

MY CITY, MY NEWS



City of
Philadelphia

One Philly, A Connected City.

July 6, 2026



Explore and Share — Get Mental Health First Aid Certified!

By the **Department of Behavioral Health and disAbility Services (DBHIDS)**

DBHIDS' free, virtual Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) courses are open for registration, and all Philadelphia residents are able to participate. MHFA teaches community members how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental and behavioral health challenges or crises. The course provides the skills needed to offer support until appropriate help is available.

These instructor-led, online community courses follow a set schedule. View their website to review the course options and sign up to register. Please share this opportunity with your Philadelphia networks so more residents can gain these valuable skills and help build a more connected, compassionate, and inclusive city.

Two MHFA courses are available for online registration. View the course schedule for:

Adult Certification

Learn how to help a person who may be experiencing a mental health related crisis or problem. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, psychosis, and addictions. Participants who complete the course receive a three-year national certification.

Youth Certification

Designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12 to 18) who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis. Participants who complete the course receive a three-year national certification.

This Month We Recognize:

Independence Day - July 4, 2026, Disability Pride Month, National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month, Social Wellness Month, Park and Recreation Month, and more.

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hrhelpdesk@phila.gov or 215-686-0880

Calling All City Employees!

Give back to Philly schools with Operation Clean Start!

By the **Office of Chief Administrative Officer**

We're excited to announce the return of Operation Clean Start, the City of Philadelphia's collection drive supporting Community Schools across Philadelphia.

The 2026 collection period runs through August 31, and we invite all City employees to join us in making a difference for students, teachers, and school communities by donating much-needed classroom supplies.

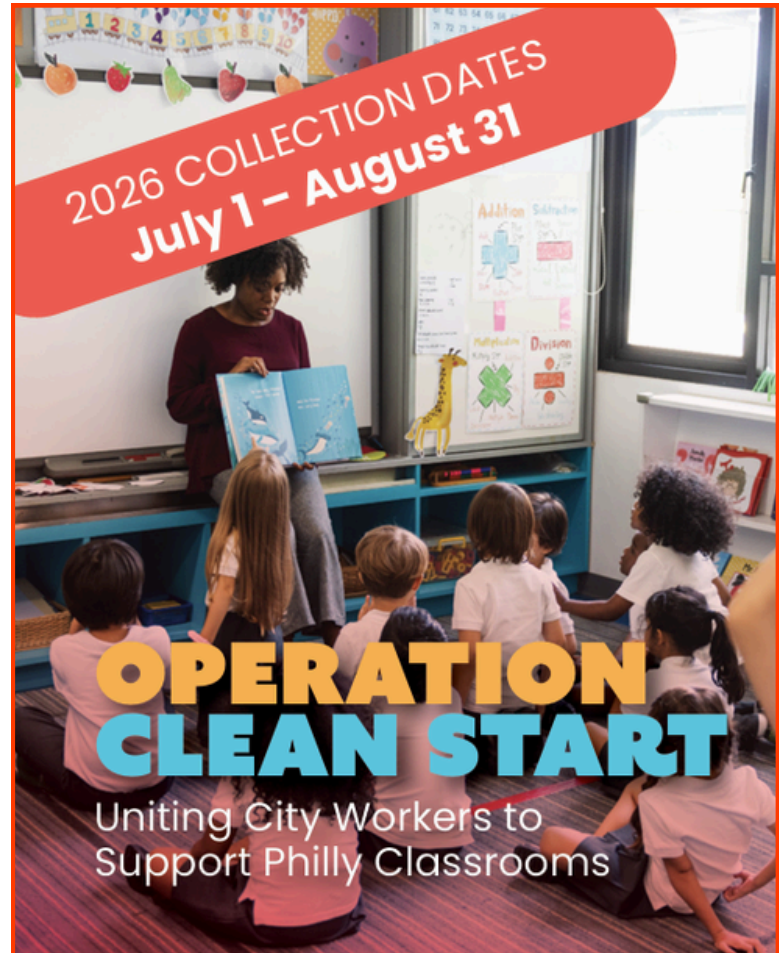
This year's priority collection items include:

- Paper Towels
- Kleenex Tissues
- Disinfectant Wipes
- Hand Sanitizer

[Download the Operation Clean Start 2026 flyer!](#)

Need collection boxes?

The School District of Philadelphia has generously agreed to donate collection boxes for departments and offices that would like to host a donation site. If your office needs collection boxes, please contact Jennifer.Hall@phila.gov.



For all questions or additional ways to get involved, please reach out to caoculture@phila.gov or Jennifer.Hall@phila.gov

Upcoming Wellness Lunch and Learns

By the **Office of Human Resources**

The Office of Human Resources Benefits Department hosts virtual Lunch & Learn sessions that explore a wide range of engaging wellness topics. These live, interactive sessions—presented by Active Health—are open to all City employees and offer a great opportunity to ask questions, gain practical insights, and learn something new right from your desk. **All Lunch & Learns take place at 12:00 PM**, so grab your lunch, click the Teams meeting link, and get ready to learn!

Tuesday, July 7 - Checking In On Your Checkups

Healthy habits are important for your long-term health. So is seeing your health care provider for preventive care.

Wednesday, July 22 - Men's Health

Learn how to understand specific risk factors and health needs for men and how you can help the men in your life stay on top of their health.

Tuesday, July 14 - Shop Smart and Meal Plan

Learn strategies to use while grocery shopping and ways to plan healthier meals.

Wednesday, August 19 - Women's Health

Learn about common conditions and risk factors for women. Talk about how to spot them, prevent them and control them, and get the facts for you and the women in your life

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Who is working *successphilly*?

Philadelphia Department of Prisons

Philadelphia Department of Prisons (PDP) Commissioner Resnick recognized Detention Center Correctional Officer Akwasi Acheampong with a commendation and letter of acknowledgment for his quick thinking and lifesaving actions.

On June 6, Officer Acheampong observed an incarcerated individual choking during the afternoon meal and immediately performed the Heimlich maneuver, successfully preventing a tragedy.

His actions reflect the professionalism, vigilance, and commitment to safety demonstrated by Philadelphia Department of Prisons staff every day. Congratulations, Officer Acheampong, and thank you for your service!



PICTURED LEFT: Correctional Officer Akwasi Acheampong
PICTURED RIGHT: PDP Commissioner Michael Resnick

If You See Something, Say Something!

Philadelphia is hosting many exciting events this summer. With so much happening across the city, your awareness is more important than ever.

If you **see something** concerning, **say something**.

Look out for things like:

- Individuals in unauthorized areas
- Unattended bags, packages, or vehicles
- Unauthorized drones or surveillance activity
- Unusual questions
- Concerning social media posts



Don't hesitate to **report concerning activity**. If you are working at a special event, please notify your supervisor. You can also:

- Call **911**
- Contact the **Delaware Valley Intelligence Center**

✉ dvic@phila.org

☎ 215-897-0800

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REGISTER FOR PHDC ANNUAL HOUSING FAIR

The PHDC Annual Housing Fair, sponsored by Independence Blue Cross, is ALL THINGS HOUSING! The fair has resources for current homeowners, first-time homebuyers, renters, and landlords who are interested in learning more about homeownership, home maintenance, eviction diversion, development opportunities, and other resources.

You can meet mortgage lenders, City-funded housing counselors, realtors, insurance agents, contractors, homebuilders, representatives from various City of Philadelphia departments, legal services organizations, and other professionals in the housing industry.

Register for PHDC Annual Housing Fair



SIGN UP FOR M365 SKILL BUILDER - COPILOT CHAT ESSENTIALS

Join the Office of Innovation and Technology for our interactive M365 Skill Builder Series, designed to help you get the most out of the Microsoft tools you use every day.

These classes are an opportunity to build your digital skills and work more efficiently. We are excited to add our newest course, Microsoft Copilot Chat Essentials, to our course offerings!

[View the Microsoft 365 Skill Builder Series - Copilot Chat Training flyer.](#)

Sign up for M365 Skill Builder courses



INTRODUCING THE PHILADELPHIA VENDOR COOPERATIVE (PVCOOP)

The City of Philadelphia is making it easier for businesses to work with City government. The newly launched Philadelphia Vendor Cooperative (PVCOOP) serves as a centralized support team to help vendors navigate City processes, resolve issues, and access the information they need to do business with the City.

PVCOOP is the first step in a broader effort to modernize procurement, improve customer service, and strengthen partnerships with businesses that help deliver critical services to Philadelphia residents.

Learn more about PVCOOP



HEAT HEALTH EMERGENCY RESOURCES

Learn what services become available only when the City declares a Heat Health Emergency:

- Cooling Centers open to people without access to cool spaces. [Find a Cooling Center near you.](#)
- Call the Heatline at (215) 765-9040 to talk to nurses about safety and heat-related illness.
- And more!

To receive emergency alerts to your phone, including heat advisory or heat health emergency alerts, text **ReadyPhila** to **888-777**.

Learn about Heat Health Emergency Resources

Follow us on Social Media

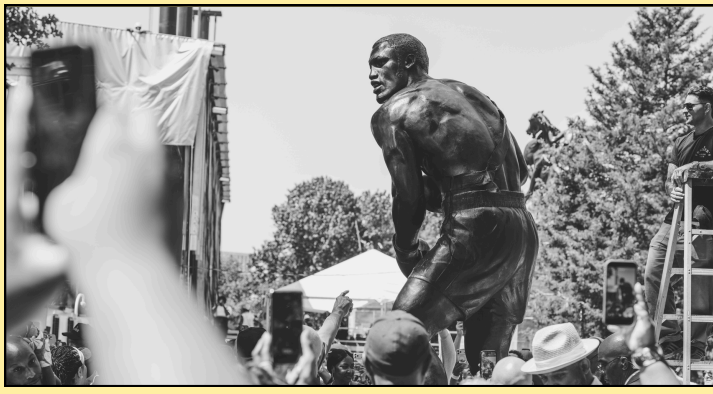
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JOE FRAZIER STATUE UNVEILED AT PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART

On June 29, Creative Philadelphia, Mayor Cherelle L. Parker, and community partners came together to unveil the Joe Frazier statue at its new permanent location at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, one of the city's most visited destinations, attracting millions of visitors annually.

Created by sculptor Stephen Layne in 2015 and originally installed in South Philadelphia, the statue now stands at the base of the museum steps where Frazier regularly trained. The relocation honors the former Heavyweight Champion of the World's enduring impact on Philadelphia, the sport of boxing, and generations of Philadelphians.

[View photos of Joe Frazier statue unveiling](#)



LOOK UP: A.M. CALDER AND THE FACES OF CITY HALL

City Hall is adorned with 250 marble sculptures created in the 19th century by renowned Philadelphia sculptor A.M. Calder. Calder photographed each sculpture in detail before it was hoisted onto the building. The photos were compiled into five-volume book sets published in 1883.

Only one set was known to have survived until a second was discovered earlier this year in a Philadelphia Historical Commission storage area. These beautiful books are on display through September 15 at City Archives, 548 Spring Garden Street, from 8:30am-4pm.

See Planning and Development's popular video about City Hall's "Calder cats" statues on Instagram @PHLplandevlop.

[View Calder Cats video @PHLplandevlop](#)



READ THE OFFICE OF THE YOUTH OMBUDSPERSON ANNUAL REPORT 2025

The Office of the Youth Ombudsperson's (OYO) 2025 Annual Report is now available, highlighting a year of growth and strengthened advocacy for youth in placement.

In 2025, OYO conducted group home visits, interviewed staff, and met directly with young people to better understand their experiences and concerns. This report outlines key findings, trends, and recommendations shaped by those insights. With OYO now operating as an independent office, we invite you to explore the Annual Report and our other publications. Stay connected @phlyouthombuds.

[Read the 2025 OYO Report](#)



2026 CITYWIDE VIRTUAL HEALING SPACE

The City of Philadelphia is committed to the wellbeing of its workforce and invites employees to participate in the 2026 Virtual Healing Space Series. Here, we will discuss anxieties and concerns related to our changing environment in a supportive and respectful setting.

All City of Philadelphia employees are welcome! Join us on Zoom from noon - 1 p.m on specified dates. The next Healing Space will take place on **Thursday, July 16**. For all other dates, [view the citywide healing space flyer](#).

To join the meeting, simply click the meeting link at the designated time.

[Citywide Healing Space meeting link](#)

2026 in Philadelphia



Text CupPHL to 888-777

Keep informed about developing FIFA information from the City with free ReadyPhiladelphia text alerts.

FIFA Fan Festival Open Now!

Philadelphia's FIFA Fan Festival is open at Lemon Hill until July 19! Admission is free, but anyone planning to attend must register ahead of time through the official [Philadelphia Soccer 2026 host website](#). Select the date you want to visit, fill out the registration form, and you'll receive digital tickets that must be presented to enter the secured event area. You can expect huge screens showing live matches and highlights, a variety of food and drink vendors, and a vendor village where you can shop for local goods.

Visit the 2026 Resource Hub

The City is working to ensure residents, businesses, and visitors are prepared to experience [Philadelphia's 2026 special events](#) and celebrate America's 250th birthday. On the 2026 Resource Hub page, you'll find helpful resources, major event details, and public safety guides.

We'll keep this page updated regularly with the latest information and resources.

For additional information concerning Philly World Cup safety and event details, [visit OEM's 2026 Fifa World Cup page](#).

MLB All-Star Week

July 10 - 14



Philadelphia hosts the 2026 MLB All-Star Game on July 14, with All-Star Week kicking off July 10. [The Midsummer Classic](#) returns to Citizens Bank Park for the first time since 2004, preceded by a series of related events that fans can enjoy across the city.

HBCU Swingman Classic at Citizens Bank Park

July 10 @ 7 p.m.

Come out for a game featuring 50 elite players from D-1 programs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU). [Tickets to HBCU Swingman Classic on sale now!](#)

All-Star Sunday Double Header at Citizens Bank Park

July 12 @ 12 p.m.

Come out for the [All-Star Futures Game](#), an exhibition game featuring top Minor League baseball players. Then, you can enjoy the [MLBx](#), a new co-ed three-on-three tournament featuring major stars. [Tickets for All-Star Sunday on sale now!](#)

Capital One All-Star Village at the Pennsylvania Convention Center

July 11 - 14

The Capital One All-Star Village will be at the Convention Center for four days, featuring an indoor baseball-themed park with activations and scheduled meet-and-greets with baseball legends. [Tickets on sale now!](#)

All-Star Red Carpet Show on Independence Mall

July 14 @ 2 p.m.

All-Stars walk the red carpet with their families wearing special 250 uniforms! Stay tuned for instructions on how to get your free ticket to the Red Carpet Fan Zone.

*The events listed above are not the only MLB All-Star Week events. [View this MLB All-Star Week resource from Visit Philly](#) to explore how you can celebrate All-Star week in Philly!



First-ivals take place from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

July 11

First Organized Baseball Team: 1833

Before the Phils, there were the Olympics! The Olympic Ball Club of Philadelphia was the nation's very first organized baseball team, planting the roots of America's favorite pastime right here in the city. Batter up for some serious sports history.

Where: Citizens Bank Park, 1 Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia, PA

July 18

First Ice Cream Soda: 1874

What do you get when you mix ice cream and fizzy soda? A delicious Philadelphia invention! Cool off and sip back in time with the first-ever ice cream soda. Sweet, creamy and bubbly fun.

Where: The Franklin Fountain, 116 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA

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Making It Happen: Upcoming Events!

Skyline Sway: Latin Dance

Free Library of Philadelphia

July 6, 2026 | 6:30 p.m.

Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St

Join the Free Library of Philadelphia's Special Collections and Music Department for a series of free beginner dance classes! The classes will be held in Skyline Room on the 4th Floor of the library. The July 6 class will be Latin Dancing taught by Laurel Card. This program is a part of the exhibition celebrating America's 250th, *Philadelphia: For the People*, which will be on display from June 2026 - December 2026 in the 2nd Floor West Gallery of the Parkway Central Library. [**View Skyline Sway: Latin Dance on the Free Library calendar.**](#)

Creative Writing Group for Adults

Public Library of Philadelphia

July 7, 2026 | 5 p.m.

Queen Memorial Library, 1201 S 23rd St

Staring at a blank page? Looking for fresh ideas? Need a creative spark and a community that "gets it"? We got you! Join a powerful circle of writers for focused writing time, group reads, real feedback, and accountability without pressure. During the summer, this program runs from 5-6:30 p.m. every other Tuesday, June 9 - August 4. [**View Creative Writing Group for Adults on the Free Library calendar.**](#)

Free Family Fishing with Discovery Pathways

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

July 8, 2026 | 4 p.m.

Boathouse at FDR Park

1500 Pattison Ave & S Broad

Join [Discovery Pathways](#) to learn and try fishing, right here in South Philly. Fishing is Wednesdays From 4-6:30 p.m. We provide rods, bait, and basic instruction. All ages are welcome. The lakes are clean, and fish include bass, catfish, sunfish/ bluegill, carp, and more. No fishing license or experience is needed. [**View the Friends of FDR Park event calendar**](#)

Siempre Salsa - Salsa and Bachata Party

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

July 10, 2026 | 7 p.m.

LOVE Park

Siempre Salsa Philly presents their 9th 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. No registration needed!

CEA Learning Series - Telling Your Story Through Data

Office of Community Empowerment and Opportunity

July 15, 2026 | 6 p.m.

Virtual - Zoom

The Civic Engagement Academy (CEA) is a free training program that provides community members with the tools to create lasting positive change. In this training, participants will learn about the importance of collecting data and how to effectively communicate data using narrative and visualization. [**Register for CEA Learning Series - Telling Your Story Through Data. View the CEA flyer.**](#)

Free Boating with Discovery Pathways

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

July 18, 2026 | 10 a.m.

Boathouse at FDR Park

1500 Pattison Ave & S Broad

Join Discovery Pathways for Free Community Boating at FDR Park. We provide instruction and support for you and your family to get out and enjoy a day on the water. We have rowboats, kayaks, and canoes. All ages are welcome, but kids must be accompanied by a guardian. No experience is needed and no pre-registration. [**View the Friends of FDR Park calendar.**](#)

Historical Storytelling for all ages!

Free Library of Philadelphia

July 18, 2026 | 2 p.m.

Fishtown Community Library

1217 E Montgomery Ave

Storytellers from Historic Philadelphia, Inc. deliver 3-5 minute stories filled with historical insights and facts. This program sparks interest in history with diverse perspectives beyond the Founding Fathers. Hear stories about people like: Henry Box Brown, Octavius Catto, James Forten, Ona Judge, Jane Johnson, Caroline LeCount, The Grimke Sisters, members of The Oneida Tribe, members of The Lenape Tribe, and more. All ages welcome. [**View Historical Storytelling for all ages on the Free Library calendar.**](#)

Indego Bike Riding Basics

Free Library of Philadelphia

July 25, 2026 | 2 p.m.

Parkway Central Library, 1901 Vine St

Want to bike safely around Philly? Curious about the Indego Bike sharing program or how to use one of their bicycles? Join the Bicycle Coalition of Greater Philadelphia for a free 90-minute class designed to help you ride confidently and navigate the city with ease! This class will be held on the First Floor, Room 131/132 at Parkway Central Library. [**View Indego Bike Riding Basics on the Free Library calendar.**](#)

2026 Park Friends Movie Nights

Philadelphia Parks and Recreation

Various dates & times

Various locations

Looking for free outdoor movies in Philadelphia? More than 20 Philly parks will host [free movie nights](#) this summer and fall, featuring family-friendly favorites like "Zootopia 2," "Hoppers," "Goat," and more. These outdoor screenings are organized by Philadelphia's Park Friends Groups with support from Philadelphia Parks & Recreation and Fairmount Park Conservancy, bringing free family entertainment to neighborhoods across the city. Bring a blanket, pack your favorite snacks, and join us at dusk for a movie under the stars. Check with your [local Park Friends Group](#) for the latest updates and any schedule changes.

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Work ResourcePhilly

YOUR CITY. YOUR MISSION. YOUR FUTURE.

STAY CONNECTED. STAY INFORMED.

Whether you're in the office or out in the field, the City of Philadelphia Employee Website is your one-stop destination for the latest news, tools, and updates that matter to YOU including:

- ✓ Benefits & Open Enrollment Info
- ✓ Training Opportunities
- ✓ Resources to Help You Thrive
- ✓ Payroll Access
- ✓ Employee News
- ✓ Share Your Story

GET TO KNOW YOUR FELLOW CITY EMPLOYEES.

From Water to Parks & Rec, from Licenses & Inspections to Health — we're all on the same team. The Employee Website helps build a stronger, more connected City workforce by sharing stories, spotlighting departments, and celebrating our collective impact.



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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.