



PCDC was formed in 1966 to preserve, protect and promote Chinatown as a viable ethnic, business and residential community.

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April 2010 News

Main Street Grants

Recently, PCDC offered a on small business technical assistance workshop with Andrew Toy's organization, the Enterprise Center. Now, the Enterprise Center is offering to help subsidize professional consulting costs for small businesses. Have you ever thought of learning Quick-books or any new accounting system, creating a new website, changing your interior and exterior? Have you thought about changing your store's window display, but didn't know how to find a reputable consultant, PCDC in partnership with the Enterprise Center can assist you. If you are a small business in Chinatown, you may be eligible for grants offered by the Enterprise Center's Technical Support Subsidy program. The Enterprise Center has worked with reputable professional that could assist you and the subsidy can pay up to 60% of the professional's fees. If you are interested please contact PCDC's Main Street Manager Melody Wong at 215 922-2156.

Main Street Green Works



What are your energy costs? How much does your business or property spend on electricity? Have you thought of ways to reduce your energy costs? You can take steps to reduce

your energy costs by replacing refrigerators, freezers, and heating and air conditioning systems with more energy efficient units. Even changing the light bulbs to more energy efficient compact fluorescent bulbs can do wonders to reduce your electricity bill. The City of Philadelphia's GreenWorks Small Business Energy Efficiency Rebate program may be good for you. The program reimburses owners of commercial buildings and businesses who make energy efficiency improvements. The program can reimburse up to 50% of the cost of eligible improvements to a maximum rebate of \$10,000. Please contact Main Street Manager Melody Wong at PCDC (215) 922-2156 for more information.

PCDC Now A HUD Certified Agency

Asian American and Pacific Islander Housing Network Wins National Recognition by HUD



In the beginning of March, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) approved the nation's first network of housing counseling organizations dedicated to serving Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development (CAPACD), is now a HUD intermediary and will support a national network of nonprofit community-based organizations in ten states providing services in more than ten AAPI languages and communities.

As part of CAPACD's network of local affiliates, Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation (PCDC) will now receive the well-deserved recognition for the important housing services they are providing to the Chinatown community. "At PCDC, our Chinatown Homeownership Initiative has provided one-on-one counseling that has helped many Chinese-speaking homebuyers navigate the homebuying process, access mortgage loans, and secure homes," said John Chin, Executive Director at PCDC. "We are very excited about the partnership with National CAPACD and the significant impact it will have on our housing program."

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CCIS

Lauren Wen is a Parent Services Specialist from Child Care Information Services (CCIS), which serves the South & Center City area. Lauren will be at the PCDC office once a month on the 1st Monday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am, to explain CCIS services and how to apply for Child Care Assistance for those parents and caretakers that are eligible for assistance. CCIS helps families Find, Select and Pay for childcare. Call Today for further information 215-271-0433 or 1-888-461-KIDS (5437) for further information.

Community Spring Clean Up

Property Tax Rent Rebate Program

PCDC, and community organizations Chinese Benevolent Association and Greater Philadelphia Chinese Community United partnered with the Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania and Census



Irwin Choi (PA Chinese Senior Association), Danny Lau (Chinese Restaurant Association), Philip Lai (Coffee Cup), Hing Lam (Hip Sing Association), Captain Bob Brennan (Chinatown Firehouse), John Chin (PCDC), Mabel Chan (CBA), and Gary Ng (On Lok House).

2010 to recruit and organize other community groups to cross-promote “Philly Spring Cleanup” and “Census 2010 March to the Mailbox.” Chinatown was part of the record-breaking effort in Philly’s

3rd annual Cleanup.

On April 10th, a sunny Saturday morning, 143 volunteers from local high schools, community organizations, and PCDC staff and board showed up at the Chinatown Firehouse to register for Chinatown’s Spring Cleanup and Census march to the Mailbox cross-promotional event. Armed with shovels, bags, and gloves, the volunteers picked up trash, litter, and debris in the area of 9th to 11th Streets, and Arch to Vine Streets. About 130 bags of trash and recycling were collected.



Volunteer Sydney Chin, Wendy Tseng (PCDC), and Xu Lin (PCDC)

Cleanup, U.S. Census Bureau workers and Chinatown’s Complete Count Committee members led the “March to the Mailbox”. Firehouse Captain Bob Brennan offered the firehouse’s front lawn to the effort. Volunteers cleaned residential streets and knocked on doors to remind residents to complete the Census 2010 survey. The Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania, a fellow promotion partner, handed out Census flyers and free promotional materials to pedestrians.

“It was perfect weather for being outdoors, and it was great to see strong community support for this cause,” said Xu Lin, PCDC Community Organizer.

After the the event, volunteers enjoyed lunch at Joy Tsin Lau Restaurant, sponsored by PCDC, Chinese Benevolent Association, and Greater Philadelphia Chinese Community United and Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania.

PCDC is reminding low-income homeowners and renters to consider applying for Pennsylvania’s **Property Tax/Rent Rebate Program**. This program is designed to reduce payment towards property tax/rent for seniors and permanently disabled citizens living in Pennsylvania. The amount of rebate given depends on the income and the property taxes or the rent you paid during the 2009 calendar year. The earlier you submit your claim, the more likely your rebate check will be among the first the Department of Revenue will mail. Eligibility for the program:

- You were 65 or older as of December 31, 2009
- You were under age 65, but your spouse who resided in the same household was 65 as of December 31, 2009
- You were a widow or widower during 2009 and were 50 or older as of December 31, 2009
- You were 18 or older during 2009, you were unable to work because of a physical or mental disability, and your disability is expected to continue.

A new law increased the income limit from \$15,000 to \$35,000 for homeowners and boosted the maximum rebate for both homeowners and renters from \$500 to \$650. Renters must have a landlord-tenant relationship. Renters must make certain their landlords were required to pay property taxes or agreed to make a payment instead of property taxes on your rental property for 2009. The deadline is June 30, 2010. Please call Housing Counselor Wendy Lee at (215) 922-2156 for assistance.

PCDC's New Amazon Affiliates Store

We are proud to announce that PCDC’s new Amazon.com Affiliates Store is now open for business! PCDC’s store functions just like the Amazon.com you know and love; it will have the same selection, security, and ease of access. When you shop through PCDC’s Amazon Affiliates Store, PCDC will receive a referral bonus for your completed business transaction. In order for PCDC to receive this bonus, you must click on the link at astore.amazon.com/pcdcphilchind-20 and complete your transaction through PCDC’s storefront. If you navigate away from our store, PCDC **will not** receive the referral bonus for your purchase. We hope you enjoy your shopping experience knowing that you are helping us accomplish our mission!

Home Financing Seminar

Looking to buy a new home or refinance the one you have? Please join Citibank for the Home Financing Seminar. They’re here to help guide you through the process. .Date: Saturday, May 1, 2010 - 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm. Place: Convention Center B ranch at 1230 Arch Street in Philadelphia. To reserve your spot, please contact Nakia Wilsin at 215-496-3129.