



Young Involved Philadelphia

Young Involved Philadelphia Spring Newsletter

Tomorrow is Election Day!

There are few days in your Philadelphia life that will have a greater impact on your future in this town than Tuesday May 15th. Tuesday is the Primary Election, which will very likely determine the next mayor of Philadelphia.

As a young Philadelphian you are well aware of the great renaissance that the city has experienced in the last few years. However, you may also fear that our crime rate and mediocre schools will not only ruin our budding reputation as a world-class city, but that it will mar the futures of Philadelphia's next generation of leaders.

For more information about the race, visit: www.thenextmayor.com

To check or *confirm* your polling place, visit: www.seventy.org/map

Young Involved Philadelphia urges you to exercise your right to vote.

Social Events

1) MAY 15: Go Vote and Then Join Us at Public House to Hear the Returns

Public House 2 Logan Square (18th Street between Arch and Cherry)

The polls are open from 7AM to 8PM and what better way to mark the end of this historic Tuesday than to join fellow involved Philadelphians at a bar to watch the returns!
Contact YIPCivicEd@gmail.com for more information.

2) MAY 19: Italian! Market! Festival!

YIP and Global Philadelphia, a newly formed organization for people with international interests

Italian Market Festival
Saturday, May 19th
1:00PM at 9th and Wharton Streets

Grab a cannoli (or two) and a glass of vino rosso with us at the 9th Street Italian Market Festival, a multi-block festival in the heart of South Philadelphia!

The neighborhood comes alive with the vibrant sounds and aromas of America's oldest, continuously operating open-air market. There will be musicians, live cooking demos, blocks of curb vendors, and all the specialty butcher, cheese, gift and cookware shops as well as street-side merchants selling specially prepared foods just for the Festival. Enjoy a smorgasbord including everything from fresh sausage and peppers, antipasto salads, roast pork sandwiches, cheeses, cured meats, an infinite array of pastries, famous

"mango roses" and more.

The most important thing for you to bring with you is your appetite and a willingness to meet new friends and enjoy the South Philly festival atmosphere!

For more information, visit www.9thstreetitalianmarketfestival.com

Meet on the Capitolo Park side of 9th and Wharton Streets, across from Pat's Steaks.

Look for Clio in the "Ciao Italia" red t-shirt or call 215-805-8156.

For more information, contact YIPSocial@gmail.com.

Advocacy Update

1) Vote for Homes! Candidates Forum

Nearly 600 people attended the April 26th Vote for Homes! Mayoral Candidates Forum at Arch Street Methodist Church. Vote for Homes! is a nonpartisan advocacy group dedicated to the education and mobilization of low-income and homeless voters. Energy was high for speeches from Sister Mary Scullion of Project H.O.M.E., Reverend Robin Hynicka of Arch Street Methodist Church and LeeRoy Jordan of Ready, Willing & Able. Republican Al Taubenburger was the first to arrive, followed by Democrats Michael Nutter and later Chaka Fattah.

Two questions about homelessness and housing were asked of all the candidates followed by questions from Vote for Homes! volunteers on topics including employment, shelter conditions, and inclusionary housing. All the candidates agreed they would implement a "one-stop" coordination of city agencies similar to what was created by the city for victims of Hurricane Katrina. Both Michael Nutter and Chaka Fattah also proposed expanding the Housing Trust Fund as a way of generating more affordable housing.

Moderator Elmer Smith of The Daily News closed by pointing out to the audience that the presence of some candidates and absence of others should send a powerful message about where the candidates' priorities are on the issues of homelessness and poverty. Cued by Sister Mary Scullion, hundreds responded with a chorus of: "We matter! We vote! We matter! We vote!"

For video footage of the candidates' responses or to register to volunteer on Election Day (5/15), visit www.projecthome.org/vote.

2) YIP's November Forum Supports Mobilization Efforts on Election Day

In November, Young Involved Philadelphia hosted a civic education forum on the crisis of homelessness in our city. An audience member suggested we leave a collection basket at the door to fundraise for an organization that is fighting homelessness.

All of the money from the event has been committed to helping Vote for Homes! Coalition mobilize homeless and low-income voters on election day. The \$105 raised will pay two volunteers a \$50 stipend to assist voters from homeless shelters get to the polls and the remainder will help pay for lunches for the effort's volunteers.

Contact YIPAdvocacy@gmail.com if you would like to attend a Vote for Homes! voter mobilization training or to volunteer on Election Day.

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