

MY CITY, MY NEWS



City of
Philadelphia

One Philly, A Connected City.

September 15, 2025

Ring It On! Celebrating 2026 In Your Neighborhood

By the **2026 Director**

On September 3, City leaders joined Mayor Cherelle L. Parker and 2026 Director Michael Newmuis at the Independence Visitor Center to launch **Ring It On! One Philly, A United Celebration**—an exciting initiative that puts Philadelphia's neighborhoods at the heart of America's 250th anniversary. *Ring It On!* is about celebrating all of Philadelphia—uplifting and collaborating with the communities, cultures, artists, and small businesses that makes our city great and investing in their ability to thrive in 2026 and beyond. In order to showcase the ways that the City will be spreading the celebration across Philadelphia, the Mayor has unveiled her **Ring It On! ABCs**: Activations, Beautifications, and Celebrations.



ACTIVATIONS

In 2026, the City will bring the spirit of celebration to Philadelphia's neighborhoods by partnering with community members to support both new and existing festivals and cultural events.

This program will encourage resident engagement, attract visitors, boost foot traffic to local businesses, and showcase neighborhood pride—all highlighted in a dynamic citywide event calendar.

BEAUTIFICATIONS

The Department of Commerce and community partners will transform 20 commercial areas chosen in collaboration with City Council district offices, bringing exciting upgrades in time for the 250th.

From banners and commemorative benches to planters and other streetscape enhancements, these improvements will boost small businesses, attract investment, and create vibrant, welcoming spaces citywide.

CELEBRATIONS

The City will bring the 250th into Philly's neighborhoods with three exciting programs:

Bells Across PA will feature 20 artist-designed Liberty Bells reflecting local culture, creating a citywide art treasure map. **Block Party Bonanza** will supercharge 250 block parties with themed kits, music, and vendors. The **Neighborhood Tour Series** will spotlight 20 communities with resident-led tours celebrating their history, food, and culture.

This Month We Recognize:

Labor Day, Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, National Recovery Month, Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, Hispanic Heritage Month, and more!

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2026 Events Coming This Fall

By the **2026 Director**

Philadelphia is gearing up for an unforgettable 2026—a milestone year as we host major events and lead the year-long celebration of the United States of America’s 250th birthday! While most of the excitement is coming in 2026, you can look forward to the celebration starting early with special public events this fall.

The Navy and Marine Corps’ 250th Anniversary

This fall, Philadelphia will host the 250th anniversary of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps—both founded right here in our city! The milestone is an opportunity to reflect on the long history of these institutions, their global impact, and the role of service members past and present.

Starting this **October**, the celebration will feature a variety of free and accessible events across the city. Highlights include the arrival of historic, replica, and active ships along the Delaware River, a ceremonial parade through Center City, a flag raising, flyover, fireworks, and a special Veterans Day celebration. Visitors can also tour ships docked at Penn’s Landing and along the Camden waterfront, or experience performances by military bands and drill teams.



More than a commemoration of military achievements, the anniversary invites residents and visitors to learn more about the Navy and Marine Corps’ broader legacies, their connections to Philadelphia, and how their stories intersect with the nation’s past 250 years. [Read more](#) to find out about the full series of events that will both honor veterans and encourage reflection on the many ways naval and marine history continues to shape American life.

The Declaration’s Journey at the Museum of the American Revolution

For America’s 250th birthday, the Museum of the American Revolution will present *The Declaration’s Journey*, a major exhibition that explores the many ways the Declaration of Independence has been understood, contested, and reimagined over time. Running **October 18, 2025 – January 3, 2027**, the exhibition highlights how this iconic text has carried both promise and contradiction—proclaiming liberty while leaving many excluded. It examines the Declaration’s complex legacy at home, where multiple communities have drawn on its words to push for equality, and abroad, where its ideals inspired more than 100 independence and rights movements worldwide.

Visitors can compare nearly 20 international declarations, explore artifacts of freedom struggles in the United States and abroad, and experience a powerful media theater presentation that illustrates the Declaration’s ongoing impact. [Read](#) about the full list of *Declaration* exhibit offerings.



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PROTECTING PHILADELPHIANS FROM DEED FRAUD

The Philadelphia Department of Records is now using a new system to prevent a common form of deed fraud, blocking thieves from forging the signature of a deceased homeowner to fake home ownership papers in order to illegally sell property or take loans.

The system instantly checks if the signer was alive and stops suspicious deeds from being recorded. It protects families, seniors, and vulnerable communities, while allowing corrections if mistakes occur. The system is active now, helping safeguard Philadelphia homes. Visit the Records office or [website](#) for tips and guidance.

[Read more about
the new system](#)



GET INVOLVED WITH OPERATION CLEAN START

The Office of the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has organized Operation Clean Start, a citywide donation drive to support Community and Extended Day Schools along with the teachers who serve them. This effort supports clean and safe classrooms for students across Philadelphia this fall. We asked the Community Schools team what items are always needed and sometimes overlooked in donation drives, and they told us teachers always need Kleenex tissues, disinfectant wipes, hand sanitizer, and paper towels.

You and your team can support by collecting those items from now until October 10th! Email Jennifer.Hall@phila.gov for more info or to schedule a donation pick up.

[View the Operation
Clean Start Flyer](#)



PARTICIPATE IN WE WALK PHL

We Walk PHL is a free citywide walking program in Philadelphia that promotes health and community connection. Launched in 2017, We Walk groups meet in local parks 1-3 times a week for about an hour and are led by trained neighborhood leaders.

Participants enjoy fitness, nature, and social connection in a welcoming space. The fall season runs **September 1 - October 31**. Visit the We Walk PHL [Facebook](#) page for schedules and locations, and join a walk to boost your health and strengthen community ties.

[Join a We Walk
PHL Group](#)



SAVE THE DATE: PHDC ANNUAL HOUSING FAIR

Philly, mark your calendars for Saturday, September 27 at Temple University's STAR Complex, located at 1816 North 15th Street. The Housing Fair starts at 10am!

Looking to buy or repair your home? Small landlord in need of help? Come meet city-funded housing counselors, mortgage lenders, realtors, insurance agents, representatives from various City departments, legal organizations, and other professionals in the housing industry! This event is all things housing! Come learn about programs and services that can help you! And we have activities for kids! Visit phdcphila.org/housingfair for more information.

[Register for the
Housing Fair](#)



HELP PHILADELPHIANS FACING CHRONIC HUNGER

Philadelphia residents are feeling rising grocery prices and SNAP benefit cuts, which affect over 51,000 locals and nearly 2 million Pennsylvanians statewide. These changes also impact farm and grocery industry families.

Pennsylvania's proposed 2025–2026 budget includes more funding for food insecurity programs and a statewide minimum wage increase. Meanwhile, Philadelphians can help by sharing food resources, supporting community agencies, encouraging urban gardening, and reducing household food waste.

[Learn more about how to help](#)

New Resources about Domestic Abuse



Tri-Fold Brochures

Easy-read information with phone numbers for getting help, available in English, Chinese, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Spanish.

SHARE WITH YOUR NETWORKS: NEW DOMESTIC ABUSE RESOURCES

Philadelphia's Office of Domestic Violence Strategies, Office of Immigrant Affairs, and Office for People with Disabilities in collaboration with state partners created a new brochure explaining how to get help from domestic abuse and are sharing these resources to all communities.

The brochure is available in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Mandarin, and Haitian Creole and contains links to videos in the same languages and American Sign Language. These resources were developed with community feedback to make sure they are easy to understand. Click the button below to request printed copies for your office.

[Request the brochure](#)

Fall 2025 Employee Training Catalog

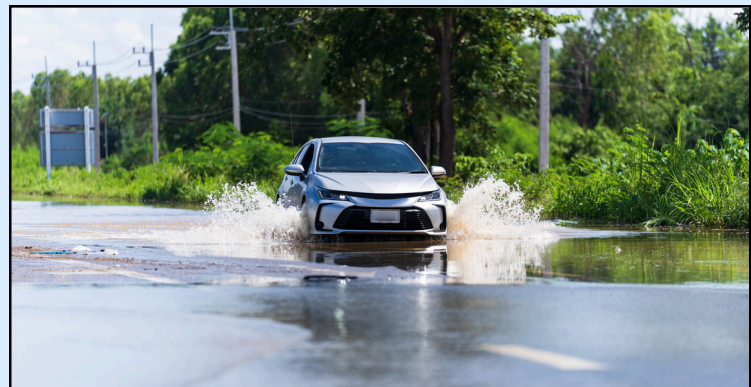


FALL TRAINING CATALOG 2025

Attached below is the 2025 Fall Training Catalog. It contains new training resources for City employees to include REQUIRED trainings.

The success of our employees within their public service careers is important for the success of our residents and our city. Click below to view the list of trainings offered through LMS/SmarterU.

[View the Fall 2025 Training Catalog](#)



TAKE THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PUBLIC SURVEY

Join our community engagement process! Share your feedback to help shape Philadelphia's Climate Resilience Plan, policies and programs, and other citywide climate efforts.

The Office of Sustainability is taking on a citywide initiative to update the City's Climate Resilience Plan. As part of our process, we'll follow equitable practices to engage residents in our decision making.

[Take the Climate Resilience Survey](#)

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Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

Pathways to Power: Celebrating Welcoming Week and National Voter Registration Day

Free Library of Philadelphia

September 16, 2025 | 11 a.m.

Parkway Central Library, Heim Center for Cultural and Civic Engagement

Whether you're new to Philly or a lifetime resident, join us for a day of learning, sharing, and community-building. Over ten amazing partners will be offering FREE workshops and resources to help you navigate services like citizenship classes and local government, get registered to vote with multilingual support, and connect with local organizations. Plus, free swag will be available for all attendees. Please share this event with your networks. **Register** for Pathways to Power. **View** the event on the Free Library calendar.

Return to Innocence

Free Library of Philadelphia

September 16, 2025 | 5:45 p.m.

South Philadelphia Library, 1700 S Broad St

Are you an adult who misses read-alouds and arts and crafts? If you answered "YES!" join us for an adults-only arts and crafts event where we will read a short story or listen to music while you work on a simple craft and/or coloring page. All materials will be provided. **View** *Return to Innocence* on the Free Library calendar.

Container Gardening with Native Plants

Free Library of Philadelphia

September 16, 2025 | 5 p.m.

Chestnut Hill Library, 8711 Germantown Ave

Container gardening is ideal for Philadelphians with limited space or mobility limitations. This presentation by Penn State Master Gardener Barbara Mancini will provide beginners and experienced gardeners with information and practical tips on container gardening, including placement considerations, container types, potting mixes, choosing and sourcing plants, design concepts, and how to care for your native container plants. **View** *Container Gardening with Native Plants* on the Free Library calendar.

Siempre Salsa - Salsa and Bachata Party

Parks and Recreation

September 19, 2025 | 7 p.m.

Love Park

Siempre Salsa Philly presents their 8th year at Love Park hosting their beloved Salsa and Bachata Dance Party! Come by Love Park **every Friday night** all summer through the end of September for DJs and special live band nights featuring your favorite Latin sounds to get you up and starting your weekend off right! Event is from 7 - 10 p.m.

Philadelphia: A Walk Through History - Natalie Pompilio

Free Library of Philadelphia

September 20, 2025 | 1 p.m.

Philadelphia City Institute, 1905 Locust St

Award-winning journalist Natalie Pompilio will be discussing her new book, *Philadelphia: A Walk Through History*. In the book are guided walks through Philadelphia in celebration of America's 250th birthday. This free author event will be a presentation of what is included in the book, with first-hand insight from the author! **View** Natalie Pompilio's author visit on the Free Library calendar.

Immigrant Access to Benefits: Navigating Recent Changes

DBHIDS

September 25, 2025 | 2 p.m.

Virtual - Zoom

From Community Legal Services of Philadelphia: New federal law changes will cause many immigrants to lose access to benefits including SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare, and Pennie health insurance coverage. In addition, reports of public benefit data sharing are causing some immigrants to forgo the benefits they or their families are eligible to receive. During this webinar, we will explain these recent changes and provide tips for keeping those who remain eligible connected to public benefits. **Register** for the webinar.

Open Mic Night

Free Library of Philadelphia

September 26, 2025 | 5:30 p.m.

Nicetown-Tioga Library, 3720 N Broad St

We are bringing back open mic nights! Join us for an evening of music, poetry, spoken word, and more at our Nicetown Café. Program runs from 5:30 - 8 p.m. and is for ages 21 and older. Dates are: **September 26** and **October 31**. Click **here** to learn more about open mic nights! Check out our **flyer!**

Family Fun Day

DBHIDS

September 27, 2025 | 10 a.m.

Mayfair Recreation Center
2990 St. Vincent St

Philadelphia Infant Toddler Early Intervention, along with our Preschool Partners at Elwyn ELS, invite you to a FREE special day of celebration and appreciation for families with children from the newborn stage to five years old! You can expect door prizes, light snacks, developmental resources and giveaways, music, arts and crafts, and the opportunity to connect with other parents! Please email **stephanie.bey@phila.gov** or **marlena.smith@phila.gov** to RSVP by **September 26**. **View** the Family Fun Day flyer.

2025 Park Friends Movie Nights

Parks and Recreation

Various Dates and Times

Various Locations

More than 30 Philly parks are hosting free movie nights this summer and fall—featuring hits like *Moana 2*, *Wicked*, *A Minecraft Movie*, and more! Grab a blanket, bring snacks, and enjoy a movie under the stars. This free programming runs through October—click **here** to see what's playing near you and when!

Visit our employee site!

Did you know that the Office of Human Resources has put together a site for City employees? Here you can learn about your benefits, access past newsletters, and even share your story with your peers. We want this site to be as helpful and engaging as possible, so don't forget to leave **feedback** and let us know what else you'd like to see featured!

[Employee.phila.gov](https://employee.phila.gov)

Scan the QR code!



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Employee Resources

[Employee.phila.gov](https://employee.phila.gov)

Employee.phila.gov is a new online resource designed to support City employees. This hub brings together essential information in one easy-to-access location! Need details on benefits, workplace policies, or well-being programs? The hub site has you covered with clear, up-to-date information. The site also provides tools to help you share career opportunities with friends, family, and community members who may be interested in joining the City workforce. [Explore the page!](#)

CITY RESOURCE GROUP MEETINGS

City Resource Groups (CRGs) create employee-led spaces to support diverse communities and allies, helping make the City a more inclusive workplace. CRGs offer networking, leadership opportunities, and skill-building through professional development. Members also collaborate with the Office of DEI to support departmental diversity goals. [Learn more about CRGs](#) or email Brenna.Schmidt@phila.gov to join or get involved.

CITYWIDE IT TRAINING

The Office of Innovation & Technology contracts with several vendors to provide information technology training. This is available on site, hands-on, and interactively to all City Departments. The Order Form and the Course Catalog are posted on the Office of Innovation and Technology Intranet, see Forms and Document Page. Please note that all training requires the approval of both the department's authorized personnel and fiscal agent. [VIEW AVAILABLE COURSES](#)

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

NEW self-care and mental health resources for employees coping with the impact of COVID-19 are now available on the LMS, in addition to a variety of training and career development resources. Simply visit the Knowledge Base on the LMS for more information on COVID-19 Employee Self-Care. [ACCESS THE LMS](#)

LANGUAGE ACCESS PHILLY

All City departments must have a Language Access Plan (LAP) to ensure residents with non-English language preference (NELP) can access services for free.

Language Access Philly connects departments with interpretation and translation services to support multilingual communities. Need help? Contact your Language Access Coordinator or [visit the Language Access Philly resource page.](#)

DISABILITY ACCESS RESOURCES

The City of Philadelphia is committed to making City services accessible to all residents, including people with disabilities. Through policies, programs, and resources, the Office for People with Disabilities works to support inclusion and access. Explore accessible spaces, disability data, systems navigation videos, and key policies. Learn more on [the website](#) and contact the Office for support.

CITY INTRANET

Receive updates and access City resources like central duplication, an updated org chart, and updates on employee benefits and programs! All announcements listed here are also posted to the City's Intranet. Please note, you must be connected to either City Wi-Fi, LAN, or through approved VPN to access. [CHECK IT OUT](#)

SEPTA KEY ADVANTAGE

There's still time to get on board with **SEPTA Key Advantage**. Whether you're already enrolled or thinking about signing up, keep riding with ease. Log in to app.jawntpass.com to register your KeyCard today.

RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT FUND

Resident Engagement Fund: City departments seeking funding to pay residents during community engagement activities can apply through the Resident Engagement Fund, administered by the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer. [LINK HERE](#) or email ResidentComp@phila.gov

READYPHILADELPHIA

Stay connected to the weather forecast and important information from the City, directly to your phone! The city's emergency notification system is now available in 11 languages including American Sign Language. Text READYPHILA to 888777 to receive alerts to your device or sign up with your preferred language by visiting our ReadyPhiladelphia [webpage](#) for phone and text alerts. [SIGN UP FOR ALERTS](#)

CITY COLLEGE FOR MUNICIPAL EMPLOYMENT

Have you seen the new homepage for the City College for Municipal Employment? [Check it out on phila.gov](#) and explore some of the options and details!

DISCLAIMER

This is a citywide newsletter, distributed to all employees with a phila.gov email address. Attendance at events during work hours must be approved by your supervisor. Occasionally, some information you receive may be applicable only to a certain group of employees, like exempts. We will clearly label such information, but if you have questions, please contact your HR administrator. Any special citywide discounts have been approved in advance by the Chief Integrity Officer and are available to all City employees who are interested.

Reference in this newsletter to any specific commercial product, process, or service, or the use of any trade, firm or corporation name is for the information and convenience of City employees, and does not constitute endorsement, recommendation, or favoring by the City of Philadelphia.