They refuse to stop when they get enough money. They see the

money is good and fast.

I am a very religious man and know that God loves and blesses hard workers. I also know that good things come to those who can bare the wait. The good book says "that weeping may endure for a night but joy must come in the morning." As a result of Gods love and mercy I believe. So I close this by saying life is a struggle in many situations, but in other ways it is what you make it out to be.



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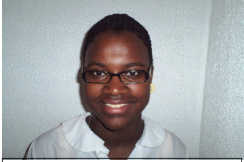
Robert Martin
Membership Chair
215-441-6554

The West Oak Lane Business Association welcomes any business owner or potential business owner in West Oak Lane or Northwest Philadelphia who is interested in building the economic strength of the community through entrepreneurship.

WOLBA supports the youth of the community through NCCY!

*Visit a WOLBA Meeting!
Second Tuesday of every Month
West Oak Lane Senior Center
7210-18 Ogontz Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19138
8:00AM*

REVIEWS

“1984” IS A MUST READ!!

By Lyesha J Fleming

1984 by George Orwell, is a story about a social epidemic, in which a political party tries to take complete control of your individuality, limiting how you are to express yourself, and make you into someone else you are not. 1984, describes how it is to live a life in which the pleasures of free thought,

sex, and just being you, are against the law.

Having been, not all that entertaining, yet very informative 1984 told a story about a thirty-nine year old man who seems to be in a trap, and living a life he didn't approve of. A life that was more like a jail

in which, he was always watched by a warden (who would have been “Big Brother”).

He gives up on life and never tries to fight because of his inner fears. That causes him to give up his lover Julia, and everything he ever believed in.

1984 is a story in which you have to read between the lines to understand what the author tells us. The purpose of the book (in my point of view) was to say that life is unexpected and has a lot of obstacles waiting to be overcome. If we don't at least try to make it and live, then we will end up no where.

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SPIDERMAN 3 REVIEW



By Richard Gilliam

Spider-man 3 was a movie everyone wanted to see. This movie was great because many people like the action in Marvel Comic movies.

The beginning of the movie already had me thinking "Spiderman 3 isn't going to be better than Spiderman 2", and the commercials definitely didn't show that, until the Sand Man appeared. The movie wasn't just good because of the heroic parts but it was also good to see Spiderman get beaten around a couple of times. Basically the movie was about how Peter Parker/Spider-man discovered he was wearing a new black colored spider-man suit that he received during his sleep. What he didn't know was that the new suit he was wearing was actually feeding on his aggression towards other people. Later, after that night, he finally realized he had to get rid of the suit.



When he did, he met the nemesis of his life, Venom. The alien spider who is Eddie Brooke, also seeks revenge on the one who ruined his life and his girlfriend's life. Just watching this whole movie from start to finish will make it seem. Venom appears near the end of the

movie. Many people might not have noticed but Spiderman and Venom are truly nemesis' towards each other. They used to be alike and they still are.

They intended to marry someone, they both compete at work, they're both ace photographers, they both wore the black alien suit, and they both received spider powers when they did not even expect to get them. Also, they both went through hard times before they received their powers.

Spiderman 3 was a great movie following Spiderman 2. Perhaps you'll be waiting for Spiderman 4 in 2009.



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GOSSIP AND HISTORY

THE SIMPLE LIFE'S STAR PUT A BRAVE FACE BEHIND BARS



By Salimata Coulibaly

Paris Hilton, 26, shed no tears as she checked into the Century Regional Detention Facility in Lynwood, California at 11:15 pm on June 3, 2007 to begin her sentence. She was

quiet after a medical check screening.

Hilton (pictured right) entered her cell at 1:00 am on June 4. Although she is alone for now she could still get cell mate. There will be no early dismissal for her. "She's going to 23 days" said L.A County Sheriff Public Information Officer Steve Whitmore.

There is a bright side to this, no more



"I hate her."

Saran Silverman. Before arriving at jail, Hilton attended the MTV awards where she was the target of Silverman's raunchy jokes. Hilton was overheard fuming and swearing about Sarah Silverman stating

THE BABY WOOLY MAMMOTH



By Ivan Banks

There was a wonderful discovery of a baby mammoth preserved in the Russian permafrost. That now gives researchers their best chance yet to

build a genetic map of a species extinct since the Ice Age. A Russian scientist said on Wednesday, "It's a lovely little baby mammoth indeed, found in perfect condition," said Alexei Tikhonov, the deputy director of the Russian Academy of Science's Zoological Institute. They have been taking care of the mammoth since they found it about a week ago.

"This specimen may provide unique material allowing them to ultimately decipher the genetic makeup of the mammoth," he told Reuters. The mammoth had been lying

in the frozen ground for up to 40,000 years, said Tikhonov a researcher on this project "pretty long you think". It has a unique skin condition that protects all the internal organs from modern microbes and microorganisms.

In terms of future genetics, molecular and microbiological studies, this is just an unprecedented specimen. The scientist will now figure out how it still has it's natural beauty. They have to be real careful with it's body because they don't want to break it and turn it into dust while they are researching.

If that were to happen, the whole project will end in a heartbeat. So, to hold its body together, the workers on the project have to use a special kind of micro glue that will hold pieces of the body together.

In order to have it done properly, they say it takes around 8 to 10 hours for the glue to dry and for the body to be able to be picked up. Scientists inspected the carcass of the baby mammoth in the arctic city of Salekhard.

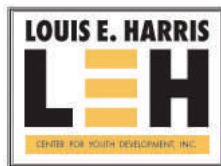


NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COALITION FOR YOUTH



To contact the Northwest Community Coalition for Youth, please visit our website at:
www.nccy.org
or call:
215-549-0220

We would like to thank Ms. Doris Harris from the Louis E. Harris Center for Youth Development for the use of their facilities to write and edit this newsletter.



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MISSION OF THE NCCY

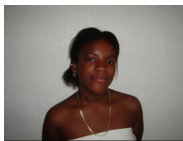
Our mission is to ensure that our young people are safe and feel secure. The NCCY will accomplish this mission by identifying conditions within our community that decreases youth safety and developing strategies and employing measures to eliminate these conditions.

The Newsletter Committee that have been involved with this project are:

- Eric Hardaway
- Doris Harris
- Timothy Catto
- Terri L Stigler
- Isabella Fitzgerald
- David Scott
- Vanita Cruse
- Jon Cousin

NCCY NEWS

FIRST PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHWEST COALITION FOR YOUTH NEWSLETTER



By Tia Pressley

A group called Northwest Community Coalition for Youth (NCCY) is made up of many groups that have a common interest in our youth.

They have joined together many groups in the community. This coalition is committed to combating and eliminating those predatory elements that are a threat or detriment to the health and safety of our children.

This group has brought together the youth of Northwest Philadelphia to create a newsletter written and published by them. The stories and articles that are written are the voices of the young people.

These students have worked over the summer to write these articles and they have done an outstanding job. Each author chose their own story idea, researched it and wrote it. The edit-

ing and publishing was also done by the youth and mentor/coaches.

The NCCY meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Imohtep Institute Charter High School at 2101 W. Godfrey Ave. The NCCY believes that our young people need to be safe and feel secure. This is done by identifying conditions that are harmful to their health and safety.

The NCCY have their own goals. Some of these goals are to constantly seek and implement methods and measures aimed at their disposal to combat negative elements that may influence the youth and to develop a communication network that will insure the coordination of information among coalition member groups.

With these goals in mind, that is why the NCCY has sponsored this newsletter. With young people writing the articles, we are able to have the opportunity to read and see the important topics in their lives.