

The Frankford Gazette

Serving the Great Neighborhood of Frankford in Philadelphia, PA

WWW.FRANKFORDGAZETTE.COM

VOL. I—TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2011

Welcome to the Frankford Gazette

Welcome to the first printed edition of the Frankford Gazette. Four years ago we started the Gazette as an online neighborhood web site at www.frankfordgazette.com. We have a large following on the internet but we cannot reach the entire community that way.

This print edition will carry the best stories and features of the online edition plus some things of its own. Local

businesses will be able to advertise here. We will carry family announcements like birthdays, graduations etc. We want to feature your local news from church and school. This is your community newspaper.

There are good things happening in Frankford every day. We are a community on the move.



Photo by Pete Specos

Food Trust Farmers Market Comes to Frankford



The Food Trust, a nonprofit founded in 1992, started out by conducting nutrition education classes for children at Reading Terminal Market. After the Trust opened its first farmers' market at Tasker Homes in Grays Ferry, they began working with communities to develop lasting and stable sources of affordable foods.

They strive to make healthy food available to all. As part of that mission, they have established local

farmers markets throughout the city and on Tuesday, July 26th, they are coming to Frankford at the corner of Bridge Street and Frankford Avenue.

It will run every Tuesday from 2pm-6pm. There will be two vendors there: Hands on the Earth Farm and Quaff Meadows. Both will have a delicious variety of fruits and vegetables as well as pasture-raised lamb provided by Quaff Meadows! The market accepts cash, Access cards, WIC & Senior vouchers, and Philly Food Bucks (a \$2 voucher given out for every \$5 a person spends on their Access card).

Attention shoppers, I know you are out there. I'll be up there on Tuesday



to take your picture. Come out and check the market out and then chime in with a comment on what you think.



Lorenzo's 50th Anniversary

On July 26, 1956 the big news in Philadelphia was that the mayor, Richardson Dilworth, was on the Italian liner Andrea Doria which had collided with the SS Stockholm the previous night. It was the first big TV media event as the local outlets scrambled to cover the tragedy. Among the less well known persons aboard the Andrea Doria were Giuseppe Della Valle and his son Lorenzo who had boarded in Naples on their way to Philadelphia.

Five years later Lorenzo made history in opening his own barber shop in Frankford. Now, 50 years later Lorenzo continues to watch the parade of activity from his window on Frankford Avenue near Harrison Street.

Happy anniversary and many more to come.



Lorenzo Della Valle, owner of Lorenzo's, 4848 Frankford Ave

Summer Is the Perfect Reading Season at the Free Library!

I received a flyer from the Free Library of Philadelphia about their summer reading programs. I remember, oh so well, my own participation in these programs as a young child. Such memories are lasting! The Free Library has reading programs for ALL ages! The theme for this year's summer reading program is Discover the World @ Your Library. Check out the Frankford Branch located at 4634 Frankford Avenue.

Exercise your mental muscles with Summer Reading at the Free Library!

Chock full of books, special activities, and surprises, Summer Reading at the Free Library is a fun way for schoolchildren to keep their minds sharp over the summer. This year's theme is Discover the World @ Your Library. Summer Reading runs from June 20 through August 12 and features a special game board that rewards young readers with prizes for reading along the way. And remember, Summer Reading isn't just for kids! Teens and adults can participate and win prizes for reading, too.

To learn how you or your child can join in the fun, visit your Free Library neighborhood branch.

Did you Know? Summer reading at the Free Library helps prevent summer brain drain in 60,000 Philadelphia children, teens, and adults by keeping their reading skills fresh and up-to-date!

About the Frankford Gazette

This is a print edition of some of the articles available online. Go to www.frankfordgazette.com to get full details.

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Printing provided by: The Frankford CDC

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Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory

Note: This is a reprint of a story which ran in January of 2010. The Boat Factory is still running their program and was featured in the Philadelphia Inquirer on July 19th.



Brett Hart, Exec Director

A few weeks ago, Jim noted that Google is now showing businesses on Google maps. One of businesses that turned up in Frankford was the Philadelphia Wooden Boat Factory. That sounded interesting and I looked up their web site to see what I could find out about them. They have recently moved into the Globe from their original location in South Philly. It became obvious that there would be no ship construction going on in Frankford. This turns out to be an educational/youth development program. I emailed to find out if anybody would like to talk about it.

A couple of days later got a call from a guy named Brett who said he would be happy to give me the story and we could meet at the Globe over on Worth Street. I met with him last Wednesday and got a better story than I had bargained for.

Brett Hart is thirty something and lived on Hawthorne Street and attended Frankford Friends. He is the Executive director of the Philadelphia Wooden boat Factory.

They have a canoe building program that is up and running now.



PWBF Canoe Program is a long-term boat building program that is available free to eligible Philadelphia area schools. Taking place typically over a 12-week period during either the fall or spring academic semester, Philadelphia area students (14-18 years old) work three hours a week to complete a 15-foot canoe. Participating students become proficient with academic fundamentals and practical application of skills such as reading blueprints, understanding and using scale, linear measurement, applying material properties, applying trigonometric/geometric principle, safe tool use/care, and fine woodworking. Additionally, in a group setting, students further develop critical/analytical thinking, problem solving, conflict resolution, responsibility, and self-reliance skills. PWBF's unique educational philosophy, in conjunction with the canoe project, enables students to creatively develop and apply academic, personal, and interpersonal skills in a practical hands-on environment.

In addition they are looking to start a new after school boat building program. This pilot program is slated to begin for a group of twelve 8th grade students on January 25th with a five-month restoration project that will lead into a competitive sailing program by June. The restoration will entail rebuilding a boat called a Lightning. One was in the shop the day I visited and Brett was going to pick up the second this past weekend.

I had fairly simple questions. Safety with kids around wood working equipment is important. The shop is equipped with a table saw that will stop if it is touched by any part of the body. I had heard of them but never



saw one in person. The dust collection system looks up to the job. They are partnering with the Broad Street Y for swimming lessons to make sure all the kids who go out on the water can swim.

Anyone having an interest in this program can contact Brett Hart via email at Brett@woodenboatfactory.org. Visit www.woodenboatfactory.org for a good look at the philosophy and more pictures.

This is another of the interesting things going on over at the Globe in historic East Frankford.



Dateline Frankford 1785

Joe Menkevich has one foot in the 18th century and the other one here with us in the 21st. He brought back this news account of a crime in Frankford some 226 years ago on this date. I transcribed it myself from the pdf which you can read here to see the original text. It is a fascinating glimpse into the past. It is amazing that we still have these documents preserved and even more amazing that they can be accessed by those who have an interest.

Headline: Philadelphia, July 26; Article Type: News/Opinion

Paper: Columbian Herald, published as The Columbian Herald or the Patriotic Courier of North-America; Date: 08-10-1785; Issue: 82; Page: [2]; Location: Charleston, South Carolina

Philadelphia, July 26

On Saturday last was executed agreeable to the sentence passed upon him by the court of Oyer and Terminer, for committing a rape on the body of a young girl of reputable parentage, and unblemished character, the unfortunate Francis Courtney. He was a native of Ireland and had borne a good character until the day on which he committed the crime for which he paid his life as forfeiture. About twelve months ago he landed on these shores and for the discharge of his passage money bound himself to Mr. William Morris of this city. With this gentleman he lived to the satisfaction of his master and the family until Sunday the 3rd inst. When instigated by the devil, and by his own lustful passions, he robbed an innocent young woman of her chastity and happiness, the circumstances of which unhappy transaction are as follow:

The unfortunate sufferer in this affair was a hired servant; born and for many years a resident of this city. On Saturday the 11th of June, she removed to the house of a gentleman in the country, in which she lived until the time of her misfortune. Having been three weeks absent from her former master and mistress, she felt desirous of returning to Philadelphia and paying them a visit. Accordingly, upon request, she obtained liberty to go to the city, and for that purpose, was favoured with a horse. She set off from the place of her residence on Sunday morning, took breakfast and dinner with the domestics of Mr. Morris's family; of which Courtney was one and about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, she started from town with the view of returning home -- When she had proceeded as far as Poole's

bridge, she was overtaken by Courtney, who insisted on escorting her part of the way home, tho' greatly against her inclinations.

It was the intention of the girl to turn off at Frankfort Mills but was dissuaded from her design by Courtney, who assured, that he could conduct her by a better way. Accordingly they rode in company until they came to a narrow-land, about a mile below the Jolly Post. Down this Courtney insisted on their turning as the nearest way home -- She tho't it was not the right way, however they turned down and rode for some time, till they came to a small piece of woods. Here Courtney's behavior first evinced the baseness of his intentions. He made use of hard and menacing language, which so intimidated the poor girl, that she prepared for leaping off and for attempting her escape; but his alertness unhappily exceeded her's. Throwing himself on the ground, he seized her, drew her from her horse and dragged her across the road. It was in vain that the unhappy girl screamed 'murder' as loudly as her feeble voice would permit; in vain was it that she strove to protect herself from violation, by her own exertions. To suppress her shrieks, Courtney twice struck her with his fist on the neck and face; once attempting to thrust his handkerchief into her mouth, and once endeavoured to tie it about her throat; however by thrusting her hand between her neck and the handkerchief, she preserved herself from being strangled. But fruitless were her efforts for the preservation of her chastity! No fortunate traveler was at hand who could fly to her assistance and minister a timely relief! No friend or relative to drop the tear of compassion over her misfortune, or to pour the balm of consolation into her afflicted bosom! No! The die was cast. Brutal strength prevailed over female imbecility.

Two women and a man were at a distance, hearing dismal shrieks, and supposing them to be some objects in distress, made towards the place from whence the sounds proceeded. When they approached the unhappy young woman, they perceived that she was in a most pitiable situation. Her hair was greatly disheveled, her neck and breast extremely bruised, her clothes tattered and muddy, and altogether, she resembled more a frantic person than one possessed of reason. She ran with lifted hands toward Mr. Glen, who was the person that came with the women to her assistance. He avoided her; but pointing towards Courtney, who was endeavouring to carry off the horse of the injured girl; but perceiving that he was in danger of

Dateline Frankford 1785 (cont'd)

being overtaken, he mounted his own horse and fled with the utmost speed. At the Jolly Post he was overtaken, where his horse stopped, tho greatly to the surprise and confusion of his rider. He then cried out for help, declared that his pursuer intended to rob him. However his artifice availed him nothing. He was apprehended and committed to prison. The unfortunate girl in the meantime was, with much difficulty, brought to the Jolly Post, where after repeatedly fainting away, she was conveyed to bed. The next day she was examined by a magistrate and it was requisite that she should identify the person who had abused her, Courtney was produced. The moment

she saw him she became violently convulsed, and it was a considerable time before she was sufficiently calm to declare that he was the very person. Nor was she less agitated when at court she was desired to look at the prisoner at the bar and declare whether he was the identical person by whom she had been violated. She looked up, but the instant her eyes caught his, she fell into such a throng of convulsions, that it appeared a matter of difficulty to preserve her alive. When she was somewhat recovered, she declared as before, that he was the very person. The trial then went on. Courtney was found guilty of the crime, sentenced to death and on Saturday last, as was men-

Antiques and Collectables Appraisal Fundraiser at the HSF

The antiques and collectables appraisal fundraiser at the Historical Society of Frankford was a first for me. The only thing old in our house is me so I didn't think I would find it too rewarding. On the other hand I do enjoy the Antiques Roadshow on PBS and the somewhat funkier shows on the history channel like Pawn Stars. So I decided to give it a look. I did have an old atlas to take for appraisal and since it was a fundraiser, what the heck, it didn't matter if it wasn't worth anything. The money was going to support the HSF which is one of Frankford's unrecognized treasures.

So last Tuesday night, there we were standing in line. I didn't expect to do any video but I keep that little video camera in my pocket just in case and

ended up using it. It was just like Antiques Road Show but on Orthodox Street. People had all sorts of stuff; clocks, radios, coke bottles, jewelry, clothing, flatware and fine old books such as mine. Most of the fun is in watching what other people have and wondering "what is that thing".

What I cannot figure out is how these guys know all this stuff. Barry Slosberg and Rob Goldstein were doing the appraisals for Barry S. Slosberg Inc. I videod the entire appraisal of our humble atlas by Rob so you can get a feel for what they do. You have to pay attention because Barry was doing another appraisal right next to us. You get some history of the item, some historical context and then a guess at the value.

One guy had something that they did not identify except to say it was definitely old and authentic and worth doing some more research on. Everybody was having a good time and a lot of people were just enjoying the show. All in all a fun time. Now I have to look for something really old for next year.

One item of note is that last night was the last meeting of the HSF for outgoing president Rev. Paul Andell. He is retiring from his post as pastor of St. James Lutheran Church and returning to the home of his ancestors in Minnesota. He will be missed. He can be seen at the very end of the video.

View the video at

<http://youtu.be/rVuq6LqP-aU>

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Coming Up in Frankford

- **Frankford Business and Professional Association Meeting**

When – Tue, July 26, 12pm – 2pm

Where – Frankford Aria Hospital

Description – The next Frankford Business & Professional Association Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 26th, from 12n to 2p at Frankford Aria Hospital (4900 Frankford Avenue), in the conference room on the second floor. Lunch will be provided. SCORE, a national nonprofit that provides free services to small businesses, will be presenting.

- **Weekly Frankford Farmers Market**

When – Tue, July 26, 2pm – 6pm (and every Tuesday until November)

Where – Frankford Ave. and Bustleton Ave.

Description – The first weekly farmers market will be held in front of the SEPTA police office. Fresh fruit and produce.

- **Frankford Civic Association Special Meeting**

When – Wed, July 27, 7pm – 8pm

Where – Aria Health, 4900 Frankford Ave. 2nd floor

Description – Zoning issues for 4677 Frankford Ave., 2056 Bridge St., 4947 Frankford Ave., 5108 Torresdale Ave.

- **Northeast Philadelphia EPIC Stakeholders Group**

When – Thu, July 28, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

Where – Aria Hospital, 4900 Frankford Avenue in the 2nd floor meeting room.

Description – The ultimate goal is to create a process that enhances the community's ability to solve issues surrounding truancy, domestic violence, child safety and substance abuse.

- **Frankford Special Services District Quarterly Board Meeting**

Please be advised that the Frankford Special Services District Quarterly Board Meeting on August 1st has been postponed to: Monday, September 12, 8.30am. It will still be held in our office at St. Mark's Church (Griscom St entrance), 4442 Frankford Ave.

- **Friends of Overington Park**

When – Tue, August 2, 7pm – 8pm

Where- Overington Park, Leiper and Orthodox Streets

Description- This meeting has been cancelled but the group (including the Pres and Treasurer and Secty) are meeting in the Park every Monday at 8:00 AM – to water and weed the garden beds and trees Want to help? Just come join us! We supply the tools.

- **Grand Army of the Republic Museum Open House**

When – Sun, August 7, 12pm – 5pm

Where – 4278 Griscom Street, Philadelphia, PA 19124

Description – Presentation at 1:30 PM: Devil Diarist of Winchester, VA Jerry Holsworth

- **Concerned Citizens of Northwood Meeting**

When – Thu, August 11, 7pm – 8pm

Where – Simpson Playground – Orthodox St.

- **Frankford Second Saturday Festival**

When – Sat, August 13, 12pm – 5pm

Where – 4500 block of Frankford Avenue

Description – Come celebrate the Arts in Frankford with performances, free food and art to browse or buy, Sponsored by the Frankford CDC, Frankford Aria Hospital and Quicky Mart Express. Performances will be held at the Parking Lot at 4346 Frankford Avenue.