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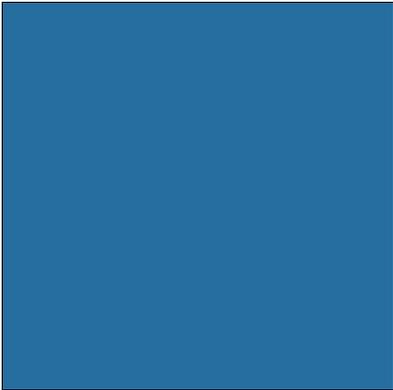
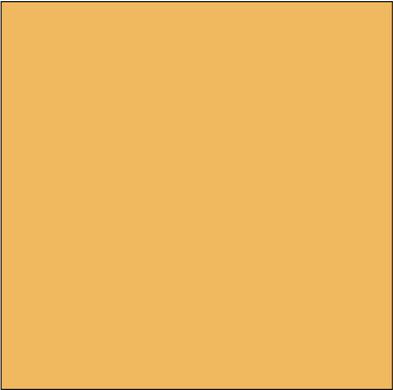
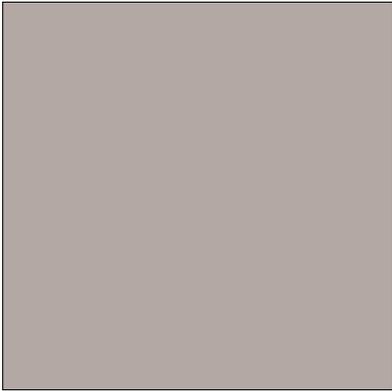


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# THE BURG

COMMUNITY PUBLISHERS

*As members of Harrisburg's business community, we are proud to support TheBurg, a free publication dedicated to telling the stories of the people of greater Harrisburg. Whether you love TheBurg for its distinctive design, its in-depth reporting or its thoughtful features about the businesses and residents who call our area home, you know the value of having responsible, community-centered coverage. We're thrilled to help provide greater Harrisburg with the local publication it deserves.*



# COMMUNITY PUBLISHERS: HELPING TO BUILD A BETTER HARRISBURG

*Look to the left, and you'll see logos for some familiar and trusted names in the greater Harrisburg area. We are delighted to announce that these companies have joined TheBurg as "Community Publishers," partners helping to ensure that TheBurg continues to thrive as an important resource for news and community. It's no secret that the traditional, advertising-based revenue model for publications is broken, leaving many newspapers and magazines struggling for survival. However, the need for original, quality reporting and writing is greater than ever, a vital element to building and securing a healthy community. In some cities, private businesses, organizations and even individuals have stepped up to fill the funding gap. With great generosity, the companies listed on the opposite page are helping to support us so that we can continue to serve the people of greater Harrisburg.*

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## ■ WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

Readers will see no change in the way we cover our community. The writing, editing and design all will remain independent, of the highest quality we can produce. In fact, with the support of our Community Publishers, we hope, over time, to become even better—to add reporters, content and pages. For their part, Community Publishers will demonstrate, each month, their commitment to making the Harrisburg area an even better place to live, do business and visit.

---

## ■ A COMMUNITY PUBLISHER:

- Is a vital partner who allows us to continue to offer this important, free community news resource.
- Is a business or community leader with a vision and a belief that, when the region prospers, we all prosper.
- Believes an informed local public is a better local public and thus a better place to live and work.
- Recognizes that engaged, local reporting is a community good that must be paid for—but that, in the age of the Internet, must depend upon resources outside of traditional advertising.
- Supports arts, culture and the community good via news and education.
- Understands and believes that the health of the community is reflected through affirmative, responsible local reporting and features.

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## ■ WHAT DOES A COMMUNITY PUBLISHER DO?

- Meets quarterly with the Publisher, Editor-in-Chief and staff to discuss TheBurg.
- Shares the Publisher's vision that a community paper is strongest when editorial and content are controlled by the Editor-in-Chief.
- Exercises no direct editorial control but shares overall vision and direction.
- Facilitates contact with other, similarly minded individuals and companies.

---

## ■ HOW IS A "COMMUNITY PUBLISHER" RECOGNIZED?

- Each month, a logo will be printed on TheBurg's inside front cover recognizing a company, organization or individual as a Community Publisher.
- A special section of TheBurg's website will provide a company description and additional recognition.
- Community Publishers will have a dedicated distribution point for TheBurg at their location for the benefit of employees and clients.
- Community Publishers will be honored each year at the annual Publisher's Dinner.

*As we celebrate our five-year anniversary, we believe we've had great success in building a respected, high-quality magazine, brand and business. However, we simply can't do it alone. Therefore, we are asking key members of our community to become Community Publishers, joining us so we can continue to publish a beautiful magazine that reflects, promotes and elevates the Harrisburg area. We hope that our readers will respond, as well, by patronizing the businesses that help make this free community resource possible.*



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COVER ART BY: LIZ LARIBEE  
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### LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Five years ago, on a painfully cold January night, this thing called TheBurg suddenly appeared in a few street boxes, coffee shops and stores in Harrisburg.

My co-founder, Pete, and I made the first delivery ourselves, proud of what we had accomplished and eager to share it with, what we hoped, would be our long-time readers and fans. Fittingly, we ran into James Roxbury, who used some newfangled technology called Twitter to help spread the word of TheBurg's arrival.

We did get some compliments on that first issue, but we received our share of criticism too, some deserved. As was his way, Jersey Mike Van Jura held little back in his blog, though he did wish us well and, as TheBurg steadily improved over the years, became a supporter and friend.

As I look back, I'm humbled that TheBurg has lasted these years. We began publishing just as the economy appeared headed for the abyss, and, even today, the news industry remains in its own accelerating depression. Along the way, we survived untold turmoil in city government, a devastating flood, an historic municipal financial crisis and state receivership. But here we remain, with a magazine that, we hope, is better than ever and does justice to this great city and region.

Five years hence, will another cake grace the cover of TheBurg, with 10 candles? We're doing everything possible to make that happen. To this end, we launched a new "Community Publisher" initiative, which we explain in this issue. And we recently included a "donate" button on our website for readers who'd like to help support us.

As it has from the beginning, TheBurg today remains a communal project, with all original and local news, features and contributors. We hope you'll join us in ensuring that this pro-city, pro-community resource enjoys a long life. Having covered the troubling times, we look forward to documenting better days, optimistic about what Harrisburg is becoming.

We wish all our readers the very best for 2014!

**LAWRANCE BINDA**  
*Editor-in-Chief*

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### GENERAL AND LETTERS

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# WE ALL PROFIT

*Our new Community Publishers are ensuring the future of the social good we call TheBurg*

BY J. ALEX HARTZLER

The New Year brings a sense of re-birth, excitement and hope to Harrisburg and our region. With a new mayor and a “Strong” plan for a new fiscal reality, there is a palpable sense of optimism in the air around town. As Dave Butcher points out in his excellent article in this issue, national demographic trends that favor the re-birth and renaissance of cities nationwide are also beginning to have a small, but perceptible, impact here at home. These trends, coupled with focused, effective leadership, a re-invigorated citizenry and a business community that believes in the promise of better days ahead, bode well for 2014.

This month, TheBurg turns 5, and we have much to celebrate. Larry Binda has led a transformation of our publication over the past year. Together with our lead writer Paul Barker, our designer Megan Davis, our sales manager Lauren Mills, our web designers and managers at WebpageFX (who will move their company and their 50-plus employees into the city in early 2104) and all of our many contributors, TheBurg has gone from good to great in under a year.

Equally important, leading individuals and businesses in the region have noticed our work. These community-minded leaders appreciate the importance of the public service TheBurg provides through engaged reporting. More than noticing, they have agreed to join with me as “Community Publishers.” Their names include: Select Capital Commercial Properties, Integrity Bank, Greenlee Partners, Capital Blue Cross, Sutliff Chevrolet (who also continues to support 3rd in TheBurg), WCI Partners (where I am also a partner), Consolidated Scrap Resources, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney and RE/MAX Realty Associates Ray Davis and Wendell Hoover.

Inside this month’s front cover and inside the cover of every month and on our website, you will find these leading brands and individuals. Each month, they— along with our advertisers—will bring TheBurg to you, free of charge. Through their annual commitment to TheBurg, they will allow us to write the stories, publish the pictures and distribute the paper you have come to know and expect.

In effect, these Community Publishers are joining with me to create an entirely new business model for a local monthly print publication. Implicit in their support is the realization that advertising alone is not enough to sustain a publication. At the same time, they understand that the entire community benefits from engaged news reporting—and that someone has to pay for it. The problem, in the age of the Internet, is that other media and venues are taking advertising dollars once directed to print. It is equally hard to efficiently mail or distribute paid subscriptions. The “free-rider” problem is endemic. Many, if not all, would like to see a quality product—particularly one that mentions their name and good work from time to time—but many more would prefer if someone else pays for it. Fortunately, these leaders have the vision to see and support this reality.

I call this new model the “all-profit” model, as in “we all profit” from having TheBurg around. Even though I have pledged to my fellow publishers to take zero profits (as in “none”) out of TheBurg personally, I know that I profit along with the community. Even though no one makes monetary profits, our lives are greatly enriched as we open and read the stories of our neighbors each month and follow along on the web and through blogs and social media.

In the end, our community life—and quite a bit of our personal lifestyle and standard of living—is greatly influenced by the stories we tell ourselves, about ourselves, in the public sphere. If those stories are undeservedly negative, as they have been in Harrisburg for some time, the community suffers. If we tell the real story—about the 95 percent that goes right every day instead of the 5 percent that goes wrong—we all benefit.

Let’s be perfectly clear: this is not about charity. This is enlightened self-interest that recognizes that doing well and living well are not measured by bottom-line profits alone. Conversely, it is the recognition that, while there are other measures of success, conducting a business that can pay all its bills is a necessary condition to ensure long-term sustainability.

Our community publishers “get it.” And, since they do, you too will continue to “get” TheBurg. We have room and, in fact, a need for more of them. You will know that we have reached our goal of financial sustainability only when each logo box is occupied by an actual logo (see p. 2). If you know anyone who shares our vision and loves TheBurg, please tell them about us and encourage them to join us. Most importantly, please join with me, as we say “thank you” to all of our community publishers for their wonderful support.

*J. Alex Hartzler is publisher of TheBurg.*



## 2014 BUDGET PASSED

Harrisburg residents will see no tax hike in 2014 as part of a \$77.8 million budget that unanimously passed City Council last month.

The 2014 budget process was remarkably smooth following several years of annual conflict between the council and administration over spending priorities, allocations and tax increases.

Council held just a single, 90-minute budget hearing then approved the spending plan with little additional comment.

A direct comparison to last year’s budget is difficult due to the provisions of the Harrisburg Strong plan, which included the sale of the incinerator, the lease of the parking system and the transfer of the water/sewer system.

That said: expenditures from the city’s general fund, which covers most day-to-day operations, will increase about 1.7 percent, from \$56.2 million in 2013 to \$57.2 million this year.

City Council expects to reopen the budget this month to better reflect the priorities of newly elected Mayor Eric Papenfuss. However, major changes are not expected, as the anticipated amount of revenue will not change, and the current budget already has the blessing of the receiver’s office.

## WATER/SEWER RATES GOING UP

Harrisburg water and sewer customers will see a 27 percent rate hike this year for their service under a budget passed by The Harrisburg Authority.

The rate increase was necessary to pay for long-delayed system improvements, said Executive Director Shannon Williams.

“For too long, necessary investments in Harrisburg’s water infrastructure have been deferred to future generations,” she said. “That ends with the adoption of this budget. It will allow us to deliver service and reliability that our customers deserve and that will sustain the city into the future.”

An average customer who uses 5,000 gallons of water per month will pay about \$825 per year, an increase of about \$175.

Initially, the Authority had projected a 47 percent rise in rates for 2014. However, that amount was reduced after the board of directors and staff developed strategies to control costs, said Chairman Bill Cluck.

## SANITATION OUTSOURCING ON HOLD

City Council last month put the brakes on privatizing trash pickup, as it refused to approve an administration-brokered deal with Republic Services.

Councilwoman Sandra Reid said the city would issue a new request for proposals early this year, which would delay the plan to hire an outside waste hauler well into 2014.

Council balked at the Thompson administration's selection of Republic Services, the nation's second-largest trash hauler. Council members claimed they were shut out of the selection process and objected to certain requirements of the proposed agreement, including that sanitation workers would have to pick up their equipment each day in York.

Receiver William Lynch has recommended privatizing sanitation services to save the city money. The contract with Republic would have saved Harrisburg about \$1.1 million per year, according to a memo to City Council from Chief Operating Officer Robert Philbin.

Separately, the Department of Public Works is relocating its headquarters and operations to the 1600-block of N. Cameron Street, said Director Kevin Hagerich. The move is due to be completed by March 1.

For many years, the department occupied space on the property of the Harrisburg Authority. That land, though, is no longer available due to the sale last month of the incinerator to the Lancaster County Solid Waste Management Authority.



## PROJECTS GET GO-AHEAD

Harrisburg City Council gave the green light to numerous development plans last month, allowing construction to begin for several critical projects.

Council unanimously approved land use plans for the following:

- The conversion of the Stokes Millworks building, 340 Verbeke St. in Midtown, to a farm-to-table restaurant and art studio/gallery by Historic Holdings LLC.
- The conversion of the First Church of God, 15 N. 4th St. downtown, into a new theater and home for Gamut Theatre Group.
- The construction of four new apartment buildings with 171 units at Brookwood and Melrose streets on South Allison Hill by Brookwood Commons LP.

- The demolition of small, vacant apartment buildings and their replacement with five townhouses at 222-224 Hummel St. on South Allison Hill by Brethren Housing Association.

- A 33,000-square-foot expansion of an industrial warehouse at 4000 Industrial Rd., including two parking lots and on-site stormwater infrastructure improvements, by the Sygma Network.

These projects come on the heels of several other recent development initiatives, including the planned completion of the abandoned, half-finished Capitol View Commerce Center on N. Cameron Street by Moran Industries.



## SWEARING IN SLATED

Harrisburg will ring in new leadership on Jan. 6 with the swearing in of several key municipal officials.

New Mayor Eric Papenfuse will be sworn into office in a ceremony that will begin at 10 a.m. in the lobby of City Hall.

In addition, City Controller Charles DeBrunner will take the oath of office, as will newly elected council members Shamaine Daniels and Ben Allatt and incumbent council members Wanda Williams and Eugenia Smith.

After the swearing in, the new administration will begin to move into its offices. City Council will hold its reorganization meeting in council chambers at 3 p.m.

## CHANGING HANDS:

- Barkley Ln., 2509: T. Huynh & L. Lee to C. & S. Moore, \$74,900
- Boas St., 406: C. DeLorenzo to A. Heisey, \$90,000
- Brookwood St., 2610: D. Krekstein to Scottsdale Commercial Partners LP, \$170,000
- Croyden Rd., 2986: PA Deals LLC to N. Peterson, \$79,000
- Green St., 1608: PA Deals LLC to G. & J. Modi, \$137,000
- Green St., 1816: J. Tran to G. Brown, \$92,945
- Green St., 1911: T. & S. Cohen to G.E. Morris III, \$159,000
- Kensington St., 2252: S. Myers to C. Dell, \$52,900
- Locust St., 130: D. Bohn et al to WCI Partners LP, \$300,000
- Market St., 1501 & 1507: Martin Luther King Baptist Church to Eastern PA District Christian & Missionary Alliance, \$130,242
- N. 2nd St., 1303: U.S. Marshall Service to PA Deals LLC, \$30,000
- N. 2nd St., 2447: E. & S. Lupyak to M. DePhillip, \$57,500
- N. 3rd St., 1421: Third Street Development LP & Powers & Assoc. LLC to E. & C. Papenfuse, \$60,000.
- N. 3rd St., 1912: PA Deals LLC to N. Peterson, \$76,000
- N. 16th St., 1106: Community First Fund to R.J. Murphy III, \$31,500
- N. Front St., 111: Front & Locust LLC to J.A. Hartzler, \$200,000
- N. Front St., 1525, Unit 312: P. Lafferty to R. & C. Chaudhuri, \$160,000
- N. Front St., 2509: A.L. Schein MD to Pennsylvania Builders Assoc., \$575,000
- Reily St., 219: J. Williams to PA Deals LLC, \$44,450
- Rumson Dr., 369: PA Deals LLC to J. Gaidos, \$80,700
- S. 14th St., 404: D. Boyle to J. Lopez, \$30,000

Harrisburg property sales for November 2013, greater than \$30,000. Source: Dauphin County. Data is assumed to be accurate.

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# GET SMART

*It's a perfect time to make Harrisburg an example of smart planning and growth.*

BY TARA LEO AUCHEY

It's a city broken. That's what we keep hearing—the infrastructure is antiquated and decrepit. Services are deficient. Quality of life is low. Even the mighty Susquehanna River that flows by has a reputation for being sick and dirty.

While that can be disheartening to read, it can be looked at another way—it all means opportunities for rebuilding and innovative improvement.

Harrisburg is in a fortuitous position as this year begins. Not only is there newly elected leadership that has stimulated an atmosphere of optimism and ambition, but there are some important projects already in the works and on the horizon.

These projects include The Harrisburg Authority's GIS project, Harrisburg Area Transportation Study's development of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission's Cross-River Connections Project and Capital Area Greenbelt Association's upgrades. Both Dauphin County and the city have started a comprehensive planning process, and several "greening" projects have been launched, such as a tree inventory and planting, stormwater management initiatives and urban garden projects.

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## **“NONPROFITS, COMMUNITY GROUPS AND ORGANIZATIONS STRATEGIZE AND IMPLEMENT WAYS TO MAKE THE CITY A BETTER PLACE TO LIVE, WORK AND VISIT.”**

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These are only a few things that are happening. There are even more as nonprofits, community groups and organizations strategize and implement ways to make the city a better place to live, work and visit.

It all fits well into the concept of “smart growth.”

A buzz term among urban and regional planners, smart growth can be generally defined as an approach to establishing communities where housing, jobs, shopping, schools and recreation are located in close proximity to one another. Before the invention of cars, this is precisely how municipalities were built.

This current approach integrates green practices into the planning process. As Andrew Bliss, grassroots coordinator at Chesapeake Bay Foundation, stated, “The great thing about green infrastructure is the numerous social, economic and environmental benefits it provides in addition to reducing water pollution.”

Taking this precise idea as its foundation, smart growth means creating cities that have more permeable surfaces—trees and green spaces not just to make things pretty, but to deal with stormwater runoff, along with water and sewer management.

Every municipality must deal with such public issues. When it rains and pours, too much stormwater runoff causes floods, sweeps garbage

into the sewers, strains underground pipes and sends pollution into waterways.

Recently, government agencies like the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the state Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) have been hitting places with “fix it or be fined” mandates.

This has municipalities searching for how best to fix it.

The fact of the matter is green infrastructure can cost less.

To see evidence of this, we only need to look at Lancaster and its Green Infrastructure Plan. When the city faced EPA fines of \$37,500 a day, analysis showed that the least expensive options were green ones. The state's infrastructure loan program, PENNVEST, agrees that going green is a viable alternative to traditional solutions, such as underground storage bins for stormwater runoff. In the past few years, PENNVEST has added a variety of green infrastructure options to the list of projects available for funding.

So, not only does a focus on green practices save money, but it creates employment in the green sector. This is especially significant for disadvantaged communities.

Smart growth goes beyond “greening” things, though. It is about economic development because it makes places more compact, more economically self-sufficient—bringing jobs, businesses and shopping into an urban core.

Smart growth focuses on the pedestrian rather than the vehicle. The idea is, if a city has everything it needs, people will walk and bike to where they need to go. Cars won't be necessary, especially if there is sufficient public transportation made available, which is a smart growth consideration, too.

Of course, another positive part of smart growth is that things look pretty.

When places are pretty, people feel better about where they live. Greener spaces mean healthier living because there are more places for people to exercise and enjoy. It also helps to attract visitors to the urban core, which adds value to the local economy.

Although this term wasn't coined until the new millennium, “smart growth” was the concept that initially revamped Harrisburg more than 100 years ago during the City Beautiful movement. And, with City Beautiful 2.0 just getting started, it's prime time to re-create Harrisburg as a model of smart urban planning and implementation.

To accomplish this, it will take a concerted, collaborative effort of governments, organizations and citizens. With so many projects occurring at once, it will be necessary to locate the overlaps of resources and efforts to make initiatives most successful.

Harrisburg is a region capable of principles of smart growth. Not only is its urban core a capital city that should be modeling innovative policies and practices, but it's a river city with a responsibility as steward of an important body of water.

There's no better approach when so much of the city is in need of repair. **B**

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# A YEAR OF HISTORY

2013

*10 reasons why 2013 was a special year for Harrisburg.*

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

The news media toss about the word “historic” recklessly. They do so to rev up the melodrama, to make rather average stories sound more important than they actually are.

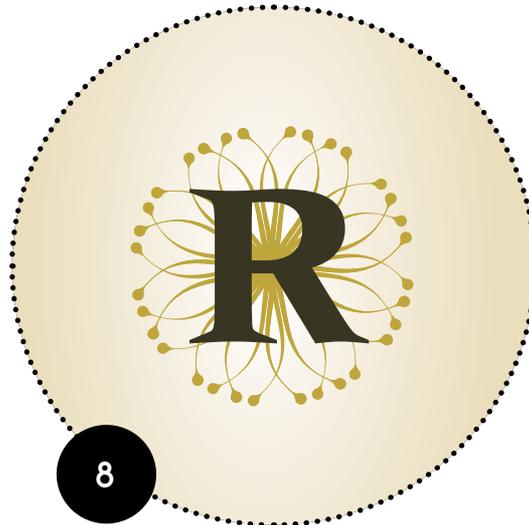
That said: “historic” may well describe the past year for the people of Harrisburg. In the city’s long history, 2013 will almost certainly be regarded as a year of singular importance, regardless of how the complex financial recovery plan shakes out over the long term.

So, with apologies to my former co-editor, Pete, who understandably chafed at this tired, old nugget of journalism, here are my Top 10 news events in Harrisburg for 2013, in descending order of importance.



10

**SALE AND RE-LAUNCH OF THEBURG:** It may seem self-serving to put your own baby in a Top 10 list, but I’m going to do it anyway. I’ve been told many times that TheBurg means much to the people here, and, after a brief hiatus, we were able to re-launch it with an entirely new style and level of quality. With the generous support of our Publisher Alex Hartzler and several key community members, we are able to put out a product that, we hope, serves Harrisburg well and reflects the cosmopolitan city it’s becoming.



8

**RESTAURANT SCENE:** I’ve said it before, and I’ll say it again. For such a small city, the restaurant scene in Harrisburg is excellent—and keeps getting better. This year will only add to the riches. Rubicon, next to Mangia Qui, will be first out of the gate with an early-2014 opening. Nearby, a high-end pizza and wine restaurant will rise at the corner of N. 2nd and State streets, while, a block up, Brickbox plans fine dining for the first floor of its new LUX condo building. Midtown also is getting in on the love. A wine-focused restaurant has been proposed for the corner of N. 2nd and Harris streets, and, if everything goes right, a new microbrewery will open just a few blocks away from there. Later in the year, a farm-to-table restaurant is due for the Stokes Millworks building across the street from the Broad Street Market.



7

**TRANSPORTATION FUNDING:** In November, the state legislature passed—and Gov. Tom Corbett signed—a \$2.4 billion transportation bill that delivers \$10 million in road improvements to Harrisburg over the next five years. This money is critical if the city is ever going to repair and modernize its infrastructure, which has been neglected for so many years. It’s essential both to the city’s livability today and to its attractiveness as a place for people to live, work and visit. Imagine a downtown where staying in your traffic lane isn’t a white-knuckle guessing game and driving across Forster Street isn’t like rumbling over ski moguls. To quote road-loving Judge Doom from “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?”—“My God, it’ll be beautiful!”



9

**CHANGES IN LEGISLATURES:** The arrival of Sen. Rob Teplitz and Rep. Patty Kim in the Capitol brought much-needed youthful vigor and a pro-city spirit to the state legislature. Similarly, the election of Shamaine Daniels and Ben Allatt promises to shake up City Council with new blood, energy and ideas.



**REFORM OF THE HARRISBURG AUTHORITY:** For many people, mentioning a utility authority is a one-way ticket to naptime. But, in Harrisburg, it's been the center of melodrama for years, ever since revelations that former Mayor Steve Reed used the authority as a sandbox for his financial games. Therefore, it's no small matter that the authority has remade itself with new leadership, new independence and a renewed mission, now focused on water and sewer service. It even has a new name: Capital Region Water, which better reflects its sharply focused mission.



**RESTORATION OF HISTORIC AND BLIGHTED PROPERTIES:** Just two years ago, important properties as varied as the Barto Building, Payne-Shoemaker Building, Stokes Millworks, the Moffitt Mansion, among many others, were all languishing as underutilized, if not abandoned. They now have all been or are being restored and put back into use. To cap off this list: the awful eyesore known as the Capitol View Commerce Center, once the physical symbol of all that was wrong with Reed-era, high-finance Harrisburg, was bought out of bankruptcy and will be completed next year. If this hulking, half-finished, corruption-tainted disaster can be salvaged and turned into vibrant, occupied space, you have to be optimistic what the future holds for the rest of the city. Tipping point, anyone?

**SALE OF THE CITY INCINERATOR.** It began as a debacle and pretty much stayed that way for 40 years, a polluting money pit that, when it wasn't breaking down or being forced by the authorities to shut down, was leveraged into insolvency. It became both the plaything and the burden of successive mayors, whose dreams for it far exceeded its ability to deliver on them. The irony is that, just as the blasted thing finally worked as long-hoped, the city had to sell it for about one-third of the price owed on its accumulated debt. Nonetheless, our long municipal nightmare is over.



**THE ELECTION OF ERIC PAPENFUSE:** About a year ago, Papenfuse told me that he was considering running for mayor. I immediately tried to discourage him, thinking this effort would out work about as well as his previous unsuccessful runs for City Council and Dauphin County commissioner. Silly me. Papenfuse clearly learned from his past campaigns, starting late but quickly lapping a formidable primary field, then repeating that impressive performance in the general election. If I have just one wish for Harrisburg for 2014, it's that the city finally gets the high-quality leadership it so desperately needs and deserves.

# 2013



**THE PRIMARY LOSS OF MAYOR LINDA THOMPSON:** A year ago, many residents seemed resigned that Thompson would win re-election, extending an administration that they believed didn't serve the city well. I shared the opinion that Thompson, for many reasons, was not the best person to serve as mayor of Harrisburg. However, I didn't believe she had enough support to secure a second term, given the palpable exhaustion with her leadership. In the end, she came in third in the Democratic primary, securing just 28 percent of the vote.



**THE HARRISBURG STRONG PLAN:** When former receiver David Unkovic released his financial recovery framework in 2012, people seemed generally impressed with its thoughtfulness and scope. Receiver William Lynch's final plan was even more comprehensive, fleshing out Unkovic's outline and adding several novel elements. The Strong plan has the potential to be a game-changer, not only for Harrisburg but for other financially distressed cities needing a new model to draw on. The ultimate success of this complex plan is hardly assured, but it gives this city a chance—a good one—for a new beginning and a hopeful future.

If you look carefully, you'll notice that there is one element that ties this list together. Each item is, in my opinion, positive for Harrisburg. How many cities can say the Top 10 news items over the past year were good ones? **B**

# A NEW REALITY TAKES SHAPE

HARRISBURG'S NEW MAYOR INDICATES THAT THINGS ARE ABOUT TO CHANGE—A LOT.

BY LAWRENCE BINDA

The past two months have been a whirlwind for Eric Papenfuse. Since winning the Nov. 5 election, he's had to pivot quickly from candidate to mayor-elect, setting up a transition office, establishing priorities, deciding on personnel and gearing up to lead Harrisburg, a city itself in transition.

In the midst of it all, he carved out some time last month to sit down with us to answer a few questions. The interview revealed a man who has thought deeply about his role: what it means to be the city's mayor at this time, what he believes the office represents, and what Harrisburg needs to do to move beyond its troubled past.

It also showed just how fluid the situation here remains. Despite months of headlines on the Harrisburg Strong plan, the city's multi-year financial recovery really is just starting. Meanwhile, the new administration plans major changes in how city government is run, with significant personnel changes expected, just as receiver William Lynch's role begins to recede.

We were curious about all these issues—and many others—as Papenfuse met us in his transition headquarters just around the block from his future office on the second floor of City Hall.

## THEBURG: WHAT MADE YOU DECIDE TO RUN FOR MAYOR?

**PAPENFUSE:** I decided to run for mayor because I felt that our political discourse was broken. This is something that I had felt actually for a long time, but I was trying, through my efforts as a business owner at Midtown Scholar, to try and correct that, to provide a place where people would come together from throughout the city, diverse in race and class, including people from the West Shore and other parts of Dauphin County, all coming together to discuss the issues of the day. I felt that type of third space did not exist in Harrisburg until we really expanded the bookstore, and that was one of the reasons why the discourse was broken—not the only reason, but one of the reasons.

I also looked at our political leaders, and I felt that there was an opening for someone to run on a platform that actively sought to bring people together rather than to keep the city divided. By no fault of their own necessarily, but I felt that a Linda Thompson/Dan Miller matchup would have split along racial lines and class lines and geographic lines. And it wouldn't have provided the unity necessary for a real recovery of the city as a whole. So, that's why I decided to run, and I had hoped that someone else would step up and allow me to support that individual, but it didn't happen. And I felt that I had an obligation to the community, to my family, to my business, to try and make this city better.

## THEBURG: HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE WHAT WILL BE YOUR GOVERNING STYLE?

**PAPENFUSE:** I think it is appropriate that we're doing this interview today because we're about to hold the public meeting for the transition process. Tonight, at the high school, I'm bringing together all the various heads of my transition team to field public questions, to try and engage the public really for the first time ever in the transition process, let alone the governance process. I'm hoping that tonight signals two things. One, a new spirit and desire to really engage the public and to not see governance as simply top-down, where your leaders tell you how it must be, and you react. But, instead, the foundation of good government is in civic dialogue and conversation with the public.

So, that is my overarching strategy for how to move Harrisburg forward. It's

to model a new spirit of conversation with the public, to get the public invested. That's going to be manifested in many different ways in the new administration. You're going to see a desire to view City Council as equal, as an independent legislative branch that must exist on equal footing with the executive branch. And I've already gone out of my way, from a transition standpoint, to invite every member of City Council to be a part of the transition. Even in the inauguration, we are planning one event and opening it up to City Council and their families. It's not going to be an elite event or an evening event. There's no inaugural event. It's going to be a humble event that hopes to signal this new spirit of collaboration.

One of the things we've talked about that, hopefully we'll be able to see very, very early on, is fundamentally transforming the way individuals see government when they come into the city government center. Instead of having a metal detector and uniformed security guard, we envision a help desk. We envision people greeting you, actively fielding phone calls on behalf of the city, mobilizing volunteers—an active, engaged, vibrant, positive place to be, not one that seems somehow walled off from the community or is only a place where you go to pay a bill or something like that.

**THEBURG: WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS ON DAY ONE?**

**PAPENFUSE:** I have said that, on day one, I would meet with the attorney general. We've already put in a request to Kathleen Kane's office, and we'll try to make that happen before the close of business that day, as well.

Recently, I took my first tour of City Hall. Have you ever done a basement up tour? I had my first one. Room after room after room in City Hall are filled with files and documents that are orphaned or abandoned that no one really knows what's there. We have to find out. We also have to look structurally and spatially about how we reorganize City Hall.

**THEBURG: SO, YOU'RE SAYING THAT THERE MAY BE DOCUMENTS IN THERE THAT SOMEHOW ARE RELEVANT TO THE CITY'S RECENT HISTORY?**

**PAPENFUSE:** Yes. And I also think symbolically we need to move City Council out of the basement. They're in substandard conditions at the moment. I think they deserve a bright, beautiful office where they can conduct business, as well. I'm going to look to do that very early on.

**THEBURG: WHAT IS YOUR FIRST POLICY PRIORITY UPON TAKING OFFICE?**

**PAPENFUSE:** I'd have to say that the first priority is the reopening of the Harrisburg city budget. Now, there are many priorities, so don't misinterpret that and say it won't be focusing on public safety, etc. But it's all going to be in context of the budget. The budget sets those priorities, and you'll see an effort to reallocate funds within the budget to reflect the reports of the transition team.

So, the way the process is working is that the transition team—there are seven transition teams—they're each going to author a report that will come to me before the Christmas holidays. We're then going to spend a week or so synthesizing those reports, putting them together into one document, which eventually will become a public document, but which will also be the guiding document that we use to reopen the budget in January. My understanding is that we'll have two weeks—intense weeks—to reopen the budget and to reallocate funds from one place to another.

We've looked through the budget carefully. We don't see any additional revenue streams. I think the budget is responsible in that it doesn't over-anticipate too much, but there's certainly not an additional funding source available. So that means, to the extent that we feel economic development is a priority or something else is a priority, we have to fund that by reallocating funds from somewhere else. And that's going to be the initial conversation. It's going to be the initial focus of January, and hopefully there will be very good dialogue on that. I will make it a point to make sure that individuals on City Council—that I've had a one-on-one with them beforehand, that there are no surprises in any of the allocations that we're requesting. Indeed, we've asked City Council members to be parts of all the transition teams, so hopefully they've had a hand in shaping the recommendations by those teams.

**THEBURG: WHERE WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE MORE MONEY DISBURSED?**

**PAPENFUSE:** I will not prejudge the transition team report, but I think there is a consensus around this point that the city—and it's in the Strong Plan—the city has to have a renewed emphasis on economic development. We really only have one option. Yes, we need to make sure that Harrisburg is a safe place to live. Yes, we have to make sure that the government is functioning well and communicating well, and there's an emphasis on civic engagement. We have to do all that. But, unless we can expand Harrisburg's tax base rather dramatically over the course of the next three years— unless we can bring in additional revenues through development, through

making Harrisburg a place where people want to come and conduct business—then, ultimately, the Strong Plan will not be successful because it gives the city a finite window of time to rebuild its financial foundation. And the subsidies within the Strong Plan aren't going to be there forever. So, we have to take advantage of this moment.

**THEBURG: MY PHILOSOPHY HAS BEEN, IF YOU SET THE GROUNDWORK FOR WHAT A CITY IS SUPPOSED TO DO AND MAKE IT MORE ATTRACTIVE THROUGH INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND THROUGH A MORE RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT, YOU WOULD HAVE THE DESIRED EFFECT OF MAKING THE CITY A MORE ATTRACTIVE PLACE TO LIVE AND WORK. I SAY THAT AS OPPOSED TO PUTTING EFFORT INTO A MORE DIRECTED ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY APART FROM THAT.**

**PAPENFUSE:** I don't think it's apart from it at all. I think the strategy needs to be linked exactly to that foundation that you're describing. It's not a sort of outside influence coming in. We have to create a desirable environment. We have to create an environment where people will be attracted to want to come and live. And that's precisely what you're discussing.

At the same time, we have had no emphasis at all on economic development. So, we have no one out there trying to recruit new businesses to come into the city. We have no one out there trying to look at arts and grants that are available as potential catalysts for other things in our city. We haven't done that. We haven't re-made Harrisburg's image. We haven't done anything on the marketing side.

So, yes, that requires the real act of engaging the public and hopefully empowering the neighborhoods to foster a sense of pride and engagement. But it also requires government performing its functions well and helping get the word out and helping coordinate, and that's something that government can do.

**THEBURG: MANY TIMES, MUNICIPALITIES, AND THE REED ADMINISTRATION WAS A POSTER CHILD OF THIS, FIND THEMSELVES IN A SITUATION WHERE THE TAIL WAGS THE DOG. SO, THEY IGNORE OR MINIMIZE THINGS LIKE GOOD GOVERNMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS AND FOCUS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVES THAT OFTEN GO AWRY. THAT'S MY CONCERN ALWAYS WHEN WE TALK ABOUT THE GOVERNMENT GETTING INVOLVED EXPLICITLY IN THE EFFORT OF TRYING TO ATTRACT AND SPUR BUSINESS.**

**PAPENFUSE:** I think that economic development should reflect the priorities of the community. It can't be something that is top-down. It has to be bottom-up. But I think it can be linked to the comprehensive planning process that will be reignited in the new year. We're going to be going neighborhood by neighborhood, assessing the needs and the desires, trying to encourage neighborhood organizations to grow maybe where they aren't and have a network. I think, through that process, we'll be able to re-establish a new zoning code and economic development will follow. So, it's not something that is going to lead that conversation; it will follow the conversation. But it's something that we have to start paying attention to. The city has the capacity for tens of thousands of more residents and, with the large proportion of tax exempt properties, we have to get more individuals contributing financially to the city, if it's going to be successful.

**THEBURG: SPEAKING OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, I—AND YOU AS WELL—HAVE BEEN A VOCAL CRITIC OF THIS THING CALLED THE MAYOR'S REVOLVING LOAN FUND, WHICH HAS BEEN REVIVED. WHAT IS YOUR POSITION ON THAT?**

**PAPENFUSE:** I believe in the power of microloans. And I believe that there is a role that the city can play in helping lend to individuals who can't find that opportunity through a conventional bank. So, let's say you have a small business that is looking for just a small line of credit to help expand, and it's got a good business plan, and it's been vetted through a committee that is really reflective of the community, and they just need a line of credit up to \$10,000. It's very hard to find something like that with a conventional bank. In coming from a small business that really has been as successful as it has been primarily because of the ability to access credit, I recognize the limitations of the current system for particular individuals and particular careers. So, I would like to see the revolving loan fund take a different emphasis. It certainly shouldn't be duplicating a service that can be handled by the current marketplace. I would not support that. But I think there is a role, targeted and strategic, to help support business initiatives that otherwise can't find financing.

I have talked to the members of the committee. Right now, while it was revived, they haven't awarded any funds, and they're open to the concept of a different

mission for that. Look, we can only loan funds to the extent that we have access to the money. But my understanding is that there is some money available. The question is, how do we want to lend it?

I'm also in favor of re-invigorating the effort to track down and find payment for the loans that were made under the previous fund. I don't understand why that hasn't been a priority up to this point. To the extent the records are missing, we will open up an active investigation into where those records are.

**THEBURG: I'VE HEARD THAT THERE ARE MANY RECORDS MISSING, AND THE ONES THAT EXIST ARE FRAGMENTARY. THE THOMPSON ADMINISTRATION DID MAKE SOME EFFORT TO RECOVER FUNDS, BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN EPISODIC.**

**PAPENFUSE:** I think the public has a right to know what was leant, what is still out and who owes what and who has paid what. I don't know if those records have been made public. We've heard snippets and parts. I understand that those records may not be located at the moment, but they went somewhere. We have an opportunity, I think, to rebuild the city archives and establish a pattern of recordkeeping for the city of Harrisburg that really hasn't existed for a long time. These are public documents. This was public money. To the extent that that money can be reclaimed and reinvested into the fund to support better, vetted projects that really could have a community impact, I'm all for that.

**THEBURG: THERE ARE MANY RESOURCE CONSTRAINTS IN THIS CITY—EVERYONE WANTS TO DO MORE THAN THEY ACTUALLY HAVE THE ABILITY TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT. HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO MAXIMIZE THE RESOURCES THAT ARE AVAILABLE AS PER YOUR PRIORITIES?**

**PAPENFUSE:** There are finite resources available, and we are going to use that transition report as a guiding document for the budget reallocation process. I've established a budget committee. I'm going to be right there trying to have the budget reflect the priorities as best we can.

The larger question is how do we access additional revenues and additional funding streams because we are relatively limited in what we can do. There are little things. For instance, the city doesn't even have a list of sponsorship opportunities. For instance, maybe some know what the fireworks cost on the Fourth of July. Others may not know that this fire station needs some new equipment or we could really use something else to help make the housing department more efficient. Who knows? I'd like to develop a list of sponsorship opportunities and to help publicize that, to begin working to try to create public/private funding sources that could help the city. By the same token, I've looked into reviving the Harrisburg Parks Partnership, which existed in the Reed administration and was a private foundation means of getting funds donated to help support our parks. That sort of has gone by the wayside. That should be reinvigorated.

So, there also should be a renewed emphasis on grant writing. There are a lot of opportunities there that aren't fully tapped. So, I think you'll see, at least in the initial budget document, we will be somewhat limited in what we can do. We're not going to be asking for new money that isn't somehow already there. We're just going to be reallocating. But, all of our department heads—everyone will be focused on developing alternative and additional revenue streams over the course of the next year or so, so that, perhaps by 2015, we're in a position to do a little bit more here or a little bit more there.

Plus, we're going to be establishing these new siloed-off nonprofits that will be part of the Strong Plan. If that money is spent wisely—and, by wisely, I mean if it's used to leverage more money as opposed to being used once and gone or used to balance the general fund or however else it might be used. If we can make sure that that money is really invested wisely, and that means generating additional funds, we're

going to be better off. And you'll start to see that take effect, I imagine, by the end of 2014. So, hopefully, we'll be in a new position by 2015.

**THEBURG: HOW WILL YOUR ADMINISTRATION BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT HARRISBURG HAS KNOWN RECENTLY?**

**PAPENFUSE:** We have covered some of that. I think it's going to be that commitment to engaging from the grassroots and not simply having a top-down style of leadership, but one that's more bottom-up, or at least one that's founded upon dialogue. I think you'll see that reflected in the relationship with City Council, at least I certainly hope. I'm working hard on that. Also, just in the very ability to access City Hall and to get information. I know that the communications transition team has been working diligently on the issue of the phone system, the need for a new website. These are very much on the forefront of everyone's minds now. How much we have in the way of resources to do this is another question. But, if we can muster volunteer support, that's really going to be the key. I'm not against having volunteers help answer the phones in City Hall if we can do it. And that will be different, I think, than past administrations. I want to build connections to the surrounding municipalities and the West Shore and everywhere else.

I was told just recently at an event I went to in Camp Hill that I was the first mayor of Harrisburg ever to come to this event in 20 years. I think, for too long, we just had a very insular focus on the city, and we haven't seen it in relation to the rest of the region. If we start doing that, we'll be able to tap a much wider array of resources than we've ever been able to bring to bear in Harrisburg before.

**THEBURG: HARRISBURG WOULD REALLY BENEFIT FROM A GREATER PERCEPTION THAT IT IS NOT JUST THIS ISLAND, BUT IS A CENTRAL PART OF AN ENTIRE REGION.**

**PAPENFUSE:** That's right. And it goes both ways. The county, for instance, continues to somehow still talk about the city as being distinct from the County of Dauphin when, in reality, we are part of the County of Dauphin. We vote for our county commissioners the same way that we vote for our City Council representatives. These divisions—I will put the blame on the city over the past 30-plus years for fostering this sense of itself as an island unto itself. But these divisions have to be healed, especially as we look at the regionalization of other services, whether it's issues of public safety or parks or you name it.

**THEBURG: THAT SEEMS TO BE WHERE THE FUTURE IS MOVING. IT'S REVERSED COURSE FROM THIS PSYCHOLOGY THAT YOU NEED TO HAVE SMALLER, STAND-ALONE ENTITIES.**

**PAPENFUSE:** Harrisburg has exacerbated its own problems by sort of taking a pride in that and not encouraging individuals to contribute when maybe they could have, not seeking to bridge that. So, we'll be working on that. That's another difference between myself and the past administrations, I think.

**THEBURG: NUMEROUS TIMES, I'VE WRITTEN THAT I'VE PERCEIVED THE MAYOR AS ESSENTIALLY AN ADMINISTRATOR WHO IS CHARGED WITH DELIVERING A GROUP OF SERVICES TO TAXPAYERS. CAN YOU SHARE WITH ME WHETHER YOU SHARE THAT PERCEPTION OR IF YOU SEE THE MAYOR AS SOMETHING ELSE?**

**PAPENFUSE:** That's a really good question. It gets to different individuals' philosophical views of what government should be and what government can be. There's no question there is an important administrative aspect of the next mayor. By the same token, the Strong Plan has established the COO position, which is essentially supposed to be the chief administrator of the city of Harrisburg. How that person relates to the mayor and relates to the department heads—that has yet

I FELT THAT I HAD AN OBLIGATION TO THE COMMUNITY, TO MY FAMILY, TO MY BUSINESS, TO TRY AND MAKE THIS CITY BETTER.

to really be worked out. It hasn't been worked out yet, and maybe it wasn't able to be worked out until we were at the point where we could at least start with a balanced budget and have the specter of bankruptcy removed, and now we really can begin to see it.

I actually see the mayor as being much more than an administrator, and I have to say that I have felt this already with the weight of the transition and the importance of the transition—I've had a chance to really deal with that in my own mind. I think there is a symbolic role for the mayor, and there is a role of being the custodian of the aspirations and the hopes of the community. And it has to be somebody who is able to give voice to the voiceless, connect the disconnected and embody through one's actions the hopes and spirit of where we want to go from here. That's not just an administrative function. It's something of a visioning function.

I think we've maybe disagreed in the past over this very issue, in part because, at one point, I think you wrote that you didn't want your mayor to inspire you. You just wanted the trash to be picked up on time. I want the trash to be picked up on time, so don't think I'm discounting that. But I do think that there is a healing that has to happen, a reconciliation that has to happen in Harrisburg because we haven't had a strong connection to the mayor's office for too long. So, I'm going to just, I think, disagree philosophically on that. I also feel that we have an opportunity to re-market and re-brand the city and emphasize new things.

Don't underestimate the degree to which individuals relate and look to the mayor as the embodiment of their aspirations for where they want to be. This is a very weighty thing. I'm hoping that I can live up to that. But I certainly feel the pressure of the moment. I believe there is more goodwill and more consensus and hope for Harrisburg's future now than at any other moment that I've known in Harrisburg. It's going to be up to the mayor in conversation and in collaboration with everyone else, but fundamentally to access that goodwill and turn it into something positive.

**THEBURG: IT WILL BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE POWER STRUCTURE SHAKES OUT BETWEEN THE MAYOR, THE COO AND THE RECEIVER. IT STILL SEEMS FLUID.**

**PAPENFUSE:** It will continue to shake out. I think the receivership will disappear in the short-term. How short, I don't know, but I'd say it's extremely likely to happen before the end of the year, and that will further redefine roles and expectations. I

have to choose a new COO for the city of Harrisburg. That is something that I am reluctant to do until I've established my other department heads, and I have had a chance myself to really assess city government. So, I consider myself the acting COO and chief of staff, at least in the initial run here, so that I can properly assess what needs to happen. So, there is going to be a lot of change, and some of that is certainly beyond the control of the mayor's office.

I believe that we have been very fortunate in Harrisburg to have had two receivers, both with very different styles, but who fundamentally weren't interested in taking power away from the mayor's office to do the day-to-day operations of the city. Whether you consider that to be an administrative function or representative function, as I sort of do, they don't want that, and they have resisted that at every turn. So, I think we will have something of a seamless transition away from receivership, and that's because the receivers themselves have seen to it that they didn't really overstep their bounds, even when it could have been fairly easy to do so.

**THEBURG: I WOULD AGREE WITH THAT. WHEN HARRISBURG ENTERED RECEIVERSHIP, I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE A CERTAIN TYPE OF THING, AND IT ENDED UP BEING QUITE DIFFERENT, AND FOR THE BETTER.**

**PAPENFUSE:** I would admit to feeling similarly. I was skeptical, and I think the skepticism was warranted. Having gotten to know receiver Lynch now much better, we're really fortunate to have him. I think he has the best interests of Harrisburg at heart.

**THEBURG: LAST QUESTION—IF YOU HAD ONE WISH FOR THE PEOPLE OF HARRISBURG FOR 2014, WHAT WOULD YOU WISH FOR?**

**PAPENFUSE:** My wish for the public of Harrisburg is that they will feel a renewed sense of pride and prosperity and connection to their government for the first time in a long time. And that they're going to want to get involved in a call for action that we're going to lead as we go through neighborhood by neighborhood. And that, for the first time really, hopefully, feel inspired to hear that call to work in collaboration with the new administration. **B**

*Eric Papenfuse will take the oath of office as mayor of Harrisburg at a ceremony on Monday, Jan. 6, that begins at 10 a.m. in the lobby of City Hall.*



# FRIENDLY FIRE

*Amid department upheaval, the Harrisburg Fire Bureau searches for new people, new ideas.*

BY PAUL BARKER

In my high school, in the office of a well-loved, lefty Jesuit priest, where all the lefty kids hung out at lunchtime, there was a poster on the wall with a picture of a firefighter, soldier, policeman and teacher under the caption, “We Say They’re Our Heroes, But We Pay Them Like Chumps.”

At the time, I didn’t know the pay scales of any profession, let alone emergency responders and members of the military. That was more the province of the weird kid who traded stocks in the library instead of going to lunch. Nonetheless, I liked the sentiment, and—without any supporting evidence, really—I absorbed it as one of my own. Somewhere, in their depraved chambers, I reasoned, members of the “Other Party” were whittling down the paychecks of people whose bravery they touted at parades.

This fall, in Harrisburg, the question of compensation for emergency personnel became a point of contention. There were the endless negotiations between the receiver and the firefighters’ union over benefits and pay, which, as of this writing, had still not been resolved. There were the departures, in September and October, respectively, of the deputy fire chief and fire chief, both of whom had been on the payroll for less than five years, and both of whom left with lifetime benefits for their families. And there were the eye-popping payouts for accumulated overtime, including the single, \$19,000 paycheck paid to Acting Fire Chief Michael Horst in October, as reported in the Patriot-News.

In the midst of all this turmoil, TheBurg thought it might interest readers to see the department at the other end, from the perspective of the young people entering the profession. One reason for the high volume of overtime is that the department is understaffed: during the budget crisis, senior firefighters retired and weren’t replaced. Earlier this fall, the city requested applications to fill 14 open positions.

On Dec. 7 and Dec. 8, 54 applicants who passed the written exam moved on to the Candidate Physical Ability Test, or CPAT, which is essentially a 10-minute, pass-fail obstacle course for aspiring firefighters. The CPAT took place at the state Farm Show Complex, in a cavernous exposition hall with a cement floor and a livestock odor. The day before the test, TheBurg visited the complex for a demonstration. Our guides were the new acting chief, Brian Enterline, and two firefighter-EMTs, Nate Martin and Josh Winters.

For both Martin and Winters, fighting fires was a lifelong dream, not to mention a bit of a family business. Martin’s father was a volunteer fireman; Winters’ grandfather was a chief at a volunteer company in Quakertown, where his brother is now a battalion chief. They both wound up taking the CPAT three times, waiting for the city to go forward with its hiring process. (A candidate’s passing score expires after one year.)

“The nice thing about this test is, it’s backed by two national agencies, so there’s less controversy,” Enterline said, as Winters and Martin set up at the starting point of the exam. “Back in Altoona, they used to make you chop through a log with an axe. And the issue with that is, OK, I got an oak log, you got a pine log. The way things are laid out here, there’s consistencies through every station.”



Enterline



## STATION 1: THE STAIR CLIMB

To simulate ascending a high-rise, candidate climbs on a StairMaster for 3 minutes and 20 seconds, wearing 75 pounds of weight representing the firefighter’s protective equipment and air pack.

Enterline: “High-rises are sprinklered, so your chances of survival in them are absolutely phenomenal. Your odds of dying in a high-rise building in Harrisburg are basically zero. I can’t say that for state buildings, because they’re not sprinklered. The state didn’t have to comply with our mandatory sprinkler ordinance that was enacted in the ‘80s.”

Martin: “You do three minutes on the stairwell with a 20-second warm-up. You can’t hold on to the handles. You can use them for balance if you feel like you’re gonna fall, but just to tap them. If you fall off, it’s a failure.”

Enterline: “We won’t make Winters go through the whole three minutes. You’ll get the idea.”

Martin: “I think we should, captain.”

## STATION 2: THE HOSE DRAG

Candidate lifts one end of a fire hose over the shoulder and runs it 75 feet past a barrel, then heads right, takes a knee and gathers 50 feet of it, pulling fist over fist.

Winters: “Going around the barrel, you get some friction, which is the same as when you’re going through a house. Hose line can get caught on doorways, things like that.”

CPAT Manual, 2nd Edition: “Running beyond the marked path gives the candidate a mechanical advantage by decreasing the distance required to pull the hose by hand. This advantage may not be available on the fire ground.”

## STATION 3: THE EQUIPMENT CARRY

Candidate carries a chainsaw and a circular saw, about 30 pounds each, to a barrel 75 feet away and back.

Martin: "You can set the saws down to readjust your grip. If you drop the saws, that's a failure."

CPAT Manual, 2nd Edition: "Running with saws could cause injury if the candidate trips."



## STATION 4: LADDER RAISE/ LADDER EXTENSION

Candidate raises a 24-foot aluminum ladder, one rung at a time, until it rests stationary against a wall. Candidate then fully extends a second, secured ladder hand over hand, then collapses it again in a controlled fashion.

CPAT Manual, 2nd Edition: "Skipping rungs would give a taller candidate an advantage over a shorter candidate and is therefore not permitted."



## STATION 5: FORCIBLE ENTRY

To simulate opening a locked door or breaching a wall, candidate uses a sledgehammer to strike a measuring device until a buzzer sounds.

Martin: "Realistically, by the time you get here, you're a little tired. I mean, this looks easy, but now you're tired, you're stressed out, and—it is easy, but it's not easy, because you're a little mentally stressed."

Winters gives the device three quick whacks with the hammer, and something like a tiny police siren sounds.

Winters: "In the test you'll be going nonstop. We're stopping and talking."

## STATION 6: SEARCH MAZE

Candidate crawls through a 64-foot tunnel, navigating obstacles.

Martin: "These guys have had plenty of time to learn this. As somebody watching them do it, our job is not to lead them through. We're just staying behind them, because they should have learned it by now."

CPAT Manual, 2nd Edition: "The candidate can return into the tunnel if they exit through the entrance. Failure to finish the event indicates a lack of confidence in dark or confined spaces."



## STATION 7: RESCUE

Candidate drags a 165-pound dummy around a barrel and back.

Enterline: "Obviously, the dummy drag is what it is. A dummy drag, to simulate pulling a victim out of a fire."

## STATION 8: CEILING BREACH AND PULL

Candidate uses a 6-foot pike to push a 60-pound hinged door up through the ceiling, then yank an 80-pound device downward, for several repetitions.

Enterline: "The push-pull simulator is for pushing through the ceiling and then pulling ceilings down, exposing hidden pockets of fire in houses."

At the end of the demonstration, Enterline expressed a need to reach out to students in the Harrisburg School District. Among the applicants for the 14 positions, only four were residents of Harrisburg. "We need to get them invigorated to become firefighters in the next testing process," he said.

He also reflected on the exodus of Harrisburg's veteran firefighters. "We lost nearly all our senior staff through retirement, so we don't have that senior guidance that we used to in the rank and file," he said. "When I say 'senior,' I'm talking about folks that have been on the job 20, 25 years."

When he joined the department, in 2000, there were still firefighters on the force from the '50s and '60s. Today's most senior firefighter came on the job in 1985. "They're all gone now because of the contract issues and all the unknowns."

The evening after the test, I happened to run into a couple of firefighters at a holiday party. They had plenty to say about firefighting; a little about the politics of it, particularly the negotiations with the receiver's team ("They don't scare me. I run into burning buildings for a living"), but mostly about the art of fighting fires.

Everything in the field was changing, they told me. The manual of best practices was built on the combustion of wood, wool and cotton. But now things were made of petroleum products, and they burned faster and more intensely. One of them recommended a few websites, where he regularly looked for updates to techniques and technology.

Before we left the testing ground, Enterline had said something about the new hires being an "opportunity to rebuild and rebrand." Perhaps what the department had lost in institutional knowledge, he said, it could make up for in new ideas.

"In my opinion, the way we've looked at the nine new guys we hired two years ago is, they're our most important asset," he said. "I mean, all of our employees are our most important asset. But these nine are a breath of fresh air." **B**



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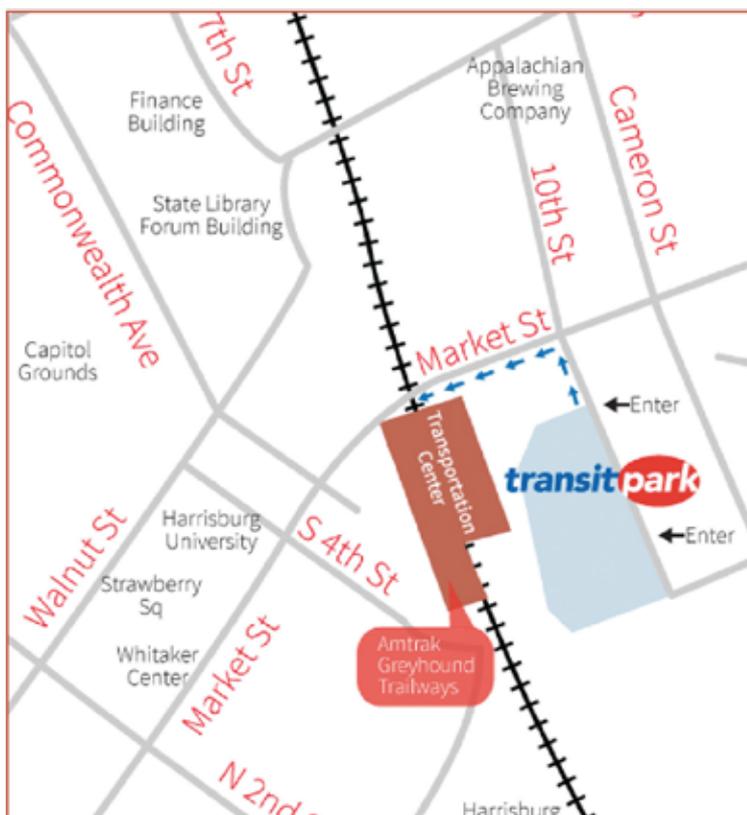
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# CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

*In addition to resolving its financial crisis, Harrisburg may benefit from a growing preference for urban life.*

BY DAVID BUTCHER

We are at a promising time in our city's history.

This is due, in no small part, to the obvious and recently well-publicized reasons: the election of a new mayor; the imminent resolution to a debt crisis caused by the city's incinerator; and the outline, at least, of a comprehensive foundation laid out by the receiver's team to address a decades-long structural deficit. Optimism, after several difficult and uncertain years, is finally, welcomingly warranted.

There is, however, an additional and more fundamental reason to be optimistic about our city. For the first time in more than 60 years, certain trends in residential preferences and business location decisions—or economic geography, as it is sometimes called—favor urban centers like Harrisburg.

These trends have been well-documented and analyzed, most notably by the urban economist Richard Florida in his book “The Rise of the Creative Class” and, more recently, by journalist Leigh Gallagher in her book “The End of the Suburbs.” As Florida, Gallagher and many other observers have pointed out, these trends are animated by a few key, interconnecting factors:

- 1) The shift in the economy to increasingly creative, knowledge-based industries.
- 2) The emergence of a generation—born between 1979 and 1996, known as Millennials—whose living and work preferences favor walkability, access to mass transit, unique architecture and design, close proximity to restaurants and shops and a diversity, authenticity and overall “coolness factor” generally not found in the suburbs.
- 3) The labor market alignment of Millennials with the knowledge, technology and innovation industries, which together fashion a new “creative-class” economy and metropolitan geography.

Anyone who has visited New York, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Boston or Washington, D.C., lately will have seen the impact these trends are having on their downtowns and surrounding neighborhoods. After six decades of decline, each of these cities has registered significant gains in new residents in the 2010 census. In fact, according to the Pew Research Center, the 30 largest U.S. cities (not metropolitan areas, which are sometimes conflated with the word city, but actual *center* cities) have gained population by a median of 5.5 percent from 2000 to 2010. And the Brookings Institution recently released a report showing that, between 2011 and 2012,

center cities within the 51 largest U.S. metropolitan regions (averaged together) grew more than their surrounding suburbs *for the first time since 1920*.

Talk of a national urban revival is no longer just wishful thinking by city boosters. The trends and supporting data are real. We are at an inflection point in metropolitan migration patterns throughout the country, driven in large part by the living and work preferences of young adults ages 20 to 34. Charles Lesser & Co., a real estate consulting firm, recently surveyed the preferences of this age group and found that:

- 31 percent prefer to live in a center city (*twice* that of previous generations of the same age cohort).
- Two-thirds seek walkable places or town centers.
- One-third are willing to pay a premium to be within walking distance to shops, restaurants, bars and other amenities.
- Half are willing to give up living space in order to live in a walkable neighborhood.
- Diverse neighborhoods, close proximity to jobs, “authenticity” and places that foster social connectedness are highly valued.



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## “HARRISBURG, DESPITE POPULAR NEGATIVE PERCEPTIONS, ACTUALLY OFFERS MANY OF THE POSITIVE QUALITIES THAT YOUNG ADULTS NOW PREFER.”

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In other words, the places with attributes that Millennials prefer (walkability, social amenities and “cool factor”—i.e. cities) have an inherent competitive advantage to their surrounding region in growing their economy and population. Furthermore, unlike the “old economy” model of labor-market geography, where workers tended to follow the jobs, now the jobs, at least in the creative, knowledge-based industries, are increasingly following the workers. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal entitled “Companies Say Goodbye to the ‘Burbs,” stated that, “...U.S. firms have begun a new era of corporate urbanism... The bottom line: companies are under pressure to establish an urban presence that projects an image of dynamism and innovation [to attract younger workers].”

Despite being a smaller, “third-class” city, Harrisburg is not immune to these trends. In fact, for the first time since 1950, Harrisburg registered a modest, but still meaningful, population gain in the 2010 census. Not surprisingly, the gain was driven by young adults. The 2010 census reveals that Harrisburg increased its share of 20- to 34-year-olds by 8.7 percent, or 979 residents. In fact, this increase

in young adults is actually larger than the total population gain of 578 residents, underscoring the trend’s strength in offsetting losses in other age groups. As this census data indicates, Harrisburg, despite popular negative perceptions, actually offers many of the positive qualities that young adults now prefer.

Our real estate development company, WCI Partners, has witnessed this trend firsthand with our Olde Uptown neighborhood redevelopment project. In 2007, we began renovating vacant, historic row homes in a blighted part of Midtown that had suffered from four decades of disinvestment, decline and concentrated poverty due to the aftermath of the Agnes flood. Since that time, we have renovated more than 100 properties and built 16 new ones within a four-block area, in addition to completing numerous neighborhood improvements like new sidewalks, streetlights, street trees and banners.

As a result, we have seen an influx of about 250 new residents to the area over the last six years (which, in turn, has created a vibrant community with a 90 percent drop in crime). The majority of these new residents (but certainly not all) fit the Millennial profile of professionals and creative types ages 24 to 34, who prefer the walkability, diversity, interesting design and architecture and proximity to bars, restaurants, coffee shops and downtown jobs that the neighborhood affords. The trend (if not quite the magnitude) is as real in Harrisburg as it is in Philadelphia or Washington D.C. As we say in the real estate business, there is *demand* for city living, at least from a certain (not so insignificant) segment of the market.

Consistent with the “creative-class economy” model of geographic preferences described above, there is also demand from knowledge and technology-based businesses to locate in the city. We have seen this trend at WCI Partners, as well. In fact, over the last half-year, we have been renovating an historic Front Street mansion in Midtown for WebpageFX, an Internet marketing company currently located in Carlisle that will be moving about 50 college-educated employees (almost all of them in their mid-20s) to the city this spring.

WebpageFX began its search almost three years ago, considering locations around the central Pennsylvania region. The company ultimately decided to locate in Harrisburg due to one overriding factor: the city—and its attributes that Millennials prefer—provided the strongest competitive advantage in attracting and retaining young, place-conscious talent. As WebpageFX’s owner Bill Craig told me, “The city is where our employees want to

be. They want the proximity to restaurants, bars, coffee shops, the riverfront and other amenities that it offers. Everyone is really excited for the move.”

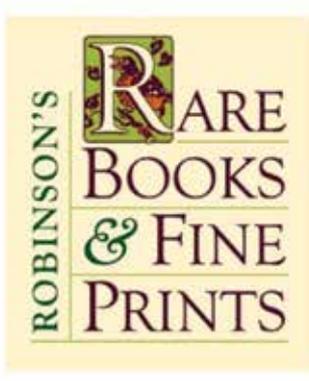
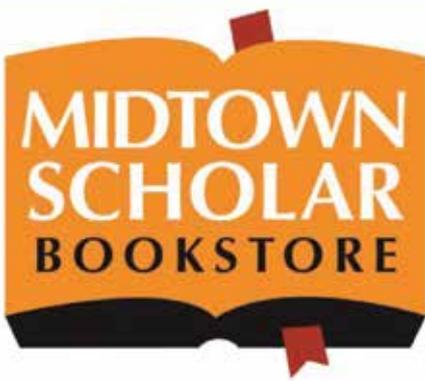
This and broader examples (andCulture, Red Privet, Pavone, WebClients and others) demonstrate the virtuous cycle that these “new economy” trends generate. Vibrant cities attract creative, young people who, in turn, attract creative businesses that together create more vibrant cities.

This virtuous cycle can be seen more widely in recent development projects and the emergence of “creative-class” services and amenities in the city. Projects like COBA and LUX by Brickbox serve to confirm the demand created by the trend in urban living preferences. New student housing projects, like International House, in concert with the emergence of the HACC Midtown Campus and Harrisburg University as educational anchors, reinforce the city as a “new economy” location. Millennial preferences for urban amenities have driven the development of 2nd Street in downtown, as well as the emergence of neighborhood businesses like Little Amps, Midtown Scholar, Midtown Cinema, Stash, TheMakeSpace, St@rtup and others. And continually growing organizations like Harrisburg Young Professionals help to provide the scaffolding of social activity, civic engagement and consumer spending necessary to sustain and bolster this positive cycle of urban growth.

To be sure, most cities, like Harrisburg, still have a variety of serious challenges to overcome, many of which cannot be easily solved and some of which serve as obstacles to the very trends that would alleviate them. And it often seems that the smaller the city, the bigger the challenges, due to less critical mass and a smaller pool of resources to marshal. Nonetheless, it remains encouraging that the prospects of meaningful growth for cities (including Harrisburg) are real and even seem to be strengthening. For so long, cities have struggled, with frequently frustrating results, against the predominant trends of suburbanization. Now that some of these trends are reversing, it will be the job of public officials, business leaders and various other stakeholders to implement the policies, initiatives and strategic partnerships that will effectively harness them. **B**

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*David Butcher is president of WCI Partners LP.*



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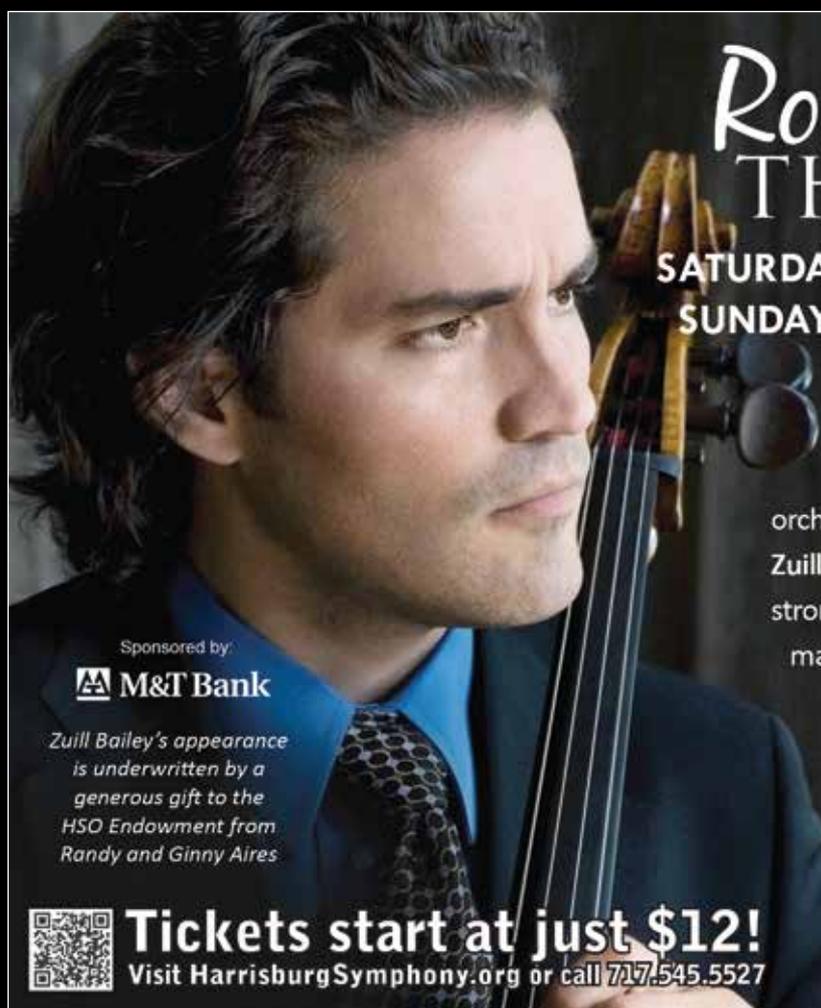


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# MUST LOVE DOGS

## HARRISBURG'S DOG LAWS ARE AMONG THE MOST PROGRESSIVE IN PENNSYLVANIA. CAN THE CITY ENFORCE THEM?

BY PAUL BARKER

In late February of 2012, a Harrisburg patrol officer responded to a call about a stray dog on Curtin Street, in the city's Uptown neighborhood. The dog, a tan-and-white female pit bull named Madison, had wounds to her muzzle, neck and legs. The man who found her, suspecting abuse, had brought her into his home and called the police.

According to the officer, who asked not to be named for this article, the man's story was initially convoluted. "I think he didn't want to be completely upfront about how he came across this dog," she told me. But, eventually, he admitted to knowing where Madison belonged—at a house up the street where, he believed, the owners were involved in dogfighting.

In Pennsylvania, participating in dogfighting, as a spectator or as an owner, is a third-degree felony. Dogfighting investigations can be complicated—the evidence is often a live animal that may need to be held until trial. But animal welfare advocates like to point out that they also can produce convictions for other crimes. According to Janette Reeve, who manages the animal-fighting tip line at the Humane Society of the United States, it's "very, very common" for the pursuit of a suspected dogfighting operation to turn up things like drugs, guns and child pornography. "It's one of those things that goes hand-in-hand with other criminal activities," she said.

The officer ran the address the man provided. As it turned out, various members of the household had criminal records. She decided to take Madison into custody and to refer the case for a fuller investigation.

It so happened that, at the time Madison was found, the city was fresh from a barrage of embarrassing news coverage of its stray dog policy. In mid-2011, the Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area—not affiliated with the national organization—stopped accepting strays from the city, which was late paying bills. In December, the city made a catch-up payment, but, by January, officials were sparring again with the organization over terms in the new year's contract. Meanwhile, someone had leaked an internal police department memo outlining a temporary policy for strays, which included an option to "place the animal in the prisoner van and release it in an area where it will be safe for the animal." In a series of articles, the Patriot-News blasted

the policy, at one point reporting that police had deposited a pit bull puppy in a cardboard box under a pavilion in Sunshine Park.

By the time the officer seized Madison, the contract with the Humane Society had been renewed. But it excluded holding dogs as evidence for a criminal trial, which required specialized care. So the city turned instead to the Central Pennsylvania Animal Alliance, an umbrella organization linking various animal welfare groups in the region, and particularly to its anti-dogfighting task force, which has been active in the city since 2010.

When the task force learned about Madison, it agreed to pay on the city's behalf to board her at a nearby kennel while the investigation proceeded. "We were all excited," Kris Baker, a member of the CPAA task force, told me recently. "We were like,

'We know where this dog lives, we have everything we need, we have an eye-witness.' I mean, this is it. We're gonna get a dog-fighting prosecution."

After a month had passed, another volunteer on the task force, Michele Avery, contacted the police department about the status of the investigation. When Avery reached a police captain by phone, she said, he simply told her, "We don't do dogs." Rather, dogs were the province of the city's animal control officer, Fred Lamke. Avery told him this was more than a stray dog case—Madison was part of a potential dogfighting investigation. He said he would call her back.

Eventually, Avery received a call from a police sergeant, who explained that the department would no longer need Madison as evidence. She asked for a message in writing, and on Thursday, March 29, at 11:26 a.m., the sergeant sent her an email:

Please release our "evidence" hold from the dog in case 2012-2-5386. We have photographs on file for prosecution. You may adopt or place the dog as needed. Thank you for your support.

Avery asked him to confirm the status of the investigation. The task force was meeting the following week, she explained, and she wanted to provide an update. A few minutes later, he wrote back. "I have closed it out for now but my Captain will be reviewing that order." The detective bureau, he added, was "awash in robberies and other violent crime."



Madison

Another month went by, and Avery contacted the department again, this time composing an email to Annette Oates, a captain who was known to be animal-friendly. A week later, in early May, Oates wrote, "This case has been assigned to Fred Lamke for follow up (FYI)."

Avery was baffled. "Fred Lamke is not a detective," she told me. "He doesn't even have a camera." Baker didn't get it, either. "Fred can enforce city ordinances and misdemeanors, but he can't prosecute a felony. He's not a police officer."

They felt the department was letting a serious criminal operation slip away. "They treated me like I was crazy for thinking they would have anything to do with dogs," Avery said.

Meanwhile, the patrol officer who had picked up Madison, having taken the investigation as far as she could, decided to let it go. "They could've done more," she told me. "But I was stuck. You request, they deny, and then it's over."

Dogfighting is the most sensational form of a problem that, for some time now, has been stubbornly pervasive in Harrisburg. Every now and then, a story will surface of a dog escaping a yard, or of a dog attacking a citizen or an animal, or of a dog being put down by police. These can give a general sense of a trend borne out by official numbers. The Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area, which provides the city's shelter services, receives between 200 and 250 dogs from Harrisburg each year.

Some forms of cruelty are more obviously malicious than others. Dogs may be given inadequate shelter, or have insufficient freedom of movement, or simply suffer from neglect. But they may also be physically abused. The CPAA, which maintains a dogfighting tip line, hears stories of puppies that are illegally bred, kept in crates covered in urine and feces, poorly fed, and sold without vaccinations. They have documented cases of dogs covered in bite wounds, dogs with exposed bone, dogs with cropped ears, dogs with their teeth ground down. In 2011, on New Year's Eve, the group rescued a female pit bull from a dumpster where, with a prolapsed uterus and bite scars on her body, she had been left to die. In July, 2012, they responded to a call about a dead puppy, four months old, found in a trash bag with bite wounds and a broken neck.

The proliferation of neglect, combined with the abuse, has had consequences for humans. In May of 2011, a 12-year-old boy was riding his bike Uptown when he was attacked by a stray pit bull. He escaped by kicking and punching the dog, but wound up going to the emergency room for a rabies shot and stitches. A month later, an 80-year-old woman was knocked down on N. 4th Street by a pit bull, which tore into her arm. The fall left her with a broken hip and a broken leg. A neighbor explained later that he heard someone screaming and ran outside. "It was more than a dog bite," he says, in a video available on PennLive. "It was down to the bone."

The city, judging by City Council's legislative record, has been aware of the problem since at least the mid-1990s. In 1996, the city passed a major amendment to its animal code, providing a

definition of a "dangerous" dog and outlining strict requirements for possession of one. The definition lists nine separate characteristics, any one of which qualifies a dog as dangerous, including "powerful jaws capable of crushing bone," a "tendency to attack even those persons and animals that exhibit no provocative behavior," and a "strong chase instinct." In 2004, citing an increase in attacks, council added four more conditions, including a designation of "dangerous" for a dog that gives three unprovoked bites in a year (or one bite, if it causes substantial harm).

Last May, council extended the city's cruelty laws. An anti-tethering ordinance, moved by Brad Koplinski, created strict regulations on the length of time and the manner in which a dog can be left tethered or unattended outdoors. It provides a number of conditions for issuing citations, including inadequate access to food and water, insufficient shelter, and exposure to the elements during weather below freezing or above 90 degrees. The penalty for a first offense is \$350 and may include seizure of the animal; subsequent offenses can lead to imprisonment.

The ordinances also authorize the city to keep detailed records on dog ownership. In 1998, the city broke with Dauphin County and began administering its own licensing program for dogs. If you live in the city and own a dog over three months old, you are required by law to apply for a city license, which can be issued for a period of either one or three years. The licenses are the initial checkpoint for ensuring compliance with other laws; if you don't have proof of a current rabies vaccination, for instance, you can't get a license. The license application also provides the city with owners' names and contact information and the name, breed and description of each registered dog.

Together, these ordinances should provide grounds for a comprehensive crackdown on irresponsible owners, illegal breeding and abuse. But the laws, though relatively progressive, are only partly enforced.

For one, very few owners license their dogs. Brett Miller, an animal-welfare advocate who devised the state's formula for estimating dog populations, calculates that there are around 10,600 dogs in Harrisburg. In 2012, however, the city only issued 570 licenses—418 three-year licenses and 152 one-year licenses. At those levels, the fees are so small as to be almost nominal. According to the tax enforcement office, since at least as far back as 2001, the city's total dog licensing revenue has hovered just above \$8,000. By comparison, in 2012, the city made payments of \$56,750 to the Humane Society, in addition to the animal control officer's salary of \$44,000.

In addition, since the anti-tethering ordinance is still relatively new, the police department has been reluctant to enforce it aggressively. A lieutenant explained that residents are still in a "honeymoon period." Rather than issue a citation, officers will hand owners a copy of the ordinance and urge them to take better care of their dogs. But, in the process, he said, the department could learn "who the habitual violators are," in order to keep an eye on them later.



Jetson



Ranger Rick



Captain America



Noah



Tinker



Milkdud

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The city also has made virtually no effort to enforce its dangerous dog statutes, at least with respect to licensing. That's partly a result of the laws' questionable constitutionality. Lamke, the animal control officer, told me that, following the court's rejection of a similar law in Erie, the city has deferred to the state law's narrower definition of a dangerous dog.

But Harrisburg has apparently never been serious about identifying dangerous dogs or discouraging owners from keeping them by applying the much higher license fee. A secretary in the tax enforcement office, who has been working there since the city assumed licensing from the county, informed me that, to her knowledge, the city had issued only one dangerous dog license—and that was done incorrectly, by a different department. At any rate, the dog didn't receive a special red identification tag, as specified in the law, because the office didn't have them. According to the secretary, the city had never ordered any.

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Last Halloween, Amy McIntire was out trick-or-treating with her granddaughter, near Chestnut and 18th streets in Allison Hill, when she spotted a bulldog chained to a plastic dog crate outside an abandoned building. For several years, McIntire has been the task force's unofficial eyes and ears in the city, relaying messages, videos and photos when she comes across evidence of cruelty. "She's kind of like our little informant," one of the task force members told me. "She's our snitch."

As she approached the chained bulldog, McIntire saw that there was no food or water nearby, nor was there any protection from the wind and rain. In addition, the dog, a female, was about to give birth. "She was barking and carrying on," McIntire told me. "She was scared, and she was ready to have the babies at any time." She called a contact who runs a rescue in York Haven, and the two began mobilizing others in the network.

Over the next several hours, the group passed messages back and forth over Facebook, trying to come up with a strategy for getting the dog out of the cold. McIntire was reluctant to call the police. When she had tried give the dog food, it "went into defense mode," and she worried police would shoot at the first sign of aggression. Eventually, the group found a rescue that would take her, but the owner didn't want to give her up. They decided to report the case to Fred Lamke, hoping he would issue a citation the next day.

In the morning, Lamke visited the owner, handed him a copy of the ordinance and got him to take the dog inside. By the afternoon, she was back outside again. "Someone please call Fred," somebody wrote. "Fred got off at 3 p.m. and won't be back until Monday," someone else replied.

The group diverged over what to do next. Some wanted to scrape together money and try to buy the dog directly from the owner: "We need the mom and pups removed for safety, as well as to prevent an entire litter of pittie pups being sold to morons, to one day have more pups." Others wanted to add the threat of citations. Someone had heard a rumor that the owner

actually lived Uptown, and, therefore, might have been using an empty lot to store the dog unattended—a violation of the anti-tethering ordinance.

On Saturday, a baby pool appeared by the dog, presumably to provide her a place to whelp. On Sunday, McIntire visited again: "[T]he SOB is sitting in his warm SUV, while the dog looks at him begging to get in the warm truck with him." That evening, Brett Miller reached Brad Koplinski, who had visited the site Friday and Saturday and spoken with the owner. Koplinski pledged to drive by and, if necessary, involve the police.

That evening, the dog gave birth. As it turned out, she was licensed and vaccinated, and the owner was apparently willing to bring its habitat into compliance with the regulations. "The guy tried," Koplinski told me. "He put up a decent amount of fencing, there was water for the dog, it had a wooden roof, it had a tarp on it. I think the collective effort made the guy realize—I could get in a lot of trouble here. Let's just play this smart, and get the dog inside."

People who care about animal cruelty tend to care about it intensely. A line frequently quoted by members of the task force is attributed to Mahatma Gandhi: "The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." When this sense of mission, coupled with affection for the animals, comes up against the realities of enforcement, the result is often profound disappointment. McIntire remains convinced that someone tipped off the owner on how to avoid a citation. She has continued to keep an eye on the area, hoping to spot evidence that would warrant a seizure, but the prospect seems unlikely.

Daniel Benny, a humane officer who is authorized to inspect for cruelty in Dauphin County, told me he visited the site and determined that there was no violation of the law. "You need to respect people's rights," he said. "I don't put my personal view into it. It's hard sometimes, because you see things that are heartbreaking. But my position is, we respect the law." After his visit, he emailed his assessment to members of the CPAA, where he volunteers.

"The law basically stinks," Zella Anderson, the CPAA's founder, told me. She acknowledged that the weather may not have been cold enough to justify a seizure, but her concern was with the larger pattern of inaction and complacency around the problem of cruelty. When I first spoke to her about the dog on Zarker, a week after Halloween, she was exasperated.

"We don't know what vet care she's getting," she said. "And now the puppies will be sold, and the cycle repeats."

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Initially, when the task force assembled, they saw themselves as partners of law enforcement, rather than critics of it. In the spring of 2010, the group lobbied City Council to hold a hearing on the topic of dogfighting. Soon afterward, Koplinski introduced a resolution pledging that the city would address the problem, and it passed unanimously. That September, the task force organized a seminar for

police, led by an assistant D.A. in Allegheny County with a record of dogfighting prosecutions. Around two dozen Harrisburg police officers attended.

"My perhaps rather naïve thought at the time was, if they learn how to investigate and prosecute, then they'll start tackling the dogfighting, which we knew to be going on," Felicity Fox, a founder of the task force, told me. The response to the seminar, though, was discouraging. Advocates who attended thought the officers seemed uninterested; at the end of the presentation, no one asked any questions. In the months after the training, the task force saw virtually no movement from the department.

The group also struggled to secure any meaningful commitment from the office of the mayor. At one point, the Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area, in an effort to help the city curb the population of strays, provided the administration with spay/neuter vouchers. The vouchers would have allowed residents to bring animals in for a free procedure, but the city didn't distribute them.

"We said, 'OK, look, we gotta get really serious about this,'" Amy Kaunas, the organization's executive director, told me. Since the vast majority of dogs the shelter receives from the city are pit bulls, she added a cap on the number of pit bulls it would accept each year, to spur the city to take action. (Several years ago, the number of strays or abandoned dogs was more than 300; the decrease, Kaunas said, is not a measure of improvement, but solely a result of the cap.) Yet the administration continued to deny there was a problem. Mayor Linda Thompson claimed that the dogs were not actually Harrisburg's—instead, they were being brought in from neighboring counties and dumped within city limits.

Meanwhile, as the task force continued to catalog animal control cases, a troubling pattern emerged. Police responses were unpredictable. Sometimes, officers would defer to Fred Lamke, even if he wasn't on duty; at other times, officers would handle situations themselves, with wildly variable outcomes.

In one widely publicized case, in March 2011, officers responded to a report of two stray pit bulls Uptown. They seized the dogs and, because the city's contract with the shelter had expired, took them to the incinerator and shot them. Their owner, who came home to find his dogs missing from his yard, didn't learn what had become of them until several days later. Animal advocates were outraged—state law requires that stray dogs, once subdued, must be held at a kennel for 48 hours before being put down—but the police chief at the time, Pierre Ritter, defended the action as a proper response to a threat to public safety. (Ritter was later quoted in the Patriot-News saying his officers had "handled it 100 percent correctly.")

In another case, in February 2012, two officers checked on a dog that had been left behind in a home on Argyle Street following the arrest of its owner for drug charges. Amy McIntire noticed the dog in the window, and, for several days, she made numerous calls to Lamke that someone should collect her, but never received a reply. On Feb. 3, two

officers showed up with a snare, intending to capture her, but were surprised to find the dog outside in the yard. According to the police incident report, a neighbor had opened a window, and the escaped dog lunged at one of the officers, biting him twice on the leg. They shot the dog, whose corpse was taken in for rabies testing, and the officer went to the hospital.

“She did what any dog would’ve done,” McIntire told me. “If they’d waited til Monday, for Fred Lamke, that dog would still be alive today.”

Ron Hollister, a humane officer who works with the task force, is more sympathetic to the police. “You can’t just go willy-nilly into somebody’s house. They will attack,” he acknowledged. “But if the dog’s gnawing on your leg, what are you gonna do?” he said. “I know some of these people would say, ‘I’d let it chew my legs off.’ Well, OK. But not me.”

Incidents like this have left a number of animal-welfare advocates reluctant to place an emergency call, for fear that an improperly approached rescue will end in a shooting. This is not so much a condemnation of the police, many of whom they believe to be animal-friendly, as it is a fear that, in the absence of a clear policy or support from superiors, even sympathetic members of the force will wind up needlessly killing a dog.

Kris Baker, who is friendly with a number of officers, is often surprised when she learns who was involved in an incident. After the two dogs were put down at the incinerator, she said, “I couldn’t believe it. I knew both of those officers, and they would never have done that.” The problem, she believes, is the leadership. “You don’t just discharge a weapon like that without seeking permission first. That command was coming from higher up.”

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The walls of Captain Oates’ office are covered with pictures of cats and dogs. Many of them are photos of her own pets, all of them rescues. Behind her desk is a placard—“One cat leads to another cat leads to another...”—and on the wall, above her computer, a cartoon of a puppy in a Superman cape, with the caption “The mightiest of hearts beats within my little dog.”

Oates has straight, chin-length brown hair and a tranquil, deliberative manner. The day I visited, she walked me through the department’s protocol. When Fred Lamke is on duty, officers refer animal calls to him. When he’s off, officers will respond themselves and can issue citations, unless they feel the matter can wait for Lamke. Officers were equipped to seize dogs if possible, but if a dog attacks, they will shoot. But, she said, “We’ll do everything we can before we use deadly force.”

I asked her about the leaked memo from 2011, which she had authored. At first, she was reluctant to talk about it. “Those were guidelines,” she said. “That’s all I’m really gonna say about it.” She paused. “The situation was, we had these animals, and we had nothing to do with them.” They couldn’t take dogs to the shelter, but they couldn’t just leave them on city streets. Eventually, with the help of the CPAA, the city built a temporary kennel in a garage near the incinerator, but it was clearly inadequate to the potential volume of strays. For a while, rescues were arriving every few days, and the kennels got in the way of other police work. After several months, the shelter was taken down.

I asked Oates, who has been with the department since 1986, whether the problem had noticeably worsened in her years on the force. She believed it had, though she couldn’t provide statistics. She speculated that, in recent years, the recession had exacerbated the situation—people simply didn’t have the money to take care of their pets. She disliked that some people treated their dogs as disposable, but beyond that, she had little to say about a strategy to curb cruelty.

Before I left, Oates returned to topic of the 2011 memo. Her words, she said, had gotten “so, so twisted” in the press. “Anyone who knows me knows I would never just instruct officers to shoot dogs for the sake of shooting dogs.” Her aim was to prevent a situation where dogs were simply left to roam at large, at a time when the city’s suspended contract left the department with few options. “Our hands were tied,” she said.

After our interview, I went back and re-read the memo. “Supervisors,” it begins. “Since we can no longer take dogs & cats to the Humane Society, we will do the following.” There are three numbered items. If the animal is “vicious & a danger to the public” or “obviously sick, injured or suffering,” it may be killed “in as safe a manner as possible.” If it’s determined “to be a ‘found’ animal,” officers may ask the person who placed the call if he or she, or an acquaintance, would like to keep the animal, or the officers may adopt the animal themselves. Barring that, they are to collect the animal and release it somewhere safe. “If you choose to adopt the animal yourself or release it in a safe environment,” it adds, “DO NOT inform the complainant of your intentions.”

Criticisms of the memo reached a national audience. The Patriot-News branded the policy “shoot-‘em, adopt-‘em or drop-‘em,” which gave the impression that officers were free to choose among the options. Other outlets picked up this characterization. Cesar’s Way, an advocacy website connected to Cesar Millan, the expert trainer from the television show “The Dog Whisperer,” wrote that “officers were told that if they didn’t want to adopt the animal themselves, they should take it out of town and leave it or, failing that, shoot it.”

But the language of the memo suggests a more subtle failure. At the time, the department defended the text as a draft, and the tone is obviously provisional. It concludes, “These are the best options we can offer at this time. If anyone has any other ideas, please email me.” Above the officers, the former chief and the mayor had denied the problem, and on the ground, they were overwhelmed with other crimes. The budget crisis meant that the department had to keep revisiting its protocol. After my conversation with Oates, the memo looked not so much callous or cruel as simply hopeless.

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Fred Lamke is a hard man to get a hold of. Over a period of several months, I placed numerous calls to his cell phone, none of which were returned. I tried to visit him at his business—when he’s not on duty,



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Precious, please visit  
[petfinder.com/petdetail/23927436](https://www.petfinder.com/petdetail/23927436).



For information on adopting  
Guardian, please visit  
[petfinder.com/petdetail/25170635](https://www.petfinder.com/petdetail/25170635).



For information on adopting  
Chi Chi, please visit  
[petfinder.com/petdetail/14956935](https://www.petfinder.com/petdetail/14956935).

he runs the horse-drawn carriage company on City Island—but he always seemed to have just left on an errand.

Once, as he was leaving by car, I waved to him, and he rolled down the window. We chatted briefly. He said the pit bull problem was mostly about economics. It was cheaper to buy a puppy from your neighbor than to pay full price at the Humane Society. He agreed to talk more about it later. Another month went by of unanswered calls.

Finally, the new police chief, Thomas Carter, arranged an interview. On an icy morning in December, he led me to a small office room in the police bunker below city hall. Lamke, who is tall, with wild gray hair and small oval glasses, was standing in the hallway. He wore olive-green muck boots, a ball cap and a jacket with a faded animal control patch on the left shoulder. “You want me to talk to him? That OK?” he said as we approached.

“Yes, definitely,” Carter said. They discussed a shooting, the night before, of a 10-year-old boy in Allison Hill, who was struck in the face by a bullet while watching TV.

“I said to my wife, ‘The chief grew up in the city. That hurt him, to see that,’” Lamke said.

“Lot of dumb people doing a lot of dumb stuff these days,” the chief concluded. He headed back upstairs.

Lamke began by explaining that the number of citations he had issued in 2013 was approaching his highest total in more than 20 years. “We’ve gotten very, very aggressive,” he said. A lieutenant pulled up Lamke’s records. As of December, he had given out 89 non-traffic citations, mostly for failure to restrain an animal or for lack of a rabies vaccination or license. But, Lamke added, his priority was to get owners to control their dogs, not to cite or fine them. “If you issue the citation, it’ll take sometimes 30 to 45 days to get it in front of the district justice,” he said. “Whereas, if we can get this thing resolved in the moment, and get compliance, that’s what this is really all about.”

Lamke regards the animal control situation in Harrisburg as a function of the urban environment. High-density housing, he said, increases the volume of calls. Where an escaped dog in the suburbs might roam a large backyard, in the city it winds up on a neighbor’s porch. In addition, Harrisburg’s large number of transient residents, combined with generational poverty, leads to a high rate of abandonment. “When the economy goes bad, people lose their jobs. They can’t take as good a care of their pets. They lose their homes; they leave their pets behind,” he said.

I mentioned the “stray dog problem” in Harrisburg. “I don’t think we have a stray dog problem in the city,” Lamke said. When I expressed surprise, he clarified. In the 80s, the city was home to actual packs of wild dogs, which the animal control sector, created by then-Mayor Stephen Reed, had successfully cleaned up. Now, the problem was primarily abandonment. “A dog that’s been chained and left behind is not a stray dog. Those are abandoned pets that were owned by someone,” he said.

I asked about the anti-dogfighting seminars and whether he had found them instructive. He thought for a moment, then said that for him, “90 percent”

of what was covered was review because he goes to such trainings “just about on a yearly basis.” I asked him what sort of things an officer looks for in a dogfighting investigation. Janette Reeve, the dogfighting expert at the Humane Society of the United States, had provided me a long list of evidence she sought in building a case: steroids and suture materials in the owners’ possession, “break sticks” used to pry fighting dogs apart, notes recording outcomes of fights, and so-called “rape stands” used for forcible breeding.

Lamke mentioned none of these things. “You look for multiple dogs in multiple houses, dogs on short chains, pit bulls that don’t get along,” he said. Pit bulls used in dogfighting, he added, “don’t like each other, so they’re not able to interact with each other.” I asked if he had ever pursued anyone for dogfighting. “Oh, yeah,” he said, and mentioned a case from 15 years ago. The problem, he said, is that fighting is very hard to detect, and none of the department’s recent cases were strong enough to make it to the courts. He mentioned the officer involved in the Madison case, who had worked with him in her investigations. “She came back to me after it was all said and done, and said, ‘Fred, I’ve been trying, I can’t get nothing.’”

I brought up the Humane Society’s free spay/neuter vouchers. Lamke said that, though he tries not to be cynical, most animal control programs he has observed over the years are simply not successful. “Put it to you this way,” he said. “We tell people not to smoke. We tell people not to drink. We tell people all the behaviors that are bad for you, but they just don’t listen.” (One exception was the CPAA’s “trap, neuter and release” program for feral cats, which he described as “an astronomical program.”) I asked how many vouchers he handed out per year. “It depends on how many they give me,” he said. “It’s somewhere around 30.”

Later, when I mentioned this to Kaunas, the Humane Society of the Harrisburg Area’s director, she was flabbergasted. The arrangement with the city, which she had explained to both the mayor and police chief, was that the shelter would provide unlimited vouchers. Once Lamke distributed the ones he had, he simply had to ask for new ones. “Let me tell you something,” she added. “In all the years we’ve done the free voucher program, I have only gotten one filled-out spay/neuter voucher from the city. And you know whose pet it was for? Fred Lamke’s!”

At one point during our interview, I asked Lamke for his assessment of the Zarker Street case, where the pregnant female pit bull was found on Halloween. He mentioned Daniel Benny, the humane officer—a “very good, balanced investigator, in my estimation”—and his report that there was no evidence of cruelty.

What about the rumor that the owner was living in a garage? I asked.

“Not privy to that. Don’t know,” Lamke said.

“Did you see evidence inside of the garage, like a bed?”

“Once the dog’s inside his place of business, like I said—he took the puppies inside, and, after that point, it’s none of my business.”

The gap between Lamke’s approach and the hopes

of the animal-welfare advocates became suddenly clear. The advocates, with their memories of each rescued dog, wanted an all-out approach to put an end to the problem. Lamke, however, wanted basic compliance and deference to people’s privacy. I asked about the possibility that the Zarker Street puppies might become next year’s abandoned dogs, each one costing the city \$265 to drop off at the shelter.

“There’s a really good possibility that that could be the case,” he said.

This fall, the task force grew hopeful again that the city would get serious about combatting animal cruelty. As the mayoral election approached, Brett Miller arranged meetings with Republican candidate Dan Miller and Democratic candidate Eric Papenfuse, who both gave indications that they would work to address the problem.

After Papenfuse was elected, the team prepared a list of objectives, including the establishment of a mayor’s animal advisory board to examine ways to improve licensing and education. They will also urge the new mayor to authorize three regional humane officers to enforce the anti-tethering ordinance in the city. (Lamke maintains that, between him and the city’s 120 officers, the department has enforcement covered. “If you have a lot of other folks coming in, they may not be doing it the right way,” he said.)

In July, the Humane Society of the United States hosted an anti-dogfighting seminar at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Lamke and a supervisor attended, as did a deputy district attorney for Dauphin County, who has since put a stronger focus on building animal cruelty cases.

Last spring, a couple of advocates got a tip about an owner who was beating his dog in an apartment on 2nd Street. Ron Hollister, the humane officer, got a statement from a neighbor describing sounds of abuse. Eventually, the landlord entered the apartment and discovered feces and urine on the floor, along with what appeared to be marks from where the dog had been thrown against the wall. The dog itself, a 40-pound pit bull, was enclosed in a small crate with a broken leg. The owner was out of town. Hollister involved the D.A., and, in May, a judge issued a fine of \$1,100, in addition to veterinary fees.

Madison, the stray pit bull found Uptown on Curtin Street, is now in a program called HOPE, for Hounds of Prison Education, where she will be trained as a service dog by inmates at the Camp Hill prison. Other dogs are not so easy to rehabilitate. Hollister, who runs his own rescue, has developed something of a specialty handling difficult cases. After years of abuse, he said, some dogs require an enormous effort to be kept under basic control.

“The animal has just, like, totally lost trust in man,” he said. He has 14 dogs in his rescue and is at capacity, but he continues to respond to calls. “They keep telling me I can’t save ‘em all. But I can try. I can try to save at least this one dog.” **B**



first became acquainted with Scotzin Brothers while working on an August article for TheBurg on Alter Ego Brewing Co. (“Beer Ambition,” p. 26).

Alter Ego’s owners had started as home brewers, with Scotzin supplying the necessary equipment and ingredients. However, as I got to know the store’s manager, Brad Moyer, I realized that Alter Ego’s owners weren’t the only enthusiastic Scotzin customers passionately pursuing their hobby. So, I went in search of what made this wine and beer making supply store so special.

When I started my search, I had originally thought that Scotzin catered to home brewers alone. However, I quickly learned that they are equally

local. According to Moyer, 80 percent of his customers come from a radius that reaches south from the tip of West Virginia and Hagerstown, Md., and goes north to Mansfield and Williamsport, Pa. However, the store’s reach extends further when it comes to large equipment. Scotzin’s stock is so extensive that customers regularly come from as far as Connecticut to buy specialty equipment.

#### WINE AND BEER

Next, I met with two of these avid customers/community members. Mario Billow, from Enola, owns a funeral home and is an avid vintner. Kristen Richards, from Harrisburg, works in sales and is a brewer. As

## FOR THE LOVE OF GRAPE AND GRAIN

*40 years of homemade wine, beer at Scotzin Brothers.*

BY ANDREW DYRLI HERMELING

important to the home vintner (wine-maker) community. In fact, when Scotzin Brothers first opened more than 40 years ago, it was an extension of brothers Paul and John Scotzin’s love for making wine, not beer.

The original Scotzin Brothers store dealt in television and appliance sales and repair, but what started as a backroom operation gradually became the primary business. Beer making supplies were only added later as the microbrew craze took off.

#### A BREWING COMMUNITY

The obvious first step was to talk to Brad Moyer further. Moyer has extensive brewing experience, both privately and with some leading microbreweries. He uses his position at Scotzin to help other people find the same passion.

“This is the one thing I have discovered that I am both passionate about and good at,” he says. “I never stop learning, never stop reading and never stop doing.”

Most importantly, Moyer is tireless in working to foster the store’s homebrew culture.

“I don’t believe in recipe secrecy, so I will always share what I’m doing with the community,” he says. “This is much more than a retail store. It’s a resource, a social place. People never come in, buy something and just walk out.”

However, this community isn’t only

to be expected, a sampling of the fruits of their labor preceded any actual conversation.

Billow began making wine in 2006, first trying his hand at the starter kits available at the store. However, it didn’t take long before he moved on to fresh grape pressing. He now cultivates 24 vines in his own backyard.

His favorite grape is chambourcin, a French/American hybrid. But he also makes cabernet, merlot, Vidal Muscat, chardonnay and sour cherry wines. One of his proudest moments came in 2008, when he decided to send some of his wine to the annual American Wine Society competition.

“Every single one of my wines won medals,” says Billow. “The only complaint was that my wine was too young.”

In response to that critique, he now ages his wines for years before he bottles them.

Richards started brewing in the ‘90s. Like Billow, she started with kits and then ventured into all-grain brewing, the homebrew equivalent of using fresh grapes. However, her life became hectic, and she had to stop in 2002. Then, in 2011, she felt the itch again and has been brewing almost non-stop since then. She recently upgraded her brewing equipment and now uses a sophisticated, completely computerized system.

Richards is especially interested in brewing India pale ales, the highly



hopped beer style that has become incredibly popular in the United States, although there isn’t a style that she won’t try to make.

For Richards, it is easy to experiment, since she has such a rich source of information.

“You can always come into the store and get whatever you need and get any questions you may have answered,” she says.

Both Billow and Richards say they couldn’t imagine doing what they love without Scotzin, which offers both a wide range of specialty equipment and a network of knowledge.

#### ONLINE AND UPWARD

Even with such a dedicated community, Scotzin Brothers isn’t resting. The

store recently launched its online store, allowing them to reach even more people; they have already begun shipping international orders.

To help foster greater community, Moyer is launching his own brew club where home brewers can come together, sample each other’s creations and pool their experience and knowledge.

For Moyer, Billow and Richards, along with Scotzin’s like-minded customers, expanding the community was as simple as taking that first sip. It was the passion of others that brought them into the hobby. Now, they want to pass it on. **B**

*Scotzin Brothers is located at 65C.N. 5th St. in Lemoyne. For more information, visit [www.scotzinbros.com](http://www.scotzinbros.com) or call 717-737-0483.*

# WELCOME BACK

*Ted's opens where it all began.*

BY STEPHANIE KALINA-METZGER



Optimistic, affable and energetic, Romeo LaMarco is a man with a plan.

He and business partner John Saad have become fixtures in the Lower Paxton Township community since purchasing Ted's on Allentown Boulevard several years ago. The two pals, who grew up together in western PA, began as patrons of the establishment.

"We loved the place and didn't want to see it change," said LaMarco.

Now, in a major nod to the original Ted's Tavern, they're returning the restaurant to its roots, having purchased the building in Harrisburg where the restaurant began many years ago. Midtown residents may still be mourning the loss of beloved Brick City, but the news of Ted's second location—a round trip back to the corner of N. 2nd and Sayford streets—has softened the blow.

## THEIR OWN FLAIR

The partners joined me in the spacious dining room in front of a roaring fire, which took the edge off the frigid December temperatures. I relinquished my coat reluctantly, but was soon warmed up by the combination of the cozy fire and the bone-warming heat of the signature spicy Bloody Mary crafted with their special wing sauce.

Having recently celebrated the third anniversary of Ted's Bar & Grill—and on the verge of opening the second location—they agreed to carve out time from their busy schedules to reflect on the journey and offer a glimpse into the future.

"When we took over, we concentrated on what Ted did," said LaMarco, adding that they kept what worked, chucked what didn't and added their own flair to the place. The two worked hand-in-hand with the food service distributor throughout the transition, as they honed their restaurant chops.

"In the beginning, it was a bit slow, and now it's gangbusters," said LaMarco. The two gave the dated decor a much-needed facelift by putting down new carpeting, giving everything a fresh coat of paint and installing a horseshoe bar, which seats three times the number of customers. "Now everyone interacts; we're spread out on two sides," said LaMarco, who obviously loves interacting with people. "It's like hosting a party at your house on a daily basis."

The partners brought in Joel LaMarco, a certified chef, who also happens to be Romeo's son, to work on the menu selections. "Now, 95 percent of the food is made from scratch," said LaMarco.

"With a little bit of our western PA spin on it," added Saad, mentioning lamb kebabs with Syrian bread shipped in from New Castle and a Pittsburgh sandwich that features a choice of meats like pastrami and corned beef, topped with coleslaw on toasted Italian bread.

The soups are a crowd pleaser, according to LaMarco. Four chefs share in the duty of making close to 100 gallons a week. Depending on the day, patrons can choose from Louisiana gumbo, Italian wedding soup, chicken tortilla, a variety of chowders, tomato bisque and a whole host of others.

The signature crab cake, made with jumbo lump

crabmeat, is a hit with customers. A popular \$12 Tuesday night special, offering a 12-ounce sirloin or crab cake, along with two sides, draws a crowd.

Ted's popular Greek salad is still available, and fans of the original dressing will be pleased to hear that the same recipe is used today. Of course, wings remain a best seller, and the restaurant now offers 14 sauces and four dry seasonings.

## COMMUNITY FOCUS

The 130-seat restaurant is a regular meeting place for many members of the community, which is important to both Saad and LaMarco.

"We embraced the local sports community, and they embraced us as well," said Saad.

The back room is called The Ram's Den for the Central Dauphin Rams, and families often congregate there. Children are given free ice cream for dessert during lunch and dinner. "The kids love that," said Saad.

Paxtonia resident Lori Hood has been a customer for many years. "I like everything on the menu; the food is so good, and I like how they interact with their customers. It's like 'Cheers,' everybody knows everybody," she said, referring to the old sitcom.

Fred Forintino from Harrisburg enjoys the community vibe, as well.

"It's a really friendly environment," he said. "Lots of families go there. It's a great place to socialize and the crowd is a lot of fun. The owners do a lot for the local community and the teams. They sponsor events and cater to some of the organizations. It's like a neighborhood atmosphere, unlike some of the chain restaurants and franchises."

## FULL CIRCLE

With the opening of the second location, city dwellers now will get to enjoy the Ted's experience.

Sure, the loss of Brick City left many heavy hearts, but locals can continue to expect a welcoming atmosphere and reasonably priced, way-better-than-average bar food. Ted's is even retaining much of what made Brick City so special—its efficient, friendly staff.

The fact that the first Ted's once operated at the same location has caused many to declare that the business has "come full circle."

Jesse Hamilton is part owner and will manage the new location. "The tried-and-true recipe that has worked at the current Ted's is being replicated in the new place in Harrisburg," he said, adding that the menu is similar, and the focus on the community remains the same.

A larger system of 18 taps enables them to place more of an emphasis on craft beers. A Friday jazz night will be added, but little else in the successful, now-familiar Ted's formula is changing.

With an opening around the holidays, it was a perfect gift to area locals.

"I am looking forward to this new venture, building relationships and, most importantly, being of service to the community," said Hamilton. **B**

*Ted's Bar and Grill is at 6197 Allentown Blvd., Harrisburg (Lower Paxton Township), and at 1313 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg. [www.tedsbarandgrill.com](http://www.tedsbarandgrill.com).*

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# SUNSHINE ON A PLATE

*Oranges add flavor, color, warmth to a bleak winter day.*

BY ROSEMARY RUGGIERI BAER

One of my favorite winter memories growing up was accompanying my parents every couple of weeks to a place called the Orange Car. The Orange Car was a warehouse-type building somewhere near Paxton and 2nd streets in Harrisburg. I am not sure if any of the current structures at that rather bleak intersection once housed this business or if the building is gone. But our trips there were one of those childhood experiences in which sight, smell and feel all combined into something I have never forgotten.

The Orange Car was only open during the winter. It was located near the railroad tracks, and train cars unloaded citrus fruit from Florida right on to its dock and conveyor belt. It was freezing cold in the unheated Orange Car, but it smelled heavenly. There were boxes everywhere brimming with pink and white grapefruit, tangerines, juice oranges, navel oranges, temple oranges and my favorite memory—plump kumquats still attached to bunches of leaves from the tree.

Well, my parents, always prone to excess when it came to good food, bought it all. They often gave crates of oranges as gifts and served the fruit as dessert almost every night during the winter. Sometimes, we bought beautiful jars of sparkling orange marmalade, a special treat to spread on our morning toast.

Italians love oranges and cook with them often. I was enthralled seeing orange groves in Sicily seemingly growing everywhere in the warm Mediterranean sun. Sicily is also home to the unique citrus fruit known as the blood orange—with its bright red color and intense sweetness. Oranges find their way into baked goods, fish dishes, roast chicken and a traditional Sicilian salad of orange slices, cured black olives and thinly sliced red onion. And did you know that not just limoncello, but orangecello, is a delightful after-dinner cordial? You might even find a blood orange martini somewhere in this day of designer cocktails.

My favorite orange dish is something I simply call “my favorite orange chicken.” I no longer remember where I got it, but the little cutout recipe has seen much use. The dish is easy to make, can be served to company and makes for an elegant casserole to take to friends or neighbors who, for whatever reason, might be in need of a meal. I have served it on holidays as well as on ordinary workdays. It is sunshine for a cold, gray winter day.

## { ROSEMARY'S ORANGE CHICKEN }

- Brush 6 chicken breast halves with ½ cup of melted butter. (I often use breast halves with the bone in because they have less of a tendency to dry out. But you can use boneless if you prefer.)
- In a shallow dish, combine 6 ounces defrosted frozen orange juice concentrate and ¼ cup honey. (Just plain orange juice will not work.)
- On a plate, mix together ¾ cup fine, dry breadcrumbs, ½ cup flour, 1 teaspoon paprika, ¼ teaspoon dried thyme and ½ teaspoon salt.
- After brushing the breast halves with the melted butter, dip them in the orange juice concentrate and honey mixture and then roll them in the breadcrumbs and flour.
- Place the chicken in a large, greased baking pan and drizzle the breasts with any leftover melted butter and honey mixture.
- Bake in a 375-degree oven for about 45 to 50 minutes depending on the size of the breasts.

When the breasts are done, place them on a pretty platter and garnish with parsley or thyme sprigs. I like to serve this dish with steamed broccoli and rice (white, jasmine, brown or wild rice—all are good). If you want to make more than six breasts, increase the amount of honey, orange juice and breadcrumbs for coating.

I guess there are not a lot of things to be joyful about in this dark, cold month of January. But nature's gift of beautiful citrus fruit may be one of them. I hope this recipe for orange chicken becomes one of your favorites, too.

The Harrisburg Orange Car is gone, another happy childhood memory for me. And I don't know if I will ever visit Sicily again. But I treasure the beautiful citrus fruit of winter—sunshine for January.

Felice Anno Nuovo! **B**

# AÑO NUEVO, SIN ESCALA

*A algunos pasos sencillos  
que comenzarán en  
el camino correcto para  
la pérdida de peso.*

POR BRENDA HOOVER



A estas alturas, es posible que haya oído hablar de la nueva tendencia de estilo de vida saludable frente a la dieta. He trabajado con clientes en esta capacidad durante tantos años. La ruina de la dieta de nosotros! Hay tantas estadísticas que apoyan esta afirmación, pero yo sólo le dan a esta a pensar: si la dieta funcionó, seríamos el país más saludable en el planeta. Estamos lejos de los más sanos, y, sin embargo, gastamos \$60 mil millones o más en la industria de la dieta todos los años.

Quiero advertir sobre los programas que dicen ser un estilo de vida saludable aún son realmente otra dieta. La industria de la dieta tiene una manera asombrosa de atrapar a algo nuevo, pero en realidad nunca cambia su enfoque. Si camina como un pato ...

Habiendo dicho todo eso, voy a buscar a mi punto real. He entrenado a cientos de clientes a través de cambios de comportamiento saludables duraderos, y la única cosa que nunca cambia es que la escala es nuestro enemigo. He animado a mis clientes nunca utilizar una escala regular, uno que no mide la composición del cuerpo, desde el principio. Sin embargo, mi próximo reto para todos es que ni si quiera pisen una escala de la composición corporal por un tiempo.

Si usted está decidiendo a hacer cambios que apoyan un estilo de vida saludable (y confía en mí, muy probablemente todo el mundo podría usar un cambio aquí o allí), a continuación, hacer los cambios

a su medida, no a los números en cualquier tipo de escala. Los números pueden hacer que usted se vuelva loco / loca y ser tan desalentador. Cambian a precios muy diferentes para diferentes personas. Cada uno de nosotros, independientemente de lo que leemos o cómo podemos ser entrenado, tiene algún número ideal grabado en nuestro cerebro. Ese número puede no ser realista, o puede tomar mucho más tiempo para llegar a la hora de crear los comportamientos reales y saludables, lo que esperamos. Usted puede perder peso rápidamente, pero eso no significa que será más saludable.

¿Qué se puede medir? Comience con los comportamientos que hay que cambiar. Establecer objetivos en el transcurso de cuatro a seis semanas a la vez. Vuelva a evaluar sus comportamientos en contra de este marco de tiempo. Aquí hay un ejemplo usando algunos comportamientos típicos que mis clientes necesitan para modificar:

**COMPORTAMIENTO 1:** Coma más verduras (o simplemente comerlos ... así que muchas personas comen cero!).

**META:** En las próximas cuatro semanas, comer tres a cuatro tazas de verduras cada día.

**ACCIÓN:** Medir y comer tres a cuatro tazas de verduras cada día. Lleve un registro de los días que se reúnen este objetivo.

Después de cuatro semanas, restablezca la meta a cuatro a seis tazas de verduras todos los días con un

objetivo final de seis a ocho vasos. Tenga en cuenta cómo se siente en cada punto (niveles de energía, las digestiones, el sueño, etc.)

**COMPORTAMIENTO 2:** Iniciar una rutina de ejercicios.

**OBJETIVO:** Ejercicio (incluido el entrenamiento de resistencia) de 10 a 15 minutos, cinco días a la semana.

**ACCIÓN:** Establezca el tiempo en su calendario todos los días con un conjunto específico de ejercicios que va a completar. Lleve un registro de los días que se reúnen este objetivo.

Después de cuatro semanas (tal vez más pronto dependiendo de su nivel de condición física), aumente el tiempo de 20 a 30 minutos. Tenga en cuenta cómo se siente (energía, la digestión, el sueño, etc.)

**COMPORTAMIENTO 3:** Retire todos los azúcares obvios de su dieta (Estoy empezando con "obvio" porque hay una gran cantidad de azúcares ocultos en nuestros alimentos, y esto a menudo requiere un cierto aprendizaje por parte de la persona).

**OBJETIVO:** Hacer una lista de todos los artículos de azúcar que consume de forma regular. Esto puede requerir que usted mantenga un registro de sus alimentos durante algunos días. Seleccionar al menos tres a empezar a eliminar. Yo reto a seleccionar el que más difícil primero!

**ACCIÓN:** No consuma estos tres temas para las próximas cuatro semanas. Lleve un registro de los días que se reúnen este objetivo. Tenga en cuenta cómo se siente (energía, la digestión, el sueño, etc.)

Mi esperanza para usted en todo esto es que usted realmente empeeze a centrarse en los comportamientos saludables, en primer lugar. Si somos capaces de hacerlo bien el 80 por ciento de las veces, somos propensos a sentir tan bien que lo hacemos bien el 90 por ciento de las veces.

Nuestros comportamientos son fundamentales para este éxito -real, con una duración de conductas saludables. Es posible que tenga que ser más educados acerca de la nutrición, el ejercicio y aun el manejo del estrés. ¡Hazlo! Nos corresponde a nosotros para cuidar de nuestra salud. Buscar información de fuentes creíbles y hacer su investigación.

Una cosa es segura: la mayor parte de los alimentos que consumimos no es verdadera comida, y sobre todo la comida "dieta". ¿Cuánto tiempo podemos durar comiendo productos químicos, conservantes y quién sabe qué más (y me refiero a esto, realmente no sabemos lo que está en todos nuestros alimentos)? Sin el combustible adecuado (alimentos), vamos a acortar nuestra vida y calidad de vida. Que sea de tu - tu vida, salud! **B**

*Brenda Hoover es un socio con Absolute Wellness Group en Harrisburg, absolutewellnessgroup.com.*



## ROBERT TORRES AYUDA A AVANZAR LA INNOVACIÓN DE LA TECNOLÓGICA EN PENNSYLVANIA PARA MEJORAR LOS RESULTADOS DE LA SALUD

ROBERT TORRES

VICEPRESIDENTE DE TECNOLOGIA DE  
LA INFORMACION DE SALUD

DE CAPITAL BLUECROSS

**R**obert Torres, Vicepresidente de Tecnología de la Información de la Salud de Capital BlueCross, cree que podemos mejorar la prestación de servicios de salud y los resultados de salud por abrazar y aprovechar la tecnología .

Nombrado por el gobernador en 2011, Torres se desempeñó como Coordinador de Tecnología de la Información de la Salud de Pennsylvania antes de unirse a Capital BlueCross. En este papel, él proporcionó liderazgo y trabajó con los actores de la salud para promover la adopción de registros electrónicos de salud y avanzar en el intercambio electrónico de información de la salud entre los profesionales de la salud. Sus esfuerzos ayudaron a crear la Autoridad eHealth Asociación PA para gobernar las iniciativas de intercambio de información de salud en todo el estado. Actualmente es miembro de la junta directiva de esta Administración que representan a la industria de seguros de salud.

“Es importante para obtener de manera eficiente y eficaz la información de salud en manos de los proveedores y los pacientes que lo necesitan “, dijo Torres. “La mejoría de la tecnología para proporcionar una imagen completa de la salud de una persona no sólo mejora la calidad de la atención, pero mejora la salud general de una persona. “

Hablando de la e-salud es fácil para Torres. Pero el camino que ha llevado a su éxito profesional no siempre fue así de fácil.

Torres se crió en el sur de Bronx, Nueva York , después de que sus padres emigraron a los Estados Unidos desde Puerto Rico en 1953. Se caracteriza el sur del Bronx como “la parter mas callejera de Nueva York. “

Apoyo familiar sólido, perseverancia y determinación condujo a Torres inscribirse y graduarse de la universidad del paso con una licenciatura en Administración de Empresas. Después de graduarse, Torres tomó una posición de contabilidad en Bethlehem Steel en Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, y luego fue trasladado a la planta de Steelton, Pennsylvania .

Torres finalmente aterrizó en la industria de seguros de salud, donde ha trabajado durante 19 años. Durante este tiempo, también abrazó a uno de los mayores retos de su vida - de asistir a la Escuela de Derecho de Widener mientras trabajaba un trabajo a tiempo completo.

“Siempre he tenido un interés en la ley, porque de lo cerca que se refiere a la

vida real “, dijo Torres. “La oportunidad se presentó, por lo que me di cuenta de cómo hacer juegos malabares en una carrera , la familia y el colegio de abogados estudios me acuerdo mucho de la noche y la madrugada del sábado del estudio de sesiones para lograr que se haga” .

## “NO TENGAS MIEDO DE DAR EL PRIMER PASO”

Experiencia de la escuela de derecho de Torres incluyó un sabático de dos meses para estudiar en Chile para ayudar a él se gradúan en cuatro años. Los estudiantes del colegio de abogados de tiempo completo por lo general se gradúan en tres años.

Finalmente aceptó una oferta para convertirse en el secretario adjunto de la administración para el Departamento de Salud de Pennsylvania , donde trabajó durante siete años antes de ser nombrado como Coordinador de Tecnología de Información de Salud de Pennsylvania.

Torres está agradecido por las oportunidades que ha tenido a lo largo de su carrera, y dice que todo el mundo es capaz de alcanzar el éxito, independientemente de los retos sociales , económicos o financieros que enfrentan.

“No tengas miedo de dar el primer paso”, dijo. “ Empieza por educar a ti mismo , incluso en los niveles básicos. Prepare un plan para cumplir con sus objetivos , incluyendo cómo va a financiar la educación superior. Tan importante como hacer un plan es encontrar mentores que pueden guiarlo a través de su proceso de aprendizaje” .

Torres dice que el éxito profesional es algo más que tener un buen trabajo. Se trata de dar algo a la comunidad y ayudar a otros .

Una de las maneras Torres da a la comunidad es a través de su trabajo para el Centro Comunitario Latino Hispano Harrisburg Americano. Es presidente de la junta directiva de la organización y está alentando el uso de la tecnología para apoyar los programas que ofrece el centro para la tercera edad y los jóvenes.

“ El servicio comunitario es una forma de mejorar la calidad de vida”, dijo Torres. “Trabajar con los demás ayuda a resolver problemas de la comunidad y crear un mejor lugar para vivir y trabajar . Todo el mundo debería considerar la posibilidad de volver. Se satisfacción personal

**Capital BLUE**

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For organizations, a New Year can mean many new things—a new budget, new priorities, a renewed focus.

The changes ahead for Harrisburg Young Professionals are especially profound.

This month, HYP will have its first new president in two years and, for the first time in its history, the top leadership will be mostly female as Catherine Hoover takes over as president and Casey Curry as vice president. HYP also has a female executive director, Renee Custer, holding the only non-volunteer position in the organization.

“By the nature of our organization, being young professionals, we constantly bring in new, fresh ideas, and, really, that’s what speaks to us as we continue to evolve—having the new ideas and new membership,” said Hoover, who will lead about 1,500 civic-minded professionals working to better our region, taking the helm from Meron Yemane, who served two terms.

Hoover is the perfect example of this continual elevation and fresh thinking.

“I was first introduced through our sports leagues... then started getting involved in the outreach committee, and I did that for a couple years,” she said. “Then I chaired the outreach committee, and then got on the board of directors. Two years ago, I was the secretary, and, last year, I was the vice president.”

Since its founding 16 years ago, HYP’s primary mission has been, as its slogan says, to make Harrisburg “a great place to live, work and play,” a concept Hoover is passionate about.

“We are here to outshine some of the negative press Harrisburg receives,” she said. “We believe we’re in a unique position to really make a difference in Harrisburg.”

While HYP’s new leadership is largely female, the organization’s membership is still roughly split in half in between men and women. A similar ratio is represented in HYP’s executive board. There is also another male vice president, Ace Reddy.

HYP is actually designed so that leaders change often, with the presidency usually a one-year term. This fluid structure helps keep ideas fresh and, importantly, helps cultivate future leaders and foster leadership skills for the Harrisburg area in general.

“The second half of our mission is developing and retaining future leaders, and I think that’s largely what you see in our leadership,” explained Custer.

Hoover noted that the vibrancy of the organization also has helped attract new members, feeding the cycle of leadership and, more generally, helping the city prosper.

“Fifteen years ago, the need that HYP saw was to bring young people into the city and show them there is a quality of life here and continue

to work to improve that,” said Custer. “As that happens, you continue to grow and grow. We do so many different things now than we did at our inception, and I think our impact is very wide.”

She told a story of economic development generated early on.

“This is a cool story. When HYP started, one of its first projects was to bring a Starbucks to Harrisburg, and that shows the city climate of that time. There was no coffee shop for people to go to in the city.”

Laughing, she explained the basic necessity of it.

“We have to do our work, we need coffee,” she said. “So, they started this Starbucks campaign. They got stickers, buttons, signs, flyers, this whole thing, and that’s how Starbucks came to the Whitaker Center/Strawberry Square complex.”

Though just one example, it’s a perfect demonstration of how HYP promotes positive change and economic development. This important role, in fact, was recently officially recognized, as HYP received the 2013 Catalyst Award from the Harrisburg Regional Chamber & CREDC for helping to make the region a better place to be and do business.

In its maturity, HYP now hosts a multitude of events and initiatives, including city beautification, outreach, arts, economic development and many sports leagues, along with other committees, social occasions and community events, all with a focus to enrich the capital city.

This year, HYP is working on a beautification project for the Market Square Transfer Center.

“We are partnering with Capital Area Transit on a large beautification of that area,” said Custer. “HYP is contributing new planter boxes and lighting in the area.”

Hoover also shed light on a few projects.

“Our arts committee will be starting new initiatives on cultural revitalization, and there’s also a big Forster Street cleanup, which our founder started 15 years ago,” she said.

This month, HYP will participate in a regional Young Professional event, where similar organizations from across the midstate will come together to network.

Later this year, HYP will conduct its Civic Survey, which it holds every year to take the pulse of its membership on a wide range of issues. While discussing the results of the 2013 survey, Custer explained what she found most interesting.

“We ask two questions, one after the other,” she said. “The first is, ‘On a scale of one to 10, rate the quality of life in Harrisburg.’ The next is, ‘On a scale of one to 10, rate the potential of Harrisburg.’ The quality of life question gets sixes and sevens; the potential of Harrisburg gets nines and 10s.”

In other words, people feel already pretty good about Harrisburg, but are very optimistic for its future. It’s the continuing mission of HYP to help to close that gap between potential and reality. **B**



Catherine Hoover

## LEADING LADIES

*For HYP, 2014 will bring new, mostly female leadership—but that’s just part of the story.*

BY DANIEL SMYTH



Renee Custer

Learn more about Harrisburg Young Professionals by visiting [www.hyp.org](http://www.hyp.org).

# FINANCIAL RESOLVE

*Start out the New Year on firmer footing by making these 3 resolutions.*

BY ALISON BACH

**W**ith the holiday season behind us, we can begin to think about what lies ahead. As we ring in 2014, we create resolutions with the best of intentions. The New Year brings us a new chance to make the changes we want to see in our lives.

Although money can't buy happiness, having a grasp on your financial situation can make for a much smoother and more confident daily life. If you have room on your list for any more New Year aspirations, here are three financial resolutions that you really should keep.

## TRACK YOUR SPENDING

Tracking your spending is the foundation for many other financial goals, including making a budget, controlling debt, implementing a savings plan and the list goes on and on. You must walk before you can run, and it is important that you have a good understanding of how much you spend and how you spend it.

There's no time like the New Year to start fresh and build the foundation upon which a plan can be assembled.

## PAY DOWN YOUR DEBT

Specifically, pay down your "bad" debt. While you may be enjoying the tax deductibility and low interest rates of your mortgage or student loans, there are some types of debt that you don't want to keep longer than absolutely necessary.

Credit cards typically have high interest rates, and the interest you pay on what you borrow is not tax deductible. If you have multiple credit cards, your repayment plan should start by paying off the card with the highest interest rate.

In addition, talk to your financial professional about any debt consolidation options that may be to your advantage. This could be in the form of a personal loan, refinance or home equity loan, credit card transfers and more.

Tracking your spending and paying down your debt are two resolutions you don't want to put off for another year. Why? The sooner you start chipping away at these goals, the better. If you get your finances in order now, you will have more time to grow your nest egg and take advantage of the compounded interest. Compound interest is the concept of earning interest not just on your original investment, but also earning interest on interest by letting those earnings "compound." If you save \$1 every day for 30 years at 7 percent, and you let the interest accumulate and compound, your \$1 a day will turn into approximately \$36,890. That is the power of compound interest.

## REVIEW YOUR ESTATE PLAN

Essentially, estate planning is the process of planning the distribution of your estate, and it is an important part of any financial plan. There are many tools that can be used in estate planning, such as wills, trusts, beneficiary designations, life insurance and gifting. This can be a complex process, and you should consult your financial planner and estate planning attorney to help you navigate the terrain.

Why is estate planning important? And why is it important enough to add to our list of New Year's resolutions? Tomorrow is never promised, and you are not too young or too old to start thinking about getting your affairs in order. The benefit you provide to your family by having an estate plan in place is incredibly impactful. Having a plan in place can prevent family disputes, minimize taxes and give you peace of mind in knowing and understanding what your death or incapacity might mean financially for your loved ones.

Perhaps the most important New Year's resolution you can make, however, is to take ownership of your finances. You should not feel shy or embarrassed to openly seek help and discuss your financial situation. Just remember that everyone has the same amount. You have 100 percent of what you have, regardless of what dollar amount that represents, and now is the time to get on the right track.

Wherever 2014 takes you, whatever your goals may be, let the motivational and rejuvenating spirit of the New Year empower you to make positive and lasting changes in your life. **B**

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*Alison Bach is a certified financial planner for Conte Wealth Advisors in Camp Hill, [www.contewealthadvisors.com](http://www.contewealthadvisors.com). Registered Representative, Cambridge Investment Research, Inc., a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Cambridge and Conte Wealth Advisors, LLC are not affiliated.*



# NEW YEAR, NO SCALE

*A few simple steps will start you on the right path to weight loss.*

BY BRENDA HOOVER

**B**y now, you may have heard the new trend of healthy lifestyle vs. dieting.

I have worked with clients in this capacity for so many years. Diets ruin us! There are so many statistics that support that statement, but I will just give you this to think about: If dieting worked, we would be the healthiest country on the planet. We are far from the healthiest, and, yet, we spend \$60 billion or more on the diet industry every year.

I want to caution you on programs that claim to be a healthy lifestyle yet are really another diet. The diet industry has an amazing way of catching on to something new but never really changing its approach. If it walks like a duck...

Having said all of that—let me get to my real point. I have coached hundreds of clients through lasting, healthy behavior changes, and the one thing that never changes is that the scale is our enemy. I've encouraged my clients to never use a regular scale, one that doesn't measure your body composition, from the very beginning. However, my next challenge to everyone is to not even step on a body composition scale for a while.

If you are deciding to make changes that support a healthy lifestyle (and trust me, most likely everyone could use a change here or there), then make those changes your measurement, not the numbers on any kind of scale. Numbers can make you crazy and become so discouraging. They change at very different rates for different people. Each of us, regardless of what we read or how we may be coached, has some ideal number burned into our

brain. That number may not be realistic or may take a lot longer to reach when creating real, healthy behaviors, than we expect. You can lose weight fast, but it doesn't mean you will be healthy.

What can you measure? Start with the behaviors you need to change. Set goals over the course of four to six weeks at a time. Reassess your behaviors against this timeframe. Here is an example using some typical behaviors that my clients need to modify:

**Behavior 1:** Eat more vegetables (or just eat them... so many people eat zero!).

**Goal:** In the next four weeks, eat three to four cups of vegetables every day.

**Action:** Measure out and eat three to four cups of vegetables every day. Keep track of the days you meet this goal.

After four weeks, reset the goal to four to six cups of vegetables every day with a final goal of six to eight cups. Note how you are feeling at each point (energy levels, digestion, sleep, etc.).

**Behavior 2:** Start an exercise routine.

**Goal:** Exercise (inclusive of resistance training) 10 to 15 minutes, five days a week.

**Action:** Set up time in your calendar every day with a specific set of exercises that you will complete. Keep track of the days you meet this goal.

After four weeks (maybe sooner depending on your fitness level), increase the time to 20 to 30 minutes. Note how you are feeling (energy, digestion, sleep, etc.).

**Behavior 3:** Remove all obvious sugars from your diet (I am starting with "obvious" because there are a lot of hidden sugars in our foods, and this often requires some learning on the part of the individual).

**Goal:** Make a list of all sugar items you consume on a regular basis. This may require you to keep track of your food for a few days. Select at least three to start removing. I will challenge you to select the hardest one first!

**Action:** Do not consume these three items for the next four weeks. Keep track of the days you meet this goal. Note how you are feeling (energy, digestion, sleep, etc.).

My hope for you in all of this is that you really start to focus on healthy behaviors, first and foremost. If we can get it right 80 percent of the time, we are likely to feel so good that we do it right 90 percent of the time.

Our behaviors are critical to this success—real, lasting healthy behaviors. This may require you to become more educated about nutrition, exercise and even stress management. Do it! It is up to us to take care of our health. Seek information from credible sources and do your research.

One thing for sure: most of the food we consume is not REAL food and especially "diet" food. How long can we last eating chemicals, preservatives and who knows what else? (And I mean this, we really do not know what is in all of our foods.) Without the right fuel (food), we will shorten our lives and quality of life. Make it about your health—your life! **B**

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*Brenda Hoover is a partner with Absolute Wellness Group in Harrisburg, [absolutewellnessgroup.com](http://absolutewellnessgroup.com).*



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# WHAT'S LEFT BEHIND

*Artist focuses his lens on the once-beautiful, once-useful, now disposed.*

BY JOHN DUFFY



**A**s an art-obsessed teenager Matthew Christopher despised photography. “I thought it was bullshit,” said the Harrisburg-area native. “I thought it was cheating: point and click. I didn’t understand the intricacies.”

His perspective changed when, as an employee at a Philadelphia-area mental hospital, he visited a shuttered state institution, one of those Victorian-age solutions that, by the mid-20th century, were seen as despicably archaic, little more than warehouses for the unwanted.

“I was immediately interested in the philosophical implications of how we as a country have dealt with mental health,” he said. “What is the difference between incarceration and hospitalization? Who defines sanity?”

It later became the subject of Christopher’s MFA thesis and the beginnings of a body of work that would take on all manner of decaying or disused structures: factories, houses, hotels, theaters, resorts, schools, churches, prisons. Some 3,000 images are collected on his website, [abandonedamerica.us](http://abandonedamerica.us).

He also has shown his work locally. In recent years, he has mounted exhibits at the Yellow

Wall Gallery at Midtown Scholar Bookstore, the Gallery at Walnut Place and McKissick & Associates, all in Harrisburg, as well as at galleries in Lancaster, Lebanon and Perry counties.

## SWEAT & DREAMS

Like few other societies, America, since the industrial revolution, has gotten good at building things by the sweat and dreams of one generation, only to let them crumble by the next. Built either on imperial-age colonialism or post-war exuberance, the America of the millennial age is dotted with these wrecks as never before.

And to Christopher, they say something profound about our national character. Often what economists call “creative destruction” and sociologists term “de-urbanization,” Christopher sees as merely hubris. His catalog is dubbed “an autopsy of the American dream.”

“I look at our society as a big party of people who go out to dinner, eating and drinking as much as they can, and then realizing they don’t have enough to pay the tab,” he said. “They assume someone else was covering them.”

The study of this process is nothing new. James Howard Kunstler’s groundbreaking study of

urban landscapes, “Geography of Nowhere,” is 20 years old, and people were chronicling the decay of a deindustrialized America in numerous forms even before that.

But, in Christopher’s images, layers of dust seem too delicate to be real, limping floor joists roll like waves, wallpaper flakes seem like snow. There is a tragic beauty in the decay that few others have been able to render. And, while almost none of Christopher’s work shows actual human presence, almost every one leads the viewer toward thinking of who once lived, loved, toiled, learned, worshipped or battled madness in these buildings.

Such places are left with uncertain futures and wait again to be useful, or in most cases, to simply be erased. “People are very attached to places even years after they no longer live or work there,” he said. “To many, letting a factory or a school fall into disrepair, in a way, invalidates the time they spent there, the work they did.”

## TROUBLING CURRENTS

Christopher has become not only an expert on the artistic schema of decay, but the mechanics as well. Looking at a crumbling wall, there is a clear difference between ordinary structural failure and

the work of scrap hunters. He's been on this quest so long that, most of the time, he admits to being immersed in the technical aspects of his work on location, and less so in the emotional. "Some places just reek of despair, though."

Churches and schools are probably the most difficult, he says. "Churches are unlike any other building in that the whole purpose is to be art, to be beautiful, to awe people into thinking of divine things, of this plane and that which is holy."

As mainline urban churches fall out of use due to the demographic tide of suburbanization, some are bought up by small Pentecostal or evangelical upstarts. Many are not. "Considering what they were built for, there is a troubling symbolism in that."

Schools are the civic equivalent of churches: vessels of hope and aspiration. "The idea of the American dream has always included that, with hard work and ingenuity, you can rise above your caste," he said. "That's always been facilitated in large part by our educational system. When schools go, then you're knocking out the rungs of that ladder."

Even when old, decaying schools are replaced by bright, new ones, there are often troubling currents, as in one case in Philadelphia recently. "They were demolishing the old building and there was a pile of textbooks in the courtyard... two stories high. The kicker is that they were in good condition. And we hear about how so many schools don't have supplies?"

Disposable consumption has a cost, and only now are we beginning to tally the bill, his work implies.

All of Christopher's photos, even the most minutely detailed ones, hint at similar narratives. "If you're working just from an artistic standpoint, you are going to be missing out on most of the story, and, if you shoot solely as a documentarian, then your pictures won't be interesting."

Christopher looks for the transcendental, timelessness, a permanence to things that goes beyond the temporality of the subject itself.

Take a pair of shoes, for example. "You leave them by your bed. When you come back they are still there. That's something we filter out because it's quite normal."

Now imagine an identical pair of shoes next to a bed in a farmhouse shuttered and ignored for 30 years. "Immediately, you start asking questions. Who did these shoes belong to? Where did they go? Why were they left here?" All of a sudden, a simple pair of shoes is telling a story.

Christopher's work has, at times, mistakenly been lumped into the "ruin porn" discussion, an accusation leveled at some who gravitate toward dying rustbelt cities like Youngstown, Detroit, or Braddock, Pa., to shoot the wreckage in a fashion that residents often see as exploitative. Christopher has weighed in on that debate but has now grown weary of it.



Surely, a photograph of neglect and decay can be an indictment, and that is indeed a subtext of his work, the artist admits. But even exploitative art can begin a discussion, and it's a discussion that needs to begin, he adds. "And an image is about the only thing that can grab anyone's attention anymore." **E**

*Learn more about Matthew Christopher, see more images of his work and learn about his exhibits at [abandonedamerica.us](http://abandonedamerica.us).*

# SONG, DANCE, FAITH

*For 50 years, theater company has thrived on a play and a prayer.*

BY LORI M. MYERS



There are times when actors must resort to prayer.

Like when they're waiting for other actors to make their entrance not knowing they're backstage playing cards, or when they forget their lines. At Harrisburg Christian Performing Arts Center (HCPAC) in Middletown, prayer comes with the territory.

"If there is anything we'd like to stress as an organization, it's that our goal is to make Christ known backstage, onstage and offstage," said Jessica K. Burger, HCPAC's artistic director and executive producer. "We are passionate about three things—the Lord Jesus Christ, students and theater. Combine the three, and you have a unique formula for impacting our culture and our world."

Burger has led a life full of both performance and prayer. Trained in music education, vocal performance and the Bible, Burger worked professionally as an actress for several years, most notably as a member of the national touring troupe the A.D. Players, based in Houston. Before starting her family, she had served as the artistic director and executive producer for eight years of the then-

named Youth for Christ, a full theater arts program. In 2010, it was renamed HCPAC. Last November, the ministry celebrated its 50th anniversary.

While HCPAC produces some smaller productions, it aims to involve as many people as possible who want to take part and, in fact, takes special pride in not excluding anyone. At a recent performance of the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat," the vast stage was filled—end to end—with singers and dancers. Before that, its production of "Little Mermaid Jr." had a cast of 120 third- through ninth-graders.

"This is not an unusual size cast for us," Burger explains. "The challenge of having large numbers on stage is that we want to help each student reach their highest potential. To accomplish that, we must be intentional with the educational process. It requires many volunteers to accomplish this task effectively."

Education is key with the organization, and applying lessons while in rehearsal is an important component. When the group produced the musical "Titanic," both

in 2004 and 2013, part of the lesson was examining the history of the horrific event through the lives of the people who lived or died.

Another example was the 2009 production of "Les Miserables," which proved riveting for both performers and audience because of its story of grace and redemption. "Ragtime," performed in 2007, stretched the bounds of what content could be brought to the stage, according to Burger, in its examination of race relations in America's melting pot. Last year's "Thoroughly Modern Millie Jr." was high energy and had young students learning tap and stretching their performance abilities.

"The largest production that we have undertaken was 'Seussical the Musical' in 2006, with 238 people auditioning," Burger recalls. "With this show, we saw tremendous growth in both our ministry numbers and its ability to achieve greatness."

An upcoming show, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," features seventh- through 12th-graders, who will take to the stage Jan. 10 to 12. Open auditions for "Come Running," the 41st annual, original Passion Play,

with sixth grade to collegiate student performers, will be held Jan. 2 and Jan. 4, with performances in April.

Like any theater in these economic times, HCPAC's biggest challenge is its limited budget. Large casts require a great deal of costuming and space, Burger says. Costumes have to be stored in the rehearsal rooms, and set construction and changeover can be demanding on a volunteer staff when there are always three to four productions in rehearsal at any given time. The constraints sometimes force casts to rehearse at other venues.

But, somehow, talent, confidence and a prayer or two have seemed to make it all work at HCPAC.

"We want to fortify HCPAC to expand our reach in the community for at least 50 more years," Burger muses. "We plan to continue to grow and move forward with the call to uniquely minister to students, young adults and their families." **E**

*Harrisburg Christian Performing Arts Center, 1000 S. Eisenhower Blvd, Middletown, 717-939-9333, [www.hbg-cpac.org](http://www.hbg-cpac.org).*

*Photo Credit: Allyson Lynn Photography*

# MUSIC TRAVELER

*Miles and miles gone by,  
Harrisburg native Koji  
stops at home.*

BY SAMANTHA MOORE

On the odd occasion he rolls into town, Andrew Koji Shiraki (Koji) spends most of his time at Little Amps on Green Street in Harrisburg or the Climbnasium in Mechanicsburg. A coffee shop seemed more conducive to steady eye contact, so here we sit, beside the giant red roaster.

I ask Koji to “tweet” me his bio face-to-face: “Artist and activist, born and raised in Harrisburg, who works out of Philadelphia but spends most of the year traveling for music.” He’ll avidly tell me later that people can’t be neatly packaged into 140 characters.

In his army-green pullover, tall collar and wide Ray-Ban glasses that nearly match his almost-black goatee, Koji, 26, explains his history with the DIY (“do it yourself”) ethic. As a kid, he made punk rock zines (small circulation, self-published magazines), organized a fourth grade petition to change the dress code punishment at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, and set up his first music show at age 12. Later, as a teenager, he attended punk shows in D.C., New York and Boston, which gave him a feel for DIY punk subculture movements, such as riot grrrl, which addressed feminist issues starting in the early ‘90s.

Today, Koji tours around the world doing music he hesitates to classify. “I can’t pare it down to a genre,” he says. “Call it punk, call it indie, call it folk. I think what it comes down to is that I make ‘people music.’”

As ambiguous as that sounds, most of Koji’s lyrics are based on improvisation—there’s no real formula to his writing—and his influences are sundry. He tries to be “as soulful as Otis Redding, as hard and as vast as The Clash, as direct and artful as my favorite rap records,” he explains. “And I want to make a statement like Pete Seeger or Bob Dylan.”

Koji’s rhetoric is so smooth that it’s easy to forget the diverse paths he’s traveled to get to where he is now. In high school, Koji helped start the Lower Paxton Youth Center, which organized poetry

readings, music nights, visual art shows and food pantry collections. For a brief time after high school, he attended Philadelphia’s Tyler School of Art. At 18, he dropped out to join a band, but left shortly after due to a messy contract clash with the record label. For a couple of years, Koji attended Harrisburg Area Community College. He left HACC before graduating and decided to settle back into Harrisburg temporarily, still disillusioned with the music industry, he says.

During that period, Koji officially founded COLORMAKE, a Harrisburg-based arts and activism collective/screen printing shop/studio space that coordinated music and gallery shows, skate and bike jams, political demonstrations and more—think Lower Paxton Youth Center for young adults. Its headquarters was a warehouse on S. 10th Street, which closed after a four-year run following a blow-out Halloween party. Still, COLORMAKE remains an online destination for artists and activists worldwide. Its Facebook page has more than 2,000 likes and its Tumblr page chronicles Koji’s latest jaunts. Currently, COLORMAKE is undergoing a makeover and is set to relaunch soon, so keep your cursor on the refresh button.

While managing the collective, Koji continued to write music and play guitar. In 2010, around when the warehouse was on its way out, Koji said to himself, “Forget it. I’m just going to go on tour.” (The “it” refers to his lingering disdain for the music business, not COLORMAKE).

“So I put my head down and went on tour. Before the end of it, someone [Run For Cover Records] hit me up and said, ‘We want to put out your record.’”

Koji says he initially lied to his parents about how

little money he made and about sifting through dumpster trash for food. Most of the cash he did make flowed into his gas tank. “Now I do tours that are [more than] two months long, 70 shows in 74 days,” he says.

In January, he will have just wrapped up a multi-country European tour with Into It Over It and Slingshot Dakota. But he’s already eager to play a homecoming holiday show when he gets back, his first Harrisburg performance in more than two years.

Despite having completed a handful of U.K. tours, Koji tells me that his favorite place to play is Michigan. “When I’m singing there, I look at people that are frustrated because they [outsiders] define Detroit by the decay and statistics, just like Harrisburg and Philly,” he explains. “It shakes me emotionally. It’s an underdog place. We have the same chip on our shoulder, the same unbreakable spirit.”

This compassion for others is what has inspired Koji to keep art and activism together. In addition to COLORMAKE, he’s worked with larger humanitarian projects, including Resolve and Invisible Children on the issue of child soldiers in Uganda, the Congo and Sudan. He also speaks and performs at universities, children’s hospitals and inner-city youth programs on topics ranging from international politics and lobbying to the music industry.

Above all, Koji says he wants kids to know that their voices matter. Just being able to engage in dialogue—to inspire young people to speak and stand up for social and political change—is a step in the right direction, he says. He excitedly adds that art has the power to open up this dialogue.

It’s clear that whatever paths present themselves in the future, Koji will continue to merge his advocacy with his music. And he encourages others to be equally proactive. “People really take for granted the gravity of what it takes to just live a life of intention,” he says, stretching down his goatee. “Whether you’re writing or making art or starting a small business or trying to be an excellent son or daughter, [strive] to not be passive—to really have a direction or trajectory.

“I think maybe that’s what my art serves to represent.” **B**

Photo by Dani Fresh, [www.DaniFresh.com](http://www.DaniFresh.com).



## MUSIC IN MANUARY

*Wintertime is guy time.*

BY DAN WEBSTER

It's "Man"uary here in Musical Notes, unintentionally so. Not to worry, I will make it a personal mission next month to balance the scales. That being said, what a stellar line-up we have in the wings of our winter. I'll be advertising The Hold Steady early (editor's order), Keller Williams and Todd Snider. The mentionables would be stealing the headlines any other month, but be sure to do your research on those footers.

TODD SNIDER, YORK STRAND CAPITOL, JAN 6, STARTS AT 8 P.M.: This guy is prolific, writing nearly a tome of records over the last 20 years. He's unabashedly crass in his folksy lyrics and, on-stage, his talking blues style works perfectly into his bit. Storytelling is his cash crop, and my recommendation is to stream his "Agnostic Hymns & Stoner Fables" album, a severe and honest repudiation of the 1 percent. His stoner delivery, meshed with a strong flavor of twang, makes his songs equally funny and sad.

KELLER WILLIAMS, FEDLIVE, JAN 26, DOORS AT 8 P.M.: The one-man band has put his solo act in the closet temporarily, teaming up with More than a Little for his most recent album, simply entitled "Funk." Think George Clinton meets Talking Heads. The first cut of the album, "I Told You I Was Freaky," is a nonsensical rhyming romp, and Keller applies this absurdity generously over the 10 tracks. Get ready for the weird and funk at this concert.

THE HOLD STEADY, ABBEY BAR (APPALACHIAN BREWING CO.), FEB 7, DOORS AT 8 P.M.: This concert, and in fact, this tour, is wholly dedicated to the memory of Harrisburg's Mike Van Jura, fondly and almost ubiquitously known as "Jersey Mike." The band decided to raise money in honor of this change-maker, who championed The Hold Steady via The Unified Scene, a hardcore fan board. Not only are these guys dedicating all the proceeds from this sold-out show to a foundation for Van Jura's kids, they are kick-ass rock 'n' rollers. Go back to their "Boys and Girls in America" (2008) for some gritty and witty messages. And, if you can somehow score a ticket, you and a couple hundred others can uphold Jersey's creed that "Live music can make a city." **B**

*Mentionables: Marc Cohn & Paula Cole, Whitaker Center, 1/11, Starts at 8 p.m. / Skogen, The MakeSpace, 1/23, Starts at 8 p.m. / The DuPont Brothers, Stage on Herr, 1/30, Starts at 8 p.m.*

1 | 6

TOD SNIDER, JAN. 6

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1 | 26

KELLER WILLIAMS, JAN. 26

FEDLIVE  
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1 | 30

THE DUPONT BROTHERS, JAN. 30

STAGE ON HERR  
1110 N. 3RD ST., HARRISBURG  
STARTS AT 8 P.M.



*Keller Williams (Photo credit: livedesignonline.com)*



## COMMUNITY CORNER

### Cars & Christmas Celebration

Jan. 1-Jan. 15: The galleries of the Antique Automobile Club of America Museum are transformed into a wintery wonderland featuring Christmas trees and a variety of themed special exhibits for the holiday season. Special exhibits include a display of snowmobiles, sleds and sleighs and "Sammy The Snow Plow." Standard admission prices apply. For more information on special exhibits and ticket pricing, visit [aacamuseum.org](http://aacamuseum.org).

### Penguin Plunge

Jan. 1: Welcome the New Year by getting your feet wet in the Susquehanna River with hundreds of other supporters of the Humane Society of Harrisburg. The event begins at 10 a.m. on City Island Beach in Harrisburg with the actual plunge at noon. An after-party follows at Flinchy's in Camp Hill. For more information, visit [humanesocietyhbg.org](http://humanesocietyhbg.org).

### Craft Beer & Bacon Bash

Jan. 4: FedLive in downtown Harrisburg is the site for the Craft Beer & Bacon Bash, featuring tasty pairings of bacon-inspired cuisine with craft beer from area breweries. Doors open at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more, visit [federaltaphousehbg.com](http://federaltaphousehbg.com).

### Movement Center Open House

Jan. 9: Get those jitters out at The Movement Center as it hosts an open house. Take part in hands-on demonstrations and explore the various programs offered by the center, as well as refreshments and good conversation. The open house, at 2134 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, begins at 9 a.m. and will conclude around 3 p.m. For more information, visit [themovementcenter.net](http://themovementcenter.net).

### Detox Retox

Jan. 11: From noon to 3:30 p.m., practice your best mountain pose with a pint in hand as the Federal Taphouse in downtown Harrisburg presents the unique combination of yoga and beer. Tickets are \$27 in advance and \$30 at the door. For more information, visit [federaltaphousehbg.com](http://federaltaphousehbg.com).

### Bollywood-Bhangra

Jan. 12, 19, 26: Learn Bollywood dancing from the best as Sujata Goel, yoga instructor, dancer and choreographer with more than 10 years experience, introduces the basic elements of the Bollywood-Bhangra dance. The three sessions will be held at The Movement Center, 2134 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg, at 5:45 p.m. General admission for the three sessions is \$25, \$20 for Susquehanna Folk Music Society members. For more information, visit [sfmsfolk.org](http://sfmsfolk.org).

### Second Sunday at the Mansion

Jan. 12: Enjoy a lecture by Wayne Motts, executive officer of the National Civil War Museum, as he speaks about the treasures that the museum offers. The talk begins at 2:30 p.m. in the Harris-Cameron Mansion, 219 S. Front St., Harrisburg. A tour of the mansion will be offered after the lecture. Admission is free, but a donation of \$5 is recommended. For more, visit [dauphincountyhistory.org](http://dauphincountyhistory.org).

### Fredricksen Library Book Discussion

Jan. 14: Sit beside avid book lovers for the monthly "Reads" discussion at Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill. This month's book is "The Piano Shop on The Left Bank" by Thad Carhart. Event starts at 7 p.m. For more information, visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

### Legislators' Forum & Breakfast

Jan. 14: The West Shore Chamber of Commerce, in cooperation with Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC, will host a forum breakfast that gives attendees the opportunity to hear directly from Pennsylvania House representatives. The breakfast runs 7:30 to 9:30 a.m. at the Hilton Harrisburg. Attendance is \$35 for members, \$40 for non-members. To register and for more information, visit [wschamber.org](http://wschamber.org).

### Breeders Sale of Morgan Horses

Jan. 14: Thousands of horse lovers will meet up at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg to view, purchase and sell horses. This year, the event will coincide with the Pennsylvania Draft Horse and Driving Sale. For more details, breeder and seller information and tentative schedule, visit [morganhorseauction.com](http://morganhorseauction.com).

### Peregrine Falcons Program

Jan. 14: Art McMorris, coordinator of the Peregrine Recovery and Management Program of the PA Game Commission, discusses the natural history of peregrine falcons, the population history in North America and re-introduction and management efforts. The free program begins at 7 p.m. at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Park. More information at [wildwoodlake.org](http://wildwoodlake.org).

### Autumnal Vernal Ponds

Jan. 16: Observe and learn as the Appalachian Audubon Society sponsors a program charting a full year's activity at an autumnal vernal pool on nearby South Mountain. Dickinson College instructor Gene Wingert will present the program at Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Rd., Camp Hill. Refreshments and time to socialize begin at 7 p.m., followed by the program. For more details and events, visit [appalachianaudubon.org](http://appalachianaudubon.org).

### Juniata County Winter Birding

Jan. 18: Join the Appalachian Audubon Society in search of short-eared owls, Lapland longspurs, pine siskins and other winter birds on a field trip to Juniata County. For more information about the trip, contact Aden Troyer at 463-3117 or Chad Kauffman at [chadkauffman@earthlink.net](mailto:chadkauffman@earthlink.net). For more details and events, visit [appalachianaudubon.org](http://appalachianaudubon.org).

### Squash Hunger

Jan. 19: Farmers from across the state come together to donate excess produce to be made into delicious soup for those in need. The event is organized by the Greenhouse, a community organization dedicated to saving and sharing healthy food, and LEAF PA, which teaches youth about leadership education and farming. Stop by Mechanicsburg Presbyterian Church during the day to lend a hand in sorting and preparing the bountiful meal. For more information, visit the Squash Hunger event page or Greenhouse on Facebook.

### Capital Region Council of Governments

#### Annual Meeting

Jan. 20: Hosted by the West Shore Chamber of Commerce, this year's annual meeting and dinner will include keynote speaker Bradley Mallory, as well as the opportunity for attendees to network with local area officials. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. followed by a dinner at 6:30 p.m. Cost to attend is \$40. To register and for more information, visit [wschamber.org](http://wschamber.org).

#### New Member Luncheon

Jan. 23: Connect with a diverse group of business owners from around the Harrisburg area through the Harrisburg Regional Chamber and CREDC. The new member luncheon will begin at 11:30 a.m. at the Chamber building, 3211 N. Front St., Harrisburg, and end around 1 p.m. For more, visit [harrisburgregionalchamber.org](http://harrisburgregionalchamber.org).

#### Harrisburg Symphony Society Fashion Show

Jan. 23: A brand new spring collection by designer Mi Jong Lee will be featured at the New York-style runway show at the Hilton Harrisburg. Tickets are \$100 per person and include an open bar and luncheon. Proceeds benefit the Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra. For more information, visit [harrisburgsymphonysociety.org/Emmelle](http://harrisburgsymphonysociety.org/Emmelle).

#### Pennsylvania Auto Show

Jan. 23-26: Motor Trend Auto Shows Co., the nation's largest auto show production company, will showcase hundreds of new-model cars, trucks, sport vehicles and many more at the Farm Show Complex in Harrisburg. Hours of the show will be 1 to 9 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. the following days. Admission is \$9 per person. Children and senior discounts are available. For more information, visit [motortrendautoshow.com](http://motortrendautoshow.com).

#### Foreign Film Friday at Fredricksen

Jan. 24: Fredricksen Library in Camp Hill is showing "From France," the winner of the Grand Jury Prize at the Cannes Film Festival and a Golden Globe nominee. Screenings will be 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information, visit [fredricksenlibrary.org](http://fredricksenlibrary.org).

#### "Beyond the Footlights"

Jan. 25: Enjoy a program rich with cabaret performances highlighting the Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards nominees and recipients. The evening will also include a silent auction. All proceeds support the Hershey Theatre Apollo Awards. The show begins at 6:30 p.m., and admission is \$75 (includes appetizers, dinner, dessert and program) or \$10 (includes dessert and program). For more information, visit [hersheytheatre.com](http://hersheytheatre.com).

#### Smallmouths & the Susquehanna

Jan. 28: Geoffrey Smith, fisheries biologist for the PA Fish and Boat Commission, will discuss the latest information on smallmouth bass and the Susquehanna River. Event begins at 7 p.m. at the Olewine Nature Center at Wildwood Park in Harrisburg. More information is at [wildwoodlake.org](http://wildwoodlake.org).

#### Nature Book Pre-Sale

Jan. 30: Wildwood Park in Harrisburg will host a preview to its annual Used Nature Book Sale, 5 to 7 p.m. The pre-sale is for Friends of Wildwood members only, but memberships will be available on site during the event, held downstairs in the nature center. For more information and membership opportunities, visit [wildwoodlake.org](http://wildwoodlake.org).

## MUSEUM & ART SPACES

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**Antique Auto Museum at Hershey**  
161 Museum Dr., Hershey  
717-566-7100; aacamuseum.org

"The Art of the Build: Rods & Kustoms," an exhibit celebrating unique custom cars and their creators, Jan. 23-April 27.

**Art Association of Harrisburg**  
21 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1432; artassocofhbg.com

"Five Artist Invitational," an exhibit of photographs, paintings, sculpture and mixed media by five regional artists, through Jan 2.

"Figuratively Speaking," a showcase of work by members of the Art Association of Harrisburg; reception, Jan. 10, 5-8 p.m.

**The Cornerstone Coffeehouse**  
2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Photographs by Tara Deatrack, through January.

**Fenetre Gallery**  
HACC Midtown 2, 2nd Floor  
N. 3rd and Reilly Streets, Harrisburg

"The Artifacts of Journey and Home," quilts and map books created by Katie Grove, Jan. 17-Feb. 12.

**Gallery@Second**  
608 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
galleryatsecond.com

Photographs by Jeff Lynch and paintings by Gene Suchma, through Feb. 1.

**Historical Society of Dauphin Country**  
219 South Front St., Harrisburg  
717-233-3462  
dauphincountyhistory.org

"Reily Family Portraits Exhibit," opens Jan. 27.

**Mangia Qui & Suba Gallery**  
272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358; mangiaqui.com

Art work by narrative painter Joanne Landis, through January.

**National Civil War Museum**  
One Lincoln Circle, Harrisburg  
717-260-1861  
nationalcivilwarmuseum.org

"1864," an exhibit highlighting the fourth year of the Civil War covering battles, strategies and civilian lives; opening reception, Jan. 15, 5:30-7:30 p.m.

"In the Service of Our Nation: Conscription during the Civil War," an exhibit examining the reasoning that led to conscription acts during the Civil War, through June.

**Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art**  
176 Water Company Rd., Millersburg  
717-692-3699; nedsmithcenter.org

"Only Owls," an exhibit giving a glimpse into the world of owls through a variety of stylistic approaches by more than 30 artists, through March 15.

**The Gallery at Pennsylvania College**  
1 College Ave., Williamsport  
570-320-2445; pct.edu/gallery

"Frank Lloyd Wright's Samara: A Mid-Century Dream Home," an exhibit highlighting the work of one of America's greatest architects through original objects, architectural fragments, historic photographs and other aspects of Wright's designs, Jan. 12-March 29; reception, Jan. 16, 5-7 p.m.

**Rose Lehrman Art Gallery**  
One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
717-780-2435; hacc.edu

"Kesenuma: Japan's Altered Landscape," paintings by artist Amer Kobaslija, Jan. 15-Feb. 12.

**The State Museum of Pennsylvania**  
300 North St., Harrisburg  
717-787-4980; statemuseumpa.org

"Chairs from Chippendale to Knoll," a sampling of chairs from the museum's collection spanning a variety of styles representing the diversity of our state, through April 27.

"Lost World/Found World," presented by the Susquehanna Art Museum, a variety of artwork representing abstract themes through line, color and concept, through June.

"Recycling Works!" an exhibit highlighting the commonwealth's recycling industry, including manufactured recycled-content products, the history of recycled-content product manufacturing, grassroots recycling in Pennsylvania and current advancements in recycling, through March 16.

**Wildwood Park, Olewine Nature Center**  
100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg  
717-221-0292; wildwoodlake.org

"Photography Contest Display," an exhibit of photographs part of Wildwood's Annual Photography Contest, through Jan. 18.

**Whitaker Center/The Curved Wall**  
222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

"Contemporary Impressionism," an exhibition of 29 paintings and photographs with the theme of impressionism in a unique style, through Jan. 9

**Yellow Wall Gallery/ Midtown Scholar**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

"Holiday Art Show," an exhibit of a variety of holiday-themed artwork by local artists, through Jan. 12.

"Prints from Earth," an exhibit that explores the magical universe created by painter Vivian Calderon Bogoslavsky as she reflects on the path that humans leave in the world, Jan. 14- Feb. 16; reception Jan. 17, 6-10 p.m.

## READ, MAKE, LEARN

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**The LGBT Center of Central PA**  
1306 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-920-9534; centralpalgbtcenter.org

Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: The Curve, 6 p.m.  
Jan. 2: Women's Group, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Buddhist Meditation Classes, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29: Common Roads Harrisburg, 6-8 p.m.  
Jan. 10: Movies with Substance and Thought, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 11: TransCentral PA Meeting, 8 p.m.  
Jan. 23: Aging with Pride, 6 p.m.

**The MakeSpace**  
1916 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
hbgmakespace.com

Jan. 4: YYDF Film Event  
Jan. 4: Collagery, 1-2 p.m.  
Jan. 9: Untitled (Stories), 8-9 p.m.  
Jan. 15: Yupo Paint Class, 6-7 p.m.

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26: TED Talks, 1 p.m.  
Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Midtown Chess Club, 11 a.m.  
Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30: Almost Uptown Poetry Cartel, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 3, 10, 24, 31: Nathaniel Gadsden's Writers Wordshop and Jump Street, Inc. presents Poetry Night, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 6: Swing Dance, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 7: Sci-Fi Writers Group, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 8, 22: Sydney's Book Club, 10 a.m.

Jan. 8: Friends of Midtown: Events Meeting, 6 p.m.  
Jan. 8: Healthy Eating and Living: Curving Cravings in 2014 w/Ruth Seitz, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 9, 16: Camp Curtin Toastmasters, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 11: Kinderdance presented by The Little Scholar, 11 a.m.  
Jan. 15: Sci-Fi/Fantasy Book Club, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 15: Susquehanna Salon, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 16: Banned Book Club, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 17: Coffee Education w/Café staff, noon.  
Jan. 17: Tea Tasting w/Café staff, 2 p.m.  
Jan. 17: TMI Improv Troupe, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 17: Comedy Night at the Scholar, 8 p.m.  
Jan. 18: Special Author Event w/Cynthia Sudor, 11 a.m.  
Jan. 18: Poison Pen Book Club, 5 p.m.  
Jan. 19: Philosophy Salon, 12:30 p.m.  
Jan. 19: Sanctuary Academy of Spiritual Enlightenment Presentation, 2 p.m.  
Jan. 19: LGBT Book Club, 5 p.m.  
Jan. 20: For Starters Presentation, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 22: Bike the Burg, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 25: Children's Book Blast, 10 a.m.  
Jan. 25: Book Illustrating Workshop, 11 a.m.  
Jan. 26: Harrisburg Young Professionals Book Club, 2 p.m.  
Jan. 27: Feminism Book Club, 7 p.m.  
Jan. 28: Harrisburg Dance Circle, 6:30 p.m.  
Jan. 30: No Artificial Sweeteners Charity Performance for the Humane Society of Pennsylvania, 7 p.m.

**Wildwood Park**  
100 Wildwood Way, Harrisburg  
717-221-0292; wildwoodlake.org

Jan. 14: Wildwood Winter Lecture Series, "Peregrine Falcons—The Sage of Recovery," by Art Morris, 7-8:30 p.m.  
Jan. 19: Wild About Art Series—Bottle Cap Critters, 1:30- 3 p.m.  
Jan. 28: Wildwood Winter Lecture Series—"Smallmouth Bass and the Susquehanna River" by Geoffrey Smith, 7-8:30 p.m.

## LIVE MUSIC AROUND HARRISBURG

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**Appalachian Brewing Co./ Abbey Bar**  
50 N. Cameron St., Harrisburg  
717-221-1083; abcbrew.com

Jan. 3: Flux Capacitor  
Jan. 10: Aaron Daniel Gaul  
Jan. 24: Still Hand String Band  
Jan. 31: 91s Vinyl Release Party

**The Cornerstone Coffeehouse**  
2133 Market St., Camp Hill  
717-737-5026  
thecornerstonecoffeehouse.com

Jan. 3: Grant Goldworthy  
Jan. 4: Ed Horan  
Jan. 8: Open Mic Night  
Jan. 10: Antonio Andrade  
Jan. 11: Dale Stripe  
Jan. 17: The North Side  
Jan. 18: Kristen Rebecca  
Jan. 24: Kevin Kline

**FedLive**  
234 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-525-8077; fedlive.net

Jan. 25: J. Robbins, Ducky &  
The Vintage, Very Americans  
Jan. 26: Keller Williams, More Than  
a Little

**Fort Hunter**  
5300 N. Front St., Harrisburg  
717-599-5751; forhunter.org

Jan. 11: The Honey Dewdrops  
Jan. 12: Jam Session

**The Garlic Poet Restaurant**  
148 Sheraton Drive,  
New Cumberland  
717-774-5435; garlicpoet.com

Jan. 16: Andy Mowatt  
Jan. 23: Aaron Daniel Gaul  
Jan. 30: Mike Banks

**Harrisburg Symphony Orchestra**  
The Forum at 5th and Walnut St.,  
Harrisburg; 717-545-5527  
harrisburgsymphony.org

Jan. 11, 12: Marvelous Music: Part of  
the Masterwork Series  
Jan. 25, 26: Disney in Concert

**HMAC/Stage on Herr**  
268 Herr St., Harrisburg  
717-441-7506; harrisburgarts.com

Jan. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29: Open Mic  
w/Mike Banks  
Jan. 2: Nate Myers Trio  
Jan. 3: First Friday w/Aortic Valve  
Jan. 4: The Greatest Funeral Ever  
Jan. 6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, 28:  
Karaoke  
Jan. 9: Strangest of Places  
Jan. 10: MSBS and DESERA  
Jan. 11: Roselife  
Jan. 12: giblin  
Jan. 16: Mojo Flamenco  
Jan. 17, 18: Hedwig  
Jan. 19: Soul Comedy  
Jan. 24: Up Pops the Devil  
w/Tony Ryder  
Jan. 25: April Skies  
Jan. 26: The Royal Bamfs Present:  
Jan. 30: The DuPont Brothers  
Jan. 31: Carlos Elliot Jr. and  
The Cornlickers

**Mangia Qui & Suba**  
272 North St., Harrisburg  
717-233-7358; mangiaqui.com

Jan. 3: Genna & Jesse  
Jan. 4: Scott Peoples  
Jan. 10: Clark Kent & The  
Phone Booth  
Jan. 11: Matt Otis  
Jan. 17: Brian Wallen  
Jan. 18: Benjamin Pierson  
Jan. 24: Nick Andrew Staver  
Jan. 25: The Wilhelm Bros.  
Jan. 31: Christopher Dean

**Market Square Concerts**  
717-221-9599  
marketsquareconcerts.org

Jan. 23: Calefax Reed Quintet, at  
Temple Ohev Shalom

**Midtown Scholar Bookstore-Café**  
1302 N. 3rd St., Harrisburg  
717-236-1680; midtownscholar.com

Jan. 3: Casey Bolles and  
Watermedown  
Jan. 3: Mean Mary  
Jan. 4: Good News Café  
Jan. 11: Jamye Salviati w/Mikki  
Hommel and Heather Mae  
Jan. 18: Ken Coulson  
Jan. 24: The Northside

**MoMo's BBQ & Grille**  
307 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-230-1030  
momosbbqandgrill.com

Jan. 3, 4: Nate Myers Band  
Jan. 9: Gabe Trainer  
Jan. 10: Jeff Calvin  
Jan. 11: Frank and Sabrina Duke  
Band  
Jan. 16: Gary Brown  
Jan. 17: Black Cats  
Jan. 23: Havana Blue  
Jan. 24: The Back Rhoads  
Jan. 30: Ziggy Isaacs  
Jan. 31: Soul House

**The Tomato Pie Café**  
3950 TecPort Dr., Harrisburg;  
717-836-7051; tomatopiecafe.net

Jan. 4: The Visitors Duo  
Jan. 11: Matt Wenger  
Jan. 18: Womack & Lowery  
Jan. 25: Words in Flight Band

**St. Thomas Roasters**  
5951 Linglestown Rd., Linglestown  
717-526-4171; stthomasroasters.com

Jan. 3, 17: Rhoads Butt  
Jan. 4: Sides to Die  
Jan. 10: KJ & Henry  
Jan. 11: Tom Yoder  
Jan. 18: Rough Edges  
Jan. 24: Sterling Koch  
Jan. 25: Jim Baker  
Jan. 31: Cotolo

**The Susquehanna Folk  
Music Society**  
717-745-6577; sfmsfolk.org

Jan. 11: The Honey Dewdrops, at  
Fort Hunter  
Jan. 12: January Jam Session, at  
Fort Hunter Barn

**Whitaker Center**  
222 Market St., Harrisburg  
717-214-ARTS; whitakercenter.org

Jan. 11: Marc Cohn & Paula Cole  
Jan. 17: Big Bad Voodoo Daddy  
Jan. 24: Dave Mason

## THE STAGE DOOR

**2nd Street Comedy Club**  
236 N. 2nd St., Harrisburg  
717-681-8012  
secondstreetcomedyclub.com

Jan. 3, 4: Justin Leon w/Dan  
DeCotiis  
Jan. 10, 11: Claude Stuart w/Liz  
Russo  
Jan. 24, 25: Frank Roche w/Noah  
Gardenswartz  
Jan. 31: Chris Barnes w/Ben  
Bergman

**Christian Performing Arts Center**  
1000 S. Eisenhower Blvd.,  
Middletown  
717-939-9333; hbg-cpac.org

Jan. 10-12: "You're a Good Man  
Charlie Brown"

**Harrisburg Shakespeare Company**  
3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; gamutplays.org

Jan. 17, 18, 24, 25: "The Importance  
of Being Earnest" (staged reading)

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

Jan. 10-12: "Elmo Makes Music"  
Jan. 26: Godspell

**Little Theatre of Mechanicsburg**  
915 S. York St., Mechanicsburg  
717-766-0535; ltmonline.net

Jan. 24, 25, 31: "It Runs in  
the Family"

**Open Stage of Harrisburg**  
223 Walnut St., Harrisburg  
717-232-OPEN; openstagehbg.com

Jan. 10, 11: "The Laughs, The Legend,  
The Lingenfelter" (Mark D.  
Lingenfelter's one-man show)

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

Jan. 24-Feb. 9: "Spider's Web"

**Popcorn Hat Players at the Gamut**  
3rd Floor, Strawberry Square,  
Harrisburg  
717-238-4111; gamutplays.org

Jan. 15-Feb. 1: "Goldilocks and the  
Three Bears"

**Rose Lehrman Arts Center**  
One HACC Drive, Harrisburg  
717-321-ROSE; hacc.edu/RLAC

Jan. 31: Neil Berg's "101 Years  
of Broadway"



**THE BURG**  
WISHES EVERYONE  
**HAPPY**  
**NEW YEAR!**





FEATURED PROFILE

@ILLUMINATED64

# KEVIN TAKITA

Kevin Takita is a 32-year-old writer, musician, and aspiring photographer from Central Pennsylvania. His inspiration comes from his ability to find beauty in everything. By sharing his artistic expressions that people can relate to, Kevin hopes to expand his reach well beyond the borders of Harrisburg.

### FAVORITE ARTISTS?

One of my favorite artists amongst many I learned about growing up was the French Neoclassical style painter Jacques-Louis David. The Death of Marat and The Death of Socrates are such powerful pieces of art.

### HOBBIES?

I enjoy a variety of activities, but my main focus right now is my writing, music and experimentation with photo editing. Music is my #1 passion, and I'm avidly doing everything in my power to pursue that dream. I'd say urban exploring and hiking come in a close second place.

### FAVORITE PLACE TO EXPLORE IN HARRISBURG?

When it comes to exploring I really don't have a set destination in mind. However, I can tell you I've grown quite fond of urban exploration. Historic Midtown/Uptown has so many beautiful vacant/abandoned buildings. It makes for great material. Looking at the bigger picture I really find inspiration wherever my feet may roam and in whatever my eyes set sight on.



**K** KATERINE MCADOO  
**O** OFCORGISANDCOCKTAILS



**E** EVEN SMEDLEY  
**E** EVANSMEDLY



**K** KELSIE PLANTE  
**K** KELSPANTE



**L** LOUIE MARVEN  
**L** LOUIEMARVEN



**J** JEFF WATERS  
**J** JEFFWATERSJR



**J** JUAN-ERIK GABRIELSEN  
**J** JUANERIKI



**A** ANTHONY JORDAN  
**F** FROGBURRITO



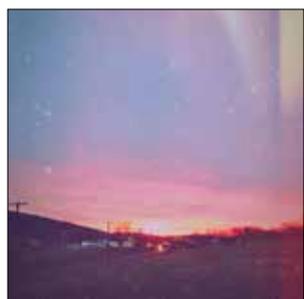
**H** HEATHER MICHAEL  
**L** LADYMIKE



**M** MEGHAN JONES  
**M** MMEGJONES



**C** CATAMT COYOTE  
**C** CATAMTCOYOTE



**S** SARAH GINGRICH  
**S** SSARAHLIZZ



**G** GABRIELLA GROSSO  
**B** BELLALLA411



**D** DEVIN MANZULLO-THOMAS  
**D** DEVINMZT



**M** MEGAN DAVIS  
**H** HELLOMEGDAVIS



**K** KRISTIN SABADISH  
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*Bill & Karie Craig*

## CANDLELIGHT HOUSE TOUR

A light snowfall provided the perfect setting for the 40th anniversary of Historic Harrisburg's Candlelight House Tour. This year, the tour featured the Midtown neighborhood, with 17 homes on the program, all decked out for the holidays. The tour, entitled "Unique Expressions," focused on houses that combined new ideas of urban living into their historic structures, most of which date back more than 100 years.



*Lynn, Curtis and Gabriella Vreeland*



*Barbara Klaiber & Susan Bailey*



*Kari & Angela Watson*



*Marianne Heidelbaugh & Richard Gribble*

## //////////////////// SOCIALBURG / ON THE SCENE //////////////////////



*Ray Young*



*Steve Skelly & Zack of the Huckle Buckle Boys*



*Michelle Mannix*

## GET ON BOARD

Skateboards offered a unique palette for the "Get on Board" art show to benefit the Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area. Presented by Rayzor Tattoos, the show featured custom artwork on skateboard decks from renowned tattoo and fine artists. Miss the show? You still can catch the exhibit, buy a board and support the cause at Little Amps Coffee Roasters, 1836 Green St., Harrisburg.

For info on upcoming shows, visit [facebook.com/getonboardforautism](https://facebook.com/getonboardforautism)



*AJ Weaver*



## WITH A COMPASS IN THE STOCK

*Kermit triple-dog dares you to give air rifles a shot.* | BY KERMIT G. HENNING

“You’ll shoot yer eye out, kid.” Ever since Ralphie Parker pleaded for a new Daisy BB gun for Christmas, despite the numerous warnings, the Daisy Red Ryder has become the iconic first gun for millions of youth. Introduced in 1938, the Daisy Red Ryder was modeled after the Winchester 94 lever action rifle, named for the comic strip character Red Ryder, and is still in production today. This simple, air-powered rifle is the standard gun used by the NRA in its youth shooting programs, as well as the Boy Scouts of America and the 4H clubs.

BB guns are a type of low-powered air gun designed to shoot projectiles named BBs after the birdshot pellet of about the same size. These projectiles are usually spherical but can also be pointed or triangular; those are usually used for bird hunting. Modern-day BB guns usually have a barrel with a bore and caliber of 0.177 inches (4.5 mm). There are many different shapes of BB guns. BB shot for modern BB guns is usually steel, plated either with zinc or copper to resist corrosion. Some manufacturers also still make lead balls of slightly larger diameter, generally intended for use in the rifled barrels that were formerly used in BB guns. Although low-powered, these guns can be lethal.

While they cannot compare to modern, high-powered firearms, air guns have a rich and storied past. Lewis and Clark carried a .46-caliber air rifle on their exploratory expedition in 1804. In the 1890s in England, competitive air rifle matches were held in public houses, which led to the creation of the National Small Bore Rifle Association in 1899. They are still used in the Olympics, governed by the International Shooting Sports Federation.

The earliest air guns were more effective compared to contemporary early firearms for many hunting and military uses, but, as firearms improved, the air gun became largely relegated to sport target shooting and plinking. Neither of these uses required much power, so air guns came to be seen as a safe, less threatening alternative to firearms and typically treated differently by legal systems. In recent times, there has been a resurgence of interest in more powerful air guns. Most modern air rifles are low-powered because of legal restrictions and safety concerns. These types of firearms are used primarily for teaching new shooters, plinking, some small game hunting and backyard pest elimination.

A step up from the BB gun is the pellet gun. These guns fire a lead pellet,

most in .177-caliber, used for target practice and small game hunting. Gamo Industries has been producing high-powered precision pellet rifles, pistols and ammunition for more than 120 years for use in small game hunting and pest control. They manufacture both lead and non-lead alloy pellets in .177-, .22- and .25-calibers.

Unlike a modern firearm, which uses a propellant charge to fire its projectile, air guns use a variety of propulsion systems: spring piston, gas spring or CO<sub>2</sub>. Spring piston guns can achieve muzzle velocities greater than the speed of sound from a single cocking of the barrel. Spring-piston guns operate by means of a coiled steel, spring-loaded piston contained within a compression chamber and separate from the barrel. Cocking the gun causes the piston assembly to compress the spring until a small hook on the rear of the piston engages the sear; pulling the trigger releases the sear and allows the spring to decompress, pushing the piston forward, thereby compressing the air in the chamber directly behind the pellet. These are single-shot, breech-loading guns with long service lives and are relatively easy to maintain.

Gas spring guns incorporate a gas spring instead of a mechanical one. Consequently, they require higher precision to build, have less recoil and are more expensive.

CO<sub>2</sub> guns use a disposable carbon dioxide cylinder, called a powerlet, that is purchased often pre-filled with 12 grams of pressurized carbon dioxide. These guns are generally lower powered, but more expensive to use due to the purchase of the cylinders.

If you are interested in purchasing a simple gun for target shooting, plinking, pest control or competitive shooting, spend some time researching the options. Air guns, rifles or pistols come in many types and configurations for many different applications. A Daisy Red Ryder is still a great choice for a youngster’s first gun—an inexpensive and safe way to teach proper gun handling and safety. A Gamo precision rifle, on the other end of the spectrum, is a high-powered, highly accurate rifle that will set you back several hundred dollars and produce superior results for hunting and pest control.

Whatever type you choose, be sure to practice the same gun safety as with a high-powered firearm. Proper training and supervision, eye protection and a safe backstop will ensure many years of fun for a minimal cost. **B**



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## “MIND THE GAP”

*Paul Barker on a lecture describing research into human skin color, one of many events held each month at Midtown Scholar Bookstore.*

Some 40,000 years ago, early humans, having migrated from Africa to the Fertile Crescent, and from there to the Central Asian steppes, continued their circuitous route westward into Europe, where they found themselves out of the glare of the African sun.

This wasn't necessarily a point in the early humans' favor. The body needs sunlight to manufacture vitamin D, without which it may develop rickets. But some of the humans, by way of a genetic mutation, acquired (or perhaps, brought with them) a selective advantage: a tweak in the gene that codes for pigmentation, expressing itself in lighter skin that could synthesize more vitamin D at higher latitudes.

In 2005, Dr. Keith Cheng, a cancer researcher at Penn State Hershey, chanced upon a gene that affects the pigmentation of stripes in the zebrafish, an inch-and-a-half long minnow popular in genetics and biology labs. His team, extrapolating from that discovery, was able to uncover a single genetic mutation—one letter change out of 3 billion in our DNA—that largely explains the difference in skin tone between Africans and Europeans.

Last Saturday, at the Midtown Scholar Bookstore in Harrisburg, Dr. Khai Chung Ang, who joined Cheng's lab as a postdoc in 2009, talked about his ongoing research into the color of human skin. His inquiry started with a puzzle: although the lab had identified a mutation leading to light skin in Europeans, the mutation causing light skin in East Asians, who had followed a different migration pattern, remains unknown.

## “DEFINING TERMS”

*Paul Barker on a recent City Council effort to limit the Harrisburg mayor to two terms.*

Like other questions of national interest—unfunded pensions, government borrowing, failing public schools—the question of whether term limits help or hurt democracy has found a local corollary in Harrisburg. Two days before the [Jonathan] Zimmerman op-ed, City Council President Wanda Williams offered a bill proposing to limit the office of Harrisburg mayor, which is currently unrestricted, to two terms. The bill cites several motives, including “returning elected officials to the masses to be those governed by their laws,” “ensuring transparency in government,” and encouraging “diversity and inclusion” among candidates for office.

At council's legislative session, the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, Williams elaborated. She had developed the idea, she said, through conversations with other members of the Pennsylvania Municipal League, a nonprofit group that advocates for sound local government. She believed the term-limit question was “an important discussion” in the wake of the 28-year tenure of former Mayor Stephen Reed. Also, her proposal had nothing to do with the results of November's election. “I look forward to working with Mr. Papenfuse,” Williams said, “and would like to have Mr. Papenfuse's input as well.”

Some of the bill's language, particularly the part about opening the office to “inclusion,” may seem a touch disingenuous, especially in light of Williams' own election in November to her third, four-year term. But council has other checks that the mayor's office lacks. Council's meetings are public, and its bills are discussed publicly weeks or months before passage. Its members have careers outside City Hall, and they typically make themselves directly available to citizens and the press, while the mayor—with the exception of press conferences—fields inquiries through her chief of operations and conducts business in closed offices.

## “MAN IN THE MIDDLE”

*Lawrance Binda on why this year's budget process lacked the acrimony of budgets of the recent past.*

As Thompson plays out her final month in office, nothing much has changed in City Hall. Council and the mayor still don't really trust or like each other, as evidenced by recent controversies over the Comprehensive Plan, bad water meter readings and trash outsourcing.

However, they've both come to trust the work of the receiver's team. This non-controversial budget reflects a belief that the spending priorities and numbers are good ones, that the expectations for revenues and expenses are solid, and that the budget conforms with the precepts of the Harrisburg Strong recovery plan.

It took the financial recovery team—Lynch, former receiver David Unkovic, many others—a long time to get their heads around Harrisburg's twisted finances. However, after two years, the receiver's office seems to have tamed the beast, unraveling decades of financial tangles then putting the whole thing back together again. The ease of the budget process demonstrates official confidence in this work.

In the course of his efforts, the receiver has linked the two feuding bodies. They still have little regular contact, but he stands between them, connecting them through

# BEST OF THE BURG BLOG

*Some highlights from our blog posts over the past month. Read the full posts at:*

[WWW.THEBURGNEWS.COM](http://WWW.THEBURGNEWS.COM)

common cause. Last night, Lynch wasn't at the hearing, but his presence was imprinted on the page. He was the man in the middle, the person gluing together the entire budget process.

## “OUT OF POCKET”

*Lawrance Binda with a tongue-in-cheek look at how Pennsylvania drivers desperately want better roads, but don't seem to want to pay for them.*

*Would you pay 28 cents more per gallon for roads, bridges and mass transit options? 56.9%: No. The roads do need improving, but I'm not paying for them out of my pocket. —Pennlive Poll, November 2013*

A scene from sometime in late 2014:

It's almost hard to believe that a year has passed. This time last year, I was parked in traffic on I-83, just like most days during my 40-mile round trip commute from the suburbs to my job in the city.

“Won't somebody do something about this?” I screamed out in frustration, as I swerved around a pothole and a tractor-trailer nearly sideswiped my car. “Somebody who isn't *me*?”

I'd been complaining for years about the horrible state of our roads and bridges and all the traffic congestion that keeps getting worse.

“Betty,” I'd say to my wife, “why doesn't the state or the county or the city or whoever fix my free roads?”

Betty corrected me by saying that the roads weren't actually free to build and maintain and clear accidents and plow snow from, etc. Someone had to pay for them, she reasoned, but she wasn't exactly sure who it was either.

“Maybe the Chinese?” she said.

It seemed like a good guess, and I thought she probably was right since I'd heard somewhere that the Chinese owned all of our houses. Or at least they did until the bubble collapsed and now it might be J.P. Morgan, whoever he is.

## “DIRECT VIEWING”

*Paul Barker on the grand re-opening of Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg, with refurbished theaters and digital projectors.*

It was time to cut the ribbon. [John] Tierney and [George] Hartwick unwound it, and [Eric] Papenfuse wielded the scissors. “Neat,” Papenfuse said later, in line for a drink. “Those were some serious scissors,” he added.

In the projection room, [Adam] Porter showed off the new equipment: a hulking box, just like the old one, but black, and affixed with a touch screen. External hard drives, each containing a single movie, will now arrive by UPS; the movies are uploaded to the projector's drive, which can hold maybe half-a-dozen. A digital key, sent by email, is also required to unlock each film. Porter held up a zip drive.

“That was one concern, whether there'd be a problem with the keys,” he said. He looked around and then found a wooden table, which he rapped with his knuckles. “Knock on wood.” Otherwise, though, Porter only saw advantages.

“There are no worries in terms of things getting snagged or caught,” he said. “Do you see any moving parts?”

Next door, in Theater 3, the screen looped through trailers. A spot with Helena Bonham Carter and Ralph Fiennes was playing: Dickens' “Great Expectations.” In the lobby, the support number on the old projector was dialed. The line was out of service.

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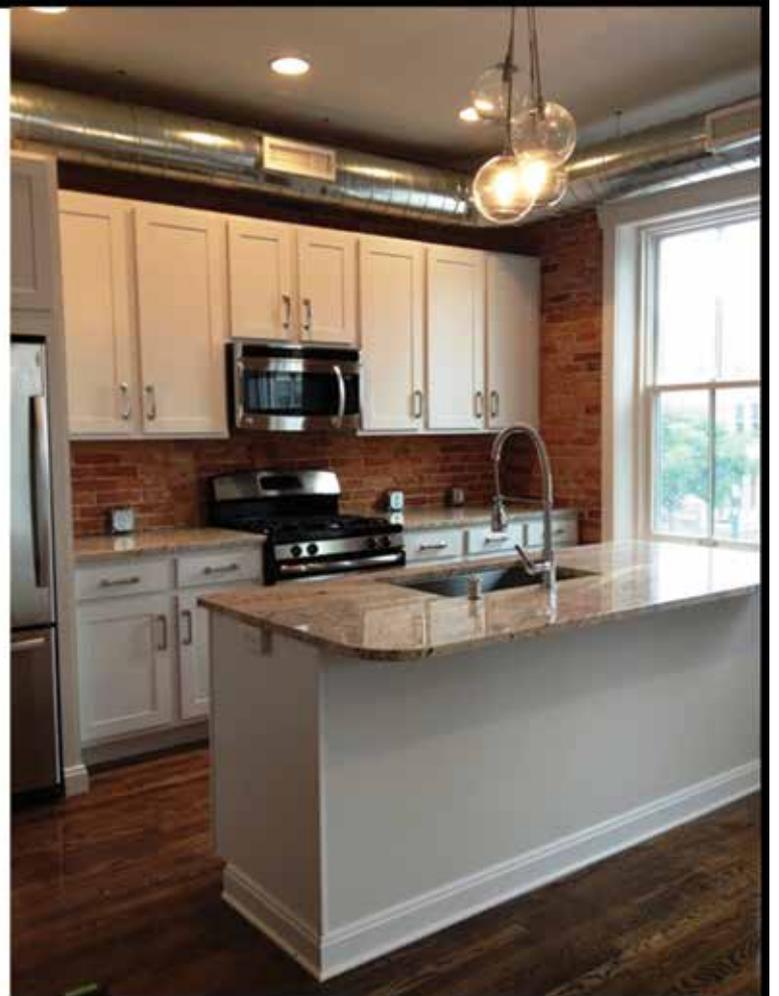
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FENETRE GALLERY AT HACC, HACC MIDTOWN 2,  
N. 3RD & REILY ST., 6-8 PM

FRIENDS OF MIDTOWN, FRIENDSOFMIDTOWN.ORG

LGBT CENTER GALLERY, 1306 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM

LITTLE AMPS COFFEE ROASTERS,  
1836 GREEN ST., 6-9 PM

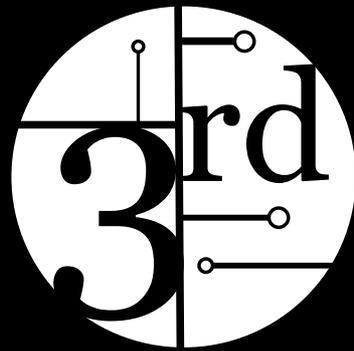
THE MAKESPACE, 1916 N. 3RD ST., 6-10 PM

STASH, 234 NORTH ST., 5-9 PM

ST@RTUP, 1519 N. 3RD ST., 6-9 PM

SUSQUEHANNA ART MUSEUM, HELD AT  
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12 pm: Coffee Education  
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7 pm: TMI Improv  
8 pm: Comedy Night at  
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9:30 am-8 pm: The Art  
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media works, and pastels.  
Featured artists include: Larry  
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at The Art Center, please visit  
mechanicsburgartcenter.com.



**CITY HOUSE B&B**  
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6-9 pm: Vivian Calderon,  
"Prints from the Earth,"  
consciously fuses abstract  
expressionism with Columbian-  
born and educated artist,  
Vivian Calderon's, academic  
formation in anthropology,  
history and journalism.  
Refreshments will be served.



**GALLERY@SECOND**  
608 N. 2ND ST.

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6-9 pm: Featured artists are  
Jeff Lynch and Gene Suchma.  
Also visit our Upstairs Gallery  
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Music by Jimmy Wood.  
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during the event. Refreshments  
served. Visit us on Facebook:  
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**MANGIA QUI & SUBA**  
272 NORTH ST.  
233.7358 | MANGIAQUI.COM

5-11 pm: Featured artists are  
Joann Landis and Elide Hower.  
The winter mojito is the special  
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**MIDTOWN CINEMA**  
250 REILY ST.

909-6566 | MIDTOWNCINEMA.COM

9:30 pm: A \$3 film screening  
of Tim Burton's film,  
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