



News and events focusing on the best neighborhood in Philly

Recent Activities

Winter Returns!

The end of January saw winter's return with a vengeance as our neighborhood received ~ 8" of snow and then a hefty dose of sleet to top it off. If that wasn't enough some of the coldest temperatures in 20 years followed. Many side streets remained untreated for several days – this has been reported to the City but residents are urged to report to 311 and provide specific addresses whenever plowing/salting is required. The weather did however make for some beautiful wintery scenes. 6ABC was broadcasting from Main and Levering during the storm, and an atypically quiet Main Street was pictured in the Inquirer along with a mostly frozen Schuylkill River and a snow covered boardwalk.





Philly Freeze-Out

January 31

Manayunk teamed up with Founders Brewing turning Main Street into even more of a winter wonderland featuring live ice carving demonstrations, incredible ice sculptures and the Manayunk Chowder Crawl.



Upcoming Events

Pretzel Park Farmers Market

1st Saturdays of the Month February thru April

Rain, snow, or shine 11am-1pm. February 7 Vendors: Cherri Blossom Farm, A New Day Office Bakery, Care Package Bakes, Côte Essentials, Fifth of a Farm, Molto Bene Ravioli, Spotted Horse Provisions and Sunrise Bakery (changes may occur). Free Warm Apple Cider.

<https://www.facebook.com/pretzelparkfarmersmarket/>

Venice Island Performing Arts Center

Selected Dates in February

Feb 1 - Roxborough Symphony Orchestra; Feb 7,8 - Dual Discovery; Feb 20,21,22 - It's About Time!; Feb 25 - OEM Black History Oratorical Showcase; Feb 28 Diamond and Pearls. For tickets and showtimes visit: <https://www.veniceisland.org>



PDAC Valentine's Day Decoration Party

February 11 5:00pm

Our local Police District Advisory Council is hosting its annual Valentine's Day decoration party for local children. All supplies are provided along with beverages and pizza. This is a great opportunity for local youth to connect to the 5th district officers and PDAC volunteers. No pre-registration required.



Open House – Manayunk Canal Towpath Boardwalks

February 11 6:00pm

The goal of this project is to make the Manayunk Canal Towpath between Leverington Ave and Lock Street safer, more resilient and accessible. To accomplish this, the Towpath's two wooden boardwalks between Green Lane Bridge and Cotton Street will be rehabilitated with more flood-resistant materials. New trail lighting will be installed between Lock Street and Leverington Avenue. Safety railings will be rehabilitated along the boardwalks. Additionally, this project will include canal wall remediation work and incorporate a new ADA-access ramp to improve pedestrian and cycling access to the Schuylkill River Trail. Target completion in Summer 2028. An Open House will be held on February 11th at the Venice Performing Art Center. The public is encouraged to attend.

<https://www.phila.gov/documents/manayunk-canal-towpath-boardwalks/>

Meet Manny!

Manayunk friends and neighbors mourned the vandalization of Bridget the Dino. She was more than just a quirky landmark—Bridget brought smiles, sparked conversations, and became a beloved part of the community. She will always be remembered fondly. But just when it felt like the end of an era, something wonderful happened. Thanks to the generosity of **Holod's Garden Center**, a brand-new dino found its way to the Manayunk Bridge Garden! After a fun and spirited naming contest, our newest prehistoric friend has officially been christened Manny. Manny stands as a reminder of what makes this community special: resilience, creativity, and neighbors who show up for one another. Be sure to stop by and say hello!



Black History Month

Black culture and history thrive in Philadelphia all year long, but February offers a special opportunity to reflect on the trailblazers, milestones and moments in Black history that have changed our world. Philly plans to do just that with a jam-packed lineup of events and happenings for February 2026.

Be sure to catch major exhibitions featuring artists from across the African diaspora at the Philadelphia Museum of Art and the African American Museum in Philadelphia. Enjoy “can’t-miss” screenings of documentaries, comedies, dramas and more by Black filmmakers at The Philadelphia Film Society and Scribe Video Center. Learn more about Philly’s Black history during a fun and educational tour, from organizations like The Black Journey, Mural Arts Philadelphia or Laurel Hill Cemetery.

<https://www.visitphilly.com/articles/philadelphia/black-history-month-in-philadelphia/>

Philly Named Top World Travel Destination for 2026

With the nation's 250th birthday fast approaching, **the New York Times named Philadelphia as the number one travel destination in the world for 2026** (yeah, New Yorkers loved that...). While noting that there will be no shortage of celebrations for the Semiquincentennial, Philly landed the top spot on the paper's annual "52 Places to Go" list published each January. Because, where else would you want to be this year than the birthplace of the Declaration of Independence?

"Celebrate the Semiquincentennial with fireworks and themed balls," the paper wrote, before mentioning just a few of the slew of major events Philly has planned for America's yearlong birthday bash, including a Red, White & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade, two new galleries at the National Constitution Center, a grand exhibition at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, and a World Cup match on Independence Day. That's not to mention other big-ticket events coming our way in 2026, like the MLB All-Star Game, a pumped Fourth of July concert, the Cycling race featuring the Manayunk Wall and TED Democracy talks, plus a host of neighborhood programming.

With its unmatched Revolutionary bona fides, Philly edged out global travel destinations for the top spot. Like Warsaw, with its gleaming new Museum of Modern Art, and a greener-than-ever Bangkok. Costa Rica's Osa Peninsula and India's Bandhavgarh Tiger Reserve rounded out the paper's top global spots worth visiting in 2026.



https://reader.inquirer.com/infinity/article_popover_share.aspx?guid=e15aa2f6-23ad-4e05-bee7-6aef80b8e316&share=true&appcode=PHLINQ

The Grape ~~Room~~ Reopens*

The former Grape Room in Manayunk, an independent music venue with history spanning parts of four decades, celebrated its reopening on New Year's Eve with a bill of local acts. The two-story venue at 105 Grape St., just off Main Street, abruptly closed in March 2024 after a 14-year run. This is now the fourth iteration of "the Grape" and the new owners, all former employees, want to keep consistent with what it was in the past while keeping up with the times.

Artists who graced the venue over the years include the likes of Jeff Buckley, G-Love, Guster, Dispatch, Amos Lee, Derek Trucks, Silvertide and the Lumineers. It was also a popular place for weekly stand-up comedy. The venue holds 150 people on the ground floor and another 55 on the second floor overlooking the stage.

The Grape plans to operate six days a week with a comedy open mic on Tuesday nights, open music jam sessions on Wednesdays and then scheduled acts Thursdays through Saturdays. The open mic nights, formerly held Thursdays, will move to Sunday nights. Hosts will include many familiar faces who were part of the Grape Room community before the bar closed.

Apart from a fresh coat of paint, people who come out to the Grape can expect mostly the same divey atmosphere. The bars on both floors will serve beer on tap, by-the-bottle and cocktails. They'll also have a selection of non-alcoholic beer. The building's fry kitchen, long used as a quasi-green room, will offer a more consistent menu of chicken fingers, snacks and other light fare.

** Abstracted from the recent Philly Voice article by MICHAEL TANENBAUM*



Manayunk Neighborhood Council

Upcoming Zoning Case

February 4, 7:00 pm 4370-74 Main Street which is for a 2-story addition to the existing 'Brazilian Wax' business. The addition, which proposes 5 multifamily units, has been reviewed by the Historical Commission as part of the requirements of the Manayunk Historic District Overlay within which the property lies. Participate by zoom:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErD02vrDgtHdQ5EU02z41CI6p8WZzdrFV#/registration>

Zoning Update: Proposed 6 story development at 3900 Main Street: the Court of Common Pleas has found in favor of MNC's Appeal to that Court and has reversed the ZBA's decision supporting the variance. The developer has subsequently appealed the Court's decision to the Commonwealth Court. MNC will continue its fight.

MNC general membership meetings are held the 1st Wednesday of every month. **Our next meeting is Wednesday February 4 at 7pm via zoom** (same link as above)

Agenda:

Call to Order / Announcements (including 2026 Board Members)

January Financial Update

Old Business

New Business

RCO Zoning Hearing 4370-4374 Main Street

Final Comments

Adjourn

Make a difference. **Join the Council** for just \$10 per person or \$15 per household. MNC serves many functions including overseeing activities at Pretzel Park, the Farmer's Market and as the recognized city organization (RCO) on zoning issues affecting our community. Annual membership renewal is available at:

<http://www.manayunkcouncil.org/pp/membership.html>