

The Frankford Gazette



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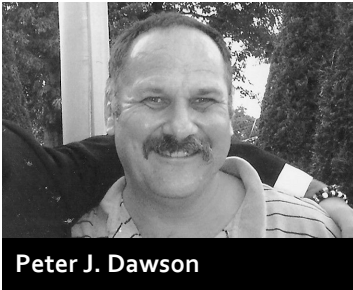
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Peter J. Dawson—Frankford Gazette Contributor

By Bob Smiley

Peter J. Dawson, long time contributor to the Frankford Gazette, passed away on June 30th, after a long illness.



Peter J. Dawson

Nancy (nee O'Connor) Doughty, and Melissa (O'Connor) Siegel and grand-children Jacob Siegel, Rebecca Siegel, Andrea Doughty and Bernard Dawson, and 4 brothers and 4 sisters and 18 nieces and nephews.

The following is one of his most popular stories from 2011.

The Terrifying Railroad Staple Machine Guns

Pete lived in Mullica Hill, New Jersey but grew up in Frankford on Wakeling Street. He attended St. Martin's grade school and Father Judge High School and then went on the graduate from St. Joseph's University and Temple Law School.

You may have known him personally or only met him through his stories that we published over the years. He wrote about growing up in Frankford during the 50s and 60s and he recorded that era in a unique way, capturing the look and feel and smells and even the accents he encountered.

He had both a devotion to his Catholic Faith and yet an open mind about everything that you rarely find in one individual. I met him at first when he was on the Frankford Ghost Tour. He was one of those people I enjoyed talking to because you could never anticipate what he was going to come up with. He had an unfettered mind that is the mark of true genius.

Pete is survived by his wife, Rise' (nee Sobel), sons Joshua and his wife Elaine, Reid, and Jeremy Dawson, step daughters

One of the centers of kid activity in Frankford in the 1960s was "The Lot," the tract of ground between Rutland Street, Foulkrod Street, Castor Avenue and Harrison Street. Back then, a railroad track ran along the top of the embankment on the Castor Avenue side of "The Lot", from a small bridge at the Castor Avenue/Harrison Street corner to a small bridge spanning Foulkrod Street between Castor and Rutland. In that era, small freight trains still used the track to carry goods in box cars down to what was left of industrial activity down in the Kensington and Allegheeny area.

In the early 1960s, the tennis courts you see there today did not exist. Instead, along Harrison Street, there was just a large open field where we used to play touch or tackle football.

Between the open field and the railroad embankment was the section known as "The Weeds", the real center of our collective juvenile attention. The area called "The Weeds" was comprised of a vast, dense forest of the tallest, greenest-smelling



Pete as a student at St. Martin's

ragweed you ever encountered, punctuated by *chouchun* trees, that invasive tropical looking species with woody stems from China, *Ailanthus altissima*, seen growing everywhere in urban areas these days, which we called "bow-and-arrow trees" because that is what we used to make out of them.

We walked trails and tunnels through the ragweed forest which took us to interesting piles of debris dumped in the weeds by contractors, and to the "forts" we dug into the ground and covered over with contractor debris.

On the other side of "The Lot" was the large, neat organic garden of hardworking Old Man Schepis, and beyond that "The Garages," the complex of rented brick garages fronting on Rutland Street near Foulkrod, whose walls can be seen to be collapsing inward today.

We used to don our sneakers, and yell to our parents on Saturdays,

"Mom! Dad! We're going to go play at 'The Lot'!" And then we would go down there and manufacture bows and arrows and build forts and set-off homemade explosives in holes (to ensure that shrapnel shot upwards, not sideways). We weren't very safe. But, we survived.

There was a lot of World War II army surplus in Philly in those days. **Dennis and Daniel Grassi**, who used to live up on Large Street, would show up with an astonishing array of genuine surplus weaponry (all rendered inoperable before sale) — M-1 rifles, Browning Automatic Rifles with bipod legs to support the barrel, a bazooka, hand grenades and, on one occasion, a Thompson machine gun with the circular ammo container.

Everyone wanted to hold the Thompson. Nowadays, someone carrying such items in public in our terrorism-sensitive society could not avoid arrest. Back then, the owners of such an "arsenal" were the envy of every kid in Frankford. We would show up at "The Lot" with our Army surplus weaponry, try to talk the Grassi boys into a trade for the day, and stage wars. A few of us would always reluctantly consent to being Nazis.

We loved climbing the embankment up to the railroad tracks. Before hang gliding became an American "thing", we tried like the dickens to achieve flight from the top of that embankment, with homemade fixed wings and giant kites. One of us kids — one of the guys from St. Martin's School on Oxford Circle, I don't remember exactly who — broke his leg in one of the crash land-

(Continued on page 2)

Every Day in Frankford



Frankford resident, Esterlina Fernandez (56), mother to five children and grand mother to eighteen, exercises during a Zumba class at the Frankford Pause Park on a hot Summer's day. Credit: Chris Baker Evens <https://www.chrisbakerevens.com/>

(Continued from page 1)

ings. We never achieved flight. But we were happy.

The biggest thrill of all was stupidity multiplied by a hundred — hiding in the weeds along the railroad tracks, as close as possible to the railroad trains thundering by a few feet away, without being seen.

The reason why getting close to the train without being seen

was a big thing in those days had nothing at all to do with the very real danger being run over by a freight train. It was because of a rumor going around among the kids that railroad trains along that freight line were manned with cruel “railroad police” armed with frightening “staple machine guns” that could shoot out staples in a machine-gun-like fashion at kids caught playing near the trains.

The rumor was that railroad personnel had a kind of “license to staple,” and would cover us with painful staples, legally, at the drop of a hat.

Once I was over at Grassi’s with Den and Dan and I heard Mrs. Grassi warn her sons about the railroad police with their staple guns. Aghast, I thought, “So! It’s true!”

When first one kid and then another courageously crawled

into the weeds next to the tracks while a freight train passed, and then came back without being stapled, he was a hero for weeks.

Finally, I did it, and I repeated the story of my bravado to friends while some of them stared at me open-mouthed. And I guess that used-up my allotted 15 minutes of fame.

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La ley de Oportunidad Justa para la Contratación de Filadelfia hace ilegal que los empleadores pregunten sobre sus antecedentes penales durante el proceso de contratación.



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Your normal text messaging rates will apply

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BACK²SCHOOL GIVEAWAY

Saturday, August 18, 2018
9 am. – 12 pm.

**** While Supplies Last ****
Whitehall Housing Projects
1820 Foulkrod Street, Philadelphia, PA
[First Parking Lot]

If you are interested in assisting us with providing the children of our community with a great start to the new school year by donating book bags and school supplies, please contact:

Caroline Payton, Founder & President
 267-299-2310
 Email: cpayton@houseofwin.org
 Website: www.houseofwin.org



Participating Supporter:
 The Eta Chapter of Kappa
 Psi Kappa Fraternity

IT'S ONLY A TEST

If you didn't know life is a test,
 just work real hard and do your very best.

So when God calls you home,
 and you have taken your last breath,
 and you know you've done God's will,

You have passed the test.

So work real hard and do your very best.

Because in the end.

IT'S ONLY A TEST

BY LENNY JAYNES

Second Baptist Church of Frankford
 Rev. Darrell R. Bradsbery, Pastor
 1801 Meadow Street

By Grace Alone Frankford Church

1300 Dyre Street

Sundays at 9 a.m.

For more information call 610-283-2969
www.bgachurch.org

About the Frankford Gazette

Keep the Faith in Frankford publishes the Frankford Gazette. This is a print edition of some of the articles available online. We cover the Frankford neighborhood in Philadelphia. Go to www.frankfordgazette.com to get full details.

Editor: Bob Smiley; **Associate Editor:** Pat Smiley, **Veterans Affairs:** Richard W. Johnson, **IT Director:** Jim Smiley, **Printing by Health Partners Plans.**

You can receive Frankford/Northwood news and event information by text message sent directly to your cell phone. Text the word JOIN to [sms+659@telefio.com](tel:610659659).

Interested in writing for Frankford's community newspaper? Email contrib@frankfordgazette.com or call (215) 847-5506. Want your event on the community calendar? Email events@frankfordgazette.com or call (215) 847-5506. Publication date is the 20th of each month. Events and ads are due by the 14th.

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Frankford at the Battle of Gettysburg

Frankford residents served in every major battle during the Civil War. We mark the 155th anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg in July.

These are the names of the Frankford men who died in the battle and one who was taken prisoner only to later die as a prisoner of war.

Joseph Johnson was born about 1838 and was a carpenter when he was mustered into the 121st Pennsylvania volunteers – Company I on August 13, 1862. Private Johnson was taken prisoner at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863, and died in Annapolis, Maryland.

Peter McNally was born about 1838 in Scotland and was a shoemaker when he was mustered into the 121st Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company I on August 20, 1862. He died at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He was survived by his father Robert and mother Mary.

Robert Rae was born about 1826 in Pennsylvania and was working as a Mason when he was mustered into the 121st Pennsylvania Volunteers, Company I on August 18, 1862. He died at Gettysburg on July 1, 1863. He was survived by his wife Anna, daughters Catherine and Lah and son Charles.

James Butcher was born about 1839 and was a wheelwright living at 216 Frankford Avenue when he was mustered into the 28th regiment Pennsylvania volunteers – Company D on



Soldiers National Monument at Gettysburg National Cemetery

July 8, 1862. He died at Gettysburg on July 3, 1863. He was survived by his father Thomas P. and mother Caroline. He is buried in the Gettysburg National Cemetery – Pennsylvania Plot, Section D, Site #53.

Robert Leshner was born in Pennsylvania about 1839 and lived on Frankford Avenue near Cedar Hill Cemetery. He was working as a carpenter when he was mustered into the California Regiment, 71st

Pennsylvania Volunteers Company D on May 28, 1861. He was wounded in battle on July 3rd and died of his wounds on July 8, 1863. He is buried in Gettysburg National Cemetery, section A, grave, 40. He was survived by his father Jacob, mother Hester, sisters Eliza, Mary, Rachel and Elizabeth and brothers Joseph and William.

Samuel C. Rodgers was born about 1832 in Pennsylvania and was a car driver when mustered into the 114th Regiment Pennsylvania volunteers – Company K on August 14, 1862. Private Rodgers died in Gettysburg on July 13, 1863. He was survived by his wife Sarah and sons William (8), Samuel (6) and Allen (4).

William Reynolds was born about 1812 in New Jersey. By 1860 he and his family had moved to Frankford where he worked in one of the mills. He was mustered into the 26th Regiment Pennsylvania Volunteers – Company I on May 31, 1861. He was wounded at Gettysburg, July 2, 1863, and taken prisoner. He died on November 9, 1864, of “starvation and brutal treatment while a prisoner of war at Salisbury, N. C.”. He was survived by his wife Susan, daughter Sarah and son Jonathan.

Never forget.

Frankford NAC Zoning Meeting July 12th

By Christine DeJesus

The Frankford NAC Zoning group met on July 12 to discuss 3 cases.

1369 Sellers Street— “House of W.I.N.”. PERMIT FOR THE ERECTION OF A REAR ADDITION TO AN EXISTING ATTACHED STRUCTURE. STRUCTURE FOR USE AS A GROUP LIVING. SIZE AND LOCATION AS SHOWN PER APPLICATION/PLAN. — There are seeking a special variance to put a rear addition on the back of the property and using it for group living. The board carefully went over their plans and made some suggestions. **The applicant will modify the plans and return to the NAC at a future meeting.**

4341 East Wingohocking Street— SPECIAL EXCEPTION FOR A SOCIAL CLUB TO INCLUDE LIVE ENTERTAINMENT MAXIMUM FORTY-NINE (49) PEOPLE

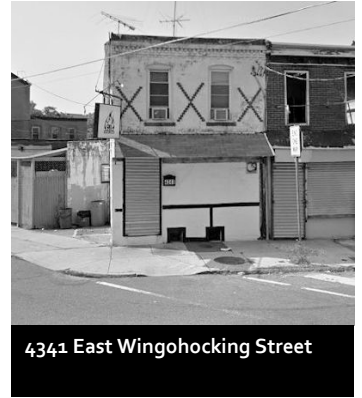


1369 Sellers Street

(ASSEMBLY AND ENTERTAINMENT) (NO ACTIVITIES AS DEFINED IN 14-603 (13) OF PHILADELPHIA ZONING CODE) ON 1ST FLOOR WITH EXISTING SINGLE FAMILY DWELL-

ING ABOVE IN AN EXISTING STRUCTURE. — Variance for a social club to include live entertainment maximum of 49 people. They have an active permit for a social club/ hookah lounge. **The applicant has withdrawn the application.**

5520 Harbison Avenue — PERMIT FOR THE ERECTION OF A ROOF DECK OF AN EXISTING STRUCTURE; FOR THE ERECTION OF ONE(1) ACCESSORY FREE-STANDING MECHANICAL MOTION SIGN (AREA OF SIGN 28.8 SF) (FOR THE TENANT ONLY) (HARBISON AVE FRONTAGE); FOR THE CREATION OF THIRTY-FOUR(34) ACCESSORY SURFACE PARKING SPACES INCLUDING WITH TWO (2) ACCESSIBLE SPACES ALL ACCESSORY TO EXISTING BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL OFFICES AND SINGLE ROOM RESIDENCE AS PREVIOUSLY



4341 East Wingohocking Street

APPROVED. SIZE AND LOCATION AS SHOWN IN THE APPLICATION. This is the former ST. Bart's School Convent building. **There was no community opposition to the application.**

The next meeting of the Frankford NAC Zoning group will be held on August 9th at 7 PM at a location to be announced.

Frankford Farmers Market

Every Saturday July 21st to August 10th

1300 Dyre Street—10 AM to 11 AM

Free Farm Fresh Produce

To qualify you must


- Receive free or reduced school lunch
- Receive Public Assistance
- Receive SSI/SSD

Register on site or pre-register by calling

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By Grace Alone and Frankford Memorial UMC

With America's Grow a Row



BACK²SCHOOL GIVEAWAY

Saturday, August 18, 2018


9 am. – 12 pm.

**** While Supplies Last ****

Whitehall Housing Projects
1820 Foulkrod Street, Philadelphia, PA
[First Parking Lot]

If you are interested in assisting us with providing the children of our community with a great start to the new school year by donating book bags and school supplies, please contact:

Caroline Payton, Founder & President
267-299-2310
Email: cpayton@houseofwin.org
Website: www.houseofwin.org



Participating Supporter:
The Eta Chapter of Kappa
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Coming Up in Frankford

Community Stakeholders Meeting - Wed, August 1, 6pm, Campbell AME Church 1657 Kinsey Street - The focus of the meeting will be to develop an action plan around the issue of illegally parked cars on private property and/or on the streets. This meeting was organized as a result of the discussion at the PSA 1 meeting last month. Several residents came out to complain about local car garages who are fixing cars on the street and parking numerous abandoned cars on residential blocks. This issue seems to be concentrated in the blocks bounded by Worth and Tackawanna between Orthodox and Kinsey street. However, I know that there are some outliers that have had chronic complaints from their neighbors. In response to that meeting, Frankford CDC has asked Councilwoman Sanchez, L&I, the 15th District, and the PPD's Neighborhood Services Unit to come out and meet with neighbors to discuss a strategy around getting some of these cars off the street.

Frankford Civic Association Meeting - Thu, August 2, 7pm, St Mark's Church Frankford, 4442 Frankford Avenue

Grand Army of the Republic Museum Open House - Sun, August 5, 12:00pm - 3:30pm, 4278 Griscom Street - Presentation at 1:30 PM:

National Night Out Kick Off Rally - Mon, August 6, 6:00pm - 8:30pm, Target Shopping Center 7400 Bustleton Avenue -Northeast Philadelphia National Night Out Kick-Off Rally Event. Come out and enjoy FREE music, fun, entertainment, refreshments, information tables, and giveaways regarding crime prevention and safe communities where you live and work.

15th Police District National Night Out Event - Tue, August 7, 5:00pm - 8:30pm, Lincoln High School Parking Lot 3201 Ryan Avenue

Friends of Overington Park - Tue, August 7, 7pm, Friends Meeting House, 1500 Orthodox Street -The group maintains and supports Overington Park at Orthodox and Leiper Streets. This park has been resurrected and now hosts events almost every month of the year but it can't do it without your active participation. New members needed. Join us the first Tuesday of the month. We meet In the Park from May to September.

Neighborhood Advisory Committee Meeting - Thu, August 9, 7pm. Location to be announced

Food Truck Friday - Fri, August 10, 12pm - 3pm, 4600 Block of Paul Street

Frankford Day - Saturday, Aug 11, 2018, Gambrel Playground, 1900 Wakeling Street - Bring your own stuff and have some adult fun. hope to see everyone there.so here's a big thank-you 67kings from me for stepping up to the plate.

Keystone First Frankford Fitness Series - Sat, August 11, 10:30am - 11:30am, Frankford Pause Park, 4600 block of Paul Street - Beginners Yoga

Northwood Civic Association Meeting - Tue, August 21, 7pm, Simpson. Recreation Center, 1010 Arrott Street,

15th Police District PSA1 Meeting - Thu, August 23, 7pm, Jefferson Frankford Hospital, 4900 Frankford Avenue

Food Truck Friday - Fri, August 24, 12pm - 3pm, 4600 Block of Paul Street

Annual Block Party and Community Day - Sat, August 25, 10am - 6pm, 4500 block of Worth Street - resources/giveaways

Summer Programming at Frankford Library

School Age

Lectura bilingüe de cuentos infantiles

Spanish/English Bilingual Storytime
For children and their parents. Read by Librarian - Mr. Pagán.
Monday and Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.
July 23 and 25

Frankford's Wednesday Movie of the Month

Monday and Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.
July 2 - Coco, July 18- Ferdinand

Block Building Parties

Block Party!?
Wooden Block Party in the library.
Monday and Wednesday at 5:00 p.m.
June 25 and 27

Frankford Lego Playtime

Come build something at the library.
Mondays & Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.
July 30, August 1

Teens and Adults

Teen Thursdays

June 14, 21, 28; July 12, 19, 26; August 2
Thursdays at 3pm
Come have fun doing various activities and games. Snacks provided.
Teens Only

Email Basics

Utilize our new laptops for extended time.
June 12, 19, 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31
Tuesdays @12p-1p

Resume Help

Utilize our new laptops for extended time.
June 31, 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19, 26; August 2
Thursdays @12p-1p

LaBae Daniels
Branch Manager & Adult/Teen Librarian
Frankford Neighborhood Library
4634 Frankford Avenue
Phone: 215-685-1473 Email: danielsl@freelibrary.org

Services at St. Mark's Episcopal Church

4442 Frankford Ave.

**8:30AM SIMPLE AND
SHORT WORSHIP**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study: 9:00am
10:00AM Main WORSHIP SERVICE**

Northeast Baptist Church

4744 Tackawanna Street

Service at 11:00 AM Sunday

Padre Pio Prayer Center

Chapel corner of Griscom and Church Sts.
Mass 730 AM Tues, Wed, Thurs
Mass: 700 PM Monday and Wednesday
Mass: Saturday 800 AM (Spanish)

Chapel open for private prayer Monday
through Friday from 7 to 9 PM

Campbell AME Church

1657 Kinsey Street

Church Office: 215-288-2748

Email: campbella.m.e.frankford@gmail.com

St. James Lutheran Church
5185 Castor Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19124
215-743-1828
www.StJamesPhilly.com

Sunday Worship Service: 10:00am
Friday Night Youth Ministry (4th to 12th
Grade): 6:30pm - 8:30pm

Services at Faith Assembly of God

1926 Margaret St

Sunday 11 A.M. and 6:30 P.M.
Wednesday 7:00 P.M.
Friday 7:30 P.M.



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