

JOURNEY THROUGH NORTHWEST

Volume 2 Issue 2

August

THE COMMISSIONER IS HERE TO STAY

By: Jacinda Bennett

Police Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey is an amazing with great ambitions. Commissioner Ramsey has done extraordinary tasks in his life and plans on continuing to do so now that he is here in Philadelphia. The Commissioner took the time out of his busy work schedule to be interviewed by the young journalists of Louis E. Harris Center for Youth Development, which was an honor. During the interview, the journalists explored the in's and out's of his life. Charles H. Ramsey born March 23, 1950, in Chicago, Illinois, didn't always long to become a police officer. He was first a pre-med student at University in Illinois; he wanted to be a specialized surgeon. He was persuaded to

attend the police cadet program; the program paid for part-time and full-time male students in college. He was introduced to this program by two police officers from the Chicago Police Department in which he had close relations with at a store he used to work at during the time. It was during this time he fell in love with the police force. He joined the police department in 1968, at the age of eighteen. Later on, he served six years as a patrol officer. Then, he was promoted to sergeant and then captain by 1988. Once he was promoted to Chief in 1998, he was involved in several high profile cases such as the Chandra Levy murder investigation that took place spring of 2001. Being nominated of Commissioner, he thought that Mayor Michael Nutter was looking

for someone with experience and who is able to be successful in what he or she does. Ramsey has acquired both these assets, which is why he received the job. "It feels good to be the Commissioner...", said Ramsey during the interview. "...I like being the person in charge". Ramsey loves his new job where he could put his vision for the Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) in action. He believes that PPD should be professional and viewed as the best by others. Continue p2



Inside this issue:

Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	2
Inside Story	3
Inside Story	4
Inside Story	5
Inside Story	6

Special points of interest:

- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.
- Briefly highlight your point of interest here.

GANG VIOLENCE IN PHILADELPHIA BY:CHARNAY EAST

Andre, a 17 year-old from Philadelphia, has seen his brother shot and killed, and has been wanted for armed robbery. "you got a good-looking girlfriend, you're going to get shot; someone wants her," said 17-year-old Andre, who asked his last name not to be used for this

article. "if you're getting a little money, you're going to get shot-- someone wants that. Any way you look at it, it's just a bad situation."

Andre is living a crazy life on the streets of Philadelphia's Southside neighborhood. At the age of 13, he watched his brother get shot and

killed in front of his home by another teenager. By the age of 15, he was wanted for two counts of armed robbery and theft. "it makes you feel stronger, powerful, a bigger man," he said of having a gun. "you even walk differently when you have a gun on you."

Also, they be committed to willingly work to make a difference in the community. Though Philadelphia is not his true home but reminds him of it, he stills decides to make major improvements that changes the lives of people in the city of brotherly love.

Charles H. Ramsey is an Inspirational man. He is willing to take the responsibility of the lives and will-being of the people of Philadelphia. Ramsey is loved and adored because of all the work he has done for the people in Philadelphia, Washington, DC, and of course his hometown Chicago. Ramsey is a man of passion and compassion. Hopefully Philadelphia is proud to have a man such as Commissioner Charles H. Ramsey.

Young Bride Fed Up

By: Charnay east

A young girl named Nujood Ali only 10 years old has been married and divorced to a man 3 times her age. Over the course of her marriage she was repeatedly beat and raped. "when I got married, I was afraid. I didn't want to leave home. I wanted to stay with my brothers and sisters and my mom and dad," she said, speaking to CNN with the permission of her parents. "I didn't want to sleep with him, but he forced me to. He hit me, insulted me." as the interview was going on, she sat and played marbles with her brothers and sister portraying innocence, with a shy smile playfully. And when asked did she considered the situation torture she just quietly nodded. She was married off by her parents back in February to a man in his 30's who she said was an ugly old man. Her parents thought they were putting her in the care of her husbands family, but Nujood was often beat into submission. Nujoods mother said "when I heard, my heart burned for her; he wasn't supposed to sleep with her." But, initially, she also told her daughter she could not help her-which she belonged to her husband now. Nujoods father, Ali muhammed ahdal, said he is angry about what happened to his daughter. "he was a criminal., a criminal. He did hateful things to her," he said. "he didn't keep his promise to me that he wouldn't go near her until she was 20." when contacted by CNN, the girls former husband declined to comment.

OARC

By: Ameenah Taggart

OARC is a non-profit community corporation whose mission I to design and develop a better quality o life for the residents in West Oak Lane and other neighborhoods throughout the northwest area of Philadelphia. OARC is the executive producer of the internationally acclaimed annual West Oak Lane Jazz and Arts festival. Every year Ogontz Avenue is turn into an outgoing festival of vendors offering fine arts and craft, food and great entertainment.

OARC works with community leaders who share the vision to creating and organizing new business development in West Oak Lane focusing mainly on revitalizing Ogontz Avenue. The success is coming along well and can also be seen along Ogontz Ave in the mix of all; the businesses. Currently, there are different shops, restaurants, art galleries, civic and political organizations, churches, and more.

OARC has also extended their success to other commercial corridors in the Northwest, including Stenton Ave. Oar also works with other projects throughout Northwest Philadelphia to help make the Philadelphia area a better place. These areas include Nicetown, Germantown, and Wadsworth/Cedarbrook.

There's a reason the Philadelphia City paper described the Ogontz avenue business district as "a relaxed, fun, sociable, eclectic, shopping strip." A lot of new items and businesses have been put together, with two large close by malls, is great deal of rhythm in the community.

They have been very successful so far. They are also interested in partnering with others who are interested in the community works.

Depression

Written by: Tiara James

Depression is something that is attracting more and more Americans today. Do you think that depression is caused by no attention or having no friends or just not having anyone there for you? I think that depression starts out when your young. Maybe you could not have that toy you wanted or even go outside and play. Another word for it is SAD Seasonal Affective Disorder. Also Major depressive disorder. This is usually token care of by antidepressants. There have been complains about the meds some people say that they were not working for them or they don't feel any different or better than before so the patients and the doctors are working for a new and better proved treatment. Some things that depression makes you go through is a lost of interest or things that you love to do. Your normal level of energy is lower than usual. It could mess with your appetite and your sleeping habits. It could also give you feelings of restlessness, hopelessness, and worthlessness, aches, pains, headaches, and changes in weight. Depression makes you give up on a lot of things and not even try. This is sign of personal weakness and also gives you thoughts of death or suicide. Doctors have asked their patients how they feel and they say (I don't feel like living anymore).

Steven Boyd

Green Plan Philadelphia

Green Plan Philadelphia is constructing ideas for the city to help make the city look better in all ways possible. Green Plan started in 2006 and has a four-step process the input on the idea, analysis, the plan development, and implementation. In the West Oak Lane section of the city, Green Plan Philadelphia is trying to improve on safety and security when you are going and coming back from a destination that will help prevent things like robbery or getting beat up.

Citywide everybody should have a hand in helping the neighborhood look better because nobody is going to clean it up but the people who live there. Putting every piece of trash in the garage can help in a lot of ways because if everybody does it Philadelphia will be a nice place.

Green Plan Philadelphia is also concerned with the health of people who live in the city people who engage in physical activity lessen the chance of premature death; reduced risk of coronary heart disease and colon cancer. If you walk through the park once a day some fat can be burned off because your heart is going to be pumping ore than usual. Philadelphia is portrayed as having fat people who just eat greasy foods and does not take care of their bodies.

**State Representative
Dwight Evans**

Serving The 203rd Legislative District

7174 Ogontz Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19138
Phone: 215-549-0220
Fax: 215-549-8965

512-E-3 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120
Phone: 717-783-1540
Fax: 717-787-2334



Web Site Address: www.pahouse.com/Evans

Calendar of Events

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT OUR OFFICE

Sat. June 14th

NAG Pre-Festival Clean-up

Saturday, July 19th – 11am-7pm

Taking It To The Streets Community Government & Resource Festival

Tuesday, August 5th – 6pm-9pm

203rd Legislative District's National Night Out Event

203rd Legislative District's Quality of Life Town Meetings

35th Ward: Tuesday September 9th – 6:30pm-9:30pm

61st Ward: Thursday September 18th – 6:30pm-9:30pm

10th Ward: Thursday, September 25th – 6:30pm-9:30pm

Visit www.pahouse.com/Evans and Take Our Quality of Life Survey

Saturday, October 18th – 8am-1:30pm

Regional Housing Conference & Credit Clinic

End Gun Violence



By: Jacinda Benn

There is a lot of... used as attempts to... can make a difference... violence decrease

Mayor Nutter... slogan, it's a comm... policemen that wil... violence reduction... eras, and using leg

"I want to give... will stop the war... end the culture of... promised be accor



Gun violence tops the charts. There were many options that were like those attempts worked. Yet, there is a man who thinks that reassuring Philadelphians that he will make Philadelphia's gun

He is calling it the "Safety Now" plan. "Safety Now is not a needs attention now." The plan involves recruiting one hundred few months. He also held \$250,000 in City Funds to support a ively enforcing arrest warrants against fugitives, installing cam- of the Safety Now plan.

more teddy bear memorials supported by commitment. That we iter tomorrow. Hope that we will build a city of better futures and in of promises and commitments, but will this commitment be

Written by: Vanit

Almost 24%... Tobacco activities. Even worst, 19,00 Pennsylvania youth, under 18, become daily smokers each year. If they don't stop soon, nearly one third of them will die.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is funding a public education campaign, congratulating Philadelphia for their new law that bans smoking from public places and promoting the health benefits of smoke free air. The campaign also includes out- door advertisements such as; billboards, bus shelters, and bus ads that will appear throughout Philly starting late January in 2009.

The Foundation is also battling secondhand smoke. Anyone who breathes secondhand smoke is breathing arsenic, ammonia, cyanide and more than 4,00 other chemicals including 69 chemicals known to cause cancer.

Smoke Free Philly is a program of the Philadelphia Department of Public Health. The program offers a variety of services to teach people in Philadelphia about the dangers of tobacco and second hand smoke and to help them to rid themselves of these dangers.

Philly

According to Smokefreephilly.com, 23% of our high school still do

The Healthcare Issue

By: Jacinda Bennett

Has healthcare been on your mind lately? Are you one of millions of Americans without healthcare insurance? Have you been worried about how you are going to pay for the hospital bill? We all know there are millions of Americans trying to qualify for health insurance. Yet, it's almost impossible for them to receive coverage in the government does little to help.

Health is an essential part of living, something to really worry about in a person's life because in order to live a prosperous life you need good health. So why is it that many can not afford healthcare coverage? Over the decades, health insurance has risen. In the 1970's the price of health insurance rose rapidly mostly due to high Medicare and hospital prices. In the 1990's, prices doubled because of inflation. That left over forty-four million Americans with no health care, and still today sixteen percent of Americans remains uninsured. The government says that healthcare is important, yet it does not seem to be a priority for them.

The presidential debates that took place a few months back between Senator Barack Obama, Senator John McCain, and Senator Hillary Clinton spoke strongly about the change in healthcare. Senator Obama stated that the only thing changing in healthcare are the prices. Well that's nice that the prices will change, but people want to know exactly how. Does he plan on lowering these prices for healthcare? What about the medical technology? Does he plan on making it better? If he does, will that rise the prices for healthcare? Now unlike Senator Obama, Senator McCain stated that he would focus on the technology, rather than lowering the prices. It is better to have more sufficient technology or lower prices so that people can afford health insurance? Senator Clinton unlike the other two competitors wanted only to change the prices of healthcare for those who are complaining. Why only changes for those wanting change when everyone loves lower prices? People believe that Senator Obama would be the one who would make the difference in healthcare. "Hopefully, Obama will get office...and change the healthcare plan and put the people on a program that will provide them with health insurance", said Roy Smith from Mt. Airy's Discount Services and Auto tags. Ric from Young's Deli thinks the same. He says, "That's what Obama is for...He's going to provide healthcare for those who can afford it." It would be miraculous thing that would occur. If only the government could make it happen.

SOUTHEASTERN PENNSYLVANIA TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY POLICE DEPARTMENT



**DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE
DAVID SCOTT**

SALUTES ALL THE PARTICIPANTS

OF THE

NORTHWEST COMMUNITY COALITION FOR YOUTH

AND THE

COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER PROJECT

Homeless in Rittenhouse Square

By: Charnay East

Its 6 a.m. in Rittenhouse Square and more than two dozen homeless men and women are asleep on benches. On one row of benches at the corner of the square six men are lined up, some covered by dirty blankets, others simply rolled over on their side. On the other side of the park is a man with a cast on one leg, his crutches leaning up against the bench he's sleeping on. "Its free air. There's a breeze. Its better out here," said a still-groggy Chris Coleman, a 41-year-old man from west Philadelphia who was using his sneakers and socks as a pillow. "Its quiet. There's no hassle, no screaming, no one being ripped off. It's better than love park. Over there, they just drink, do drugs. You have two cops over there that harass people, but not here," said Juan Gomez, 42, who said he'd been on the streets since 1983. The city of Philadelphia needs to put a stop to this. Find homes for these people. If they can find homes when someone's house is damaged then they can find homes for the homeless. Maybe the city could build a new section of houses with all that money spent on the war for the homeless over here that need it. If they can keep building and selling new houses they can have a section for the homeless so they can have someplace to live.



Receive 10% off when you mention Northwest CommUnity Coalition for youth Newsletter

Designer Frames From:

Golden Wood, Christian Dior, Chanel, Gucci, Cazal, Baby Phat, Fubu, Phat Farm, Marc Jacob, & Many More

No Vision Coverage, No Problem

FREE Eye Exam with Purchase over \$150.00

All Major credit cards accepted with proper ID layaway & payment plans are available: Most insurances accepted.

****SOME RESTRICTIONS MAY APPLY****

*6331 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19138
Telephone: (215) 548-5949 Fax: (215) 548-0986*

IDAAY

By: Ameenah Taggart

The Institute for the Development of African American Youth Inc (IDAAY) is a community organization, in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties. The reason for IDAY is to provide educational and cultural programs and social services for the youth, their families , and the community and also a combination of carefully designed programs. Steve. T Robinson and S. Archye Leacock founded IDAAY in May 1991. In response the alarming statistic characterizing disadvantaged youth in the Philadelphia area.

Currently, IDAAY has five programs and they are: Main Program at temple University, Southwest Philadelphia Prevention program, Lynnewood Gardens Learning Center, Don't fall down in the hood, and Young Fathers United.

:The main Program is for youth ages 10-16 years an opportunity to explore Multicultural-American history and community issues, leadership development, college preparation, and important and life skills.

:The Southwest Philadelphia Prevention Program (SWPP) is for youth 10-15 years in one Philadelphia's highest risk neighborhoods, with first and/or minor offenses.

:Don't Fall Down in the Hood is for ages 14-18 years who have been arrested with guns,theft, and assault violations in the Philadelphia Court system.

:Young Fathers United is for young fathers ages 14-25 years who lack many basic educational and social opportunities to enhance their lives and that of their children.

Steven Boyd

Imhotep

Imhotep Charter High School is an African based school they teach students about African heritage and contributions that African Americans had to life. I attended Imhotep for grades nine and ten. The experience was exciting because I learned about my roots ,what goes on in Africa and African population. The learning experience , the way the teacher's interest with students , the way the students feel about the school.

The teachers care about the students life they want them to succeed and go beyond what Imhotep has to offer you should take advantage of the opportunities. More information about the grading system no D's or it goes from C to F.

The teachers have a kind and loving attitude towards their students. Even when you are known to be a comedian , students are still able to get their work done. The teachers that always gave me a hard time was my English teacher sister Tammie, I would be doing other things but my work. Acting up in class will result in calling your house or suspension.

In conclusion Imhotep is a good school and I encourage students to attend the school for more insight on the motherland.

Ahmeenah Young

By: Ameenah Taggart

The board of directors of the Pennsylvania Conventions Center Authority has made known the new President and Chief Executive Officer. Ms. Ahmeenah Young. Before she became CEO, she was the Vice President and General Manager and was a key member of the management team.

Appointing Ahmeenah Young to this position wasn't a hard decision Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter. She is one of the highly respected leaders in the industry and has been routinely sought after by our competitors around to lead their convention center. Philadelphia Mayor Nutter, also gave praise to Young. "Ahmeenah Young has over twenty years experience and tourism industry and was a key manager of the building before it opened".

This appointment is Young's second stint with facility; she first joined the staff in 1987 as Director of Affirmative Action. She was later promoted to Director of Sales and Marketing and Vice President of Sales and Marketing. She left in 2000 to join Search Wide, LLC as Vice President of Corporate Diversity, where she specialized in recruiting and retaining senior for the hospital and tourism industry, municipal government, museums, cultural institutions, and the transportation industry.

In 2002 Young joined the independence Visitor Center as General Manager, where she oversaw all segments of visitor services, including administration, strategic planning, fiscal planning and communications with all third party stakeholders. She returned to the PCCA in 2004 as Executive Vice President of External Affairs, sealing a rare legacy of extensive in three key functional areas of the industry: convention center operations tourism, and hospital industry executive search.

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.



6406 Stenton Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19150
Phone: 267-285-0070
Fax: 267-285-0074
info@lehyouthcenter.org
www.lehyouthcenter.org

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