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- Hot pasta dishes from area restaurants
- Beer, wine and soft drinks
- Raffle prizes

If you like to bake or cook, we invite you to bring a dessert or side dish to share, but it's not necessary.

Come with family, friends, or neighbors, and meet other Queen Villagers!



ILLUSTRATION BY CAROLYN DRAFTZ

Making a difference in neighborhood schools

With all of the cutbacks in Philadelphia public schools, the Queen Village Neighbors Association is making a difference in its two neighborhood schools. Just before Thanksgiving, the QVNA Board voted to grant Nebinger and Meredith Elementary Schools \$5,000. The Schools & Youth Activities Committee decided to split the money evenly between the two schools.



Nebinger's new principal, Anh Brown, will use her \$2,500 to purchase Smart Board technology for the classrooms. Nebinger needs \$11,000 in technology upgrades and the \$2,500 will go toward this effort.

Meredith's principal, Cindy Farlino, says she will use her \$2,500 to purchase PSSA Test support materials for the entire school. The annual academic achievement tests are mandated by the state of Pennsylvania.

If you would like to support Nebinger and Meredith Elementary schools, send your check payable to "QVNA" to P.O. Box 63763, Philadelphia PA 19147. Please note in the memo "Schools and Youth Activities Committee." You can also donate electronically at www.qvna.org. For information about the QVNA Schools & Youth Activities Committee email qvnaschoolnews@gmail.com. It truly does take Queen Village to save our schools!*

Leslie Patterson Taylor, QVNA Board member and co-president of Meredith Home and School Association, *at left in both photos*, made the presentations to **Anh Brown**, *above right*, and **Cindy Farlino**, *above, left*.



President's Report | Jeff Hornstein, QVNA President

New board members bring new talents

A very nice crowd came to St. Philip Neri for the November General Meeting. Nearly 100 Queen Villagers showed up to eat pizza (generously donated by neighborhood gastro-pub, Kennett), learn about the City's proposed Bike Share program, and vote in annual Board elections. I am thrilled to welcome Duncan Spencer, Ben Schindler, Jonathan Rubin, and Sean Edwards, who will add incredible depth to an already strong QVNA Board. Each has particular strengths and interests; all are united by their passion for and commitment to our community.

Incoming Vice President Duncan Spencer has been skillfully leading the Friends of Weccacoe Playground through a challenging

process of balancing a much-needed, City-funded playground renovation project with an amazing opportunity to commemorate one of the country's oldest African American burial grounds – which happens to lie beneath roughly one-quarter of the playground. Incoming Treasurer, Ben

Continued on page 2

QVNA offers energy audits for \$99

Page 3

Profile: Bessie Shuler loves South Philly

Page 6

Tips to promote safe holidays

Page 6

Tree planting & recycling, Leaf cleanup

Pages 5 and 10

QUEEN VILLAGE NEIGHBORS ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 63763, Philadelphia, PA 19147
phone 215-339-0975 • fax 215-701-4202
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THE CRIER IS PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

President's Report | Continued from page 1

Schindler has already cut his teeth by serving on the recently-created QVNA Finance Committee and has many ideas for enhancing QVNA's fiscal position. Jonathan Rubin has been the guiding force behind the Friends of Bainbridge Green and I know he will bring much enthusiasm and passion to the Board. And Sean Edwards is already demonstrating his philanthropic proclivities by running a Holiday Toy Drive for needy families at the Nebinger School. Congratulations to the new members for putting themselves out there. I look forward to working with each of them and with the rest of the talented and dedicated crew they will be joining.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank several departing Board members for their service to our community. Outgoing Treasurer Bill Landy has spent the past four years keeping QVNA's finances rock-solid, and leaves a strong legacy in the form of a recently-created Finance Committee. Outgoing Vice President Honey Pertnoy contributed in many ways, but most notably as founder and co-chair of the QVNA Dog Committee, spearheading the dedicated dog waste disposal program and keeping Mario Lanza's dog run ship-shape. And outgoing At-Large member Kim Maialetti devoted her talents to forming the QVNA Public Safety Committee which has worked on improving lighting, networking security cameras, and is in early stages of formulating a community public safety plan. After years of civic engagement, I have no doubt that each will remain active in the community.

Need a parking space? QVNA needs you

As regular Crier readers know, QVNA has for the past eight years run a Community Parking Lot under I-95 between Christian and Carpenter. The lot has "done well and done good," taking 95 cars off our congested streets while providing revenue to staff the QVNA office and to fund many worthwhile programs – such as sidewalk cleaning, support for our neighborhood schools and police mini-station, dedicated dog waste containers, beautification efforts, and much more.

Coming to Queen Village:
Vew possibilities for parking both
your car and your bike.

The QVNA lot has had a waiting list for the past several years, so I am thrilled to announce that we will be opening a **second QVNA Parking Lot**, between Carpenter and Washington, early next year. We intend to keep monthly rates well below market prices; spaces currently run \$95 a month. In addition to monthly spots, in response to numerous requests for short-term visitor parking, we are considering a plan to set aside a few short-term spaces. Details to be determined. **Monthly spaces will go quickly, so don't hesitate to contact Carla at the QVNA Office at 215-339-0975 or via email at info@qvna.org ASAP to reserve a spot.**

On the subject of transportation, a few words about bikes: Aaron Ritz from the Mayor's Office of Transportation was our guest speaker

Continued on page 4



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- Community Activities and Events
- Queen Village Friends of Parks Groups
- Neighborhood Schools
- Sidewalk Cleaning

**WITH YOUR CONTRIBUTION,
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- contribute as a neighborhood to projects such as saving the roof of historic Emmanuel Lutheran Church on 4th Street
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Thank you for helping QVNA be so much more vital!

Here's my contribution to QVNA's vitality!

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Address: _____

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Mail to or drop off, at QVNA, P.O. Box 63763, 19147 (Checks payable to QVNA)

QVNA offers home energy audits at reduced cost of \$99

The QVNA Clean & Green Committee (C&G) is working with Mark Group to provide home energy audits for Queen Village residents at the reduced cost of \$99.

A home energy audit takes a comprehensive look at your home's energy use, especially whether key areas of your house are causing you to waste energy when heating or cooling your home. The three to four hour visit by a certified auditor includes a complete visual inspection, health and safety analysis, and diagnostic testing. Afterwards, you'll receive a report documenting the findings, recommending improvements, and calculating the energy savings associated with those improvements.



On average, more than 50% of a home's energy consumption is due to heating and cooling. The most cost-effective way to lower your usage is by keeping the air you pay to heat and cool in your home longer. Although there is no obligation to purchase energy

PGW and PECO both offer incentive programs to help area homeowners make energy-efficiency improvements. Both require an audit.

saving home improvements through Mark Group, their technicians can professionally install recommendations such as air sealing and insulation upgrades.

Right now, there are also incentive programs available to help area homeowners make energy-efficiency improvements. For PGW customers, the recently-launched PGW EnergySense Home Rebates offers rebates calculated on the projected energy-savings of the measures and their costs. PECO Smart House Call offers rebates to customers whose primary heat source is electric and pay an RH rate. (An audit is required to take advantage of both programs.)

The Keystone HELP 0.99% loan can be used to help pay for energy-efficiency home improvements, in conjunction with the above rebates or not. For qualifying applicants, terms up to 10 years are available. Often, homeowners find the improvements pay for themselves in less than that time!

Mark Group is the largest energy efficiency provider in the Greater Philadelphia region. Founded in 1974 in the U.K., Mark Group currently helps over 6,000 homes a week in the U.S., U.K., Australia and New Zealand. They have been operating in the U.S. since 2010 at The Navy Yard Smart Energy Campus in Philadelphia, where they directly employ and train their auditors and technicians.

Mark Group looks forward to meeting residents of Queen Village at an upcoming General Meeting. You may learn more about what we do at www.markgroup.com, contact a member of the Clean and Green Committee. *

Graphic from NREL, National Renewable Energy Laboratory



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President's Report | Continued from page 2

at the November meeting and he gave an informative presentation on the City's proposed Bike Share Program. Conceived as part of the City's transportation system, Bike Share will, I think, enhance our community's ability to take short trips without worrying about parking, and will provide an alternative to SEPTA for those of us who commute to work in Center City or University City. City officials see Queen Village as a target neighborhood, and plan to locate anywhere from 5-10 stations nearby. As Aaron was careful to say, though, no decisions on station siting will be made without full community input, so stay tuned or check out bikesharephiladelphia.org.

On a related note, if you would like a bike rack near your home, QVNA may be able to help. Contact the office for details.

And finally, Schools and Youth Activities Committee Chair Leslie Tyler announced the awarding of two \$2,500 grants from QVNA to our two neighborhood schools, Meredith and Nebinger (*see story, page 1*). The grants will allow the principals to purchase needed items such as Smart Boards and test-preparation materials so that our children have the educational opportunities they richly deserve.

Stay tuned in 2014 for exciting new initiatives as the new Board members hit the ground running. As always, your support for QVNA is critical. Regular readers of this column know that QVNA does a lot more than most civic associations, but we can't do it without YOU. So in this holiday season, I ask you to consider a tax-deductible contribution via check to "QVNA" or online at qvna.org. And as always, please feel free to reach out to me with ideas and suggestions at jeff.hornstein@gmail.com. *

Free Holiday Events and Displays



MOTHER BETHEL Cathedral Choir and Friends will perform **HANDEL'S MESSIAH** at 6 pm, Sunday, December 15 at 419 South Sixth Street.

THE READING TERMINAL MARKET'S interactive 500-square foot **MODEL RAILROAD DISPLAY** has almost a third of a mile of track on which 17 trains rumble through miniature scenery including Center City, a Christmas Village, and a snow-covered countryside. The Market, at 12th and Arch Streets, opens daily at 10 am; \$4 parking is available at 12th and Filbert and 11th and Arch. Secure a sticker from any merchant where you spend \$10.

On the web, Hidden City, Philadelphia, lists **STORE WINDOWS AND OTHER DECORATED SPOTS** including Macy's, the Comcast Center's exhibit, and Christmas Village in LOVE Park. See hiddencityphila.org/



What it takes to plant your typical street tree

By Dan Gibbon, Chair, Queen Village Tree Tenders

A) Drag the tree from the staging area—Weccacoe recreation center in the case of Queen Village—to the spot where the tree is to be planted. This can be two blocks or if the tree is going to be planted at



Moyamensing and Washington, this can be a lot of blocks.

B) Discover what goodies lie beneath the tranquil surface of the freshly cut tree pit as you begin to dig a hole for the tree. Batteries, oyster shells, bricks, rocks from the Pleistocene era, old roots and stumps.

C) Fit the roots of the tree into the hole that has challenged your under-used back muscles and begin to put back into the hole that which you just extracted, sans the detritus.

D) WATER!!! The poor tree needs lots of it to adapt to its new home. The only problem is there is typically not a stream running by the tree pit so a friendly neighbor willing to share about 20 gallons of his or her water needs to be found.

E) Pound stakes that look like they were designed to pierce the heart of giant vampires into the pit to give the tree support until it can stand on its own.

F) Cover the finished product with mulch that you have carted from Weccacoe. (*Refer to Step A.*)

Profound thanks to all who collectively repeated steps A to F 30 different times on November 23 to give Queen Village a whole new crop of trees to soften and add color to our neighborhoods.

Editor's note: Look for the "Plant One Million" tags as you walk the neighborhood.

Treecycling on January 4

Greenlimbs and QVNA's Clean & Green Committee will work together again this year to offer Treecycling. On Saturday, January 4, from 9 am to 4 pm, residents of Queen Village (and beyond) may bring un-ornamented trees and holiday greens to Weccacoe Playground or the Whole Foods Market at 10th and South for recycling. Treecycled trees and greens will be diverted from landfills and turned, instead, into renewable, reusable mulch. Suggested donation is \$5 per tree and \$2 per wreath. Donations allow greenlimbs and the Clean and Green Committee to continue to make our little corner of the world a beautiful, sustainable one. To volunteer, or for questions, email treecycling@greenlimbs.com

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Festival of Carols

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Know Your Neighbors | Bessie (Betty) Shuler

By Jean Barr and Carla Puppini

You couldn't pay her a million dollars to get out of South Philly," Bessie Shuler's husband, Morgan, was fond of repeating. For her entire 80 plus years, Bessie Shuler has lived within a one mile circumference of Lombard Street.

Born at home as were her four sisters, Bessie (Betty) began life on the 500 block of Reese Street, a tiny street between Lombard and South Streets. Early on, Bessie's family moved to 627B Lombard Street which was connected by a secret passageway dating to the days of the Underground Railroad to 627A Lombard—where Bessie's great -grandmother lived. Around the block on Sixth Street lived her grandmother's sister, while her mother's sister lived on Naudain Street just above South St, and her maternal grandmother lived on Delancey between Sixth and Seventh Streets. If you counted, there were five generations of the family within a few

“We didn't need to have family reunions. We saw each other all the time.”

square blocks. As Bessie, puts it, “We didn't need to have family reunions—we saw each other all the time.”

Bessie's great aunt, Mabel Dodson, was one of the leaders of long-time renters on the 600 block of Lombard Street who organized to stay in their homes when urban renewal projects were forcing people out of their homes in Society Hill in the 1970s.

Bessie's recollections from childhood on Lombard Street are vivid. In the 1940s, only one person on the block had an automobile. “You had to have a little bit of money to have a car.” In all of his 90 plus years, her Uncle Gus never rode in a car or a bus his entire life. Bessie, who loves to walk, reflected, “He walked everywhere, that's where I got my walking.” Her father, Richard Lewis Johnson, worked for the city as a trash man in the days of horse-drawn trash wagons picking up the heavy metal trash cans filled with ashes from the wood stoves that heated many homes.

Pearlstein's glass store on Randolph Street (just off Lombard) between Fifth and Sixth Streets gave away the wood from the packing slats for large windows, and as a favor to Bessie's father, the workers would cut the slats into manageable pieces, which Bessie and her sisters lugged home as firewood.

Bessie went to McCall Elementary School at 6th and Delancey. She also helped earn money for the family by doing housework for the Levi Family of Levi's Deli, now gone, but once a fixture on South Sixth Street just below Lombard. The 600 block of Lombard was a mixed neighborhood at the time, and Bessie readily called up names—her Irish friends Ruth Ann and Stella, another girl who was Polish; she recalled the Italian mom and pop store at 7th and Lombard, run by the Romano family. “I didn't know anything about prejudice until I was grown,” Bessie says. “We all played together, slept over and ate over at each other's houses.”

Bessie's years at Bartlett Middle School on the 1100 block of

Continued on page 7

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Catharine Street proved fateful. As a 15-year old, she regularly went to the city dances held at Seger Recreation Center (10th and Lombard Streets) after basketball games. At that time, Seger had a large building that housed a basketball court. That's where she met her future husband, Morgan Shuler. Morgan was 13 years old when he came from Lancaster to Philadelphia, and lived on Webster Street right behind Bartlett.



Besse Shuler and her son Tony

Bessie and Morgan married in 1951 and then moved several times, but never far: to Twelfth Street between Lombard and Pine, then to the 300 block of Gaskill Street, to Fourth and Catharine Streets, and finally to the 500 block of Kaufman Street, where Bessie still lives. Morgan, who died in 2012, knew his wife well. She's still in South Philly.

*(This article is part of a longer history compiled in interviews and conversations with Bessie Shuler by Jean Barr and Carla Puppini.) **

Holiday Safety Tips from the QVNA Public Safety Committee

Traveling? Set automatic timers on lights. Ask a neighbor to watch your house, remove papers, mail and ads left in your doorway, and shovel snow if necessary.

Going out for the evening? Turn on lights and leave the television or radio on. Lock all your doors and windows, even if you're planning to be back very soon. Keep expensive gifts out of sight.

Shopping? Stay alert and pay attention to what's going on around you. Use your cell phone or check your holiday shopping list while you're inside or standing in a well-lit spot, not while you're walking along crowded or dark streets. Carry as little cash as necessary. Don't overburden yourself with packages. Keep purses and handbags closed, and held close to the body. Put your wallet or cash in an inside coat pocket or front pants pocket.

Leaving luggage or gifts in a parked car? Keep them in the trunk or otherwise out of sight while parked in public places.

Parking your car in public places or preparing to drive it away? Park in a well lit spot. Be aware of your surroundings when leaving or approaching your car. Don't approach your car if there are suspicious people in the area. Locate your keys *before* going to your car. Hang on to your purse, handbag or parcels when you're opening the car doors.

Continued on page 10



Haute Mexican? Divine Mexican!

Forget any preconceived notions you may have about Mexican cuisine. Paloma's elegantly refined dishes are neither spicy nor slathered with cheese.

Chef-owner Adán Saavedra (a 2011 James Beard semifinalist) applies French cooking techniques to the ingredients of his native Mexico for a cuisine that is visually stunning and unforgettably delicious. Be sure to leave room for one of Paloma's renowned house-made desserts, too. You'll see why the 2013 Zagat guide rates Paloma seventh in the region for food!

\$35 three course prix fixe offered Tuesday to Thursday. Open Tuesday through Saturday beginning at 5 pm. Paloma is BYOB and accepts all major credit cards. Reservations are recommended.

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Two ways to help Nebinger: Target Redcard, Recycling Rewards

Nebinger students earn awards for good behavior and student achievement and 'spend' them at the 'school store.' You can help stock the store with things like \$5 gift cards to Target or Walmart or other school supply items. Donations can be dropped at the school office at 601 Carpenter Street.

For Target credit card holders: Target will donate 1% of your purchases to the school with their REDcard and there is no cost to you! You just have to designate George W. Nebinger Elementary as your school by doing the following:

- Go to www.target.com; at the top of the screen, click on REDcard; under Take Charge of Education, click on the Learn More button; find 'Have a REDcard' and click on 'Find a school'
- Under Target School ID: enter 90642 and hit return
- On the next screen click on a red 'select this school' button, and you're done!



If you don't have a Target REDcard and you get one you can designate the school when you apply.

Recycle and earn recycle bank points and donate them to Nebinger. Friends of Nebinger is going to apply again for a grant from the Recycle Bank. Last year, donation of Recycle Points by Queen Village residents earned Nebinger a \$2,500 grant for an outdoor classroom. We can apply every year, so start saving your points for a 2014 grant!



If you aren't already signed up you can, go to www.recyclebank.com and register to get a sticker for your recycling bin. Weekly updates of your recycling efforts will be automatically sent to you. When we receive

information about the grant acceptance, we will post how to donate your points to Nebinger. For now, save your points! Check the website for many ways to earn additional points. The webpage is available in Spanish.

The Nebinger community thanks you for your support! *

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Dog waste containers bring positive response

By Honey Pertnoy and Brent Chavis

The containers for dog waste are in place and with few exceptions are running quite smoothly. The community has responded positively to our effort to rid the neighborhood of dog poop on the sidewalks and the grassy areas, and we thank you for that!

We particularly thank Sean Melody, the cochair of QVK9, who has worked with us consistently to make this project a success. There still is a problem of trash being deposited in the containers, but it is much improved since they were first installed. We realize that due to dog owners' positive reaction to the containers, some are filling up more quickly than we expected. The committee is working to rectify this and encourages neighbors to contact the sponsor responsible for a container that is full and needs to be changed.

The name and contact information of the sponsor is located on the container of poop bags above each waste container.

Below are the locations of the waste containers and the businesses sponsoring them. We urge you to visit the sponsors to show your appreciation for their efforts to keep Queen Village the wonderful place to live that it is.

1. Front and Lombard Streets - O'Neal's Pub
2. Front and Bainbridge Streets - Barkadelphia
3. Bainbridge Street between 3rd and 4th - Queen Village Animal Hospital
4. 3rd and Fitzwater Streets - New Wave Cafe
5. Christian Street And Columbus Boulevard - QVNA and QVK9
6. Washington Avenue and Water Street - Cory Solar, dog walker - www.dogvacay.com
7. 5th and Queen Streets - Jane the Pet Nanny
8. 2nd and Christian Streets - (in front of the shopping Center) - Walk It Like A Dog
9. The Point - intersection of Passyunk Avenue, 6th Street, and Kaufman Street - Tucker's Dogs *

Keep the bugs in when the mattress goes out

The Streets Department reminds citizens of the changes in the Sanitation regulations governing how mattresses and box springs are placed out for curbside collection and the set-out times for trash and recycling collections. These changes affect residents and small businesses that receive City Sanitation services.

Effective December 1, mattresses and box springs must be encased and sealed in plastic mattress bags in order to be collected. These bags are available for purchase at many retail stores and online. This regulation is being instituted to protect against the spread of bed bugs. Mattresses and box springs that are not properly sealed will not be collected nor accepted at our Sanitation Convenience Centers.

Also, through March 31, trash and recycling collections may be set out as early as 5 pm on the evening before the day of collection. The set-out time from April 1 to September 30 will remain at no earlier than 7 pm on the evening before the day of collection. The new regulation will ensure that citizens have the ability to set out their trash during daylight hours throughout the entire year. This change was enabled by recent City Council legislation. *

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Harvesting leaves for the earth, not the sewers

By Lauren Leonard

Co-chair, Clean and Green Committee

On Saturday, November 23, the Clean & Green Committee (C&G) hosted the first annual Queen Village Leaf Collection. Though wet conditions the day before made for some heavy leaves, neighbors collected nearly 20 bags of them for composting with Mayfield Corporation. On Second Street, residents Lee Schmeer and Melissa Donnelly



(shown in photo) led efforts to fill 12 bags for curbside collection. Donnelly, a C&G committee member, reported several conversations with neighbors who were grateful for the collection and eager to get involved in future community activities. Thank you to all who participated, to QVNA for providing the bags, and to Mayfield Corporation for giving

us a sustainable option to recycle our leaves.

**Christmas Services at
 Gloria Dei (Old Swedes) Church**

Christmas Eve Tuesday, December 24
 7:00PM Holy Communion
 with Sunday School Tableau

Christmas Fellowship in Riverside Hall
 will follow Christmas Eve Service

Christmas Day Wednesday, December 25
 7:00 AM Julotta (Swedish Service)
 10:00 AM Holy Communion

First Sunday After Christmas, December 29
 10:00 AM Holy Communion

The Feast of the Epiphany Sunday, January 5, 2014
 10:00 AM Holy Communion

 Columbus Blvd. & Christian St.
 Philadelphia, PA 19147
 215.389.1513
 www.old-swedes.org

Holiday Safety Tips

Continued from page 7

Celebrating? Drink responsibly. Arrange a designated driver, or call a taxi. Never drink and drive.

Answering an unexpected doorbell? Scam artists often abuse holiday season generosity by going door-to-door for charitable contributions when there's no charity. It's best to only open the door if you know who is on the other side. If you do not know the person, ask for identification, and a flyer with an address, phone number and website.

Putting up a holiday display? Use a step stool or ladder, instead of the closest piece of furniture, when you're hanging decorations. Place candles away from children, pets, walkways, trees and curtains. Keep your holiday tree well watered so it doesn't become dry tinder. Check that wiring for decorative lights is not frayed or damaged. Clean or check your fireplace prior to using it.

Longtime Homeowners Property Tax Relief (LOOP) forms now in mail

Owners of residential properties that have had substantial increases in their property values should have received a letter in the mail from the City of Philadelphia, describing a new Real Estate Tax relief program for longtime homeowners, called LOOP, the Longtime Owner Occupants Program.

LOOP eligibility requirements are as follows:

- The property's 2014 Market Value minus the \$30,000 Homestead Exemption must be more than 3 times the 2013 Market Value
- Homeowners must own and have lived in this property as their primary residence since at least July 1, 2003.
- The property is a single family or a multi-unit property with no more than three residential units and one commercial unit.
- The property cannot have received a tax abatement now or in the past.
- The Real Estate Taxes on the property must be paid in full or be up-to-date on a payment plan (or have an application for a payment agreement pending).
- There are income limits based on household size.

Eligible property owners have been mailed a pre-filled application and brochure with their personalized tax savings information.

More information and a tool to check eligibility and amount of savings are available by calling 215-686-9200 or visiting www.phila.gov/loop. Assistance and information is available in multiple languages online and over the phone.

If you don't use a computer and need help, call the QVNA office. *

May we bring some color to your home or office?

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