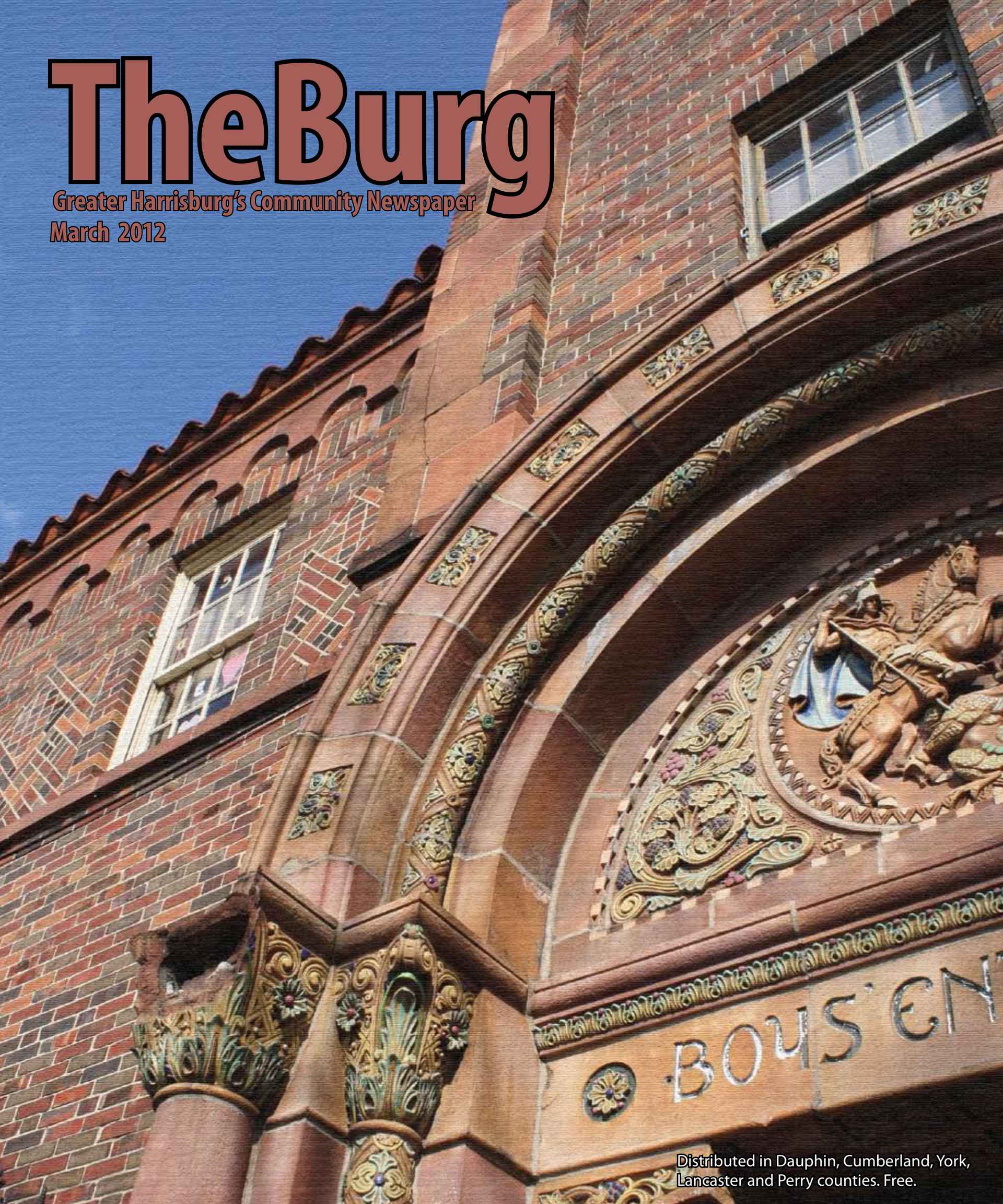


TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

March 2012



Distributed in Dauphin, Cumberland, York,
Lancaster and Perry counties. Free.

City of Harrisburg
Mayor Linda D. Thompson presents a Youth as Restorers Initiative
A Component of the Mayor's Health, Wellness & Recreation Initiative

"Lights, Camera, Take Action"



Greg Allen Williams



Dustin Felder



Jayson Williams



Joe Grier

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Council v. Receiver on City Spokesman

The Harrisburg City Council threw down its first challenge to the state-appointed receiver last month, rejecting a recommendation to re-fund the job of city spokesman.

The council passed a revised \$54.7 million budget for 2012 without funding the communications director position, held by Robert Philbin.

The council had axed the position in its original 2012 spending plan. City receiver David Unkovic then revived the job in his financial recovery plan for the city, released last month.

"Would you rather have a firefighter or a spokesman?" said Councilman Brad Koplinski.

A council majority believes that the city's future chief operating officer, a new position proposed by Unkovic that would pay \$115,000, could act as city spokesman.

Unkovic has said he believes the city needs a spokesman to advise Mayor Linda Thompson and to provide consistent messaging to the public.

Assuming the plan receives court approval, Unkovic can demand that the position be reinstated.

If the council still refuses, he has the option of obtaining a court order to force it to fund the position, which would pay \$75,500 a year.

The council last month did choose to make several changes to its 2012 budget, adding back the positions of city health officer and senior accountant. It also set aside \$850,000 for expected firefighter overtime.

Receiver Outlines Recovery Strategy for City; Court Hearing This Month

Harrisburg may be able to free itself from beneath a pile of debt through asset sales, stakeholder concessions and increases in certain taxes and fees, according to a report released last month by the city's state-appointed receiver.

If that approach fails, the city should file for bankruptcy, the report states.

Receiver David Unkovic unveiled his plan in a 194-page report that takes a methodical approach to trying to solve Harrisburg's debt crisis, which includes some \$317 million owed on the city incinerator, plus a recurring annual budget deficit.

The Commonwealth Court will hold a hearing on the receiver's plan March 1, with a decision on whether to approve expected later in the month.

Soon after issuing his report, Unkovic put the city's troubled incinerator on the sales block by issuing a request for qualifications from potential bidders. He also issued an RFQ for a long-term lease of the city's valuable parking garages.

Unkovic said he hopes to close the transactions by the end of June. With those deals complete, he would know how much remaining debt would be owed, enabling him to approach other stakeholders, such as creditors, about making concessions.

If creditors refuse to make concessions—or if an agreement with them failed—he said the city could enter municipal bankruptcy.

"If, for whatever reasons, the receiver is unable to come to a consensual agreement with the stakeholders, the receiver is prepared to file for bankruptcy under Chapter 9 of the Bankruptcy Code in order to protect the ability of the city to perform its vital and necessary services," he wrote.

Unkovic said that the city's structural deficit may be even trickier to solve than the incinerator debt, as it requires additional revenue and better government management. His recommendations for bringing Harrisburg's annual budget into long-term balance include concessions from labor unions, an increase in the resident earned income tax, service efficiencies and fee increases.

In addition, Harrisburg must hire a chief operating officer—a professional administrator qualified to oversee the operation of government. The COO would lead implementation of the recovery plan, and, presumably, professionalize city operations.

Unkovic's report details other actions to be taken.

For instance, he plans to issue a request for proposals for the city's water and sewer system—not to sell the assets, but to find an operator that would help ensure more efficient operation and management.

He also said that his office is studying the forensic audit recently issued by the Harrisburg Authority for possible "civil actions" against participants who oversaw numerous bond deals tied to incinerator fixes. Any money recovered from those actions would help reduce the city's structural deficit.

In his report, Unkovic makes it clear that he will initiate and direct most financial recovery activities, including asset sales and stakeholder negotiations. The mayor and council are tasked with supporting and facilitating his actions. However, he would need the council's support for raising most taxes, which he is not empowered to do.

In the report, Unkovic minced no words in describing how difficult a resolution to the fiscal crisis will be.

"The city's financial distress is a very complicated problem," he stated. "It cannot be solved easily or quickly, but it can and must be solved."

—Lawrance Binda

TheBurg

Greater Harrisburg's Community Newspaper

General & Letters

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Not Just the Incinerator

Scores of initiatives are buried within the receiver's report.

Lawrance Binda

Sell the incinerator. Lease the parking garages. Get concessions from creditors and hire a chief operating officer.

Those are some of the main points of the Harrisburg receiver's financial recovery strategy, which was released last month (see article, p. 4).

However, there are many other initiatives and recommendations buried deep within the report's 194 pages. If enacted, these also could have a substantial impact upon life in Harrisburg—for residents, city employees and visitors.

The following are among the numerous less-publicized proposals outlined in the receiver's plan.

Workforce (most recommendations subject to re-negotiation of union contracts)

- Implement a 3-year wage and step freeze. Afterwards, base wage increases should be limited to 2 percent.
 - Reduce healthcare expenses by requiring greater employee contributions (currently, workers pay very little to their healthcare coverage).
 - Eliminate retiree healthcare for new hires (currently, the city pays healthcare for all retired employees).
 - Freeze benefit levels for all retirement plans and explore changing retirement plans from defined benefit plans to defined contributions plans (much like private sector 401(k) plans).
 - Implement new pay scales for police and firefighters that will dramatically lower entry-level wages to bring them in line with nearby jurisdictions.
 - Use professionals for labor negotiations and establish labor/management committees.
 - Limit almost all labor contract enhancements, such as new overtime and benefits.
 - Freeze longevity pay, reduce paid holidays and personal time to 10 days annually and reduce vacation and sick leave.
 - If the city's three labor unions refuse to renegotiate their contacts, declare union contract extensions granted by former Mayor Stephen Reed to be null and void.
 - Increase the number of city staff attorneys from one to three: city solicitor, deputy city solicitor and assistant city solicitor.
- Revenues & Taxes*
- Increase earned income and property taxes as primary means to help balance the budget.
 - Review real estate assessments to ensure properties are assessed properly.
 - Increase use of "payment in lieu of taxes" programs with non-taxable entities.

- Increase business license fees and link them to an inflationary index.
- Increase enforcement of local services tax.
- Increase interest and penalties for late and non-payment of various taxes.
- Improve real estate tax collection rate.
- Select a broker to identify city assets for advertising, concessions, marketing and sponsorship opportunities with private businesses and organizations.
- Sell remaining historic artifacts.

Parking Enforcement

- Increase parking ticket fees from \$15 to \$30 per standard violation; \$50 if not paid after five business days; \$100 if not paid after 10 business days; fire hydrant/handicapped parking violations would double to \$100 per incident.

- Extend on-street parking meter hours from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

- Increase efficiency and productivity (and generate more revenue) by hiring a full-time, civilian parking enforcement manager, upgrading the electronic ticket system and ensuring that officers write about five more tickets a week.

Police Bureau

- Restructure police patrol duty, reallocate staff and introduce a rotating schedule to ensure better, more even coverage for all three police shifts.
- Implement a proactive crime analysis and crime reduction strategy, as opposed to just reacting to reports of crime.
- Assign a minimum of six investigators, up from four, to the bureau's vice unit, which is responsible for narcotics investigations.

- At a cost of \$90,000, build an interface between the Dauphin County dispatch/9-11 system and the city's METRO computer system to improve police response and information access.

Fire Bureau

- To slash overtime, change the shift structure from a four-platoon to a three-platoon system. One ladder company would be eliminated, as would five bureau positions.
 - Eliminate "premium pay" for regularly assigned hours.
 - Renegotiate union contracts so the city can determine staffing needs and can lay off firefighters without contract restrictions.
 - Explore closing one fire station.
 - False alarm fees should be increased from \$50 for the third incident in a 12-month period to \$50 for the second incident, with amounts escalating from there.
- Trash Collection*
- Implement a "container-based" trash collection system, which would include issuing residents new, wheeled trash carts.

A bond would be issued to pay for new carts and trucks. If the city cannot issue a bond or if workers are resistant to the change, it should consider using an outside vendor for trash collection.

- Ensure that businesses use city trash services.

- Promote greater recycling through education and begin recycling of paper and cardboard products.

Building & Housing

- Increase fees, fines and charges for services.

- Hire additional code enforcement officers to clear and prevent backlogs. Organize and deploy multi-agency code enforcement teams.

- Get grants and hire contractors to demolish blighted structures (currently, the city has a backlog of 300 such buildings).

- Update the city's comprehensive plan, which has been largely unchanged since 1974.

- Develop a comprehensive housing strategy that would include neighborhood planning, guidelines for new and rehab housing and efforts to promote the city as a place to live.

- Designate a housing coordinator, who would help coordinate and guide a comprehensive housing strategy.

Economic Development

- Designate an economic development coordinator, who would coordinate a strategic plan and direct economic development activities.
- Evaluate and possibly revise and extend the city's tax abatement strategy for new and renovated buildings.

- Improve management and collection rates of the mismanaged MOED/revolving loan portfolio, in which taxpayer-funded, city loans were given to private businesses, many of which later defaulted on their loans.

Capital Improvement

- Establish a multi-year capital improvement program to address Harrisburg's severely deteriorating infrastructure. Needs must be assessed, projects identified and a schedule rigorously developed and followed.

Assets

- Explore a sale and lease-back of city-owned buildings, such as the City Government Center. If another city building becomes available for city hall, consider selling and vacating the building, which is in need of significant repair and improvement.

Utilities

- Establish a stormwater utility fee to fund stormwater expenses and improvements.

Policy

- The mayor, receiver, business administrator and the City Council Budget & Finance chairman should meet at least monthly to review financial and operational issues.
- Implement quarterly financial reporting and develop city-wide financial policies.
- Establish a "debt policy" to guide the issuance and use of debt.
- Conduct regular implementation meetings for the recovery plan and form smaller implementation teams to oversee specific aspects of the plan.
- Implement a performance management system to track government productivity, activity and cost-effectiveness.



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Who Stands to Win?

Receiver's report casts winners, losers, those in-between.

Lawrance Binda

What does this mean for me? From the beginning, the many stakeholders in Harrisburg's financial saga all have wondered what the receiver's report would hold for their interests.

Well, the report is in—and what emerges are a few clear winners, a few clear losers and several groups stuck somewhere in the middle.

The Mayor: By aligning herself so closely with the receiver, Mayor Linda Thompson set herself up to retain as much influence and power as possible. She has said that she's "joined at the hip" with receiver David Unkovic, choosing cooperation as her best strategy. For his part, Unkovic has included Thompson in the process from the start and now has re-funded her communications director, a position that he sincerely believes she needs. The plan for a new chief operating officer could be seen as an attempt to usurp some of the mayor's power, particularly as the COO will lead the recovery plan's implementation on a daily basis. Thompson, though, clearly regards the COO as subordinate and part of her team. Only time will tell if she's right.

City Council: Councilman Brad Koplinski has said that the council

believes the financial rescue process should have gone like this: "You go to the creditors first, then you sell stuff, then you raise taxes. (Unkovic) has done the opposite." Yes, he has. And that's why council may be regarded as a net loser under the plan. The council now faces the option of either jumping on board the plan in total or defying it and losing in court, which is what is likely to happen with the battle over the city spokesman job.

City Treasurer, Controller: In office just two months, John Campbell has injected new spirit into the job of city treasurer. The receiver's report will help him further raise the office's stature, as the treasurer is among the handful of officials tasked with guiding Harrisburg to solvency. Likewise, City Controller Dan Miller gets a prominent spot at the table, reversing Thompson's efforts to shut him out over the past two years.

City Employees: If you're a city worker, there's a lot to dislike in the receiver's report. Unkovic expects to cut costs largely by eliminating and trimming salary increases and slashing workers' generous benefits packages, as well as adjusting some schedules and limiting off-days. He even threatens to lay off the city's entire sanitation

crew if outsourcing proves more cost-effective. Workers may insist that their unions simply refuse to cooperate by not re-opening their contracts. However, a court could force re-negotiation, as former Mayor Stephen Reed repeatedly extended contracts without council approval. Just last November, the Commonwealth Court said the city did not have to honor a 2008 contract extension between Reed and the city's police union.

City Taxpayers: It could have been worse, which may be the only comfort for city residents and property owners. Homeowners already have been socked with an 8 percent property tax increase, and the plan does not count out further hikes. In addition, it proposes raising the earned income tax rate to help close budget gaps. The receiver cannot unilaterally raise taxes, but may choose to petition the county Court of Common Pleas to up the EIT.

Business Community: The report is a mixed bag for city businesses. Some will balk at certain fee and tax hike proposals, while others will object to increases in parking rates and hours. The real estate community wanted a stronger stance on reviving the city's tax abatement program. Above all, though, businesses want some sense that the report is the beginning of the end of the city's financial nightmare. If it is, businesses and investors that have muddled through the dark days could win big.

Commuters: The receiver's report does not include a commuter tax, making a clear winner of those who work in Harrisburg and live elsewhere. At the moment, it appears all they'll have to do is pony up a few extra quarters to park on the street.

City's Creditors: The report states that the receiver may seek concessions from creditors—or may even declare municipal bankruptcy to do so. Will he? The receiver's report takes a methodical approach, basing many future actions on how much the city can get from selling the incinerator and leasing the parking garages. If assets price well, the city's creditors may need to make few concessions.

What They Said:

Receiver David Unkovic:

"This plan is an important first step to getting the city back on financial track. Although the city's financial distress is a complicated problem, it is a problem that can and must be solved."

"It is important to the recovery of the city to implement a process that maximizes the value of Harrisburg's assets. Recognizing the urgency of the city's short-term and long-term cash flow needs, we will work as quickly as possible to obtain quality proposals and move forward to address the debt."

Mayor Linda Thompson:

"I think the receiver's plan is a good plan. It is comprehensive and it gets us moving together in the right direction under a single plan."

"This is not to say that I don't have some concerns with some plan details right now. My directors have reported to me on critical funding shortages in their departments; but we will attempt to work through each of those shortages as we go forward in a can-do spirit of cooperation."

City Controller Dan Miller:

"Harrisburg receiver, Dave Unkovic, produced a clear and concise recovery plan summary that demonstrates he thoroughly understands the issues surrounding Harrisburg's fiscal crisis. He recognizes that a comprehensive solution is necessary and the threat of bankruptcy is the only tool available to achieve it. The fact that he views the city's management, along with its financial problems related to massive debt and structural deficit, as an equally important challenge is a positive development. The receiver's plan also recognizes the need for significant concessions by insurer AGM, Dauphin County and city labor unions in order for success to be achieved."

"The biggest disappointment is the plan's failure to address the city's ongoing structural deficit. Although he stresses the need for a comprehensive plan, omitting the path to a balanced budget completely fails this requirement."

Dauphin County Commissioners:

"The receiver's plan, unveiled earlier today, is a good start but falls short of addressing the city of Harrisburg's financial issues and charting a path toward recovery."

"We are pleased to note the plan includes the sale or lease of city assets. Since 2009, when the county first proposed a solution to the incinerator debt crisis, we have supported the sale or lease of city assets as a means to generate cash flow and reduce the debt load."

"We are disappointed, however, that the receiver's plan is incomplete with respect to the mounting incinerator debt. A detailed and comprehensive solution is needed to move forward. The longer action is delayed, the worse the problem becomes."



Switching Tracks

With rail plans delayed, Modern Transit changes course.

Peter Durantine



A bridge too far? It may be a long time before a commuter rail line begins to use the old Cumberland Valley Railway Bridge that spans the Susquehanna between Harrisburg and Lemoyne.

For the last 15 years, Modern Transit Partnership could sometimes see a light at the end of the tunnel as it worked to bring a commuter rail line to the Harrisburg region, but lack of funding and political will has kept that project in the dark.

Now, with no signal that such a project is on the agenda of either the governor or the legislature, which are wrestling with funding for the state's existing mass transit systems, Modern Transit has changed its strategy to winning hearts and minds.

In so doing, Brad Jones, the group's new chairman, said MTP has brought onto its board individuals representing the region's various modes of mass transit—from commuter services to transit bus lines from neighboring cities.

The group also works to help promote projects Amtrak has undertaken to improve amenities and facilities along the Keystone Corridor, such as the rehabilitation and renovation of Amtrak's Elizabethtown station and its proposed Middletown station.

For MTP, it's a new era of cooperation with regional transit agencies and state and local governments, part of an effort to expand "the transit mentality," Jones said.

"We're not giving up on the mission for rail," he said. "If anything, we've been guilty of being too far ahead of the curve."

Opponents, such as former Cumberland County Commissioner Rick Rovegno, have believed the commuter rail project as envisioned by MTP has always been more wishful thinking than concrete planning, and the concept far ahead of need.

As such, Rovegno said, the proposed Lancaster-Harrisburg-Carlisle commuter train line was not going to get the needed federal funding. "The issue

always comes down to the level of public benefit for the level of public financing," he said.

Rovegno, who sits on Capital Area Transit's board, said he supports passenger rail service. But he believes it may take a generation or more before the region's population—656,000, according to 2007 U.S. census figures—is dense enough to make commuter rail viable for the region. Until then, Rovegno said he supports efforts by the region's various bus transit agencies of one day creating an integrated bus system. It's at this junction that MTP, CAT and the region's other bus and commuter services have met.

MTP, which sees bus and rail as tandem services, is helping to promote CAT bus ridership (up from 2.61 million to 2.68 million between 2010 and 2011), and supports a regional transit system study, expected to be completed this spring.

"We've got to build the transit brand first," Jones said. "You build the need, to show the politicians the need for [commuter rail] funding."

For now, that means MTP's chief mission waits at the station. "It's going to be a long, slow road to bring commuter rail to central Pennsylvania," said Julie Shade, MTP's executive director.

That disappoints such longtime supporters as the Cumberland County Coalition for a Sustainable Future, but they remain hopeful, nonetheless.

"It's needed," said Ron Skubecz, the coalition's president. "We think it's the most forward-thinking idea the county has to consider."

Community Awards

Harrisburg last month honored those who have had a positive impact on city residents. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Pillars of the Community Award recipients included:

- Large Business Award: Pennsylvania National Insurance
- Small Business Awards: Eddie's Men's Shop/Furniture Shop and McGrath's
- Non-Profit Awards: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Harrisburg Area and Tri-County Housing Development

Corbett Budget Ups Money for Harrisburg

Gov. Tom Corbett last month proposed a five-fold increase in the amount of money dedicated to Harrisburg for the 2012-13 fiscal year.

The budget proposal would devote \$2.5 million to the fire protection line item, which is used by the state as a catch-all to compensate the city for services received.

This year, the city received almost \$500,000 in state funding for that line item. However, city receiver David Unkovic budgeted a state contribution of \$2.5 million for next year, reflected in Corbett's spending proposal.

The budget now will be taken up by the state legislature.

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State, county offer urban gardening options.

Kyle Schaeffer



In the shadow of power: An urban gardener tends to a plot at the Capitol Hunger Garden. Photo: Sen. Michael Brubaker's office.

The approaching spring season means fresh fruits and vegetables as farmers begin to sow crops anew. But for the amateur gardener—cramped city life can yield little space for growth. Enter the urban garden: a means of turning small plots of city land into garden crops.

Traditionally, an urban garden springs from reclaimed city blocks

in low-income areas, but an urban garden can take many forms, from the patch of land behind an apartment complex to a handful of pots on a neighbor's porch. For those Harrisburg residents seeking larger land to plow, the Dauphin County Office of Parks and Recreation offers 8 acres of land for lease.

Begun in 1977, the Dauphin County Community Garden boasts 318 garden plots and one hand pump. The land comes pre-tilled, and all gardeners receive several packets of vegetable seeds when they lease a plot at \$10 for the year.

"In March, we allow old gardeners to register for gardens first," said Michelle Hornberger, assistant program director for the Dauphin County Parks and Recreation Office. "Some of the gardeners have been there for years. It's such a sense of community."

The gardens are in extremely high demand, and only a few new gardeners are able to lease plots each year.

"A lot of people don't have places on their own property that they can garden," said Hornberger, which may attribute to the popularity of the gardens.

Gardening is a great way to stay

active this summer and enjoy the fruits of one's labor, but, for some Harrisburg residents, an urban garden can mean more than an active hobby for a Sunday afternoon. It can mean an end to hunger as well.

In 2008, Pennsylvania lawmakers formed the bipartisan Legislative Caucus on Hunger in an effort to decrease the toll of hunger throughout the commonwealth. One successful local program implemented by the caucus is the Capitol Hunger Garden, which can be found on a small patch of land adjacent to the state Capitol building.

The garden first took root in May 2010 as a collaborative effort between the Hunger Caucus and its chairman, Sen. Mike Brubaker (R-Lancaster), co-chair Rep. John Myers (D-Philadelphia) and Rep. Dwight Evans (D-Philadelphia), who originally suggested the concept. This small community garden relies entirely on volunteers to plant and grow all of its crops. A master gardener is brought in each year to aid the volunteers in planting and determining when the crops are ripe.

"I thought it was an excellent opportunity to show people that you can grow vegetables just about anywhere," said Deb Schmittle, a master gardener who volunteered with the hunger garden the last two years. "It was just a double layer of what I love doing—meeting people and teaching them about the gardens and what to do and what not to do."

All of the food grown by the Capitol Hunger Garden goes to the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank or Downtown Daily Bread, a soup kitchen run by the Pine Street Presbyterian Church on N. 3rd Street in downtown Harrisburg, across from the Capitol.

Last year, more than 700 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables were produced by the Capitol Hunger Garden.

This year, planting for the garden begins on May 3.

To volunteer at the Capitol Hunger Garden, contact Sen. Brubaker's district office, 1-866-738-1601, or visit the Hunger Caucus website, senatorbrubaker.com/hungercaucus.htm.

Harrisburg in Hurry to Hire New COO

Harrisburg is poised to hire a chief operating officer by mid-April, Mayor Linda Thompson said last month.

Overall, Thompson was enthusiastic about the prospect of a COO for the city, a new position proposed under receiver David Unkovic's financial recovery plan, which was released early last month.

"We are getting some decent applications in," said Thompson. "We're already interviewing."

Thompson likened the job, which would pay \$110,000 a year, to a chief of staff, a position once part of her administration.

In his financial recovery plan, Unkovic seemed to envision a broader role for the COO, beyond organizing and managing staff.

"The elected officials of the city shall fully empower the COO to manage the day-to-day operations of the city and to make recommendations to the elected officials and the receiver regarding priorities and policies," Unkovic wrote in his report outlining the plan.

The plan also makes the COO responsible for the day-to-day supervision and implementation of the city's proposed financial recovery strategy.

Guernsey's Selected

New York-based Guernsey's auction house has been chosen to market and sell Harrisburg's historic artifact collection, Mayor Linda Thompson announced last month.

Guernsey's was selected as the winner from among three finalists.

Former Mayor Stephen Reed spent millions of public dollars to assemble the vast collection as part of a now-abandoned effort to turn Harrisburg into a museum destination. Most artifacts are from his attempt to found a Wild West museum in the city.

Guernsey's will actively market the artifacts in New York, Harrisburg and on the Internet, the city said.

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20 Years, on Watch

The torch is passed at Riverside Crime Watch.

M. Diane McCormick

A flea market raising funds since 1993. A daily tally of stolen bicycles tacked to a telephone poll during a rash of thefts. A head count of students playing hooky. An annual Halloween parade. A chatty, informative newsletter dropped in 800 mail slots every month.

Not unusual, perhaps, for 20 years of work by one crime watch, but notable because one person initiated it all—Riverside Crime Watch Chairman Virginia Pianka. After 20 years of hands-on leadership and shepherding volunteers in the Harrisburg neighborhoods north of Division Street, Pianka announced her retirement in January.

"It's time for the younger generation to step up and take over, and I hope that the new group comes forward to build on what the present members have accomplished," Pianka wrote in the monthly newsletter.

The change underscores the importance of strong leadership and resident input to maintain a viable crime watch, say those involved in the transition.

"An effective crime watch has a leader like Virginia was," said Harrisburg Police Capt. Annette Oates.

"Someone who can spearhead the whole watch and give it a backbone. If it's not a strong crime watch, it's not going to be helpful for the neighborhood and the police."

At a special meeting last month, about 40 Riverside residents and city officials presented Pianka with gifts, plaques and proclamations that honored her service. When someone suggested seizing the opportunity to maintain momentum, an election for officers broke out.

A new interim president and vice president, Pat Waller and Claire Powers, replaced the single chairman. Long-time treasurer Brenda Lawrence retained her post. The team will face re-election, if they choose to run, after a three-month trial period.

Individual committees now will organize the May flea market, Halloween parade and National Night Out block party—three major functions that Pianka oversaw with the help of volunteers.

"They say it takes a village," said Waller a few days later. "Well, it's going to take a village to fill Virginia's shoes."

Pianka said she's glad to let new leadership "find out what is workable and offer new ideas."

Waller hopes to spotlight Riverside's architectural diversity and fill in gaps left by the cash-strapped city. At the top of the list: scheduling a concert or two to fill Italian Lake with music on summer nights, in the tradition of the canceled city concert series.

"We have such a beautiful natural asset down there, and the community itself has a lot of pride, and it's time again to show off what we have," Waller said.

Riverside resident Tom Leonard, a veteran of neighborhood involvement, said that each community group or crime watch needs structure for formal planning and communicating, but each also must plot its own course based on priorities. As a result, residents watch out not just for the lurking stranger but for the neighbors' well-being, even "if it's something like the newspapers accumulating on the stoop."

"You can't say enough about having just one more way to communicate with each other, because we benefit from contact," he said. Crime watches "really act as an extra set of eyes on the street looking out for each other."



Upon retiring as Riverside Crime Watch chair, Virginia Pianka is given official recognition for her work by Councilman Brad Kopinski.

Tax Grace Period

Dauphin County's Tax Claim Bureau is offering an interest-free grace period to all property owners with 2011 delinquent real estate property taxes. About 11,500 letters have been sent to property owners with unpaid 2011 taxes. The county will waive the interest on these claims if the 2011 taxes are paid in full before April 1.

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- 3/8, 6 pm: PA Senate 15th District
- 3/15, 6 pm: City Receiver's Plan
- In April: US Congress 4th District

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ShutterBurg

... a Month in Pictures



Feb 4: The always-popular Eastern Sports and Outdoor Show returned to the PA Farm Show complex with exhibits for all-things outdoors, including many fishing exhibits, demonstrations and vendors.



Feb. 7: The Pa. Legislative Black Caucus celebrated Black History Month with its annual Black History Program in the Capitol Rotunda. Mayor Linda Thompson and the Lincoln University Concern Choir both participated.



Feb. 7: While Gov. Tom Corbett delivered his 2012-2013 budget address to the legislature inside the Capitol, protestors outside performed skits to demonstrate against gas drilling before onlookers and the media.



Feb. 7: HACC professor George Muschamp played the role of Charles Dickens during a 200th birthday celebration for the English author at Midtown Scholar.



Feb. 15: The pews filled for the memorial Mass for Penn State Coach Joe Paterno at St. Patrick Cathedral. Bishop Joseph McFadden officiated, and attendees included Paterno's son, Scott, and Gov. Tom Corbett.



Feb. 16: Harrisburg University held a virtual ribbon cutting for its new Government Technology Institute in the school's 14th-floor auditorium. The institute's co-executive directors, Barbara Shelton and Charlie Gerhards, are seated front left.



Feb. 17: HACC Professor Carl Petersheim and student Lorna Carlson look over an image in the "Earth as Art" exhibit during Nerds in The Burg, HACC's first participation in 3rd in The Burg, held at the Midtown 2 building at N. 3rd and Reily streets.



Feb. 18: The annual Bal Masque brought out a large number of creatures of the night for what the Harrisburg Art Association's Carrie Wissler Thomas said was a tremendous success.

Events in Our Area

Hundred Men reading

March 2: The 100 Men Reading Day VIII, celebrating Read Across America and Dr. Seuss's Birthday, is 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the Harrisburg School District and Steelton-Highspire Elementary School. Honorary chair of the event is Ron Claiborne of ABC Good Morning America, who will be among the readers to students. www.superreader.org.

Free environmental technician training

March 3: Training for environmental jobs in the emerging field of cleanup and reuse of brownfields will be offered at the Midtown location of HACC. Potential students can find out more by attending an information session from 11 a.m. to noon in Room 228 of Midtown 1, 1500 N. 4th St. To register to attend, contact Cheryl Deitz, HACC Workforce Training coordinator, at 221-1338 or via email at chdeitz@hacc.edu.

Free lecture on history of Kessler's

March 4: Robert E. Kessler Jr., president and CEO of Kessler's Inc., will talk about the history of the family-owned business at a meeting of the Gateway Historical Society of West Shore, 3 p.m., Community Room, Lemoyne Borough Building, 310 Herman Ave. Kessler's is one of the top 200 meat processors in the United States. The program is free, but attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable donation for the Central Pennsylvania Food Bank. For information, contact Eulah "Cookie" Grugan at Grugan@verizon.net or 717-761-0856.

Free tobacco cessation classes

March 5: Penn State Hershey Respiratory Care is offering free tobacco cessation classes every Monday at 6:30 p.m., starting March 5. Participants are invited to join at any time. Classes are held in the West Campus Health and Wellness Center at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. For more information or to register, call the CareLine at 1-800-243-1455.

Free screenings for early learning

March 6: The Janus School in Mount Joy will offer screenings for its Early Learning Readiness Program for students who have completed pre-K or kindergarten but require additional support to develop readiness skills in reading, math, language development and socialization. Free screenings are available by appointment, 1 to 3:30 p.m. Other screening dates are April 2, May 7, June 4 and July 2. Contact Robin Payne at 717-653-0025 x102 or RPayne@TheJanusSchool.org.

Perohi and Lenten dinners

March 7: Perohi, a popular eastern European food, and Lenten dinners featuring broiled fish are offered Wednesdays during Lent in the parish hall at St. Ann Byzantine Catholic Church, 5408 Locust Lane, Harrisburg. Wednesday sales are March 14, 21, and 28. For more information, call 652-1415 or visit www.stannbyz.org.

Juried art auction for Habitat for Humanity

March 9: The 7th Annual "One-of-a-Kind" Juried Art Auction, featuring local artists, starts 7:30 p.m. at the Hershey Country Club. More than 100 artists have donated "one-of-a-kind" work. Proceeds support Habitat for Humanity's mission of eliminating poverty housing in Harrisburg. Individual tickets are \$25. Call 717-545-7299 for tickets or www.harrisburghabitat.com for more information.

Free forum on reducing cancer

March 10: Penn State Hershey Cancer Institute will host the annual free public forum, "Reducing Cancer in Our Community," at 9 a.m. in the University Conference Center of Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Lunch will be provided. For a complete agenda and to register, visit PennStateHershey.org/reducingcancer or call 717-531-6483.

Book lecture, signing

March 14: Author Sharon Pomerantz will review and discuss her novel, "Rich Boy," at 7:30 p.m. at Beth El Temple. The event is open to the public and includes dessert and a book-signing. Admission is \$10. For more information, call 717-232-0556 or email info@betheltemplehbg.org. Beth El Temple is located at 2637 N. Front St., Harrisburg.

Introduction to Circle School

March 15: The Circle School of Harrisburg will host a video presentation and program at 6:30 p.m. to introduce children, teenagers, and parents to student-directed integral education. Registration is free of charge, available at www.CircleSchool.org or 717-564-6700. Refreshments will be served, and limited childcare is available. The school is at 210 Oakleigh Ave., Harrisburg.

Train show

March 17: The Harrisburg Chapter of the National Railway Historical Society has its 26th annual Railroad Show and Collectors Market, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the I. W. Abel Union Hall (Steelworkers Union), 200 Gibson St., Steelton. A sales and display area, which includes a large HO-scale model railroad with operating trains, encompasses more than 6,000 square feet with nearly 100 vendor tables. Free parking is on adjacent lots. Donation requested at door is \$5 per person; children under 12 are admitted free.

Harris Tower open

March 17: The Harris Interlocking Tower, 637 Walnut St. in downtown Harrisburg, will be open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. See a genuine, operating railroad interlocking tower and watch real trains pass by, all in the same day. The event is perfect for visitors who attend the Railroad Show in Steelton and have some extra time to spare.

German Heritage Fest

March 19: There is always something to learn or eat at the Pennsylvania German Heritage Fest, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Lebanon Campus of HACC. The festival is a free public celebration of food, art, crafts, music and history at the downtown campus, 735 Cumberland St., Lebanon. For more, contact Annette Beamesderfer at 717-274-2297 or albeames@hacc.edu.

Free history presentation

March 20: Erin Battat of Penn State Harrisburg will present a free program on the multi-racial imagery of migrant mothers during the Depression, 7 p.m. at the Harris-Cameron Mansion, 219 S. Front St., Harrisburg. Dessert is served at 6:30 p.m.

Free health and wellness career workshops

March 20: The massage therapy practitioner and pharmacy technician programs at YTI Career Institute-Capital Region will offer free career workshops on health and wellness, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Institute, 401 East Winding Hill Rd., Mechanicsburg. The workshops are for anyone considering a career as a massage therapist or a pharmacy technician. A pizza lunch will be provided. RSVP Rebecca.beamer@yti.edu or 717-620-0117 by March 16.

Tribute to Women of Excellence

March 21: The 23rd annual Tribute to Women of Excellence event will be held at the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center, 325 University Dr., Hershey. The Tribute to Women of Excellence honors women from the Capital Region who have made an impact in the community through their work or volunteer organization. Tickets are \$75. For more information, contact Pamela Rhoads at 717-724-2241.

Networking mixer

March 22: The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce Networking Mixer will be held 6 to 8 p.m. at AideMMedia Solutions, 323 N. Christian St., Lancaster. Meet the organization's new officers and board members. www.cpglcc.org.

Business Enterprise Expo

March 28: The annual Small, Minority and Women Business Enterprise Expo returns to the Pa. Farm Show Complex, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn about contracting, processes and best practices for these businesses. More information at www.dgs.state.pa.us.

Free "unconference"

March 31: BarCamp Harrisburg, an ad hoc "unconference" focused on cyber security, coding, web technology and mobile application development, is coming to Harrisburg University, 326 Market St. Entry is free but registration is required. To register online, visit www.barcampbkg.org.

Other

Leadership Harrisburg applications

Leadership Harrisburg Area is accepting applications for membership in the Community Leadership Series Class of 2013. For more information, please visit www.leadershipharrisburg.org.

Volunteers needed for Special Olympics

The 22nd Annual Adult Special Olympics games is April 28 at the Naval Support Activity, Mechanicsburg. Hundreds of volunteers and buddies are needed to make this a successful event. Call 717-605-2828.

3rd in The Burg: March 16



The Fenêtre Gallery opens its doors for the first time this month during 3rd in The Burg, March 16. The new gallery is housed in a beautiful space at HACC's Midtown 2 at N. 3rd and Reily streets in Harrisburg. The opening exhibit is "Visions and Voices: The 2012 South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art and Writing Awards" and features this work, "Up and Down and All Around," by Lydia Estes of Lamberton Middle School. You can visit many galleries, restaurants and other venues at the monthly celebration of the arts and culture throughout Harrisburg. For more information, see our back cover or visit www.3rdinTheBurg.com.

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Art Deco Gems

Forum, Finance buildings worth a closer look.

Jason Wilson

Two of the more ornate, but less-visited Capitol Complex giants are the Forum and Finance buildings. Together, these two massive structures, both designed in Art Deco and built in the 1930s, complete architect Arnold Brunner's vision for a grand campus of state office buildings.

The Forum was originally built as the state's new Education Building. It was designed by William Gehron and Sydney Ross in the late 1920s and dedicated on Nov. 4, 1931. The building featured the new three-story State Library, and the 1,883-seat Forum auditorium, home to the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra since 1931.

The ornate auditorium features murals on the ceiling and wall, designed by Eric Gugler and Richard

Brooks. The bronze gates and doors of the building were produced by sculptor Lee Lawrie. Artists C. Paul Jennewein and Harry Kreis contributed carved panels and other decorations. Italian-American artist Vincent Maragliotti painted the decorated ceilings of the foyers.

Gehron and Ross then designed the new Finance Building, which would be the final structure of Brunner's original plan.

Construction of the building began in 1937 and was completed in the winter of 1940. Jennewein again produced exterior sculptures and medallions for the building, and famous sculptor Carl Milles produced the doors to the structure. Eugene Savage and Maragliotti produced interior murals for the foyers and

elevator lobbies of the new building. Sculptor Lawrie also produced a large Deco-style coat of arms at the north entrance to the building.

In all, the Forum and Finance buildings are highly impressive Art Deco construction.


Each contains dark marble wainscoting and brass chandeliers and sconces, which contribute to the overall grandeur of the buildings. The meticulous attention to detail and ornate artwork and artisanship in these buildings are just another reason why the Capitol Complex



Almost done: The Forum Building under construction in 1930.


ranks as an eligible National Historic Landmark—a premier example of monumental government civic planning.

Jason Wilson is a research historian for the Capitol Preservation Committee.



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Then & Now



Harrisburg has lost many beautiful buildings over the years due to neglect, misuse and misdirected attempts at urban renewal. Westminster Presbyterian Church (above, circa 1901) is a good example of an urban gem lost forever. According to Ken Frew's "Building Harrisburg," the Gothic Revival Church at Green and Reily streets was built in the 1890s as Midtown's Engleton community grew. After World War II, as the neighborhood began to suffer, so did the church, losing parishioners until the remaining congregation merged with Pine Street Presbyterian in 1972. The building was briefly occupied by Christ Gospel, but a fire caused major damage soon afterwards. Abandoned and neglected, the church collapsed with a great sound in 1987. Last year, the corner's gravelly, weed-strewn lot was paved and landscaped and now serves as parking for the Midtown Cinema next door.

Doing Good

Giving a Smile

Just 2 years old, Hbg4Kids impacting young lives.

Traci Fatula

You can't help but hear a child's laughter or see a baby's smile and feel happier. Their joy is contagious, and I've often said that they are the best remedy for a bad day.

Truth be told, I was having a hard week when Hbg4Kids got its start. It wasn't until I closely examined my situation that I realized how insignificant my problems were in comparison with those around me. I think it was God's gentle way of reminding me to be thankful for what I do have and to concentrate on how I could help others. From that point, I was determined to give back.

Hbg4Kids started very small two years ago. I reached out to a few close friends and asked them to join me in giving back to others during the holidays. I quickly realized, though, that there is a large group of young professionals and community members who want to help others. They just need an organization, cause or channel through which to give.

We quickly found that our true passion is helping children in our community who are facing some of life's biggest obstacles but deserve bright futures. In what has become our theme, we wanted to "Give a Smile ... Harrisburg Style."

For our first campaign, we helped raise support for The Four Diamonds Fund at Penn State Hershey Children's Hospital, as they work to provide invaluable care to children and their families. Our team's efforts were well received, and, at our inaugural event,

we were thrilled to present a \$10,000 donation to the organization and help local children smile. From that night on, our passion only grew stronger.

This year, we set our sights on reaching children in Harrisburg and around the world. We partnered with TOMS, a shoe company that donates one pair of shoes to an underprivileged child for every pair purchased through its "One for One" program. Thanks to the community's generosity, we are thrilled to have donated more than 200 pairs through our "Heel Your Sole" campaign.

We then turned our attention to Allison Hill. Children living in this neighborhood face some of Harrisburg's most challenging conditions, including the city's highest violent crime, unemployment and poverty rates—but many are striving for bright futures through educational mentoring provided by The Joshua Group. Our goal was to raise support for the nonprofit's tutoring program, J-Crew, which assists students in achieving academic success.

On Feb. 4, we held our 2nd annual "Give Them a Smile, Harrisburg Style" charity event at Dragonfly Club with title corporate sponsor HealthAmerica. Continuing to gather generous donations throughout the evening, we were thrilled to present a check to The Joshua Group for \$12,000.

Despite a tough economy and the challenges it brings, the Harrisburg community continues to demonstrate its commitment to our youth.

What began as a small group of friends wanting to lend a hand, Hbg4Kids has evolved into a powerful catalyst, joining young professionals, adults, businesses, organizations and the community together to make a difference in the lives of local youth. Comprised of nearly 20 young professionals from the greater Harrisburg area, we are working to improve the lives of children and, of course, "Give a Smile ... Harrisburg Style."

Traci Fatula is a lifelong Harrisburg resident and president of Hbg4Kids. For more on the group, call 717-903-7307 or e-mail Hbg4Kids@gmail.com.



One big check: The Joshua Group accepts a donation from Hbg4Kids. Left to right: Johnny Holtzman; Rebecca Porterfield; Bryan Kazimierowski; Jennifer Dibrell; David Kray; Cecilia Coccia; Kirk Hallett, founder and director of The Joshua Group; Doug Rowell Jr.; Melissa Miller; Traci Fatula, president of Hbg4Kids; Rebecca Guarneschelli; and Clint Cullison.



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Revival on Tap for Glass Factory

Shattered building a step closer to apartments.

Peter Durantine

The Harrisburg Planning Commission last month gave final approval to convert the long-empty, century-old former glass factory at the corner of N. 3rd and Muench streets into an apartment house of 19 studio and 12 one-bedroom units (artist's rendering below).

In voting unanimously to approve the project, the commission removed a condition that the developer, Skynet Property Management LP,



hire a contract compliance officer to ensure that minority businesses are considered in the bidding process. With the economy sputtering along, City Council has become aggressive at making sure minority contractors have a chance to compete for contracts.

The commission agreed with Skynet's attorney, John Baranski, who said the policy was not applicable to the private developer who is using no public money for the project.

Skynet also agreed to provide landscaping and green space around parts of the building, located at 1841 N. 3rd St. In return, the developer was granted relief for parking, having only to provide 26 spaces instead of 31.

The commission also appeared satisfied that the apartment house would not become a rooming

house, a fear expressed by Historic Harrisburg Association, Harrisburg Young Professionals and the Olde Uptown Neighborhood Association at a preliminary hearing last summer.

Skynet assured the commission the project would be a standard apartment building as required by zoning. Its 31 units would range in size from 285 square feet to 532 square feet, be leased monthly and be priced at \$690 for the least expensive to more than \$800.

The commission did question how Skynet could develop the property at the cost it cited on its application, \$300,000. Applicant Eric Peel said that was just for the mechanical and framing part of the construction. The final cost would be more. "I hope you can pull that off," said commissioner Vern McKissick III.

Skynet President Josh Juffe has said the cost could reach \$1 million to completely develop the property. City Council approval is the next step in the process for the glass factory. No date for a hearing has been set.

Biz Notes

The Central Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce has named Deb McClain of uFinancial as its new president, replacing founding president Russ Boggs, who will continue as treasurer. Other officers include new Vice President Seth Hamill of Charter Homes & Neighborhoods and new secretary Debbie Gable of Planned Parenthood of Central Pennsylvania.

Penn Blue Strategies, headed by partners Brad Koplinski, Dan Hartman and Eric Nagy, has opened downtown at 212 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg. The firm specializes in working with Democratic political campaigns, as well as non-profits, in a variety of areas including legal compliance, research, direct mail, polling, field management and communications. Penn Blue has already signed an incumbent member of Congress and several candidates running for Congress and state offices. "We are excited about building the Democratic Party and giving our clients the winning edge," said Koplinski, who also serves as a Harrisburg councilman. www.pennbluestrategies.com.

T-MART, a new convenience store, opened last month at 1100 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, the former location of The HodgePodgery, which moved a few blocks up. T-MART offers the usual assortment of items found at convenience stores throughout the city.

Changing Hands: January Property Sales

Allison Ct., 8: Ohio Investments to Z. Dernas & F. Haile, \$37,000

Boas St., 427: J. & J. Bennage to C. Kyne, \$119,900

Briggs St., 255 & 248 Oliver Lane: T. & M. Marsico to Eastern State Investments LLC, \$281,300

Church St., 610: E. Schwartz to C. MacNett, \$135,000

Green St., 914: J. Jumper to P. Vantien, \$152,500

Green St., 1411: C. Williams to R. Daniels Jr., \$48,000

Green St., 1817: M. Bruce to T. & L. Sopcak, \$107,000

Green St., 1907: J. & V. Duncan to G. Buchen, \$157,500

Green St., 2005: R. Zabornay to K. Rapp, \$203,000

Harris St., 437: M. Helwig to Arthur Kusic Real Estate Investments, \$130,650

Harris St., 439: M. Helwig to Arthur Kusic Real Estate Investments, \$130,050

Harris St., 629, 628 Boyd St., 630 Boyd St. & 1533 Wallace St.: W. Showman to U.S. GSA, \$39,136

Market St., 1835: V. Loria to N. Santiago & L. Crawley, \$67,000

Naudain St., 1627: Integrity Bank to MLP LLC, \$35,000

N. 2nd St., 3002: A. & R. Emerick to B. & K. Elgart, \$190,000

N. 3rd St., 1634: PA Deals LLC to S. Mauer, \$148,000

N. 3rd St., 3005: P. & J. Schuller to J. Fazio, \$80,000

N. 4th St., 1922: B. Strong to J. George, \$97,900

N. 5th St., 1515½: R. Marcum to 1500 SPE LP, \$40,000

N. 5th St., 2540: Seymore Brothers Construction LLC to J. Burke, \$49,000

N. 18th St., 917: R. Shokes Jr. to R. & D. Requa, \$57,000

N. Front St., 1323: Cook & Nevin to P. & A. Ballantine, \$195,000

Penn St., 2318: W. & M. Kirchenbauer to R. Stamm, \$79,900

Reily St., 222: G. Riddle to A. Mikocco & C. Smith, \$119,900

Rumson Dr., 2984: S. Kaloko to C. Harris & D. Sneed, \$63,000

Schuylkill St., 620: Kusic Financial Services LLC to WK Rentals LLC, \$39,000

S. 10th St., 25: JAG Real Property LLC to Assembly of Christian Churches Inc., \$150,000

S. 16th St., 908A: J. Gorse to J. Matthews, \$47,000

S. 19th St., 1208: J. Brown to R. Morel & A. Rivera, \$64,000

Susquehanna St., 913: PA Deals LLC to E. & S. Mitrovich, \$74,900

Walnut St., 555: Dauphin County General Authority to Pa. Economic Development Financing Authority, \$99.2 million

Source: Dauphin County, City of Harrisburg, property sales greater than \$30,000. Data is deemed to be accurate.

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New Owner, New Look

Rehab starts at Cumberland Court.

Lawrance Binda



Men at work: Trailers signal that construction has commenced on a comprehensive renovation of Cumberland Court Apartments.

Construction began last month on a large-scale rehabilitation of Cumberland Court, the sprawling apartment complex next to the Broad Street Market in Harrisburg.

Nick Bouquet, development associate for Maine-based Evergreen Housing Partners, said the company is investing an average of \$40,000 in each of the complex's 108 units.

Interior improvements will

include new kitchens, bathrooms, flooring, heating/cooling systems, windows and lighting in each unit. The complex's exterior will receive new outside lighting, an improved security system and a new roof.

Bouquet said the company also plans to build a community center, which will include community space, a policing

center, a computer center and new management offices.

"We are undertaking a substantial interior and exterior renovation that will modernize the units so that everything the tenants see and touch will be new to the unit," said Bouquet, who added that privately held Evergreen will be a long-term holder of the property, which will continue to serve lower-income residents.

Renovations on the complex, built in 1975, should be complete by year-end, he said.

Evergreen bought the brick, garden-style complex in December for \$3 million from long-time owner Cumberland Court Associates.

The company specializes in acquiring, improving and managing properties for low- and moderate-income residents. Locally, it owns the Rutherford Park Townhouses in Hummelstown and the Garden Court Apartments in Lancaster.

Cumberland Court is bordered by Capital, Verbeke, Herr and N. 6th streets.

N. 7th Street Project Begins with Detours

The long-promised upgrade of N. 7th Street in Harrisburg has begun, according to the city.

On Feb. 28, crews closed the southbound lane of N. 7th Street between Reily and Maclay streets for a major project that includes widening the street from two to four lanes.

The project also will add sidewalks, upgrade sewer and water lines and install antique-style lighting and benches. The intersection at N. 7th and Maclay streets also will be upgraded.

Construction is expected to take about a year. Until then, N. 7th Street traffic will be detoured onto N. 6th Street.

The \$5.5 million road project is funded mostly with state and federal funds, allowing easier access to the Capitol complex and the proposed federal courthouse at N. 6th and Reily streets.

First National Takes Space on State & 2nd

The regional headquarters of a major bank will occupy most of the remaining available space in the prominent new office building under construction at N. 2nd and State streets in Harrisburg.

First National Bank of Pennsylvania, the largest affiliate of F.N.B. Corp., will take up the entire first floor of the building, as well as much of the second floor, said project developer WCI Partners. The first floor will be a full-service bank branch, while the second floor will become the bank's regional headquarters, which is re-locating from Susquehanna Township. About 40 employees will work in the bank's new Harrisburg location.

"We are excited to establish our regional headquarters in what we consider to be the number one new location in downtown Harrisburg," said Lloyd Lamm, regional banking executive for the bank's 15-county Capital Region.

WCI has already signed up the law firm of Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney as anchor tenant for the building. The firm will occupy the upper three floors

of the five-story building upon its completion, expected in July.

Including the law firm and the bank, about 110 employees are expected to work in the building.

"Anytime we can bring companies into downtown, it's good for our business and good for the city because it generates revenue as well as solid employment opportunities," said J. Alex Hartzler, WCI managing partner.



First National Bank of Pa.'s Lloyd Lamm, second from right, stands with Dave Butcher and Alex Hartzler of WCI Partners and Matthew Hartzler of Warfel Construction.

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From the Ground Up

From Restaurant to ...?

Change coming to former Shipoke bistro.

Peter Durantine

Shipoke residents may be able to rest easy. The corner building at 540 Race Street, formerly Char's Bella Mundo restaurant, has been granted zoning for uses appropriate to the neighborhood.

Char Magaro, who restored the building after last year's flood wiped out the little bistro, asked the Harrisburg Zoning Hearing Board in December for a special exception to lease or sell the building as office or retail space.

Shipoke's neighborhood association, which wanted the restaurant to remain, worried a retailer inappropriate to this residential community, such as an adult book store, would occupy the building. A playground is across the street from the property.

The board postponed a decision until this concern was addressed and questions about Magaro's intent were answered. Magaro had been unable to make the board's December meeting.

Magaro appeared at the board's Feb. 13 hearing, told them she envisioned a professional such as an accountant or lawyer or even a specialty retailer using the space. She also said she had met with the association to allay their fears.



Lease me: Char's Bella Mundo has been closed since September's devastating flood. Owner Char Magaro now wants to sell or rent the space.

"They seemed satisfied," she said. "I explained to them why I couldn't rebuild there." She had been flooded out twice in nearly 10 years.

The board was able to find compatible zoning for Magaro under the category of home office, which allows for the space to be used by a professional firm or a grocery, bakery, deli, newsstand or a residence. It was approved unanimously.

Meantime, Magaro is working toward opening by late spring a new restaurant, Char's at Tracy Mansion, 1829 N. Front St. It's along the Susquehanna River, but on much higher ground than her old Shipoke bistro.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

Honoring service members and their families is the theme to Harrisburg's St. Patrick's Day Parade and Celebration on March 24. Thomas and Romyne McGinnis of Meadville, parents of Pennsylvania Medal of Honor recipient Army Spc. Ross A. McGinnis, are the parade's grand marshals.

On Dec. 4, 2006, during a patrol with his platoon in Iraq, McGinnis died while shielding his fellow soldiers from an enemy-thrown grenade.

At 8:30 a.m. on parade day, there will be a wreath-laying ceremony at the McGinnis memorial marker located in Soldiers and Sailors Grove at the Capitol complex. To attend, RSVP William.irwin@us.army.mil.

The featured act for this year's parade, which typically includes more

than 2,000 marchers, is the U.S. Army Old Fife and Drum Corp.

The parade begins at 2 p.m. at the corner of Commonwealth Avenue and Walnut Street, proceeds up Walnut to N. 2nd Street, down N. 2nd to North Street and ends at N. 3rd Street.

For more information, visit www.harrisburgirishparade.com.



A Vineyard Grows in Hershey

New winery is about good friends, a great pour.

Lawrance Binda



By the bottle: Co-owners Jason Reimer and Paul Vezzetti proudly present their wines in the tasting room of the Vineyard at Hershey.

It's late winter, and the view across an old, 40-acre farm is one of grays and browns, with a chilly wind blowing.

On a hillside, 3-year-old grape vines are dormant, their colors blending in with the landscape, which makes them difficult to distinguish against the surrounding fields.

It's quiet now, but renewed life isn't far away. As the weather warms, visitors will join together in this spot to sip wine, chat with friends and watch with delight as the chardonnay, riesling and chambourcin vines sprout leaves then fruit.

On a country road, just over a hill from the area's attractions, a gathering place—the Vineyard at Hershey—has just opened for business.

"Wine is about developing relationships," said Jason Reimer, who owns the vineyard with Doug Gellatly and L. Paul Vezzetti. "It's a common, shared experience in which everyone is enjoying the same emotions."

Indeed, friendships can be credited for the entire venture.

Six years ago, a friend invited the wine-loving Reimer, who daylights as a Harrisburg attorney, to Napa Valley for a tour of vineyards there. He returned wanting to re-create the Napa experience—a friendly, welcoming place with great wines that caters to both casual and sophisticated drinkers.

"I thought that kind of customer experience is something that we could bring to central Pennsylvania," he said.

Vezzetti, another long-time friend, had begun making wines, while another, Gellatly, owned a farm just off the Pennsylvania Turnpike south of Hershey.

It turned out the farm had an eastward-facing slope (perfect for grape cultivation), a 120-year-old farmhouse (perfect for a small

tasting room) and a large, spring-fed lake (perfect for romantic vistas).

Three years ago, the partners planted their first vines, which are now maturing. They have also restored the farmhouse, and, soon, will knock down the dilapidated barn, the site of a future 4,300-square-foot building that will house the production facility, a larger tasting room and event space.

Until then, Vezzetti performs his viticultural magic in a small area in the farmhouse basement. He recently was bottling the winery's first merlot, one of 500 that will be bottled, available in September.

"We plan to produce 14,000 bottles of wine this year—and every

one is bottled by hand," he said.

This season, the vineyard's own grapes will be ready for the first time. Until then, Vezzetti makes his wines exclusively with product bought from other farms, all in Pennsylvania.

Currently, the Vineyard at Hershey offers a dozen wines, including two types of chardonnay, a seyval blanc, a Niagara, a chambourcin, a catawba, a dry and sweet riesling, a peach wine and several blends.

All are made in accord with Vezzetti's wine-making approach, which could be described as somewhat drier and perhaps more complex on the palette than other area wines.

That said, Vineyard at Hershey offers wines for every taste—from dry to sweet; from simple to bold. The owners want to appeal to everyone, whether they're day-trippers from the area or wine sophisticates staying at the Hotel Hershey.

"We want to make wines that people can have

as their everyday drinking bottle, no matter who you are," said Reimer.

Looking over the still terrain, Reimer envisions a day when the fields are fully planted with mature vines and ripe fruit is being harvested and trucked directly into the spacious new production room.

"We have a setting in which people will come here by the thousands to enjoy fine wines and an overall wonderful experience," he said. "And 10 years from now, it will be that much better."

The Vineyard at Hershey, 598 Schoolhouse Rd., Middletown. Tasting room open Saturday and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and by appointment. 717-944-1569; www.vineyardathershey.com.



Vineyard view: Grape vines, dormant for the winter, are ready to spring forth along a gentle hillside that overlooks a spacious lake.

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Taste of the Town

N.J.-Style, Pa.-Sited

Capitol Diner serves everyone from pols to prols.

Peter Durantine



Dining in: Owner Dimitrios "Jimmy" Hronis takes a spot at the end of the counter in the Capitol Diner.

With its sleek stainless-steel exterior and well-appointed interior filled with the warm smells of cooking and brewed coffee, the Capitol Diner sits atop Eisenhower Boulevard, shining like one of its pre-fabricated brothers in New Jersey or New York.

That's what Dimitrios "Jimmy" Hronis, who owns the eatery with his brother, Gus, intended when they bought the old '70s restaurant with its faux stone exterior a decade ago and began to transform it into a stylish, 24-hour diner with a counter.

"This is very typical for New Jersey," Hronis said, relaxing one

morning in a booth near the long granite counter. "It's the old way diners used to be, but modernized."

The Swatara Township diner, which the brothers bought 10 years ago, was recently approved for a liquor license and should soon offer beer and wine with meals—very New Jersey/New York like, but Hronis doesn't anticipate ever having a bar as many diners do in those states.

To Hronis, who has an information technology degree from George Washington University, appearance is everything in running a restaurant. He and his brother grew up working in their father's Northampton diner, where they learned the business—from cooking to waiting tables.

Hronis found his niche in managing the front of the house while Gus took the kitchen, which is how they operate their 180-seat diner with a trained staff that numbers as many as 10 workers on a shift, depending upon the time of day.

Since those first years cleaning, remodeling and refurbishing the interior and re-fabricating the exterior, Capitol Diner has become a popular spot, attracting even governors and U.S. senators as well as celebrities performing in Harrisburg.

One of the biggest to dine there was Hillary Clinton, when she was a candidate for president in 2008. Her staff chose the diner for a campaign event that drew crowds of voters as well as media.

"We had reporters coming in from all over the world here," Hronis recalled, noting television trucks were parked everywhere. "It was a very busy day."

The keys to running a successful diner, said Hronis, are, "Good food, good service and clean atmosphere," something his Greek-immigrant father always stressed during the 33 years he ran his diner. "Those were the words from Pop."

"We strive here on being clean, very clean," Hronis said. A short while later, he pointed at a busboy who worked nearby with a broom, "He's doing sweeping, see?"

Hronis believes success requires a willingness to make changes. That, he said, is why he rebuilt the diner—it was closed for four months after he bought it in 2002—and why he continues to add to the menu.

"People want a change," he said. "They don't want the same thing all the time."

Hronis, who makes a point to know his customers, said that's just as important as a clean restaurant—and food that not only tastes good, but looks good.

"People believe with their eyes,"



The Capitol Diner's familiar art deco-style roof adornment and sign.

he said. "The eyes are the key to people's stomachs."

Capitol Diner, 800 Eisenhower Blvd., Harrisburg, 717-939-2279 or fax 717-939-4119.

Restaurant Notes

Dodge City has put itself on the sales block, despite a total makeover last year as the restaurant tried to save itself by participating in the show, "Restaurant: Impossible" on the Food Network. The long-time owners are asking \$995,000 for the whole shooting match—the restaurant, equipment, liquor license and real estate at 1037 Paxton St., Harrisburg.

Crawdaddy's expects to open its doors early this month at 306 Reilly St., Harrisburg. Owner Bill Crawford said his restaurant will specialize in American-style fare, such as seafood, steaks and salads. The spacious restaurant has three levels and will feature a traditional-style restaurant on the first floor, a more casual eatery, with a separate menu, on the second floor and possibly a hookah area on the top floor. The restaurant will be BYOB. Crawford also will operate his established catering business, Something Special Catering, from the building, which has been empty for several years.

Dunk's Soulful Sins is poised to open at 912 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg, the snug space where The Soup Spot started before expanding and moving up the street. The soul food restaurant can be reached at 717-695-0248.



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A Pasta Primer

There's a perfect pasta for practically every dish.

Rosemary Ruggieri Baer

The beautiful, ageless Italian actress Sophia Loren famously claims she eats pasta every single day. Pasta is the heart and soul of Italian cooking, and a week doesn't go by that a pasta dish of some sort doesn't make its way to the Baer table.

I try not to think about the carb-avoidance craze that surrounds me: lunch meat wrapped in lettuce, eggs without toast, nothing but grilled chicken salad for lunch. Rather, I think of my Mom and Dad who had a lifelong passion for pasta and lived to be 90.

How simple making pasta seems: grab a box of spaghetti from the grocery store shelf, perhaps a jar of sauce (ouch) and as Rachel Ray would say, "You're good to go." Not much to think about.

But as I was preparing this column, I realized there's a lot to think about when it comes to pasta. How is it best cooked? Do I buy fresh pasta or dried? What pasta shape is best for the sauce I'm making? How long should I cook it? Should I try one of the newer flavored pastas? (Beet a definite no, but squid-ink is a favorite of hubby's.)

Fresh pasta, or pasta fresco, made with flour and eggs, has its origins in the cuisine of northern Italy where eggs were plentiful and

people affluent. Their neighbors to the south relied on dried or secca pasta. Dried pasta kept longer in the hot dry climate of southern Italy and was much less expensive to make. It is the type Americans probably make most often, topped with red sauce or "Sunday Gravy."

The best dried pasta is made from golden semolina flour ground from durum wheat. This pasta will not turn mushy when cooked and has high-protein content. In the '50s and '60s, my parents traveled a distance to buy good imported pasta, but today, many different brands can be found in specialty stores and Italian groceries. My favorite is Delverde which is produced in the Abruzzo region of Italy. It cooks to a perfect "al dente," a term Italians use for pasta that is tender but still has a bite, or "to the tooth."

Does it matter which pasta is paired with a particular sauce, soup, or stew? It does.

I remember my mother, lovingly preparing her weekly batch of chicken soup with little tiny pastas called acini di pepe (the best baby food in the world), stelline (little stars) or orzo, the pasta that looks like rice. I often use ditalini in soup. These tiny thimbles are perfect for pasta fagiolo or minestrone.

Pappardelle are wide pasta ribbons that pair beautifully with duck or beef ragu. Conchiglie or shells come in many sizes. Large ones can be stuffed with meat or ricotta. Small ones are great for scooping up thicker sauces such as Bolognese. Try making your favorite pasta salad with farfalle, or bow ties. These look so beautiful when mixed with bright summer vegetables.

Silky, creamy sauces call for fettuccine and fresh clams for linguine. And have you ever tried orecchiette? These "little ears" are classically paired with sausage and broccoli rabe for a hearty winter dish that can be eaten with a spoon.

It can't be said too often: when making pasta, the quality of the ingredients matter. Good imported pasta, tomatoes and olive oil make a meal fit for a king. Maybe it is that simple, like the recipe below.

Salsa di Burro e Pomodoro (Pasta with Tomato and Butter Sauce)

- Combine 2 finely chopped cloves of garlic and 1 finely chopped large onion in a skillet with ¼ cup sweet butter and 2 tablespoons extra virgin olive oil. Sauté over medium heat until transparent.

- Add 3 cups of crushed tomatoes (or in summer, chopped ripe tomatoes) and season with salt and pepper to taste. (If you can find them, try Pomo tomatoes. They are packaged in a paper box without salt or other preservatives and taste like summer.)

- Simmer over medium-low heat for about 25 minutes.

- Add a handful of torn fresh basil just before removing from the heat.

Serve over freshly cooked pasta: spaghetti, linguine, fettuccine or bucatini work best with this light smooth sauce. For extra richness, stir in a cup of fresh cream for a rose or pink sauce or add another chunk of butter.

Sophia, I'm with you. I could eat this every day.



Sophia Loren eats pasta, circa 1950s.



Rosemary Ruggieri Baer, a first generation Italian-American, grew up in Harrisburg and has spent her life perfecting her mother's country cooking.

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Movie, Popcorn, History

West Shore Theater: one of area's last classic moviehouses.

Fazna Zain



Now showing: For seven decades, the West Shore Theater has helped bind together the community.

When was the last time you went to the movies and paid less than \$8 for a ticket? The West Shore Theater in New Cumberland not only offers

a great price but also an old time movie experience.

The theater sits on Bridge Street, adding historical appeal to this small town. Walking into the quaint building feels like you are back in the 1940s. From the paintings on the walls and ceilings to the authentic fixtures, the building reflects the period in which it was built.

"Movies offer a chance to experience a different life, and the vintage theatre just enhances that sense of otherworldliness," said Pamela Reilly, a regular West Shore

Theater moviegoer.

This antique theatre has been a family-run business from the beginning. Fred Bollen and his mother, Violet, became partners in this venture in 1986. They purchased it from the Freister family, the original owners of the movie theater.

Bollen bought the theater because of his love for movies and becoming a business owner had always been a dream. After 25 years of ownership, Bollen reflects on the good and the bad of being a small business owner in a competitive market. As for Violet, she is now in a nursing home due to Alzheimer's and is no longer able to be a part of their theater company.

"We've had good years and bad years. We're at the mercy of the product, weather and other events in the area," Bollen said.

Area events like the Farm Show, concerts and sporting events are among his competition. Popular television programs such as Dancing with the Stars and American Idol are also contenders to the theater, especially because television can be viewed at the comfort of one's home. Regardless of this, the West Shore Theatre continues to bring in an audience that enjoys this small town production.

"I love this theater," said Katie Shradley, a New Cumberland local. "Its casual, traditional, great price and they have amazing popcorn."

Reilly said, "I love the atmosphere and the historic ambience of the theater itself. It is part of what gives downtown New Cumberland its identity and feel."

The theater is a great place to go with your family, friends or your significant other. Bollen wants people to be able to still go to the movies without worrying about cost. He would like to maintain his low prices; however, with an old building comes maintenance issues. He hopes to replace the screen, put solar panels on the roof and go digital in the future,



Breaking news: An article and advertisements in The Evening News celebrated the opening of The West Shore Theater in 1940.

which may possibly mean a small increase in ticket pricing.

Owning the theater gives Bollen full control over how it's run, which sets it apart from others in the area. He picks popular movies customers will prefer and sets prices for tickets and concession items. Movies shown here are ones that have recently left the mainstream movie theaters.

Aside from deciding what films to play, he is also responsible for most other tasks from selling tickets to bookkeeping. Bollen's wife, Deb, along with his best friend Jeff B. and his wife, all work hard to keep the theater running smoothly.

"Every business has its downsides," Bollen said. "I still want to own it forever."

For patrons, this movie theater is old-fashioned and beautiful. It brings in a crowd that is both old, young and in between. It adds culture, history and traditional value to the town.

"So many other communities have lost their theaters and that is a big loss," said Reilly. "So long live historic movie theaters and the people who keep them an active part of the community!"

West Shore Theater, 317 Bridge St., New Cumberland, is open daily including holidays except Christmas and Halloween Parade night. Showtimes are 7 p.m. and 9 p.m., seven days a week, with a 2 p.m. matinee on weekends. Tickets are \$3 and \$2.50 on Tuesdays. For movie information, call 717-774-7160 or check boxoffice mojo.com.

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Kevyn Knox

Michael Fassbender. Born in Germany, raised in Ireland, he is the "It" boy of present day cinema.

He was one of the oiled up muscled bodies in Zack Snyder's battle royal "300." He made his big break as Bobby Sands in the harrowing 2008 film "Hunger." Since then, he has played a man who gets involved with his girlfriend's teenage daughter ("Fish Tank"), the victim of torture porn terror ("Eden Lake"), a film critic turned tragic spy ("InglouriousBasterds"), the brooding Mr. Rochester ("Jane Eyre"), an assassin for hire ("Haywire") and the master of magnetism himself ("X-Men: First Class"). Soon, we will see the ubiquitous actor play an android in Ridley Scott's highly anticipated "Prometheus."

Today, we are here to talk about two of Herr Fassbender's films, specifically, a pair of films, originally making their theatrical debut in 2011 that are finally making it to Harrisburg this very month.



The first of these is "A Dangerous Method," the latest from Canadian auteur David

Cronenberg. He plays Carl Jung, opposite Viggo Mortensen as Freud and Kiera Knightley as the Russian woman who brought these two classic minds together, and, in turn, who tore them apart. Cronenberg, more in his "A History of Violence" mode than his earlier "Videodrome" or "Scanners" mode, hands us a deep and haunting take on the delicate relationship between sex and sanity. Playing out as a ménage à trois of the mind (though, mind you, there is much of the body, as well), Cronenberg's film is a sharply tuned, near-masterpiece of psychological derangement—and we get Fassbender at its juicy center.

The other film making its way to Harrisburg this month is "Shame." The film is directed by Steve McQueen (no, not that Steve McQueen), the man who gave us Fassbender's

breakthrough "Hunger," and has been saddled with an NC-17 rating for the full-frontal nudity of Fassbender's sex addict main character (a full-frontal of epic proportions at that) and, therefore, may not be for everyone.

But even so, with a bravura performance by the seemingly omnipresent actor as a man dealing with the demons of addiction, and McQueen's delicate yet audacious directorial style, it is a not-to-miss cinematic experience indeed—and not just for the endowments that made even George Clooney blush and gush at the Golden Globes.

Due to the NC-17 rating, the film will end up reaching fewer people than most movies, and that is a (pardon the pun) shame because it is a stellar and harrowing look at a man and his addiction. It is highlighted by a performance that many, including yours truly, dear readers, believe to have been one of the biggest snubs at this year's Academy Awards.

Both of these films will debut at Midtown Cinema in March and both are well worth the wait we had to endure from their respective late-fall releases in New York and L.A. Other films coming our way include the equally long anticipated "A Separation," "The Skin I Live In," "Albert Nobbs" and "We Need to Talk About Kevin"—but none of these star Michael Fassbender, so we can talk about them another time.

Trivia Question: In Quentin Tarantino's "InglouriousBasterds," Michael Fassbender plays Archie Hickox, a British film historian and critic whose knowledge of German cinema and culture makes him the perfect candidate to go undercover as a Nazi officer. What real-life film critic and award-winning novelist, who also worked as a spy during WW II (though to less tragic circumstances), is this character based upon? Find out the answer in my next column.



Kevyn Knox is a film critic + historian. His reviews can be read at thecinematheque.com.

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Museums & Art Spaces

3rd Street Studio

1725 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-385-3315; www.3rdstreetstudio.org

Please contact the gallery.

Antique Auto Museum at Hershey

161 Museum Dr., Hershey
717-566-7100; www.aacamuseum.org

"Alternative Energy Vehicles," a history of automobile propulsion beyond the internal combustion engine, March 2–June 3.

Art Association of Harrisburg

21 N. Front St., Harrisburg
717-236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com

"Four Artists Invitational Exhibit," with works by Susan Courtney of Hanover, Tom Svec of Lock Haven, Jeffrey Tritt of Philadelphia and Gordon Wenzel of Danville, through March 29.

The Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market St., Camp Hill
www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Mixed media by Rose Roth, through March.

Fenêtre Gallery

HACC Midtown 2, 2nd Floor
N. 3rd and Reilly streets, Harrisburg

"Visions and Voices: The 2012 South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art and Writing Awards," March 16–April 12; reception, March 16, 5–7 p.m.

Gallery@Second

608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
galleryatsecond.com

Works by Thom Kulp and John Whitney, through March 3.

The artwork of Cecelia Lyden and Tami Bitner, March 8–April 14; reception, March 16, 6–9 p.m.

Gallery at Walnut Place

413 Walnut St., Harrisburg; 717-233-0487

"Surrealism 2012," an exhibition of the international surrealist movement from the 1960s through today, March 12–April 20; reception, March 16, 5–8 p.m.

HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

Works by various local and regional artists.

Little Amps Coffee Roasters

1836 Green Street, Harrisburg
717-695-4882; littleampscoffee.com

"Loops," an exhibit featuring new artwork by Bren Boleman and Deirdre McConnell, March 16–April 19; reception, March 16, 5–9 p.m.

Mangia Qui

272 North St., Harrisburg
717-233-7358; www.mangiaqui.com

The artwork of Elide Hower, through March.

The Mantis Collective

1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
themantiscollective@yahoo.com

"Hey America! It's Affirmative Action," contemporary art T-shirts by Reina 76 Artist, March 16–April 15; reception, March 16, 8–10 p.m.

Midtown Scholar/Yellow Wall Gallery

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; www.midtownscholar.com

"Two-Point Perspective," textiles and mixed media paintings by Rachel Campbell and Elizabeth Germann, through March 11.

Photography by Chuck Zyl, March 13–April 15; reception, March 16, 6–10 p.m.

National Civil War Museum

One Lincoln Circle at Reservoir, Harrisburg
717-260-1861; nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

"To Further Their Cause: Inventions and Innovations of the Civil War," through March 4.

"1862," an exhibit highlighting the second year of the Civil War, through Dec. 31.

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art

176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg
717-692-3699; www.nedsmithcenter.org

"Jerome P. Connolly: Master Muralist," through March 17.

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
www.hacc.edu/RoseLehrmanArtsCenter

"Asparagus, Houses and Floating Constructions," ceramics by Robert Winokur, through March 2.

Rose Lehrman Arts Center, continued

"A Piece of Our Mind," posters by Joe Scorsone and Alice Drueding, March 12–April 4; lecture & reception, March 15.

The Soup Spot

1014 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-232-7867

Photography and paintings by Harrisburg-area artists.

The State Museum of Pennsylvania

300 North St., Harrisburg
717-787-4980; www.statemuseumpa.org

National Geographic Giant Traveling Map of North America, through March 15.

"Making it Better: Folk Arts in Pennsylvania Today," through April 29.

"The Fine Art of Giving: Gifts of Art to the State Museum of Pennsylvania, 1998-2008."

The Susquehanna Art Museum

717-233-8668; www.sqart.org

"Latent Images," an exhibit held at The State Museum of Pennsylvania.

"Art Is an Entrée, Not a Dessert," a juried group exhibit of Dōshi Gallery, through July 15, held at The State Museum of Pennsylvania.

Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall

222 Market St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.whitakercenter.org

"2012 Instructor Exhibit" features the artwork of the instructors of the Mechanicsburg Art Center School and Galleries, through March 22.

Read, Make, Learn

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

March 1: Harrisburg Hope forum, candidates for 103rd legislative district, 6 p.m.

March 5, 19: Occupy Harrisburg teach-in series, 5:30 p.m.

March 8: Harrisburg Hope forum, candidates for state Senate, 15th district, 6 p.m.

March 10: Book-signing for Ed Frye's "Fools and Children," 2 p.m.

March 11: Lecture and film on civil rights activist Bayard Rustin, 5 p.m.

March 12: Book-signing for author Wayne Parcelle, 5 p.m.

March 15: Harrisburg Hope forum with receiver David Unkovic, Mayor Linda Thompson and Councilwoman Eugenia Smith, 6 p.m.

March 17: Book-signing for author Winter Trabex, 2 p.m.

March 20: Midtown Poets workshop, 7 p.m.

Midtown Scholar, continued

March 24: Book-signing for Ryan Bauer's "Everyone Is in Sales," 2 p.m.

March 27: Art Kaleidoscope meeting, 2 p.m.

March 31: Book-signing for author Carole LaPlante, 2 p.m.

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

www.sfmsfolk.org (see website for location)

March 9–11: Pan-Balkan dance weekend

At the Cinema

Moviate Film Co-Op

1106 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg; moviate.org

March 2: "The French Conspiracy," 8 p.m.

March 15: Open screening—bring your film to share; sign-up is 7:30 p.m.

March 22: "The Oregonian," 8 p.m.

March 29: Ben Miller plays live to films, plus Onewyness plays live.

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March 1: Per't Near Sandstone
March 2: Hierosonic w/Eliot Lipp & Minshara
March 3: Across The Pond
March 7: Buckwheat Zydeco w/UV Rays
March 9: Nate Myers & the Aces
March 13: Badfish, a tribute to Sublime
March 14: Enter The Haggis
March 15: ZoSo, Led Zeppelin Experience
March 16: The Greatest Funeral Ever w/Black Coffee
March 17: Kilmaine Saints
March 19: The Wood Brothers
March 23: Rock Paper Records Launch Party
March 24: River City Extension w/Ducky & The Vintage
March 25: Toubab Krewe & Yo Mama's Big Fat Booty Band
March 28: Dopapod w/The Manhattan Project
March 31: Mantis & Cosmic Dust Bunnies
Every Wednesday, Open Mic

Big Woody's Beach Bar & Grill

4425 N. Front St., Harrisburg
717-234-8103; www.morgans-place.com

March 3: Kings & Queens
March 4: Everyday People

Broad Street Market/Stone Building

N. 3rd and Verbeke streets, Harrisburg
www.broadstreetmarket.org

March 3: Hemlock Hollow
March 10: Jonathan Frazier
March 17: Chris Gassaway
March 31: Chris Gassaway

Carley's Ristorante and Piano Bar

204 Locust St., Harrisburg
717-909-9191; www.carleysristorante.com

March 1: Wade Preston
March 2, 9, 16, 23: Ted Ansel
March 3, 17, 30: Noel Gevers
March 7: Chelsea Caroline
March 8, 22: Anthony Haubert
March 10, 31: Roy Lefever
March 14, 24: Jett Prescott
March 15, 29: Giovanni Traino
March 21, 28: Brandon Parsons

Central Pennsylvania Friends of Jazz

717-540-1010; www.cpfj.org
(please check website for location)

March 11: CPFJ Jam Session w/Steve Rudolph, Tim Wolfe and Dave Lazorcik
March 18: Cyrus Chestnut Trio

Clover Lane Coffeehouse

1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg
717-564-4761; www.harrisburguu.org

March 24: Dan Schatz

Cornerstone Coffeehouse

2133 Market Street, Camp Hill
www.thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

March 2: Wayward Leaf
March 3: Herr Street
March 10: Sweet Life
March 11: Kirk Wise of Jazz Me and Friends
March 16: Kevin Kline
March 17: Lost Companion

Cornerstone Coffeehouse, continued

March 23: Antonio Andrade
March 24: Greg Lehmer
March 25: Mitch and Lee
March 31: We 3

Dragonfly Club/Spy Club

234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
www.dragonflyclub.com

March. 9: That's What She Said

Giant Center

550 W. Hersheypark Dr., Hershey
717-534-3911; www.giantcenter.com

March 6: Celtic Women
March 30: Casting Crowns

Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra

The Forum (5th and Walnut Sts.), Harrisburg
717-545-5527; harrisburgsymphony.org

March 3-4: "Jupiter Journey"
March 17-18: "Irresistibly Irish"
March 20: "Stuart & Friends" (at Rose Lehrman Arts Center)

Hilton Harrisburg & Towers

1 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg; 717-233-6000

March 2: Steve Rudolph w/Jim McFalls
March 9-10: Steve Rudolph w/Chuck Redd
March 16: Jim Wood solo piano
March 17: Steve Rudolph w/Joshua Davis
March 23: Steve Rudolph w/Dred "Perky" Scott
Most nights, Steve Rudolph on piano

HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

March 2: Aortic Valve
March 3: Dolchakov Brigade & friends
March 9: The Veda Rays
March 10: Over The Edge & The Martini Bros
March 23: Gennaro Porcelli
March 24: The April Skies
March 30: Hank & Cupcakes and friends
Every Wednesday, Open Mic

Hershey Theatre

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey
717-534-3405; www.hersheytheatre.com

March 3: John Prine
March 29: The Fresh Beat Band

Mangia Qui/Suba

272 North St., Harrisburg
717-233-7358; www.mangiaqui.com

March 2: Erica Everest
March 3: David Falcone
March 10: Camela Widad Kraemer
March 16: Great Northeast
March 17: Mark Santana
March 23: Tim Wolfe
March 24: Bucky's Brother
March 30: Indian Summer Jars
March 31: Dirk Quinn

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; www.midtownscholar.com

March 2: Folk Café
March 3: Good News Café
March 9: Benefit concert for Leukemia & Lymphoma Society

Midtown Scholar, continued

March 10: Silent Old Mountains & Life After You
March 16: Key of V
March 23: Suzi Brown & Maria Wilson
March 24: Cold Spring Road
March 27: Normandie Wilson
March 30: Aaron Nathans & Michael Ronstadt
March 31: Seasons

MoMo's BBQ & Grille

307 Market St., Harrisburg
717-230-1030; www.momosbbqandgrill.com

March 2: Bob Noble & Blue Vodoo
March 9: Forward Thrust
March 16: Mark Foczial
March 23: Bushmaster
March 30: HotWingJones

Savannah's on Hanna

1000 Hanna St., Harrisburg
717-233-1100; http://sohclub.com

March 24: Quagmire Swim Team

The Stage Door

Broadway Classics Productions

Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton St., Harrisburg
877-717-7969; broadwayclassicspa.com

"Here Lies Jeremy Troy," March 9-25

Giant Center

550 W. Hersheypark Dr., Hershey
717-534-3911; www.giantcenter.com

"Stars on Ice," March 18

Harlem Globetrotters, March 23

HACC TheatreWorks

Rose Lehrman Arts Center, One HACC Drive
www.liveatroselehrman.org; 717-231-ROSE

"Art," March 4-6

Harrisburg Comedy Zone

110 Limekiln Rd., New Cumberland
717-920-3627; harrisburgcomedyzone.com

Kier, March 2-3; Janet Williams, March 9-10;
Sean Kent, March 16-17; Tim Kidd, March 23-24; Joel Lindley, March 30-31

Harrisburg Shakespeare Company

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"Rosencrantz & Guildenstern are Dead," March 9-25

"Speakeasy: a 1920s Cabaret," March 30-31

Hershey Area Playhouse

Sand Hill Road at Cherry Drive, Hershey
717-838-8164; hersheyareaplayhouse.com

No shows scheduled for March.

Hershey Theatre

15 E. Caracas Ave., Hershey
717-534-3405; www.hersheytheatre.com

"Monty Python's Spamlot," March 9-10

"West Side Story," March 20-25

Stock's on 2nd

211 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg
717-233-6699; www.stocksonsecond.com

March 3: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher
March 10: Soul Solution
March 17: Cruise Control
March 24: Funktion
March 31: Shea Quinn and Steve Swisher

The Susquehanna Folk Music Society

www.sfmfolk.org (check website for location)

March 11: Jam session
March 23: Bruce Molsky & Ale Möller
March 30: Genticorum

Whitaker Center

222 Market St., Harrisburg
717-214-ARTS; www.whitakercenter.org

March 3: Hot Tuna—Acoustic
March 7: Cowboy Junkies w/Joe Purdy
March 10: Irish Rovers
March 11: Awadagin Pratt & Zuill Bailey
March 24: George Winston

HMAC/Stage on Herr

1110 N. 3rd St./268 Herr St., Harrisburg
717-441-7506; www.harrisburgarts.com

Soul Comedy Café, March 11

Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café

1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

T.M.I. improv group, March 16

Open Stage of Harrisburg

223 Walnut St., Harrisburg
717-232-OPEN; www.openstagehbg.com

"Court Street Cabaret," March 16-17

Oyster Mill Playhouse

1001 Oyster Mill Road, Camp Hill
717-737-6768; www.oystermill.com

"Out of Order," March 16-April 1

Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut

3rd Floor, Strawberry Square, Harrisburg
717-238-4111; www.gamutplays.org

"Hansel & Gretel," through March 3

"The Little Mermaid," March 14-31

Rose Lehrman Arts Center

One HACC Drive, Harrisburg
www.liveatroselehrman.org; 717-231-ROSE

"Ballet Hispanico," March 13

"Mayhem & Majesty" (Squonk Opera), March 27

Theatre Harrisburg

513 Hurlock St., Harrisburg
717-232-5501; www.theatreharrisburg.com

"Dial M for Murder," March 23-April 1

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Art Space

Window Space

Fenêtre Gallery opens to Harrisburg.

Peter Durantine

Fenêtre is French for "window," and it's the appropriate name of the new art gallery opening this month at Harrisburg Area Community College's Midtown campus.

The gallery opens March 16 on the second floor of HACC's historic brick building on the corner of 3rd and Reily streets. It will feature contemporary works of emerging and established artists.

The gallery's name was selected for an interior window that is part of the 1917 building's original architecture. The window creates an opening between exhibit space and reception area where light enters through a skylight. Metaphorically, the name is a reference to a window as an opening into the imagination.

The first exhibit opens March 16 with "Visions and Voices: The 2012 South Central Pennsylvania Scholastic Art and Writing Awards," sponsored by Commonwealth Connections Academy, an online public school. A reception for opening day is 5 to 7 p.m., coinciding with "3rd in the Burg."



Artistic panes: The new Fenêtre Gallery looks onto this beautiful enclosed courtyard space at HACC Midtown 2.

Fenêtre Gallery is in a historic landmark, the former home of Evangelical Press, a printing company that operated in the building for decades before being converted into a state office and laboratory. Today, after complete restoration, the building serves nearly 2,500 students enrolled in HACC's trade and technology programs.

Hours for the gallery will be Friday evenings and several afternoons during the week. Events are free and open to the public. Entrance to the building is at 1500 N. 3rd St.

New LED Sign, Upgrades at Whitaker Center

With state and county grants, the Whitaker Center for Science and the Arts is starting a few projects this year to increase the building's energy conservation.

"As a 12-year-old facility, we know it is critical to provide our guests with an overall memorable experience—both inside and outside of the building," said Dr. Michael Hanes, Whitaker Center President and CEO. "The new upgrades and modifications to the facility will reduce our requirements for electricity, water and steam and will reduce energy-related operating costs."

The renovations and rehabilitation includes upgrades to the existing lighting system, including replacement of fixtures and controls and installation of new LED technology bulbs, which allows the center to maintain dimming requirements throughout the building and on the outdoor marquee. Several

areas will require new transformers and controls.

In late January, the center replaced its Market Street marquee with a new LED digital video sign. Other work includes replacement of major mechanical systems and upgrades to the air and water handling systems. In March, the center will install newly designed energy efficient doors at the Market Street and 3rd Street entrances, and in September, the center will begin painting all its public spaces.



Read me: Whitaker Center logo hangs high for all to see in its new LED digital video sign.

March Rocks!

Alternative, classic rock en route to Harrisburg.

Caitlin Stamey

ZoSo

When: March 15

Location: Appalachian Brewing Co.

Genera: Classic Rock

Who doesn't love Led Zeppelin and who wouldn't kill to see them back in their glory days? Sure, it's kind of weird that the band ZoSo would rather take another bands songs, look and even vocal style instead of making their own music. Are they the ultimate fan or just ripping off someone else's success?

Who cares! Music doesn't always have to be about pure original talent. It can also be about having fun and making your audience have fun too. ZoSo has taken years to perfect their performance and it shows. If nothing else, the show will be fun and if you're

a fan of Zeppelin like me, you'll know all the words.

To learn more about ZoSo, check out their site, www.zosoontour.com. Try out the media clip "Over the Hill and Far Away." The original was a big hit for Led Zeppelin, and ZoSo did a

great job of sounding remarkably similar to the original.



Band member Matt Jernigan as Robert Plant in ZoSo, "The Ultimate Led Zeppelin Experience," which will play ABC's Abbey Bar this month.

The April Skies

When: March 24

Location: HMAc Stage on Herr

Genera: Alternative Rock

Music is constantly evolving and changing, and, to keep people interested, musicians who succeed at transitioning are the ones who evolve seamlessly. The ones who fail are those who change too much too fast or don't change at all.

Sometimes musicians simply can't produce anything other than what they know. To me, this is an indicator of the talent level of such a musician.

The Hershey-based band, The April Skies, has been in music since the late '80s and pride themselves on being true to their original, '90s-style rock-alternative with an

un-commercial sound. It is up to the listener as to whether or not The April Skies made the right choice.

With that said, a band that has been around for more than 20 years wouldn't keep booking shows and putting out albums without a loyal fan base and a dedicated following. The April Skies are great if you love '90s rock and are sick of the same songs you already know.

If you want to learn more about The April Skies, visit their website, www.theaprilskies.com, or look them up on iTunes. Also, check out their newest album "The April Skies."

Better still, head down to HMAc Stage on Herr in Harrisburg on March 24 for a live show, as band members demonstrate their sound and their decades making music together.

March Schedule

March 2: Aortic Valve

March 3: Dolchnakov Brigade & Friends

March 9: The Veda Rays

March 10: Over The Edge & The Martini Bros

March 11: Soul Comedy Café

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 23: Gennaro Porcelli

March 24: April Skies

March 30: Hank & Cupcakes and Friends

Monday Nights: Broke Ass Monday

Karaoke hosted by Giovanni Traino

Tuesday Nights: Board Game Night!!!

Wednesday Nights: Open Mic Night with Mike Banks – Sign up online.

HMAc
stage on herr

harrisburg midtown arts center
268 Herr Street
www.harrisburgarts.com



For full event information visit www.harrisburgarts.com or call 717-701-6199

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America, in a School

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Lawrance Binda



Look at this: Staff member J.D. Stillwater and students Sage Nolan and Jana Parks conduct a moth inspection.

It's mid-afternoon on a Thursday, and The Circle School is abuzz.

A teenager has—allegedly—violated a rule, and everyone wants to know what the five-person judicial committee will do.

Will he admit the wrongdoing and accept punishment? Will he plead not guilty and go to trial?

Examples of democracy in action take place every day at The Circle School, an alternative school housed in a 75-year-old brick building that once served as the infirmary for the Children's Home of Harrisburg.

The Circle School is based upon such American concepts as individual freedom and responsibility. And the

student-run judicial system—which almost daily judges infractions from chore-shirking to excessive swearing to, well, almost anything—shows how seriously the school takes its dedication to self-determination, fairness and community.

"We want the school to be a scaled-down version of the larger world," said school co-founder Jim

Rietmulder.

Rietmulder helped start The Circle School in 1984 as his own children were preparing to enter the educational system. He considered his options and didn't like what he found.

"My wife and I looked around the area and said, 'What are we going to do?'" he said. "For our children, we needed something different."

So, in typical American fashion, Rietmulder didn't just accept his bad options. He started something new.

With several others, he studied what he believed was right—and wrong—with how children were educated in this country.

The shortfalls, they believed, were many, but none stood out so boldly as the stark difference between the way a typical school was run and the way American society operated.

Outside of school, freedom and personal choice were valued. Inside, students were subject to a strict hierarchy and what they considered to be the stifling environment of rule-bound teachers and administrators.

How could such a system prepare children—citizens—for life in a democratic society, where freedom, thought and responsible choice must be valued for the country to prosper?

So, after two years of planning, the founders crafted a genuinely unique approach to education—one of the first self-directed schools in the United States.

The old ways were out. At The Circle School, democratic practices would be infused within the fabric of the school, so everyone's opinion would be encouraged and valued. Students would study what interested them, would intermingle at will and could come and go as they pleased—under the guidance of certified teachers and caring staff.

"It's really just American government injected into a school," said Rietmulder.

That approach to learning has remained unchanged for 28 years.

Each day, some 70 students, ranging from pre-K through high school, freely associate, often huddling into small groups to share interests, books, knowledge. The curriculum rarely segregates subjects, so that math, reading and other concepts are all learned as an integrated whole.

At The Circle School, responsible choice is paramount. Students energetically pursue their interests, unencumbered by periods and bells. And, if they need to let off steam, they're free to run around the grounds, a grassy expanse located at the top of a winding road in Swatara Township.

In the school's free-form atmosphere, perhaps most striking is its order, as well as its energy.

Sure, there are rules. But students



Circle School co-founder Jim Rietmulder.

seem to follow them not because of coercion, but because everyone is vested in a well-functioning system. It's much like the adult world, where most people voluntarily accept ways of behaving so society can operate in a civilized manner.

"The critical-thinking skills, self-motivation and time management that are all inherent to The Circle School's program are essential to the work I'm doing now," said Austin Vogt, a 2002 graduate now studying for a Ph.D. at Washington University in St. Louis. "I can't think of a better way to prepare for graduate school."

There are challenges, Rietmulder says, as, naturally, some children take better to the independence than others. Teenagers who've been long-exposed to traditional schools seem to have the most trouble adapting, but, in time, most transition well, he said.

In the end, about 90 percent of students go on to college, with their Circle School experience preparing them perhaps better than their peers for the independence of college life.

"Our students who visit us after they've been away at college say they don't understand their fellow students avoiding class or partying all the time," he said. "They've already done the freedom thing. It's nothing new to them."

The Circle School of Harrisburg is at 210 Oakleigh Ave. 717-564-6700; circleschool.org; a program for prospective students will be held March 15 at 6:30 p.m. (details p. 11).

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50 Years Ago in Hershey ...

Today's NBA could learn a lot from Wilt Chamberlain.

James DeBord

I would like to extend an invitation to Commissioner David Stern and the National Basketball Association to come to Hershey this season to play a basketball game that will rightfully mark the anniversary of one of the most monumental events in the history of American sports. It also may help the league improve its public image in the wake of the recent labor strife that may have left some fans disenchanted. I think a magical night in Chocolate Town may just be what the game needs right now.

For sports fans or those who know their American history, you may recognize the historic connection between the game of basketball and Hershey. March 2, 2012 marks the 50th anniversary of Wilt Chamberlain's incredible 100-point game.

On this anniversary of the game that took place at historic Hershey Arena, it does not appear that the NBA has planned any significant events to mark the occasion. I believe that is a shame, given the magnitude of what took place on that legendary night a half century ago.

The game of professional basketball could use a figure like the iconic Wilt Chamberlain today. The Big Dipper, as he was known from his earliest days on the playgrounds and in the gyms of Philadelphia, was a tremendous athlete who transcended sports. He became larger than life, like a Hollywood idol during his storied career. Wilt passed away in 1999, but I believe it would be great for the NBA to revive his legacy and return to the

site of his 100-point game this season in order to honor his memory.

While Hershey now boasts a new, state-of-the-art arena in the Giant Center, which could perfectly accommodate an NBA game, I could also see the NBA Network, ESPN, Comcast and other sports media outlets interviewing other former NBA legends and players from that night's game on the floor of the Hershey Arena, which still stands, like a monument to the glory of the game. It would serve as a perfect backdrop for efforts to honor Wilt.

This 50th anniversary of the game will most likely mark the last time that members of the media will have to interview many of the players, fans or employees who were there that night to see Wilt accomplish his magnificent feat. Most of these people are now well into their 70s and 80s, and many of their stories will be lost if we do not work to capture them now.

Remarkably, there is no film of Wilt's 100 point performance, and according to records at the Hershey Arena, only 4,124 spectators paid to see the game on that cold March night. For these reasons—and because I believe NBA executives and the league's current cast of star players could use this historic occasion to improve their collective image in the public's eye—the NBA should plan to return to Hershey and honor Wilt Chamberlain and his extraordinary milestone. I doubt it will ever be equaled or bettered for as long as the league exists.

I know there are those who say Wilt's 100-point game was not about the true meaning of basketball—which is a team sport. There are those who think that the game that

night became a mockery when the Warriors sought only to get the ball to Wilt in the final quarter of the game so he could hit the 100-point plateau. To those people I would say that even within team sports there is nothing wrong with great individual achievements. Believe me, from all accounts

the New York Knicks were determined to stop Wilt that night and it is often overlooked that Wilt still had to run the floor and make the shots—even with five players converging on him late in the contest. If it was easy for any of the other greatest players in NBA history to duplicate this 100-point feat simply because their teammates passed them the ball consistently during a game, Wilt's record would not stand alone.

But, because the record does stand alone in the annals of history, the NBA would be well served to return to Hershey this season to honor Wilt's magnificent accomplishment,

as well as to honor an extraordinary man who stands among the greatest athletes the world has ever known.

James DeBord is a writer and researcher who lives in Lancaster. He has worked professionally in various executive management positions over the years in the corporate, non-profit and public policy sectors.



AP/Paul Vathis

High score: Wilt Chamberlain holds a sign that marked his incredible achievement after scoring 100 points.

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Virtual Childhood

Ensure your child experiences life, not just watches it.

Dr. Deepa Sekhar

I remember Coleco and Atari from when I was a kid. The age of video games was just beginning, with clunky joysticks and graphics that are childish compared to what is available today.

The options for video games have expanded exponentially. Children are often far more savvy than their parents regarding what is available.

Many parents complain to me as we discuss limiting TV and video game time. "He/she wants to spend hours upstairs playing the Xbox," they say.

Parents have the right and responsibility to set clear guidelines for what is acceptable for their children's game time. This is not hard to do with just a little background and common sense.

To start, video games are not all bad. There are some products that may improve hand-eye coordination and develop problem-solving skills. Items like the Wii, which get kids up and moving, can have benefits.

However, keep in mind that tennis or bowling on the Wii is not going to expend as many calories as actually participating in the sport. Also, many people are playing the Wii in the living room or rec room with some snacks readily available on the coffee table.

This is usually not the case for kids who are out on the tennis court. They are focused on the game. It's okay to use video games to blow off steam on a rainy day. However, I would not recommend routinely substituting Wii sports for the actual thing.

Additionally, many video games place the child in the role of a main character that shoots or fights toward winning a particular goal. These violent video games have been shown to increase kids' aggressive behavior. The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) has developed a system to provide parents with information about the content of video games. There are two parts to this system.

Rating symbols are present on the front of the video game box and suggest age appropriateness of the game. There are seven rating symbols:

1. Early Childhood—for 3 years and above; no material parents would find inappropriate.
2. Everyone—for 6 years and above with minimal cartoon and fantasy or mild violence and mild language.
3. Everyone 10+—for 10 years and above with more cartoon and fantasy, mild violence, mild language and some suggestive themes.
4. Teen—for 13 years and above with

violence, suggestive themes, crude humor, minimal blood, gambling and strong language.

5. Mature—for 17 years and above with intense violence, blood and gore, sexual content and strong language.

6. Adults only—for 18 years and above with intense violence, graphic sexual content and nudity.

7. Rating Pending—this is only present when the game is advertised prior to release and a rating has not yet been assigned by the ESRB.

The content descriptors, which give parents additional information to clarify the rating, are present on the back of the box and detail elements of a game that may be of interest or concern. For example, a game may specifically be listed to contain "comic mischief" or "animated blood."

Keep in mind that the ESRB ratings are designed to give parents guidance on the content of a game. Simply because the ESRB rates a game appropriate for 10-year-olds, it does not mean you as a parent must accept that it is appropriate for your 10-year-old. Keep the video game console in a common area of the house. If you notice images that are concerning, watch how your child reacts, discuss the content with him or her and ultimately decide for yourself whether the game is appropriate for your child.

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends no more than two hours per day of screen time for children. That includes video games, computer games, television and movies. Make a daily time limit clear to your children and model this behavior by turning off the TV or computer yourself. Take the kids out to play, walk or even grocery shop. And plan a dinner to make together. Make sure you and your children are living life, not just watching it on the screen.



Dr. Deepa Sekhar is a pediatrician at the Milton S. Hershey Medical Center.

New VP for HACC



Linnie S. Carter, Ph.D., has been named vice president of college advancement at HACC, a position effective March 12.

Carter will work directly with HACC President John J. "Ski"

Sygielski, and other members of the college executive cabinet in strategic planning and budgeting of college resources.

She will oversee the HACC Foundation and advertising, alumni affairs, community relations, fundraising, grants, graphic design, marketing, public relations, publications and special events.

Carter currently is vice president of institutional advancement at Halifax Community College in Weldon, N.C. Her previous appointments include vice president of college advancement at Lord Fairfax Community College in Virginia and director of institutional advancement at John Tyler Community College, also in Virginia.

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Move It!

Mulligan March

It's do-over time for your resolutions.

Brenda Hoover

It's March and for a lot of people those New Year's resolutions have come and gone. Not necessarily because they have been accomplished, but, rather, we tend to lose steam or motivation.

Instead of claiming resolutions, why not set simple and, most importantly, realistic goals? By the way, goals can be set any time, not just at the beginning of the year!

Mulligan March—yes, it's a "do-over!" Hey, if you can do it in golf, then why not also in life? The reality is we'll have fall backs. Life will get in the way, but if we can set manageable and measurable goals, we don't have to give up on them. Just start over or pick up and start from where you are at the moment.

Two of the most common New Year's resolutions are to lose weight or start exercising. What does this really mean? Do you have a plan or the right tools and education to do either?

It's easy to say you are going to do something but the "going about it" can be challenging. Many of us have tried numerous diets and workout plans, but it's time to stop making it about

a diet or "quick fix" workout plan and make it your way of life.

Stop focusing on the end result and focus on what it will mean over all. Make your lifetime goal to be the healthiest you can be. When you focus on being healthy, the rest will take care of itself. I tell my clients over and over, if "diets" worked, we would be the healthiest country on the planet.

We spend billions of dollars as a country in the diet industry and we are only getting fatter. Stop the madness and get back to the simplicity of leading a healthy lifestyle.

Work on achieving proper nutrition in conjunction with sufficient and focused "movement"—like exercise. If you don't have the tools to do this on your own, search out a reputable nutritionist or fitness expert to help. Now, that's a resolution!



Brenda Hoover is co-owner of Absolute Wellness Group, a fitness studio at 1519 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg.

HYP Honors the Best of Harrisburg



Harrisburg Young Professionals held its annual meeting last month to mark achievements and set goals. The meeting also honored the late Tarina Fields Price, a city teacher and HYP member. Clockwise from top left: HYP board members; Little Amps Coffee Roasters was honored as Business of the Year (owner Aaron Carlson with wife Kara Garcia and son Dean); HYP members gathered at a reception afterwards; 2012 President Meron Yemane paused to congratulate Tara Leo Auchey, HYP's Volunteer of the Year.



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Defensive Note

Hear that? It's the sound of some great local music.

Mike Van Jura

I read a blog post recently about a new record label forming in Harrisburg. It's a nice story. I know all the guys working on the label, and I think they're going to do very well.

The purpose of this post, however, isn't to spotlight the new label. Rather, I'm going to harp on one sentence. The sentence that led the post. And the writer isn't 100 percent at fault for typing this. It's an easy target. The story about the new label led with this sentence:

"Any musician or music fan in the Harrisburg area knows that the local music scene leaves much to be desired."

As a person who earns a full-time living producing concerts and events in virtually every local and regional music and music-related venue, I take issue with that statement. The "local music scene" is a direct reflection of the local demography. And the local demography simply lacks the population to support anything more than what we generally have here in the Susquehanna Valley.

And the term "local music scene"—what is the writer referring to? Simply the city of Harrisburg? One would be remiss to exclude York, Lancaster and even State College from the regional offerings of live music in the midstate. Constant comparisons to major metro areas like Baltimore, Philadelphia or even Pittsburgh are absolutely unfair when talking about a local music scene.

Sure, a music fan would likely have to travel more than 60 miles to catch some of the bigger shows—and by "bigger" I mean some of the hotter, most relevant national acts on the circuit. Plain and simple, we do not

have the million-plus population to make the Harrisburg region a must-play market for many touring bands. But get this—we often get some of the bigger names months and years before they break, but it's up to the causal music fan to go out more often than once a month to catch those acts on their way up (or down).

Let's talk our immediate region for a second. In Harrisburg, York and Lancaster, we've got the following venues hosting live, touring bands four or five nights per week—Chameleon Club, American Music Theater, Whitaker Center, The Strand Capitol and Cap Live, The Abbey Bar, The State Theater, Cafe 210, Championship, Midtown Scholar Bookstore, Gullifty's and dozens more bars, pubs and coffee shops too numerous to list. On those dozen or so venues' calendars is the full gamut of touring and local talent, and it's all happening nearly every night of the week.

Years ago, I had a discussion with my good friend Sara B Simpson. The gist of my argument at the time was, "Man, the Harrisburg music scene sucks." (Not unlike the writer of the post.) And she made the completely valid point that the scene is just fine—it's out there, but you have to find it. And if it were more mainstream and over-populated, people would bitch that there are too many meat heads at shows. And then we'd argue that nobody is happy, no matter what.

So break it down for me—what, exactly, is there to be desired about the "local music scene"? The quality of the local bands? I wouldn't necessarily argue with that. But think about it—if a band has the chops enough to do something valid and career bolstering, why would they hang around Harrisburg when Brooklyn, N.Y., is merely three hours away? Or Asheville, N.C.? Or Nashville, Tenn.?

The writer of the post wasn't being malicious. Or spiteful. Or vindictive. And his viewpoint is understandable. But I've traveled to some cities where one would think there would be a jumping music scene ... but there isn't. There aren't a dozen venues—legitimate, stage and PA and light rig—having music venues with

dedicated pages on their websites promoting their individual calendars and a staffed sound and light technician and someone dedicated to booking their calendar ... like there are here in central Pennsylvania.

I used to work in a pretty hardcore direct marketing job that drilled the sales force on the importance of having a great attitude. We heard it every day. And it's stuck with me because it's absolutely true. Want great results? Have a great attitude. Want bad or mediocre results? Have a bad attitude.

It's really as simple as that.

I came to terms with the reality of the fact that Harrisburg or Lancaster or York aren't home to major league universities with tens of thousands of students starting student and youth-centric businesses and influencing the business landscape enough to support multiple rock clubs with five nights of music per week within a single city.

But we've got a dozen. A dozen legitimate music venues in our region. And they all have great stuff on their calendars three or four nights per week. And the other two or three nights per week there are dozens of bars and pubs and coffee shops hosting open mic nights, pickin' parties and other music-themed events.

But you have to look for them.

This region's music scene is what you make of it.

It's out there. And we're fortunate to have the number of options that we have.

Mike Van Jura is the talent buyer at Greenbelt Events in Harrisburg.

Forums Return

The community group, Harrisburg Hope, continues its series of forums this month with three events that feature candidates for the state legislature, as well as city officials.

Candidates for the state's 103rd House legislative district will take the stage on March 1, while those running for the state's 15th Senate district will debate on March 8. Harrisburg residents will get another chance to hear officials involved in the city's financial rescue effort on March 15.

All events take place at 6 p.m. at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, 1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg.

Original Passion Play

Harrisburg Christian Performing Arts Center this month will perform "The Lamb," an original Passion play.

Performances of HCPAC's 39th annual play are 7:30 p.m. on March 24, 30 and 31 and 2:30 p.m. on March 25 and April 1. HCPAC is located at 1000 S. Eisenhower Blvd., Middletown.

To purchase tickets, visit www.hbg-cpac.org or call 717-939-9333.

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Dauphin County Treasure

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Colon Cancer: Prevention, Detection, and Treatment

Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m.

Colon cancer is one of the most common—and yet preventable—cancers. When detected early, 90% of colorectal cancers are curable. Learn about healthy habits that prevent the disease including early screening, warning signs that need follow-up, treatments available today, and the exciting developments for treatments in the future. Presented by PinnacleHealth Surgical Associates surgeon, **Joseph Esposito, MD.**

The Community Center, GIANT Super Food Store
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The Latest in Minimally Invasive Spine Surgery

Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m.

Learn more about the benefits of minimally invasive spine surgery. With the latest technology, patients experience small incisions, less discomfort, tiny scars, quicker recovery, and shorter hospital stays. Presented by **Steven M. DeLuca, DO,** Orthopedic Surgeon, Orthopedic Institute of PA.

The Community Center, GIANT Super Food Store
2300 Linglestown Road, Harrisburg

Vitamin D and Supplements How much is enough?

Tuesday, March 27, 7 p.m.

Get the facts on vitamins you may need and how to meet those needs through nutrition and supplements. Learn about healthy ways to keep your bones and body strong during this informative lecture presented by **Renu Joshi, MD,** Chief of Endocrinology at PinnacleHealth, and **Ashlee Hughes, RN, LDN.**

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Little Amps Coffee Roasters • 1836 Green St • littleampscoffee.com • "Loops" features artwork by Bren Boseman and Deirdre McConnell. Boseman's landscape-inspired paintings explore layered identity. McConnell's sculpture and works on paper examine the space between people. DJ Mony Pony spins intoxicating jams. Free, 5–9p.



Open Stage of Harrisburg • 223 Walnut St (street level of Walnut St. Garage) • 232-OPEN (6736) • openstagehbg.com • COURT STREET CABARET plays Friday, March 16 and Saturday March 17 at 8pm! Enjoy favorites from Broadway and beyond that will leave your toes tappin' and your shows tuning. Admission \$18. Complimentary refreshments! 8p.



City House B&B • 915 N Front St • 903-2489 • cityhousebb.com • Artist Joan Maguire whose painting "Field of Dreams II" was chosen for this year's YWCA Mother's Day card. A full size, signed print will be auctioned. Cards will be sold for \$10 each. Stop by to mingle, view artwork by Joan and show your support for the YWCA of Greater Harrisburg. 5:30–7p.



The State Museum of Pennsylvania • N. 3rd St between North and Forster • 787-4980 • statemuseumpa.org • Join The State Museum of Pennsylvania for a free Women's History Month celebration & reception sponsored by Women Connect magazine. Meet "Hidden Treasures" book author and artist Mikell Worley and other contributors to Women Connect's March issue. The event is held in cooperation with Writers Wordshop of Harrisburg, 5:30–7:30p.



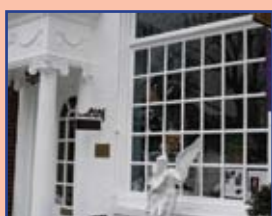
Mangia Qui/Suba • 272 North St • 233-7358 • Mangia Qui and Suba Tapas Bar will feature the original art of local artist Elide Hower and Baltimore artist Shawn Theron. We will have live music by The Great Northeast, 9–11p, and a \$6 peppermint colada drink special.



Midtown Scholar Bookstore • 1302 N 3rd St • 236-1680 • midtownscholar.com • The science of coffee (cupping) with Counter Culture's Phil Proteau, noon. Rishi tea-tasting presented by Midtown Scholar staff, 2p. Gamut Players present "TMI" improv theater, 6–7p. Yellow Wall Gallery reception for artist Chuck Zyl, 6p. Free concert by Key of V, 8p.



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Gallery at Walnut Place • 413 Walnut St • 233-0487 • "Surrealism 2012," an exhibition of the international surrealist movement from the 1960s through today, featuring artists who have awaited to exhibit with the theme of the Winter Solstice of 2012, beginning the 14th baktun (cycle) in the Maya long count calendar and the fifth rebirth of the Sun. 5–8p.

Other Participants

• **The HodgePodgery**, 1320 N. 3rd St.

• **The Fenêtre Gallery**, HACC Midtown 2, N. 3rd & Reily Sts.

• **Nerds in The Burg**, HACC Midtown 2, N. 3rd & Reily Sts.



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