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## Daily Record

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## Fresh Food Comes To Kensington – And The Inner City



GEORGE & WILMA Avila sample fresh Penna. peaches passed out by Food Trust Project Mgr. Katie Wich at new Norris Square farmers' market.



DAVE MAMONE of Solly Farm in Bucks Co. brings fresh fruits and vegetables to Howard Street & Susquehanna Avenue, an inner-city neighborhood ill-served by supermarkets.



EXCITED by new farmers' market, senatorial aide Gizela Burnside and her boss State Sen. Tina Tartaglione discuss with Katie Wich new possibilities for bringing healthy, fresh food to N. Phila. New farmers' market is across street from Tartaglione's District Office.



MAYOR Michael Nutter and Deputy Mayor for Health Donald Schwarz hail State Sen. Tina Tartaglione's work in bringing farmers' market to S. Kensington. Nutter hailed her as "one of the best Senators we have."

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Mayor Michael A. Nutter and Health Commissioner and Deputy Mayor Dr. Donald F. Schwarz officially opened the Norris Square Farmers' Market in North Philadelphia yesterday. Over the next two years, the City – via a partnership between the Dept. of Public Health and the Food Trust – will open 10 new farmers' markets in communities that currently do not have adequate access to fresh and healthy foods.

These markets were made possible in part by a \$15 million grant from the US Dept. of Health & Human Services' "Putting Prevention to Work" initiative, which aims to promote healthy nutrition and increase physical activity. The farmers' markets not only increase residents' access to fresh and healthy foods but they also make such foods more affordable.

State Sen. Tina Tartaglione, whose District Office lies directly across the street from the new farmers' market, was instrumental in steering it to Norris Square. "Access to fresh and healthy food is terribly important in our community," she said. "The lack of nutritional alternatives contributes to serious health problems in low-income neighborhoods."

The Norris Square Farmers' Market is one of over 15 markets across the City that now accepts Philly Food Bucks. Through Philly Food Bucks, Food Stamp beneficiaries can receive \$2 of free fruits and vegetables for every \$5 they spend in a participating farmers' market.

"It's important for the health of our city that all Philadelphians have access to fresh, healthy and affordable foods," said the Mayor Nutter. "The farmers' market opening here today is an investment in the health of the people that live and work in the Norris Square community and the local farmers who bring us fresh fruits and vegetables every day."

"We need to make it easier for people to live healthy lives," said Dr. Schwarz. "One way to do that is to provide affordable fresh fruit and vegetables in Philadelphia neighborhoods where it is often easier to purchase chips and a soda than an apple."

"Ensuring everyone has access to healthy, affordable foods is The Food Trust's mission," its Executive Director Yael Lehmann explained. This nonprofit agency recruits local farmers to bring their fare to inner-city neighborhoods.

The Norris Square Farmers' Market is the second of the 10 markets scheduled to open over the next two years. The City has already opened a market in South Philadelphia at Broad & Ritner and there are two more markets scheduled to open this summer. The Farmers' Markets are only one part of the Federally funded "Putting Prevention to Work" initiative. The City is working with partners in government, community, business, and academia to make healthy foods more available and affordable and increase opportunities for safe, structured physical activity.

## Butkovitz: City's Budget Is Reasonable – With Cautions

City Controller Alan Butkovitz released his opinion of the City's five-year budget plan yesterday.

The "FY11-15 Forecasted General Fund Statement of Operations" is prepared by the City's Finance Office and then submitted to the Pennsylvania Intergovernmental Cooperation Authority. The Controller's opinion provides approval to the City's budget plan but warns PICA about three sensitive assumptions contained in the forecast.

Wage and benefit savings totaling \$125 million over the five years are dependent on successful civilian labor negotiations and arbitration hearings with Firefighters Union.

Revenue from other governments – the State budget, and accordingly the forecasted statement – assumes Congressional action that extends an increase in Federal funding for Medical Assistance.

An estimated \$1.8 billion over five years for the cost of self-insured medical benefits is based only on previous premium-based amounts, since the City does not have an extensive history of self-insurance costs.

"Because events and circumstances do not always occur as expected, I would urge PICA be cautious when considering future budget forecasts," said Butkovitz.

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The Controller's Office conducts the examination of the forecasted statement in accordance with standards established by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. The standards require the Controller's

Office to evaluate the presentation and assumptions used by the City of Philadelphia in its budget forecast.

## Corbett Flag Flies In Town



**IT'S OFFICIAL! John Giordano, point man in Eastern Penna., indicates one of several campaign signs identifying Phila. Campaign Office for Republican nominee for Governor Attorney General Tom Corbett. Office, located on ground floor of building at 21st & Sansom Streets, will coordinate volunteer activity as well as supply GOP regulars with needed campaign material.**

## Casey Bill Promotes Fracking Jobs for Pennsylvanians

US Sen. Bob Casey just introduced legislation to help prepare Pennsylvania workers for jobs in the natural gas industry. The "Marcellus Shale On-the-Job Training Act of 2010" will authorize grants to strengthen OJT programs to help ensure natural-gas drilling jobs go to Pennsylvanians and not workers from out of state.

"Natural gas drilling in the Marcellus Shale, if done properly, can create economic benefits for the Commonwealth and for Pennsylvanians," said Casey. "Unfortunately, many of these jobs are not going to Pennsylvanians. The companies are bringing in workers with prior experience from out of state. That is why I am introducing a bill to help increase on-the-job training so that these jobs will go to Pennsylvanians."

One recent report by the Allegheny Conference on Community Development suggested 70% of workers employed at Marcellus Shale drillings sites are not residents of Pennsylvania. As the number of Marcellus

Shale well-sites continues to increase, we need to ensure the jobs are going to Pennsylvanians, he argues.

On-the-Job Training is a program authorized under the Workforce Investment Act. The main purpose of the program is to allow an employer to sign a contract with the local workforce investment board, agreeing to hire workers that need on-site training. The WIB provides a training subsidy to the employer equal to a percentage of the wage paid to the employee. The subsidy is typically 50% of the wage paid. The period of the contract is limited to the time it takes to properly train the employee.

Casey's act will authorize the Dept. of Labor to make grants to fund local OJT programs. However, such grants may only be utilized to support training programs with employers that are directly related to the exploration for, production of, and transportation of natural gas from the Marcellus Shale.

# PDDC Group Visits Eagles Training Camp

Eagles safety Quintin Demps shows Avery Jones, a client of Phila. Developmental Disabilities Corp., at training camp his gloves which he actually gave to him. Mike Barnes, marketing director of PDDC, took a group of clients (adults with intellectual disabilities) to visit the Eagles Training Camp at Lehigh University yesterday, arriving for the 8:15 practice session. A number of Eagles players have participated in events which benefit The Arc of Phila. and PDDC. Annual visit to Training Camp is one of PDDC's calendar highlights. Photo by John Alexanian



# Fattah Hails Billionaires For Giveaways

Congressman Chaka Fattah issued the following statement upon the announcement by Warren Buffett, Bill Gates and Philadelphian Gerry Lenfest that 40 billionaires have signed their pledge to give away at least half their wealth.

“Americans are a generous people. ‘The Giving Pledge’ – the brilliant brainstorm of Warren Buffett and Bill Gates – taps into that impulse among our richest citizens, and now has borne first fruits: 40 billionaires who have promised to join Buffett and Gates in donating at least half of their wealth to charity.

“I will be introducing a Resolution into the House of Representatives commending these individuals, their families and their foundations and the example they have set.

“H. F. ‘Gerry’ Lenfest and his wife Marguerite are examples of those who have signed on to ‘The Giving Pledge,’ but that is no surprise. The Lenfests and their family foundation have been busy giving away more than \$800 million to worthy causes in the Philadelphia area in the decade since Gerry Lenfest’s retirement. They are not likely to stop any time soon.

“All of these outstanding Americans are to be congratulated – especially Warren Buffett and Bill & Melinda Gates, for inspiring so many others with their leadership in philanthropy. The first ‘Giving Pledge’ list is a revelation. We all look forward to the next installment to see who will ‘take the pledge’ toward the Buffett-Gates goal of \$600 billion in charity.”

## CALENDAR

- Aug. 7-** Sister Clara Muhammad School’s 1<sup>st</sup> annual Community Festival at Muhammad Park, 46<sup>th</sup> & Wyalusing Ave., 10 a.m.-7 p.m. Hosted by Sister Clara Muhammad School CDC and friends of the School. For info Wayne Rahman (267) 252-5547.
- Aug. 7-** Councilman Curtis Jones, Jr. hosts 4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Appreciation Day at Belmont Picnic Grove, Belmont Ave. & Belmont Mansion Dr., 12-4 p.m. RSVP to [curtisjones08@gmail.com](mailto:curtisjones08@gmail.com).
- Aug. 8-** USA Auto Supply Car Show, benefit for ill child at 100 block Wingohocking St., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Car registration fee \$15. For info call Ivan (215) 329-0685.

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