

Connections For Humanity Newsletter

Important Dates This Month

January 2014

New Years Day

Wednesday, January 1

Martian Luther King Jr Day

Monday, January 20

Highlight Corner

Welcome To Our New State
Representative for the
179th Legislative District



State Representative • 179th District
JAMES CLAY, JR.

CAPITOL OFFICE:
125B East Wing
P.O. Box 202179
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2179
(717) 787-1354 • Fax: (717) 780-4789

DISTRICT OFFICE:
4915 Frankford Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19124
(215) 744-7901 • Fax: (215) 744-7906

SATELLITE OFFICE:
511 W. Courtland St.
Philadelphia, PA 19140
(215) 457-5281
Fax: (215) 457-5285
Hours: Mon. – Thurs. 10 am to 2 pm



One of my favorite parts about being a state representative is getting the opportunity to meet so many members of our community. We have such a vibrant, diverse and active neighborhood, and I truly enjoy the conversations I've had around the district. If you would like to tell me your take on an issue, or if you just want to introduce yourself, feel free to stop by the district office or email me at RepClay@pahouse.net.

Volunteer
Opportunities

January 2014

Volume 1, Issue 1

HAPPY NEW YEARS 2014



Honoring Martin Luther King Jr

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: 'What are you doing for others?'"



In honoring Dr. Martin Luther King Jr in a day of service Connections For Humanity will be volunteering our services to The Frankford Coalitions of Neighbors 28th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Breakfast Celebration. Serving the breakfast. Sankofa Freedom Academy Upper School, 4290 Peen Street. Free event & meal to all. Please bring a can to help support their local Food bank. Doors open at 8:am Breakfast sponsored by Councilwoman Maria D. Quinones-Sanchez



Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP)

Help for Longtime Homeowners

We have seen many positive changes to our neighborhoods. And with those changes some home values have risen, causing some longtime homeowners to face potentially steep increases in their tax bills. Homeowners with substantial changes in their property assessment may qualify for a discount on Real Estate Taxes with the Longtime Owner Occupants Program (LOOP).

Check if your home qualifies for LOOP and how much you can save.


If you are approved, your tax bill will be reduced for 10 years with a one-time application. To get these savings, **your application must be received by February 17, 2014**, and you have to meet the other requirements below.

• LOOP Eligibility Requirements:


- You must own and have lived in this property as your primary residence since at least July 1, 2003.
- Your home is either a single family or a multi-unit property with no more than three residential units and one commercial unit.
- Your property has not received a tax abatement.
- The Real Estate Taxes on your property must be paid in full or you must be up-to-date on a payment plan (or have an application for a payment agreement pending).
- There is an income limit based on Household size.

(application on next page)

Supporting Connections For Humanity To Help Make A Difference In the Philadelphia County



**Working
for You!**



**W. Curtis
Thomas**
State Representative
181st Legislative District

CAPITOL OFFICE:
214 Irvin Office Building
P.O. Box 202181
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2181
(717) 787-9471
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530 W. Girard Ave.
Philadelphia, PA 19123
(215) 560-3261
Fax: (215) 560-2152

WEBSITE: www.pahouse.com/Thomas

facebook www.facebook.com/RepWCurtisThomas

My office can help you with:

- Car registrations, special tags, titles and license applications
- Information on financial assistance for higher education
- Unemployment compensation problems
- Birth certificate applications
- Pennsylvania income tax problems
- Problems with the Department of Public Welfare (food stamps, welfare)
- Requests for literature of all kinds — bills, regulations, statutes, Pennsylvania maps, senior citizen information, student aid information, etc.
- Citations from the Pennsylvania House of Representatives for outstanding local accomplishments and family milestones
- Complaints or questions about utilities and the PUC
- Consumer complaints
- Complaints about road conditions
- Problems or questions about PennDOT
- Tours of the State Capitol for individuals or groups
- Disability plates and placards
- PACE cards for senior citizens
- Complaints and problems with insurance companies
- Property Tax/Rent Rebate problems or questions
- Problems or questions about the state lottery
- Local government officials' problems with state agencies
- **Any problem with state government!**



phila.gov

Managing Director's Office of Emergency Management

MDO-OEM



Stay warm when venturing out this winter with a few simple

Dress in Layers Wear hats, scarves, and water-repellent coats. Wear mittens instead of gloves; they'll keep your hands

Cover your mouth Protect your lungs from extremely cold air by covering your mouth.

Don't overdue do it Stretch before you go outside. Take your time while shoveling snow or pushing a car. Drink plenty of water to stay hydrated. And walk carefully on snowy, icy sidewalks!

Wind Chill makes you get colder faster, as the wind carries away heat from the body. Make sure small children stay warm - especially babies. Babies will get colder much faster than adults.

Frostbite is frozen body tissue, usually skin. It affects the extremities first: fingers, toes, ears, and the tip of the nose. The skin might lose feeling, or look white, pale, hard or waxy. As the area thaws, skin may turn red, blue or purple. Skin can also swell or blister. The victim may also feel tingling, burning or severe pain as the frost-bitten tissue thaws. If symptoms are detected, get medical help immediately.

Children lose body heat faster than adults, so they can get frostbite faster.

Hypothermia (abnormally low body temperature) is a life-threatening condition. Make sure small children – especially babies – stay warm. Babies will get colder much faster than adults. If symptoms of hypothermia are detected: Get to a warm location.

Are You A Veteran who is in Crisis ?

We are here for you

The Veterans Crisis Line connects Veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, or send a text message to **838255** to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.



Connections For Humanity supports our veterans. With information, resources, and referrals. We stand for them who served for us and the land of the free !

Beef & Beer

**Saturday
February 8, 2014
6:00pm ~ 10:00pm**

**The Bayview Inn
8100 Bayview Ave,
Wildwood Crest, NJ**



DJ - Raffle - Auction - 50/50

If you are unable to attend but wish to make a donation please go to our website or mail it to: NJ Run For The Fallen, PO Box 474, Wrightstown, NJ 08562-0474.

Tickets are \$20.00 in advance and can be purchased on our website via PayPal or by contacting:

Pay Online at
www.NJRunForTheFallen.org
(click on the "Beef & Beer" button)



All proceeds are used to cover the expenses of the Run and provide support for our military runners, Gold Star Family members and support teams.

Eileen Kreis at 609-846-6121

Mike Simpson at 732-688-6745

Ed (Tug) Devine at 856-417-5865

Donna Zabe at 732-513-2004

Andy Malson at 609 - 335 - 4852

Part-Time Van Driver Position: Van Driver/Outreach

Location: Headquarters (Center City, Philadelphia), St. Cecilia's (Chester, Delaware County), LZII (Coatesville, VA Medical Campus)

Responsibilities & Duties:

Drives/operates vehicle/van to transport Veteran clients to and from the Operating Base Cecilia (former St. Cecilia's School in Coatesville); the Coatesville and Philadelphia VA Medical Centers and the VA Regional Office; various shelters throughout the counties; the Veterans Multi-Service Center primary location in Philadelphia; and other designated locations deemed appropriate for the delivery of services and provision of assistance. SSVF-CMD case managers will accompany Van Driver/Outreach staff regularly.

Other Duties:

Fuel, clean and service vehicle as directed.

Maintain record of all vehicle utilization to include list of passengers, destinations, times of pick up, and miles driven.

Ensure safety of the passengers.

Maintain communications with base/center while off site in van.

Provide program information to potential Veteran clients and partner agencies.

Maintain contact with shelter contact points on a weekly basis.

Post SSVF-CMD information in all shelters of contact and check on a weekly basis.

Monitor client activity in Operating Base Cecilia ground floor (dining facility and computer lab) and be present for activities when not transporting clients.

Please send resume to Debby.Derricks@pvmsec.org

African American Museum in Philadelphia

Present your military ID and get two admissions for the price of one.

701 Arch Street

Philadelphia, PA 19106

Phone: 215-574-0380 x2

Army Navy Air Force Marines Coast Guard

Military joke of the week

There's an ARMY guy and a Marine in the bathroom taking a leak, The Army guy zips up and starts to leave, The marine runs to stop him and says..."You know, in the Marines they teach us to wash our hands AFTER WE PEE." Then the Army guy SAYS..." In the Army they teach not to pee on our hands!"

02/01/2014 – Philadelphia Wings American

Heroes Night

- On Saturday, February 1, 2014 the Philadelphia Wings Lacrosse will have an "American Heroes Night" where we are ALL invite to form a flag line on the field for the National Anthem. Everyone who participates will be given a ticket to enjoy the game, additional tickets for non participates can be obtained at a discounted rate. Bring 3'X5' American Flag. Rally location: Xfinity Live 1100 Pattison Ave, Phila. Pa. 19148. Rally Time: 6:00pm, we will walk over to the Wells Fargo Center at 6:20pm

Location: Xfinity Live, 1100 Pattison, Philadelphia, PA.

AARP

Smart Tips for Staying Healthy in 2014

January

Feeling groggy, a little sick and lethargic? It might not be a hangover. Over-the-counter sleep aids can mimic the effects of too much booze. Resolve to get on a regular sleep schedule, avoid caffeine and long daytime naps, exercise regularly and keep stress in check. Staring at cell phones and computers can make dry eyes feel even worse. The Mayo Clinic recommends using the 20/20/20 rule: For every 20 minutes you're on the computer, look away at an object at least 20 feet away for 20 seconds or more.



Councilwoman Cindy Bass
presents

Triumph Baptist Church
Germantown & Hunting Park Aves
Thursday, January 9th, 2014
6pm - 8pm

Reclaim Your Future
an expungement informational clinic

This is an informational clinic featuring presentations from Philadelphia Reintegration Services for Ex-Offenders (R.I.S.E.) and Community Legal Services followed by a Q&A session.

For residents of zip codes: 19119, 19114, 19138, 19140, 19132, 19118, 19126, 19120, 19141, and 19144.

You MUST pre-register by Monday, January 6th by calling (215) 686-3424, 3425

Cosponsored by Philadelphia R.I.S.E., a program of the Mayor's Office of Philadelphia.

Office of Councilwoman Cindy Bass
City Hall, Room 504
(215) 686-3424, 3425

Stretch your Dollar !!

McDonald's Dollar Menu Works



Birding in Tacony Creek Park

Saturday, January 11, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

1 St. & Ramona Ave., Philadelphia, 19124

Join Tookany/Tacony-Frankford Watershed on a walk through Tacony Creek Park to look for birds wintering in Philadelphia. This FREE walk is open to all -- you just need an interest in learning about our fine feathered friends. Expect some good bird spotting (woodpeckers, chickadees, hawks, oh my!) while enjoying lovely undiscovered Tacony Creek Park. This event is a part of the Philadelphia mid-winter Bird Census of the Audubon Society. Donuts, hot cocoa, and binoculars will be provided. Don't forget to dress warmly!

For more information contact Alex Cooper at cooper@ttfwatershed.org or 215-744-1853

People are in need of help.



Donations Accepted

Make checks payable to
Connections For Humanity
PO Box 18341
Philadelphia, Pa. 19120

Clarifi Can Help You Take Control of Your Money

Are you living from paycheck to paycheck?
Is your credit keeping you from getting to the next step?
Are you constantly getting notices from collection agencies?
Do you want to save money, but don't know where to start?

If you have answered yes to any of these questions, t

he Financial Empowerment Center (FECs)

can help you with these issues and more.

These centers provide **FREE** one-on-one professional financial counseling to Philadelphia area residents, regardless of income

or citizenship status. The counselors can help you a variety of issues involving credit, debt, budgeting, and safe banking options.

We have locations conveniently located throughout the city to serve your needs.

Call today 855-FIN-PHIL (855-346-7445) or visit www.phila.gov/fe

Submit your military jokes, information, events, programs to connections-forhumanity@gmail.com. Hours of operations Mon-Thus. 10am-3pm or call (267) 560-7534

CONNECTIONS FOR HUMANITY, MAKIND A DIFFERENCE IN PEOPLE'S LIVES