

# State Senator ANTHONY HARDY WILLIAMS

Always Hard Working . . . for You

Fall/Winter 2012

## The A Stands for ART

You may be familiar with the acronym STEM. It's used to promote the importance of education in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It was, in fact, one of the themes highlighted in a recent education-focused edition of this newsletter. Of late, it's been suggested that we should move from STEM to STEAM. I agree.

### *The A stands for Art.*

Creativity – in addition to the more technical skills – is greatly valued and in short supply in the American workplace. And art enriches life in so many ways beyond economics – for both the artist and the audience.

I have long believed in the importance of art in our lives. Love of art began for me as a kid, with family trips to the Philadelphia Museum of Art and, in school, with my exposure to the art of N.C. and Andrew Wyeth.

Dance, poetry, sculpture, painting, photography, architecture, prints, film, music, any medium of expression – all have the ability to spark something within us, a light that can shine forever.

That's why the arts, and those who create them, matter. It's why now I serve on the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts\*. And why I'm sharing these highlights of happenings in and around the 8th District with you.

Take time to explore the art in your world. Take time to see the light.

*Sincerely,*

State Senator Anthony Hardy Williams, 8th District

*\*The mission of the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts is to foster the excellence, diversity and vitality of the arts in Pennsylvania and to broaden the availability and appreciation of these arts throughout the state.*



Sacred Spaces – (c) 2010 City of Philadelphia Mural Arts Program  
Eric Okdeh, 1501 S. Marston Street

See this and other murals found in the 8th Senatorial District on my website at [www.SenatorAnthonyHWilliams.com](http://www.SenatorAnthonyHWilliams.com).  
Better yet, get out and see them for yourself.

## Philadelphia's Got Talent!

Senator Williams makes opening remarks at the Philadelphia School District's Regional Talent Center Combined Showcase event at the Prince Theater. The Talent Center offers free after-school programs in art, music, dance and theater to Philadelphia youth grades 6-12.



CONTINUED ON INSIDE

# At Your Service

## We're Here To Help!

### MAIN DISTRICT OFFICE

2901 Island Avenue • Suite 100  
Philadelphia, PA 19142

(215) 492-2980 • Fax: (215) 492-2990

### SOUTH PHILADELPHIA OFFICE

2103 Snyder Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19145

(215) 755-9185 • Fax: (215) 952-3375

### DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE

419 Church Lane • Yeadon, PA 19050  
(610) 284-7335 • Fax: (610) 284-5955

### HARRISBURG OFFICE

Senate Box 203008

Harrisburg, PA 17120-3008

(717) 787-5970 • Fax: (717) 772-0574

### WEBSITE

[www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com](http://www.senatoranthonyhwilliams.com)



## Services Provided

### STATE APPLICATIONS

Vehicle registration • Driver's license  
Special tags • Titles • Car plates &  
placards for the physically challenged  
Higher education financial assistance  
Birth certificates

### SENIOR CITIZEN'S APPLICATIONS

PACE • Property tax and rent rebates

### STATE CAPITOL GROUP TOURS

### SOLVING STATE PROBLEMS

State income taxes • State lottery  
Consumer protection • PennDOT  
Unemployment compensation

Any state agencies that serve the public  
Utilities or PUC



## Senior Citizens: Free Ride Available to Get Voter ID

Senior citizens can receive free transportation to a PennDOT Driver License Center to obtain a photo ID for voting through TransMercy Ambulance. Seniors can arrange to be picked up from a residence or care facility anywhere in Philadelphia.

To schedule an appointment, call 215-464-7775 Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.



## HEMAP Has Been Reinstated

The Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency (PHFA) is now accepting applications from struggling homeowners for the newly reinstated Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP).



For nearly 30 years, HEMAP provided emergency mortgage assistance to more than 46,000 Pennsylvania families who, through no fault of their own, are in danger of losing their homes to foreclosure.

HEMAP was eliminated in 2011 but was just recently reinstated utilizing a portion of the settlement money that the state is receiving from a joint federal-state agreement with the nation's five largest mortgage servicers.

Call PHFA toll-free during weekday business hours at 1-800-342-2397.

## Social Security Offices to Close / Move

The Social Security Administration has announced that it is discontinuing service at its Woodland Avenue office and that it is moving its West Philadelphia office. The last day that services will be offered at 6120 Woodland Avenue and 3901 Market Street is Friday, October 12, 2012. No face-to-face services will be available on Monday, October 15.



Beginning on Tuesday, October 16, 2012 residents of zip codes 19101, 19104, 19131, 19139, 19142, 19143, 19151, 19153, 19190 should visit the Philadelphia University City office for face-to-face services. The new office is located at 4240 Market Street. Office hours at the new location will be 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except federal holidays.

Most Social Security services do not require a visit to an office for a face-to-face interview. For example, anyone wishing to apply for social security benefits, sign up for direct deposit, replace a Medicare card, obtain a proof of income letter or inform the office of a change of address or telephone number may do so at their secure website

[www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).

# Around the 8th District

# and Beyond

## Voter ID Rally

Senator Williams organized a Voter ID Education and Action Rally at Kingsessing Recreation Center. Joined by a broad coalition of community activists and elected officials, Williams encouraged the more than 300 people in attendance to help themselves and their neighbors by ensuring that they have the required ID and by getting out to vote.



As we go to print, the Commonwealth Court has issued a preliminary injunction on the unnecessary and outrageous voter ID law. This is a victory for all voters. Unless this ruling is appealed and overturned, voters will not need to show a photo ID in order to vote in the November 6 General Election.

Make no mistake about it – this voter ID law is an effort to suppress the vote. How shall we respond to this assault on our most basic right as American citizens?

**VOTE and GET OUT THE VOTE!**  
Our most effective response to this outrageous effort to suppress the vote will be to exercise our right to vote in the face of all obstacles placed in our path. Vote and encourage others to vote!



Thanks to our community partners, including Brown's ShopRite, Fresh Grocers, Industry XIX, Sunoco, SYSCO, Wawa and West Philadelphia Coalition of Neighborhoods & Businesses, our Neighborhood-to-Neighborhood tradition promoting unity and peace among the diverse neighborhoods that comprise the 8th Senatorial District lives on. Through their generosity, we were once again able to offer fun, safe, family-friendly events for our constituents this past summer.



## A Cultural Exchange

Senator Williams, together with Philadelphia City Council President Darrell Clarke, played host at a private cultural exchange and luncheon in honor of Shlomo Neguse Molla, Deputy Speaker of the Israeli Knesset. Deputy Speaker Molla, having walked hundreds of miles across Sudan, as a young man, to board a plane to Israel, became the first sub-Saharan African to serve as the deputy speaker on August 3, 2011. At right, Senator Williams meets with Daniel Kutner, former Israeli Consul General – Philadelphia, in preparation for the deputy speaker's visit. At bottom, Senator Williams (seated) looks on as Deputy Speaker Molla addresses the gathering.



## DJ 8th Wonder

DJ 8th Wonder, aka Senator Anthony Hardy Williams, made a guest appearance at Friday's Rooftop Deck on the Parkway. The Flow Guest DJ Series presents some of the city's most prominent personalities spinning their favorite tunes for charity. Senator Williams raised money in support of the E.M. Stanton Elementary School.



## 2nd Annual Health Fair

Some came for information. Some came for free health screenings. And some came just for fun. All had an enriching experience at the 2nd Annual Mary Mahoney Health Fair. Thanks to my good friends at the Pennsy Flea Market for helping me to make this possible. This annual event is held in honor of our nation's first professionally trained African American nurse. Be sure to join us next year.



## Won't Back Down

Senator Williams speaks to about 200 parents, grandparents and students at a local preview of the film, "Won't Back Down". The film shows parents and teachers working together to transform a struggling public school.



State Senator Anthony H. Williams



# Harrisburg Happenings

## ◆ YOUR CHILD MAY BE ABLE TO ATTEND A BETTER SCHOOL! Williams Votes "YES" to Expand Educational Opportunity

As I hope you know, I have been a leader in the fight to expand the popular and successful EITC program and to create Opportunity Scholarships for children otherwise trapped in failing schools. On June 30, 2012, I was pleased to cast my vote in favor of a bill to expand the Educational Improvement Tax Credit Program (EITC) and to create a new Educational Opportunity Scholarship Tax Credit Program (OSTC). I am equally pleased to report that that bill is now law.

As I have said before, there is no quick fix for the shortcoming of our education system. Rather, it will take a comprehensive effort – and many small victories – to ensure an opportunity for a quality education for every one of our children. The passage of this new law is one such victory. Now, more Pennsylvania parents will have the opportunity to choose the best school for their children.

To learn if your child is eligible and how to apply, click on Education Grants and Scholarships for Individuals at the Opportunity Center on my website at [www.SenatorAnthonyHWilliams.com](http://www.SenatorAnthonyHWilliams.com) or call my office.

## ◆ Williams' Philadelphia Homestead Exemption Bill is Now Law

On July 5, 2012, a bill, which I authored to create a Homestead Exemption for Philadelphia homeowners, became law. Up until then, Philadelphia was the only jurisdiction in Pennsylvania that was not permitted this exemption. I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity to save money on your real estate taxes. If you need help, please call my office.

- You must apply for this exemption in order to save money on your taxes.
- You may receive an application in the mail or you may go online to [www.phila.gov](http://www.phila.gov) to complete an application.
- Once approved, the exemption will reduce the taxable assessed value of your home by \$30,000\*. In other words, if your home is assessed at \$100,000\*, you will only pay taxes on \$70,000\*.
- Apply by November 15, 2012 in order to have the Homestead Exemption reflected on the Tax Year 2014 Assessment Change Notice that will be mailed to you in February 2013.
- Don't miss this opportunity. Apply now.

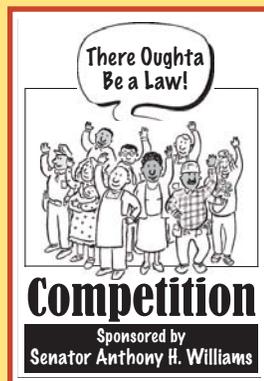
\*These dollar amounts may be subject to change.

## ◆ Last Call for Your New Law!

There's still time to submit your idea for new state law. You may be the winner of the 2012 "There Oughta Be a Law!" competition. As a result of last year's competition, I have sponsored legislation in the current session to protect non-custodial parents against false claims of non-payment of child support (Senate Bill 1482) and to expand a program of property tax deferral to provide relief for older Pennsylvania homeowners without requiring an increase in taxes for other homeowners (Senate Bill 1301). These common sense solutions were offered by ordinary citizens.

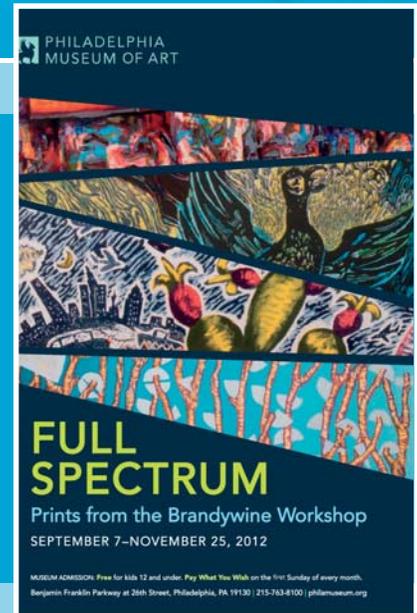
This may be your year, but you've got to play to win. Submit your idea for new state law by entering online at [www.SenatorAnthonyHWilliams.com](http://www.SenatorAnthonyHWilliams.com) or request an application by calling or visiting one of my offices.

In addition to having his or her idea introduced as proposed new law, contest winners will enjoy a visit to the State Capitol and may be asked to testify on behalf of their bill at a formal senate hearing.



CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

# The A Stands for ART



## Full Spectrum

Prints from the Brandywine Workshop – on display at the Philadelphia Museum of Art. Dedicated to working with local artists, hosting visiting artist residencies, and initiating an array of educational programs, Brandywine Workshop, located in the 8th Senatorial District, promotes printmaking as a fine art and actively engages visual artists and audiences of diverse ethnicities and nationalities.



## We Cannot Keep Silent

Philadelphia Folklore Project | [www.folkloreproject.org](http://www.folkloreproject.org)

735 S. 50th St., Phila., PA 19143 | 215.726.1106

Asian Americans United and partners curate an exhibit featuring voices from a school struggling with violence and racial discord. Photographs by Harvey Finkle and Kathy Shimizu.

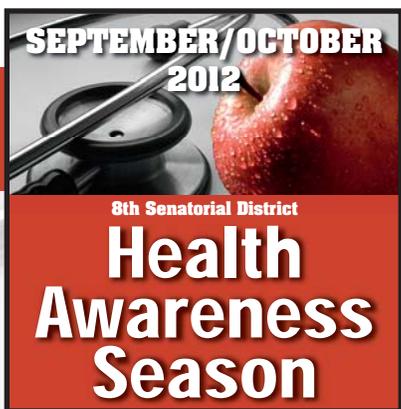
Free. Come visit every Monday 2-7 p.m. or by appointment.



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## 2012 Health Awareness Season

*Building upon the popular success of last year's Health Awareness Month, I am pleased to sponsor the 8th Senatorial District 2012 Health Awareness Season. Join me and my staff in these activities for healthy living.*

### September 15 | 2nd Annual Mary Mahoney Health Fair

Thanks once again to the good folks at Pennsy Flea Market for co-sponsoring this event. See inside this newsletter for photos of the event and be sure to join us next year.

### September 28 | American Red Cross Blood Drive

As always, I was pleased to support the good works of the American Red Cross. Thanks to all who boarded the donor bus outside my office to give the gift of life.

### October 6 | Step Out: Walk to Stop Diabetes

Thanks to all who joined my team by walking with me and my staff or contributing on our behalf to the American Diabetes Association. Diabetes affects 28 million Americans of all ages and races.

■ **Personal Trainer** | Every Monday evening from October 1 thru November 5 at 7 p.m. at Sayre Recreation Center, 5835 Spruce Street, Philadelphia

■ **Line Dancing** | Every Wednesday evening from October 3 thru November 7 at 6 p.m. at SOCCA/Turner School, 59th & Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia

■ **Zumba** | Every Thursday evening from October 4 thru November 8 at 6 p.m. at Kingsessing Recreation Center, 50th & Kingsessing Avenue, Philadelphia

■ **Weekly Walks** | Every Saturday morning from October 13 thru November 17 at 9 a.m. at Laura Sims Skate House, 63rd & Walnut Streets, Philadelphia

## Other Upcoming Events

**KINSHIP CARE DISCUSSION | October 18 | 6 p.m.**  
 Center in the Park, 5818 Germantown Avenue, Philadelphia

**MORTGAGE FORCLOSURE PREVENTION SEMINAR | October 20 | 10 a.m.**  
 Boys' Latin of Philadelphia Charter School, 5501 Cedar Avenue

**FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION**