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## The Push to Train All Pennsylvania Students in CPR

Gov. Tom Wolf is expected to sign legislation mandating that students learn CPR. Students in Pennsylvania will have to complete the training in order to graduate high school if the bill is signed.



Published Friday, Jun 7, 2019 | Credit: Miguel Martinez-Valle

## IVCC Press Clips, June – August 2019



CHERRI GREGG  
JUNE 07, 2019 - 8:21 PM



PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio) — June is immigrant heritage month, the perfect time for the Philadelphia International Unity Cup to get in gear.

On Friday, Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney was on hand at Independence Visitor Center to draw teams for the opening rounds of the fourth season. The Unity Cup is a "World Cup Style" soccer tournament where "teams" represent a specific country. For the second year in a row 52 teams will participate.

"We in Philadelphia, we are all brothers and we look out for each other," Kenney said.

The mayor picked the groupings for round one of the team play, which kicks off in August. The tournament was his idea and the goal was to bring the city's diverse immigrant populations together using the common language that is soccer.

Jason Waylee is coach of defending champions — Team Liberia. Waylee's team has seen plenty of success, and he says they are ready to win again.

"We are already prepared," he said. "We started practicing like two weeks ago."

Team Ukraine manager Roman Chuprynyak says they've been building their team and are ready to be competitive. Ukraine made it into the final four last year.

"We prepare every time from the end of the last season (until) now," he said.

"The West African teams have dominated, but over the course of the years you can see teams grow," explained Unity Cup director Bill Salvatore. He says the tournament also has grown and it's catching on in other cities, like Boston.

"We're getting national attention now, which is really nice," he said. "We've had outreach from Detroit and L.A. and other cities trying to replicate it." When the teams complete round one, they'll go to knock out rounds and then end with a championship and all-star game in October at Talen Energy Stadium.

For more information you can visit [UnityCup.phila.gov](http://UnityCup.phila.gov).

## Taking The Kids -- To Philadelphia And America's Most Historic Square Mile

by Eileen Ogintz | Jun 20, 2019 3:44pm



Talk about second-guessing. **Thomas Jefferson** couldn't have been happy. In **Philadelphia** on July 2, 1776, the delegates to the **Second Continental Congress** finally voted for independence, but they continued to argue about every word of the **Declaration of Independence**, making 86 changes, before the edited version was adopted on July 4.

Jefferson wrote most of it in a little more than two hot, steamy weeks in the house where he was staying in Philadelphia near Independence Hall. (You can visit [The Declaration House](#) today and see what the rooms would have looked like when Jefferson worked and stayed there.)

[Philadelphia](#), of course, is a terrific place to celebrate our country's birthday. Not only can you walk in the footsteps of the Founding Fathers and mothers (maybe even meeting one or two), but you can also celebrate big time with the [Wawa Welcome America Festival](#), starting June 29, that offers parades, fireworks, free concerts (**Jennifer Hudson** will be performing alongside **The Philly POPS** and **Meghan Trainor** on July 4th), free museum days, community events, free outdoor movie screenings and more.

A fun fact: The first time the formal term "The United States of America" was used was in the Declaration of Independence. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed ... with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness."

But African Americans and women famously were left out, despite **Abigail Adams'** entreaties to her husband John to "Remember the Ladies ... Do not put such unlimited power into the hands of the Husbands. Remember all Men would be tyrants if they could...."



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Today, in all of Philadelphia's historic sites, the role of women and African Americans during revolutionary times is explored, including at **The President's House Site** at [Independence National Historical Park](#) where **George Washington** and **John Adams** once lived. Today, the site has an outdoor exhibit that explores the stories of the enslaved who lived and worked here then. At the [Betsy Ross House](#), one of the most popular stops for families, you not only meet Betsy -- and help her raise the flag on summer mornings -- but also Phillis, the washerwoman, who explains what life was like for free African Americans living here in the 18th century.

The **Museum of the American Revolution**, where kids love the interactive [Revolution Place](#) with army tents and "privy" that enable them to time-travel back to this part of Philadelphia, celebrates all those of different races, including American Indians, Hispanics and young teens who contributed to the revolutionary cause.

And the new [Civil War and Reconstruction: The Battle for Freedom and Equality](#) permanent exhibit at the **National Constitution Center** explains how the **U.S. Constitution** was transformed after the **Civil War** to finally embrace the Declaration of Independence's promise of liberty and equality.

The popular [Once Upon a Nation Storytelling Benches](#) are already open for the season, guiding visitors between Philadelphia's most historic sites with stories that will highlight tales of suffragettes, revolutionaries, abolitionists, soldiers, Founding Fathers and Mothers, and more. Kids receive a 13-star flag to continue the treasure hunt around Historic Philadelphia and greet the History Makers in the stories and listen as the Declaration of Independence is read (Tuesdays through Saturdays 3:45 p.m.).

Thirteen youngsters will become U.S. citizens at the Betsy Ross House on July 4, for example, while visitors to the [Museum of the American Revolution](#) are invited to add a personalized ribbon to the giant flag-shaped installation outdoors from June 29 to July 7. (Ribbon submissions will also be collected online on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram using #BeTheRevolution. The goal is to collect 10,000 ribbons.) Come July 2 and take a selfie with Thomas Jefferson!

Historic **Franklin Square** is family central all summer with Philly-themed mini-golf, the **Parx Liberty Carousel**, a playground and at the end of July, a new **Franklin Square Fountain Show** complete with dancing water, lights and music. Families love **SquareBurger**, known for their Shake of the Month and Burger of the Month. Of course, there will be a July 4 celebration here too! (Kids who get stars at all 13 storytelling benches can redeem their flags for a free carousel ride.) Kids can also join the Continental Army at the **Military Muster** that takes place at the **Signers' Garden** (across the street from Independence Hall Tuesdays through Saturdays at 2 and 3 p.m.).

And the **Independence Visitor Center**, the gateway to [Independence National Historical Park](#), has unveiled a \$15 million upgrade, complete with a 42-foot digital "Philly Welcome Wall" to explore via touchscreen.

A FUN FACT: The **Liberty Bell** became the iconic symbol of freedom it is today when the abolitionists adopted the bell as their symbol of the anti-slavery movement and, in fact, named it the Liberty Bell. Before that, it was called the "State House bell."

The **National Park Service** rangers can help your kids to become [junior rangers](#). Try on uniforms and collect historic trading cards as you explore Independence Hall where independence and the Constitution were so hotly debated. [The Independence Junior Ranger app](#) for iPhone and iPad enables kids to personalize their experience with more interactive activities from creating their own seal to signing the Declaration of Independence.

(There is no fee to enter Independence Hall, but you will need timed-entry tickets that you can get from the Ranger's Desk. Come early or arrange advance ticket reservations at [recreation.gov](#).)

Of course, there is a lot more to Philadelphia than its historic center -- terrific art and science museums, neighborhoods to visit, all kinds of activities during Summerfest, along the [Delaware River Waterfront](#), as well as a lively food scene (make sure to eat a cheesesteak).

Gwyneth, 12, a proud Philadelphian, said, "People don't realize how modern Philadelphia is and how historic at the same time."

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**MAIN LINE** SERVING THE MAIN LINE FOR OVER 125 YEARS  
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**Opinion**

## **VILLAGE VOICE: Neurodiversity in the Workplace**

By Bonnie Squires | Jun 24, 2019



At the SpArc Philadelphia Neurodiversity in the Workplace program 5th anniversary celebration are (left to right) Bonnie Squires; Lisa Yang, award-winner from Bryn Mawr; and Laura Princiotta, CEO of SpArc Philadelphia, from Merion Station.  
Photo by Renee Akins

You have all probably been noticing a lot of talk, articles, and television coverage of autism these days. “The Good Doctor” is a terrific television series which showcases a lead character, a surgeon, who is on the autism spectrum. It is certainly raising awareness about the potential and talents of people whose brains are wired differently.

Autism spectrum disorder definition, according to the dictionary, is any of various disorders, as autism and Asperger syndrome, commonly manifesting in early childhood and characterized by impaired social or communication skills, repetitive behaviors, or a restricted range of interests.

Laura Princiotta, of Merion Station, the CEO of SpArc Philadelphia, is now a national leader in the effort to prepare people on the autism spectrum to find success in the workplace. Because people with autism are often unable to participate in the standard interview process in order to apply for a position, despite their having succeeded in obtaining a university degree, often the candidate is dismissed even before the employer or interviewer has begun the process.

Bright lights, loud music, other distractions often prevent candidates from making eye contact, from sitting still across the desk from a possible employer. The job training program at SpArc Philadelphia takes into account the different ways which people with autism learn and react.

The fifth anniversary celebration of the program held at the Independence Visitor Center had Laura Princiotta, CEO of SpArc Philadelphia, and Joseph Riddle, director of the Neurodiversity in the Workplace, program giving awards to representatives of several major corporations who have hired graduates of the SpArc Philadelphia Neurodiversity training program and one philanthropist who has supported the program since it was started five years ago.

More than 100 people attended the reception, including graduates of the Neurodiversity in the Workplace program, their employers, staff members and board members of SpArc Philadelphia,

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and academics whose universities sponsor programs for students with autism.

The SpArc Philadelphia Neurodiversity in the Workplace program helps individuals with Autism find and retain high level jobs in the technology, financial management, and other sectors. To date the Neurodiversity in the Workplace has successfully placed more than 100 candidates into full-time employment positions and helped maintain a competitive employee pool that currently holds 50 active candidates.

Each award-winner received a beautiful trophy plus a personal congratulatory letter from U.S. Senator Bob Casey Jr. Philadelphia City Councilman Derek Green had also provided a citation from City Council and Mayor Kenney. And a letter from Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon is en route to each winner.

Reggie Fuller, chairman of the SpArc Philadelphia board, was delighted that the SAP Leadership Award was presented to SAP as the founding partner who, through their Autism at Work program, enabled SpArc Philadelphia to get the program off the ground, and has supported the development and ongoing improvements making it possible to grow the program.

Eva Tan, IT Technology associate Consultant at SAP, represented Senior Vice President Jose Velasco and CEO Bill McDermott at the ceremony.

Lisa Yang, of Bryn Mawr, accepted the Program Champion Award. Ms. Yang serves on the Board of Trustees at Autism Speaks and is a national advocate for people on the autism spectrum. Her award is in recognition of her partnership through continued consultation and collaboration on program best practices, for holding the program to the highest standards, and financial contributions that have allowed the program to thrive.

EY, formerly known as Ernest & Young, accepted the Program Growth Award. Jamell Mitchell, NCOE Operations Leaders Americas at EY, came in from New York for the occasion.

Other companies which received awards included Dell, Emerging Partner Award - accepted by Nick Turner, Advisor, Diversity and Inclusion at Dell Technologies; Vertex, Innovation Award accepted by Craig Single, Director People and Culture at Vertex; and Digitas, Creative Award, accepted by Peter Foster, Vice President, Group Director at Digitas Health.

Pleased to attend were a number of university representatives, including Dr. Thomas Edwards of Temple University's College of Engineering; Angus Murray, the executive director of Saint Joseph University's Kinney Center; the University of Delaware's Spectrum Scholars program representatives Pam Lubbers, Jess Monahan and Wes Garton; and numerous people from Drexel University.

Jim Cuorato, CEO of Independence Visitor Center, who was also a sponsor of the event, made sure that everything was in order for the celebration. If you need information on the Neurodiversity in the Workplace program, feel free to contact SpArc Philadelphia.

Bonnie Squires is a communications consultant who writes weekly for Main Line Media News and can be reached at [www.bonniesquires.com](http://www.bonniesquires.com). She hosts the "Bonnie's Beat" TV show at Radnor Studio 21 and Main Line Television



**Food & Lifestyle**

## Hershey's gives chef a promotion, and a big new project

By [Kenneth Hilario](#) – Reporter, *Philadelphia Business Journal* | June 24, 2019, 7:20am EDT



The Hershey Hotel

HERSHEY ENTERTAINMENT & RESORTS COMPANY

Hershey Entertainment & Resorts Company promoted Chef [Cher Harris](#) to be its first-ever corporate pastry chef, tasked with developing the company's confectionary scratch kitchen, ice cream parlor and the largest full-service themed restaurant at Hershey's Chocolatetown at Hersheypark. Chocolatetown is under construction, set to open next summer.

"This role is significant for several reasons, including that it's the first for our company, and under Chef [Cher Harris](#)' leadership, our two resort properties and 12 restaurants will have a more uniform strategy and vision," spokeswoman [Kathleen M. McGraw](#) told the Philadelphia Business Journal.

"This appointment ensures that our guests continue to receive one-of-a-kind confections only found in Hershey across our entire destination," McGraw said.

Harris has been executive pastry chef at The Hotel Hershey since 2009. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts is a privately held company founded in 1927, when [Milton S. Hershey](#) separated his chocolate manufacturing operation from his other businesses.

The company operates the Hersheypark amusement park, the Hersheypark Arena & Stadium, ZooAmerica, the Giant Center arena and The Hotel Hershey.

The Hershey Company is the publicly traded company producing chocolate, candy and snacks. The two entities work together on select efforts, but are separate companies. Hershey Entertainment is owned by the Hershey Trust Company and oversees hospitality outlets built by Hershey.

The Hershey Company has a market cap near \$27 billion. Net sales were nearly \$7.8 billion last year, according to its 2018 annual report. The chocolate maker has 1,400 local employees and 16,500 around the world.

Its [first-ever café concept](#) opened at the Independence Visitor Center as part of its \$15 million renovation and expansion.



## Philadelphia

### CITY

# Independence National Park Is an Embarrassing Mess. Why Doesn't Anyone Care?

The birthplace of the United States is turning into a shambles, and no one — the feds, the city, Philadelphians themselves — seems inclined to do anything about it.

by **DAVID MURRELL**. 6/29/2019, 9:00 p.m.



Independence Hall on a spring day. Photograph by Matt Zugale

“Get in the pen.”

That’s the first strange thing you’ll hear when you [take a tour](#) of Independence Hall, the birthplace of American liberty. I’ve just handed my ticket to a National Park Service ranger, who promptly ordered me into the pen. I obliged.

The pen is a fenced-off gathering area in the green square behind Independence Hall, which butts up against Walnut, 6th and 5th streets. I look up at the blue sky, thankful there’s no rain in the forecast. A pack of tourists streams in, and we stand shoulder-to-

shoulder. Here we are, on this warm spring afternoon, preparing to worship at the altar of American freedom, and we're enclosed like livestock.

The second strange thing that happens when you take a tour of Independence Hall comes immediately after you leave the pen. Our group is led to a musty side room with yellow-tinted wood paneling that's lined with rows of white plastic chairs. Everyone sits down. At other significant sites or in other museums, this would be the part of the tour where you enter a dark theater to watch a well-produced, drama-packed video that sets the scene for the piece of history you're about to experience in real time. At Independence Hall, there is no video. Instead, a park ranger or a volunteer — in green Park Service garb — begins a 10-minute spiel about the bravery of the American patriots who dared to throw off the yoke of the British Empire. It's as if I've been transported back in time — to my fifth-grade civics class.

Eventually, class is dismissed, and we finally enter the main attraction. The [Assembly Room](#) is dutifully reconstructed, with rows of tables draped in green cloth, quills and manuscripts and wooden Windsor chairs. It looks just as it might have on those days in the 1700s when Washington and Adams and Jefferson and Franklin were imprinting their politics onto the still-wet clay that was America. Most of those in my group are wide-eyed schoolchildren from New York City. As the tour ends, our guide tells them with booming sincerity, "When you guys get back home, tell your friends and family you stood in the room where the United States began."



The Assembly Room in Independence Hall. Photograph by Matt Zugale

Visiting Independence Hall can be a profoundly optimistic experience — the closest thing we have to a national church, if the religion in question is American exceptionalism. But though the building has retained its humble majesty, the buildup to the climax is so poor, and the production values are so low by 2019 standards, that it's hard not to feel deflated. My personal moment of heresy came as I walked through a hallway past a discarded white plastic bucket labeled ICE MELT. It was April.

The state of affairs worsens. I head for a room on the west side of the building that holds the "Great Essentials" exhibit, named for the priceless documents — 18th-century copies of the Declaration and the Constitution — on display. I enter through a door from which

multiple layers of paint have been scratched off like snakeskin, leaving the naked wood foundation exposed. For a second, I think I took a wrong turn — am I walking into a storage room by accident? But a plain white EXHIBIT ENTRANCE sign assures me otherwise.

***Visiting Independence Hall can be a profoundly optimistic experience, but the buildup to the climax is so poor, and the production values are so low by 2019 standards, that it's hard not to feel deflated.***

The Great Essentials exhibit does in fact retain certain storage-room characteristics: The carpet is unvacuumed; the lights are too dim for me to clearly see anything. Next door at [Congress Hall](#), where the United States government once convened, start times for tours are presented via a paper clock that a park ranger dutifully adjusts every 20 minutes. If you're a foreign visitor and don't speak English, don't bother waiting. There are no foreign-language audio guides.

This is the tourist's experience at Independence National Historical Park, the fourth-most-visited national park in the country. It welcomed 4.6 million pilgrims last year alone — ahead of Yellowstone, Yosemite or Zion (and the Statue of Liberty, too). Independence Hall is one of only 11 [UNESCO World Cultural Heritage](#) sites in the United States. It's Philadelphia's (democratic) Versailles. Yet the curation is more on par with a half-abandoned cathedral in a random village in the South of France.

How did we get here? There's plenty of blame to go around. The U.S. government's [National Park Service](#) is in charge of all of the park's land — a set of green spaces and sites running from 2nd to 7th Street between Walnut and Arch — yet hasn't provided a budget increase in more than a decade. The result is that at "America's Most Historic Square Mile," critical maintenance is left unperformed, and on the majority of days, as many as 10 of the park's 35 sites are closed to the public because there isn't enough staffing. The City of Philadelphia, which technically owns Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell (more on that later) and profits immensely from the park's tourism, is guilty of neglect, too. Over the past decade, it's given a total of \$76,000 to the park — less than the annual salary of a single police officer.

But perhaps most damning of all is the widespread apathy toward the park, which seems to be shared by just about every Philadelphian. Is there something missing in our genetic code? People in Boston and Washington, D.C., have a certain historical pride baked into their DNA — even though neither of those cities has the place where Thomas Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, the building where the Constitution was debated, or Alexander Hamilton's central bank. We care more about sports, food and Rocky than our historical significance. Perhaps a Freudian psychologist would trace this apathy back to when our young city lost its status as America's capital in 1800.





Inside the First Bank of the United States, on 3rd Street. Photograph by Matt Zugale

In 2026, the United States will turn 250. It seems self-evident that the entire country's attention will shift to Philadelphia, as it has for every significant anniversary in American history: the Centennial in 1876, the Bicentennial in 1976. Will our city's crown jewel be polished in time?

When you take a tour of Independence Hall, you're meant to absorb the following bit of American gospel above all else: that the United States is a grand experiment, its brand of federalism a shining beacon for all other governments to follow. What they don't tell you on the tour: The

federalism celebrated in American lore is also the precise reason why Independence Park is foundering.

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**ONE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON** in March, I take a walking tour of the would-be greatest hits in Independence Park with two of the people who know it best: park superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and Joyce Walker, deputy director of the [Independence Historical Trust](#), the nonprofit that fund-raises on behalf of the park.

Walker is a triple espresso shot of a person, with brown hair, sharp cheekbones, and a tendency to speak until she runs out of breath. "People call me Leslie Knope," says the 54-year-old. MacLeod is her foil, the consummate bureaucrat: calmer, measured, and occasionally the one to let Walker know that her latest big idea isn't feasible. MacLeod's usually in the standard-issue Park Service uniform of gray button-up shirt and flat-brimmed tan Stetson, but today she's dressed like any other office manager.

We arrive at the [First Bank of the United States](#), a three-story marble edifice at 3rd and Chestnut that resembles the Athenian Parthenon. It's the oldest structure built for the U.S. federal government still standing today. I would have no way of knowing this if I weren't being lectured by the park superintendent, because the minuscule sidewalk sign denoting the bank mentions no such thing.





Inside the First Bank of the United States, on 3rd Street. Photograph by Matt Zugale

Poor branding is the least of the bank's problems. Buildings age just as humans do, and the First Bank, nearing its 225th birthday, is in need of medical care. It's been closed to the public for more than three decades, and though it retains much of its exterior majesty — the hand-carved frieze above the entryway depicts an American eagle, believed to be the first use of the bird as a symbol on a government building (again, not mentioned on the sign) — the bank's a mess on the inside. The room smells like a musky wine

cellar. There's worn-down red carpeting. Chipped paint has left Rorschach splotches across the walls. It's mostly being used as a gigantic storage closet for artifacts unearthed during construction of the National Constitution Center a few blocks away. "We're kind of hoarders," says MacLeod. "We can't quite throw things out."

MacLeod, who's worked at the Park Service for 38 years, begins casually rattling off other ailments afflicting the bank's internal organs: "It needs HVAC, it needs a new electrical system, it needs a second means of egress from the upper floors. It needs to have the painting redone — there's probably some lead paint here." And then she drops the real bombshell: The First Bank of the United States doesn't have a fire suppression system.

The First Bank is possibly the most egregious example of Park Service failure, but it's hardly the only property in need of a face-lift. MacLeod, Walker and I head over to the Declaration House at 7th and Market. It's a reconstruction of the site where Jefferson wrote the Declaration of Independence, built for the 1976 Bicentennial.

As at First Bank, the exterior retains its stately character, a mix of red brick and beige shutters. Inside, I notice the fist-size chunks of paint that have fallen off the walls. MacLeod points out the off-putting popcorn ceiling, while Walker looks down: "This carpeting reminds me of a motel." "A seedy motel!" says MacLeod. Much like the Great Essentials exhibit, the Declaration House reads more vacant rowhome than federally funded museum.

In fact, it is vacant. The HVAC system recently tanked, but, more critically, there isn't enough staff to man the museum, air-conditioning or not. It's hardly a unique problem in the park. Among other properties that are closed or have limited hours due to manpower shortages: the Second Bank portrait gallery, the Free Quaker Meeting House, the Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial, the Bishop White House. Many of the buildings have little signage, so you can't tell whether a site is open or closed until you pull on the door to see if it budes. There's an app you can download — one bit of tech-forwardness on the part of the park — that tells you which sites are open on a given day, but the interface is a relic of the late 2000s.



Trust deputy director Joyce Walker (left) and park superintendent Cynthia MacLeod.  
Photograph by Matt Zugale

At the Declaration House, it becomes apparent that MacLeod and Walker planned this tour to showcase the absolute worst of the park, presumably to gin up an outraged call to arms. MacLeod is willing to take the break-from-protocol risk because she knows the state of the park's upkeep isn't really her fault; she has little recourse when it comes to the federal government not providing sufficient funds.

As we're about to leave, Walker goes to turn off the lights, which can only be done by thrusting the circuit breakers to the side. There are no functioning light switches. "We'll be cited by some code official if you publish all that," says MacLeod. "Although it's federal, so they can't, really. But still. It's embarrassing."

Federal funds are hard to come by largely because of the National Park Service's byzantine regulatory structure. While Independence Park gets a \$24 million annual operating budget — which hasn't increased in 12 years — 80 percent of that is allocated to fixed costs like staffing and utilities, with maintenance upkeep getting short shrift. For intensive rehab projects like First Bank or the Declaration House's HVAC system, Independence Park has to compete with 419 other units — ranging from enormous parks like Joshua Tree to monuments like the Martin Luther King Jr. memorial in D.C. — under the NPS umbrella, creating a battle royale for funding. The end result is that parks with the most urgent needs get money before those with still-significant but non-life-threatening challenges. "It's triage," says MacLeod.

According to the most recent tally, Independence Park has a total of \$51 million worth of "deferred maintenance," meaning projects that should have been completed but for which funding hasn't been provided. It's hardly a crisis unique to Philadelphia — the total for deferred maintenance at all National Park Service properties is \$11.9 billion. That figure has finally gotten the attention of Congress, which is currently considering a bill — a rare bipartisan piece of legislation with 37 different co-sponsors in the Senate and 228 in the House — that would provide up to \$6.5 billion to alleviate some of that backlog.

Still, the \$11.9 billion is a bit misleading, because many hundreds of millions of dollars are eaten up by projects like fixing shoddy roads in sprawling western parks like Yellowstone. That's important, no doubt — you can't get anywhere without roads — but seems less urgent than the situation at Independence Park, where more than 80 percent of deferred maintenance is for buildings, the single most important asset the park has.

Further complicating matters: Because Independence Park is thought of as a sort of national shrine meant to be available to everyone, there are no entrance fees. The open concept is great for egalitarianism but results in a significant blunting of the bottom line. Yellowstone, for example, has around four million annual visitors — half a million less than Independence Park — and earns a total of \$9 million via entrance fees. (Twenty percent of fees collected by parks are set aside for non-fee parks, but only through a priority system.)

That's where the Friends of Independence National Historical Park — the precursor to the present-day Trust — came in. Formed in the 1970s during the lead-up to the Bicentennial, the group was revolutionary in concept: It would be a separate but closely linked fund-raising vehicle to help the cash-strapped park work around institutionalized challenges — like the fact that park employees are forbidden to publicly solicit donations. The Friends would serve as a semi-public advocate. The model was so successful that it's been replicated at parks across the country.

For most of its history, the Friends group targeted smaller projects, like finding volunteer guides to help staff buildings or purchasing antiques. Joyce Walker, whose left wrist bears a bracelet with the GPS coordinates of Independence Hall, has completely changed the calculation during her two years as deputy director of the Trust. Her menu of projects includes conserving the *Signer* statue at 5th and Chestnut (\$8,625); preserving the historic library of Bishop White (\$43,000); creating a pavilion at 3rd and Walnut where the Bicentennial Bell — gifted to the U.S. by Queen Elizabeth in 1976 — can be displayed (\$1 million); and, for the main course, restoring the First Bank (\$30 million). It's an ambitious list that she wants to be complete by the 2026 semiquincentennial: "That's non-negotiable."

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**WHEN AN INSTITUTION** — a museum, a hospital, a name-the-cause 5K, a SEPTA station — needs money for a project, it follows a road map. Walker has spent most of her fund-raising efforts on the behemoth First Bank project, landing \$1 million gifts from Gerry Lenfest's estate and Wharton prof Jeremy Siegel, an \$8 million grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and \$5.4 million in federal funds that MacLeod snagged. That adds up to about \$15 million total — half of what's needed.

Walker's working all the angles she can. Earlier this year, she hired an outside fund-raising consultant to search for donors at a national level, and she's been giving tours to Philadelphia's elite, hoping to form connections that might turn into donations. Last year, Walker managed to raise only \$1.5 million in private donations.

The corporate world could provide another revenue stream, but Walker's efforts hit a speed bump there, too. Marketing isn't permitted in national parks. This has been a longstanding policy, to shield parks like Independence from real-life versions of the dad-joke hoax Taco Bell pulled in the 1990s, when it claimed it had bought the Liberty Bell and renamed it the "Taco Liberty Bell." There have been whispers of change in recent years — in 2016, National Park Service director Jonathan Jarvis tried to loosen fund-raising guidelines to allow companies to display corporate logos on donor plaques and let some park superintendents play a more direct role in fund-raising. Park advocates forced him to stand down. Still, merits aside, the proposed changes are a sign *someone* recognizes that the current situation isn't sustainable.

The upshot is that a huge amount of prospective corporate funding is off-limits — because companies can be recognized by, at most, a small plaque. "Corporations have many more marketing dollars than they have philanthropic dollars," Walker says. Take Wawa as an example. The company has been touting its new flagship store in part because of its grand location: across the street from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. And while Wawa donated \$45,000 this year for new bikes for the park's rangers, there have been no large-scale or ongoing donations. It makes more business sense for Wawa to spend big bucks on something like the Wawa Welcome America festival and plaster its logo on as many surfaces as humanly possible.

Walker has also set her sights on corporations that make use of Independence Park



iconography — like the 76ers and Phillies with their Liberty Bell logos — free of charge. You can't blame her for wanting a cut. "I'm like, 'No, no, no! You guys gotta give us money,'" she says. "Oh man, if I could figure out how to do that." Walker laughs. She knows she can't, saying of the bell, "It's America's icon." But that doesn't make the lack of corporate support any less frustrating. A block away, the Museum of the American Revolution raised \$165 million over an eight-year span, including a donation in 2017 from Comcast and Brian Roberts's foundation for \$2.5 million.

Walker's also been enlisting City Councilmember Mark Squilla, whose 1st District includes the park, to suggest potential funding avenues. She wants a consistent flow of dollars from the city, like the money Visit Philadelphia gets via a chunk of the hotel tax. "Given how much benefit we offer," Walker says, "I think there's a way they could put us in their budget."

The Mayor's Office could always pitch in — and during the Street and Nutter administrations of the 2000s, it did, helping fund a \$12 million reconstruction of George Washington's house along Independence Mall. But Kenney has taken a different tack: Blame the feds for their incompetence. "Asking the poorest big city in the country to cover federal liabilities seems unfair and unrealistic," a spokesman for Mayor Kenney writes in a statement. "Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell aren't just Philadelphia's responsibility."

***The Mayor's Office could always pitch in, but Kenney's administration has taken a different tack: Blame the feds for their incompetence.***

Squilla disagrees, arguing that all relevant governments — federal, city and state — should lift the load together, "instead of pointing fingers at each other." But Squilla hasn't yet taken any concrete steps to enlist city support for the park, either. So the various governments with a stake can plausibly deny responsibility, passing the buck in a merry-go-round of abdication.

Walker is left to pull from the well of private goodwill, hoping there are enough deep-pocketed donors out there who share her zeal for history and her dismay at the current state of the park. But the philanthropists she's courting will also need a taste for dark comedy. What she's ultimately doing is asking them to fund projects to memorialize an American government whose failings are the very reason she's in the position of asking for money.

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**LIKE THE FOUNDERS** of this country who promoted freedom while owning slaves, Independence Park was born of contradictions. Much of what you see today — like the verdant stretch of grass constituting Independence Mall — was created through destruction. The Mall was densely packed with homes and businesses until park planners leveled them, eliminating one history while propping up another.

The animating idea of the new park, officially founded in 1948 under the Truman administration, was that it would include buildings from the Revolutionary War period. Anything younger — like the Provident Life & Trust Building, designed by Frank Furness and eventually demolished — was expendable. This vision of the park was always something of a fictitious conceit. As historian [Constance Greiff wrote](#) in a history of Independence Park published in 1987, “The National Park Service can never again destroy so much of the historic fabric of a city in order to create an artificial vision of the past.”

The federal government was to administer the park, and it purchased tracts of land for its grand experiment. When it came to the central attractions — Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell, which up until 1976 was housed in the Independence Hall bell tower — the Park Service hatched a deal with the city: Philly would retain ownership of the building and bell, and the federal government would maintain them. (The city had come to own Independence Hall — which previously served as the state capitol building — because a century and a half earlier, Pennsylvania lawmakers had proposed selling it to developers, no longer needing it when the capital finally landed in Harrisburg in 1812. The city stepped in to purchase the building for \$70,000.)

In some respects, Independence Park hasn’t really faced a new challenge in decades — its problems are all old ones that recur with the reliability of seasons. Go back to 1976, on the eve of the Bicentennial. The park was short of funds then, too, until the Friends turned up with a monetary assist. But once the convenient anniversary passed and the spigot of pressure was turned off, attention waned.

Critics have been panning the park over its lack of upkeep for decades. A [New York Times article](#) from 1992 noted that “buff-colored paint on the downspout of Congress Hall is peeling,” and, more ominously, that Independence Hall was in such bad shape that “experts say a fire would level the landmark in less than 30 minutes.” Indeed, Independence Park had been listed in both that year and 1991 as one of the 11 most endangered historic sites in all of America. (Mercifully, the fire suppression was updated a few years later by the federal government.) Two years ago, the [Inquirer sang a similar refrain](#), this time writing of the park’s “weedy patchworks” of grass, general shabbiness, and “message of unwelcome.”

Government shutdowns have been a recurring motif in the park’s story. In 1995, as park rangers were furloughed due to a federal budget impasse, then-mayor Ed Rendell threatened something radical: moving the city-owned Liberty Bell — the park’s most-visited attraction at the time — out of the federal display pavilion and into city control, arguing in a letter to government officials that the landmarks had “unnecessarily become hostages to the Park Service’s budget.”

Twenty-four years later, the park found itself in a similar situation during the longest federal government shutdown in history. In January of 2018, 160,000 people visited the park. In January 2019 (shutdown month), the park saw 60,000 visitors. The impact was acute: Old City District executive director Job Itzkowitz says some businesses in the area reported revenue decreases of 40 percent. According to the Park Service’s own

tabulations, when Independence Park is open, it's an economic boon for the city, generating some \$270 million in revenue in 2018 for the surrounding area, including \$86 million for hotels and \$62 million for restaurants.

There was one difference with this most recent shutdown: Where was the civic outrage? Where was our mayor, railing against the federal government for shutting off this economic engine? The city's priorities have shifted away from its history, which is less a point of pride and more like a vestigial structure — something part of us, yes, but now foreign and obsolete.

Everyone has a theory about why Philly is so lukewarm toward its own past. “Maybe the abundance of our riches has diluted our appreciation for what we have,” speculates [WHYY](#) CEO Bill Marrazzo, who's also the board chair of the Independence Historical Trust. Or as [Preservation Alliance](#) executive director Paul Steinke opines, “Philadelphians probably assume that Independence Park is in good hands with the federal government and that we don't have to worry about it.” Or maybe it comes down to our limited chronology, as former [Visit Philly](#) head Meryl Levitz says: “We're a baby country.”

Hardly anyone disputes that Philadelphians don't seem to care — or even know — that Independence Park is in dire financial straits. Little public angst produces little government urgency; the same goes for attracting funds. “The philanthropic wells are not as deep as they were before,” says Levitz. “Everybody needs money.” And what fund-raising is really about is convincing people that your crisis is more acute than everyone else's. Public strife goes a long way toward crystallizing that argument.

Walker admits she hasn't done a good enough job soliciting donations from rich Philadelphians like Brian Roberts and Ronald Perelman. (Worth noting: The Independence Trust has some board members who chip in on a volunteer basis, but Walker's still a full-time money-raising staff of one.) “I just haven't had a chance to reach out and drag everybody” — she catches herself — “*invite* everybody to the park.”

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**IF THE 1976 BICENTENNIAL** and 1876 Centennial are any indication, the 2026 semiquincentennial celebration could be Walker's best chance to tap into a coursing stream of civic patriotism. Groups have already cropped up to promote the anniversary. In 2016, Congress unanimously passed legislation establishing the United States Semiquincentennial Commission, tasked with planning a nationwide birthday party. Given the cast of characters named to the national commission, it appears Philly will (unsurprisingly) feature prominently in the festivities. Among those involved: Philly POPS CEO Frank Giordano as interim executive director, plus senators Pat Toomey and Bob Casey, Congressman Dwight Evans, civic lion David L. Cohen, and Penn president Amy Gutmann.

Pennsylvania has its own offshoot, called the Pennsylvania Semiquincentennial Commission, established by Governor Tom Wolf and the state legislature last June.

Philly grocery-store magnate Pat Burns heads up that commission, but it hadn't held its first meeting as of mid-April, nearly a year after its creation.

Though 2026 is still seven years away, the lack of urgency isn't exactly a reassuring sign. The state commission has the imprimatur of government support but no budget allocation yet. "A lot of this will be done through generous donations from businesses and people," says Burns. "The government can't always do everything. You can't always put tax dollars to everything."

Relying on corporations for funding may prove successful for the commission, but for the Independence Trust and the National Park Service, any sponsorship with naming rights attached will be a non-starter. It's not hard to envision a scenario in which the various semiquincentennial groups put on lavish events but end up doing little to invest in the park's long-term security.

Those critical, decidedly unsexy repair efforts may well remain the domain of the Independence Trust in the end. But despite the laundry list of improvements the park needs, Walker remains optimistic. "Philadelphia has, literally, the best stuff in the nation," she says. "I just can't imagine that everyone shouldn't be sending all their dollars to fix it and make it even better."

It could happen. The world got a glimpse of widespread civic-mindedness in April, when the Nôtre Dame cathedral burned in Paris. Residents streamed into the streets as flames burst from the spire. One onlooker told the *New York Times* in a moment of despair, when the building's fate still hung in the balance, "Paris is beheaded."

Parisians arguably have every excuse to be *more* apathetic about their history than Philadelphians are, considering France's wealth of historical sites. Yet \$1 billion was raised for Nôtre Dame in the two days after it burned. To the French, the cathedral wasn't merely another famous building — it was the soul of Paris, the lifeblood of the city. Would people be similarly devastated if Independence Hall caught fire?

We tend to think of historical buildings as just that: old, fixed in time. Nothing could be further from the truth. Their pasts may already have been written, but they straddle past and present in equal measure. Each dollar Walker solicits for the First Bank or Independence Hall becomes part of those buildings' legacy; each tour MacLeod leads widens their story. And we seem to have forgotten that ours is an active inheritance — it must be maintained. There are few consistent lessons across history, but this one is most apt: Just because something is here today doesn't mean it will be here tomorrow.

*Published as "Is This Place ... History?" in the July 2019 issue of Philadelphia magazine.*



**Inc.**

## This Company Makes Art Installations for Big Companies and Hollywood Movies. But Its Signature Product Gets Peed On

In a tiny Nebraska town, Icon Poly makes everything from movie props to dog park decor.

By Leigh Buchanan *Editor-at-large, Inc. magazine*



IMAGE COURTESY ICON POLY.

**Editor's note:** This [tour of small businesses](#) across the country highlights the imagination, diversity, and resilience of American enterprise.

[Excerpt:]

One job, one market, leads to another. That's how Icon Poly has grown. In 2005, the Vohlands received a panicked call from a children's hospital in Akron, Ohio. For a fundraiser, the hospital had commissioned another company to create 40 rocking horses to be painted and sold at auction. But the vendor had neither delivered the order nor returned the money. Icon Poly produced the horses on a punishingly short deadline and did it at cost. That launched it into the public art market: the dolphins, the guitars, the herons.

And the Phillie Phanatic. In 2010, Philadelphia's baseball team ordered 20 models of its bulgy, bugle-nosed mascot for display around the city. That led to the Independence Visitor Center commissioning a model of Rocky for its lobby. "They liked that, so we ended up doing Ben Franklin for them as well," Vohland says. "And Ben Franklin got us into museums."

Custom projects cost anywhere from a few thousand to tens of thousands of dollars, depending on size and complexity. The company's most expensive job was \$72,000 for an iceberg that appeared in a Coors Light promotion. Each additional figure costs 10 to 15 percent of the first one, with surface area determining the price.

Icon Poly works from computer files or multiple images provided by customers. First, it creates the model in 3-D sculpting software. Then it carves the original from Styrofoam, smoothing the surface to receive paint or covering it with clay to stamp in texture. It then makes a negative impression mold from rubber, loads it onto a machine that rotates to spread the resin--typically polyurethane or silicone--throughout the form, and fills the mold in layers, working from the outside in. The mold comes off the machine, the rubber comes off the resin, and voila! There is your shoe or oyster or mastodon.

## Where to Watch the 4th of July Fireworks in Philly

By [ALLIE VOLPE](#) Updated On 07/02/2019 at 01:18PM EST



If America were a person, the “city of birth” section on her birth certificate would read Philadelphia. (Step aside, DC and Boston.) As a result, Philly takes Independence Day very seriously. Between the weeklong [series of events](#) leading up to the big day, to the free concert on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philly puts on a grand display of patriotism. Whether you fancy yourself a morning person, a night owl, or an all-day rallier, we’ve got your Independence Day covered from fireworks (and where to watch them) to the epic Party on The Parkway (and how to get there).

### Morning

Start your holiday off by heading to Historic Philadelphia for the [Salute to America Independence Day Parade](#), a jaunt that begins at 11am at 5th and Chestnut Streets. More than 4,000 participants, including marching bands and military units, will dance, play music, and ride on sparkly and extravagantly adorned floats past Independence Hall and through the historic district. Bring chairs, sunscreen, and cool beverages if you want to make a thing of it.

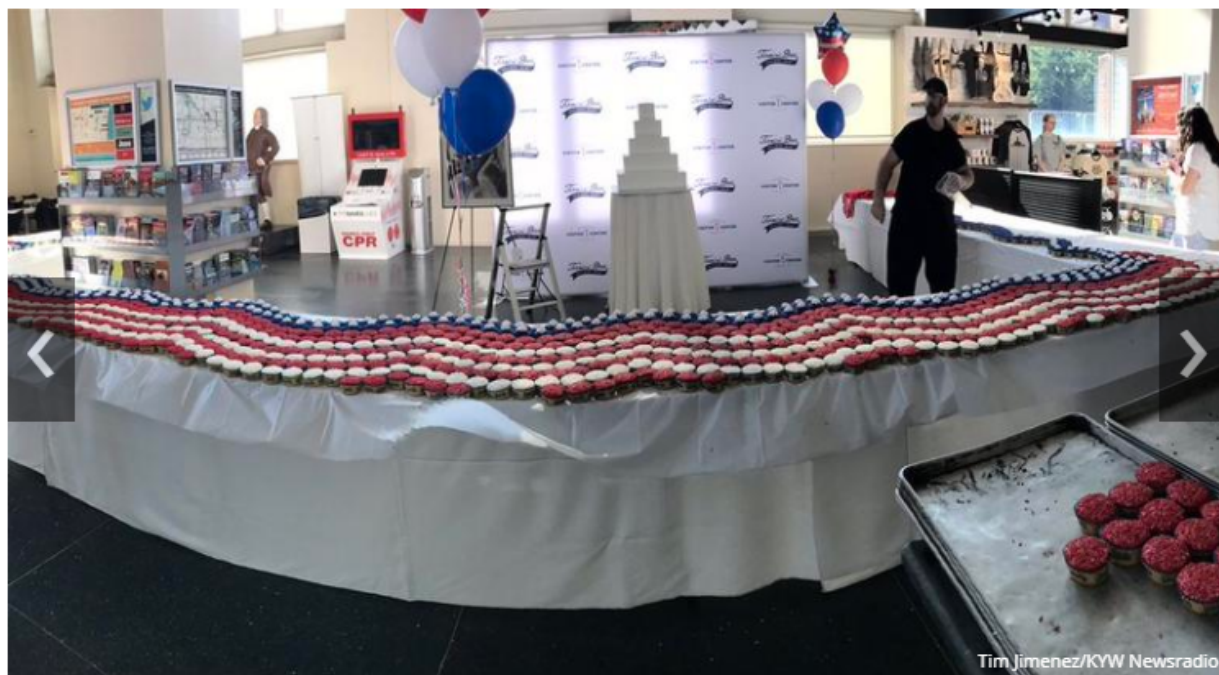
While the parade hubbub is going down, Termini Brothers Bakery staff will be just a few blocks away, [decorating a five-tier cake](#) and arranging 2,500 red, white, and blue cupcakes into the shape of an American flag inside the Independence Visitor Center at 6th and Market Streets, starting at 9am. Watch them do their thing and make sure to be there at 1pm (right after the parade is set to finish) to get some free sweets when Betsy Ross leads a “Happy Birthday” singalong and cuts the cake.

**How to get there:** Navigating to Independence Mall by subway or bus is the best way to go. There’s a 5th Street Independence Hall stop on the Market-Frankford Line and bus routes 5, 9, 17, 21, 33, 38, 42, 44, 47, 48, 57, and 61 have stops nearby. If you’re coming from outside of the city, it’s best not to drive as many streets in the area are closed to traffic. *[Excerpt]*

*Allie Volpe is a Thrillist contributor.*



## Happy Fourth of July, Philly! Here's what's going on today



JULY 04, 2019 - 7:16 AM

*PHILADELPHIA (KYW Newsradio)* — "Today is a busy day, and I would have it no other way," says "Benjamin Franklin," standing in front of the old State House, which we now know as Independence Hall. "I've got a lot of places to be, a lot of people to see."

It's Fourth of July, a national holiday that was born right here in Philadelphia.

Another Ben, an 11-year-old from North Texas, is in Philadelphia with his family for the holiday. He said he loves that the pages in his history book are coming alive.

"I just think it's really fascinating," he said, "because this year I just learned about U.S. history, and knowing all this, and being here to appreciate it — I just think it's really cool."



His dad Michael said there's no better time to visit.

"Great appreciation for our country," he said. "That's why we're here today. We wanted to be able to get here and get tickets to Independence Hall and, kind of, a life event for the kids."

### A busy birthday

The day's festivities kicked off at 9 a.m. at the Independence Visitor Center, where Franklin and other historical re-enactors hosted America's Birthday Party. There was a five-tier cake, created by Termini Bros. bakery, and 2,500 cupcakes arranged in the shape of the American Flag.

Betsy Ross was on hand to lead visitors in singing "Happy Birthday" to America and to cut the cake before the cupcakes were given away at 1 p.m.







## Termini Brothers Bakery prepares more than 2,000 cupcakes for Fourth of July celebration

*The South Philly Bakery has been baking America's birthday cake for the Independence Visitor Center over the last eight years.* By Grace Maiorano - July 6, 2019



*Brothers Joseph Termini and Vincent Termini, Jr. spent the last eight summers preparing free pastries for America's annual birthday party celebrated alongside Betsy Ross each year at the Independence Visitor Center.*

Close to a century ago, two Sicilian brothers set sail for South Philadelphia with suitcases and recipes. After Giuseppe reunited with his sibling, Gaetano, who had arrived one year earlier, the duo opened a small bakery at 1514 S. 8th St., where they sold wedding cakes and cannolis.

As Termini Brothers Bakery approaches its centennial anniversary, the two Italian bakers would come to embody the American Dream.

*In their family's honor, the Termini lineage has spent the last eight summers preparing free pastries for America's annual birthday party celebrated alongside Betsy Ross each year at the Independence Visitor Center.*

"My grandfather – he had a deep, deep love and admiration for this country, for the opportunities that the country provided him," said Vincent Termini Jr., owner of the bakery. "And, he never forgot it for his entire life. He was proud to be an American. He was proud to have the love that he did for the country, and he had an extreme dedication to the country. This is our way of just continuing the Termini name with the patronage and the love for the country."

*Almost a decade ago, the Independence Visitor Center asked Termini's to bake America's official birthday cake, which is distributed every Fourth of July at 599 Market St.*

## IVCC Press Clips, June – August 2019

Since then, the scrumptious extravaganza continues to grow. This year's event called for 2,500 red, white and blue cupcakes coupled with a five-tier, buttercream-topped birthday cake intended to feed up to 300 people.

"I couldn't imagine my grandfather even thinking about making a birthday cake for America – the country which he loved so much," said Joseph Termini, general manager of Termini's. "You're at Independence Hall – the birth of our country – it took place right there. And here you have someone that was an immigrant who came here with nothing, and was given the opportunity. And here, he has the opportunity for his grandchildren to make America's birthday cake. It's like a movie."

While planning officially starts in June, the Termini brothers say as soon as the event is over each year, they're already contemplating ideas for the following. For years, crowds have lined up across Independence Mall and down Market Street to take a taste of the Termini delights.

Event attendees can even witness the pastry process in action, as three on-site decorators bedeck the massive cake, which receives a different design every year. "Every year, it gets a little more cool and dynamic," Joseph Termini said.



Preparation for patriotic pastries requires nearly the entire bakery staff.

On the day before the event, approximately 15 Termini employees were decorating cupcakes all day, starting in the early morning.

The brothers have to arrive at the Independence Visitor Center as early as 7 a.m. on the Fourth of July.

But, any amount of manpower, expenses and early mornings are all worth

this labor of love. "That's our gift to the country," Joseph Termini said. "It's our gift to America."

At 1 p.m., the brothers, alongside Betsy Ross and the all of the partygoers, sing "Happy Birthday" to the country that transformed the Termini dream into a South Philadelphia institution.

"We'll never forget where we're from – the same way my grandfather never forgot where he was from," Vincent Termini said.

As folks bite down into the desserts on the Fourth, the brothers hope people don't just solely taste the sweet buttercream but also recognize the symbolism of the South Philly cakes. For the brothers, they don't think their grandfather could have ever imagined making a birthday cake for the United States.

"A guy left his country with nothing other than his brother and a recipe book and a box," said Joseph Termini. "And that's it, and he worked tirelessly here in South Philly – right here where we're standing – and built this beautiful business. Third generation, making America's birthday cake – all came from that opportunity."



Pennsylvania

TOP STORY

## Pennsylvania bill could offer bar, restaurant owners more flexibility

By Dave Fidlin | The Center Square | Jul 23, 2019



Pennsylvania state Rep. Craig Staats speaks during a hearing of the House Liquor Control Committee on July 23, 2019.

Image courtesy of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives

A Pennsylvania House bill on liquor licenses, touted as forward-thinking and offering a specific class of business owners greater flexibility, received tentative support at a hearing Tuesday.

Members of the state's House Liquor Control Committee met at the Liberty View Independence Visitor Center in Philadelphia to hear testimony from a number of groups on House Bill 1617, sponsored by Rep. Craig Staats, R-Bucks.

The committee did not take any action, and the bill is expected to undergo further deliberation within the panel in the near future.

At its core, HB1617 would give permit owners of old hotel licenses the ability to convert them to traditional licenses.

Staats' sponsored legislation pertains specifically to 261 so-called H-license holders in different areas of the state that continue to carry a hotel license, but no longer make rooms available.

Pennsylvania lawmakers had grandfathered in old hotel establishments, allowing proprietors to continue holding any H licenses issued prior to 1949. The grandfathered licenses are linked solely to the building, not the business itself.

Rod Diaz, chief counsel of the Pennsylvania Liquor Control Board, said a total of 561 grandfathered hotel licenses exist in the state. The remaining 300 licensees continue making at least a small number of rooms available.

Staats said his bill is aimed at right-sizing Pennsylvania's liquor laws by giving restaurateurs in older, former hotel establishments greater flexibility.

## IVCC Press Clips, June – August 2019

The proposal includes a 2-year window to convert the old hotel licenses into restaurant licenses. Caveats include a one-time \$25,000 fee for the transfer and a stipulation the applicant be in good standing with the state's Liquor Control Board.

"I believe my bill would further modernize Pennsylvania's liquor laws," Staats said.

But concerns were shared within the course of Tuesday's hourlong hearing.

Tom Tyler, vice president of the Pennsylvania Licensed Beverage and Tavern Association, said the H-licensees hold a premium because of their relative scarcity. Diminishing their worth, Tyler said, could have punitive impacts on small business owners who look to the licenses' value in a number of areas, including retirement funds.

"We are not your chain restaurants ... instead, we are your neighbors," said Tyler, owner of McStew's Irish Pub in Levittown. "We urge the committee to move carefully."

Speaking on behalf of the association, Tyler said the group is not outright opposed to changes, but proposed transfer fees be implemented on a sliding scale so business owners do not feel the full brunt of the changes immediately.

"The tavern association supports a level playing field," Tyler said. "That playing field has eroded over time."

The Pennsylvania Restaurant and Lodging Association is supportive of the changes proposed in HB1617, said Melissa Bova, vice president of government affairs.

By tweaking laws for liquor licenses, Bova said the association believes the playing field across all classes of operators will be leveled. If a status quo approach remains, Bova said the association believes independent bar and restaurant operators will eventually become obsolete.

Bova said the 261 establishments across Pennsylvania lacking room accommodations but holding the H licenses typically do so inconspicuously.

"They look like a restaurant, they act like a restaurant," Bova said. "But the marketplace has changed. We need to adapt."

Bova added, "We're not trying to upset the applecart here. We just think this is a modest change."



## Philadelphia

### OPINION

# Of Course Philadelphia Cares About Independence Historical National Park

The board chair and the executive director of the Independence Historical Trust respond to Philly Mag's recent article on the state of Independence Hall.

by **BILL MARRAZZO** and **TOM CARAMANICO** · 8/1/2019, 9:27 a.m.



Independence Hall. Photo by Matt Rourke/AP

A simple response to your **July 2019 article** asking whether anyone cares about Independence Historical National Historical Park is ... *absolutely!*

Over the last many years the park has seen steady growth in visitation, with 4.6 million visitors last year alone. At the same time its budget has remained relatively constant while the cost of doing business to preserve and protect the park's resources continues to rise annually. While not a unique business situation to be in, it is one that results in noticeable effects to park operations and considerable deferred maintenance.

Fortunately, for those park assets and operations that are fully available to the public, the visitor satisfaction rate has remained at a 98 percent level. But with the exciting

opportunity to showcase our community during the 2026 sesquicentennial and celebrate the founding of our great nation 250 years ago, there is still much to do.

The board of the recently reconstituted [Independence Historical Trust](#) (INHT) is proud to support the park. Our goals are simple: to work to creatively generate funds not just for the park, but its growing and related environs. While respecting the values of our national park system as public assets, INHT needs to work in innovative ways to meet the optimum visitation needs. The park has a long tradition of partnerships to reconcile challenges and create opportunities.

Independence Mall was totally renovated between 2000 and 2009 with a public-private partnership. The President's House site was largely funded by the City of Philadelphia in collaboration with the park. The park's Benjamin Franklin Museum of Franklin Court was transformed to great acclaim in 2013 with a partnership that consisted of \$12 million in private money and \$12 million in National Park Service funds. The Pew Charitable Trusts provided excellent leadership in the Mall and the museum projects' funding.

The largesse exhibited by our community is alive and well today. Most recently Brightview Landscaping Co. provided more than \$300,000 in donated services and construction work for improvements to the great lawn and surrounding gardens that face Independence Hall. Brightview's contribution is a shining example of an unsolicited corporate partner stepping up to lend a hand and ensure the best in class appearance of our park's open spaces.

The recently expanded Independence Visitor Center, managed by the park with a 501(c)3 corporation (Independence Visitor Center Corporation), is also an example of a partnership that is able to tap into private and philanthropic funds helping to ready our city for 2026 creating a new suite of visitor services and experiences for the park that otherwise couldn't be funded by our government.

For more than 30 years, the First Bank has been generally closed to the public. Yet as the oldest federally constructed building in our nation and a key feature of our banking system designed by Alexander Hamilton, it is the subject of another great partnership between the park and INHT. We are working to ensure its opening for 2026. To date some \$12 million in non-federal funds is secured toward this \$30 million effort to create a unique museum and experience to contribute to the financial literacy of our park's visitors.

Yes, we still have challenges, but moreover we have the energy, willingness, and commitment to meet them head-on. We invite everyone from this great Philadelphia metropolitan area to participate in the showcasing of our park, not only in 2026 but every day. Like you, we too have pride in these commanding cultural assets. And like your readers, yes we care!

*Bill Marrazzo is the CEO of WHYY and the board chair of the Independence Historical Trust. Tom Caramanico is the executive director of the Independence Historical Trust.*

**AP**

## Walk of Fame to welcome Philadelphia Orchestra, The O’Jays

August 7, 2019



PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Philadelphia’s Music Alliance will induct musicians spanning a wide range of genres to its Walk of Fame, including The Philadelphia Orchestra, R&B group The O’Jays and ’80s rock band The Hooters.

The class of 2019’s other honorees include Philadelphia socialite and philanthropist Dorrance “Dodo” Hamilton, who died in 2017; disco queen Evelyn “Champagne” King; and Jody Gerson, the current CEO of Universal Music Publishing Group and the first woman to run a major music-publishing company. Longtime rock-radio DJ Pierre Robert is this year’s dual Radio Row Award recipient and Walk of Fame inductee.

**The announcements were made Wednesday at the Independence Visitor Center.**

The group will be formally inducted on Oct. 22 during a gala at The Bellevue.



## The Philadelphia Inquirer

### OPINION

# Fixing Philadelphia's public restroom desert would benefit all | Editorial

Updated: August 15, 2019 - 6:28 AM



The Inquirer Editorial Board | [opinion@inquirer.com](mailto:opinion@inquirer.com)



GERRY BROOME / AP

Philadelphia's hepatitis A outbreak is [a public health emergency](#) and also the impetus for an essential public conversation about private bodily functions. This discussion is necessary for people living in comfort as well as people living in addiction or experiencing homelessness, and relevant to all of Philadelphia, not only certain neighborhoods or Center City.

The seemingly simple answer — offer more places to go — is complicated. But asking how, where, and why (or why not) is at least a start in a city where many [parks and other public places](#) are restroom deserts.

Most of the more than 150 hepatitis A cases reported in Philly so far this year are in Kensington, where hundreds of people live on the street with opioid use disorder but without easy access to toilets or handwashing facilities. Hepatitis A is spread via personal contact with infected human



## IVCC Press Clips, June – August 2019

fecal material, and the situation in Kensington is inhumane.

The mess is hardly confined to Kensington, or Philadelphia. Public restrooms — expensive to operate, maintain, and police — have been disappearing from urban America for decades, and [San Francisco](#), Seattle, Portland, Ore., and other cities face more challenging conditions than ours.

In Center City, there are a small but well-located handful of restrooms in public buildings, including the Independence Visitors Center, as distinct from the frequently if not chronically [shuttered comfort facilities](#) in nearby Independence National Historical Park.

There also are successful faith-based programs, such as [Hub of Hope](#) and [Broad Street Ministry](#), offering access to social services, as well as bathroom facilities.

But the hepatitis A outbreak is an emergency and requires immediate action in the form of toilets, running water, and distribution of hand sanitizer. The city is evaluating possible approaches such as a storefront pit stop or a [“Portland Loo,”](#) a minimalist, easy-to-install structure. City Managing Director Brian Abernathy said what the city does in Kensington may well spark interest in bringing similar facilities to other restroom deserts, such as the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Some advocates of services for homeless, addicted, or mentally ill people question the value of simply providing restrooms, particularly in Center City, where the facilities are apt to attract activities, such as drug use or prostitution, that present risks of their own. But the availability of public places to properly relieve oneself and wash one’s hands would be no more likely to encourage or sustain homelessness than the availability of, say, a [supervised injection site](#) would persuade someone seeking recovery to continue living in addiction instead.

If the mark of a successful city is how well it provides for basic human needs, Philadelphia, like many other major cities, falls short. Those in Center City have more options, with restrooms in retail and other private institutions that other neighborhoods don’t have access to. That imbalance suggests that only the privileged few can access a clean and functioning restroom. The hep A outbreak raises the stakes for the lack of facilities throughout the city. It should also raise the alarm that the city should grapple with this issue on a wider scale.

PHILLY SPORTS NETWORK

## “PHILLY IS MY HOME,” SAYS JULIE ERTZ AHEAD OF USWNT VICTORY TOUR MATCH TONIGHT AT THE LINC

Posted on [August 29, 2019](#) by [Matthew McClain](#)



Julie Ertz is happy to be home as the USWNT takes on Portugal tonight in front of a record-breaking sell-out crowd at Lincoln Financial Field. Mandatory Credit: USSoccer.com

In what will be a homecoming for [2019 FIFA Player of the Year](#) candidate Julie Ertz and Carli Lloyd and a nationwide celebration for all US soccer fans tonight in Philadelphia, the USWNT team will hope to impress. The 2019 FIFA Women's World Cup champions [will take on Portugal](#) in front of a record-breaking crowd – currently reported to be a near sell-out.

As of last night, official ticket count estimations were reportedly over 46,000 and same-day sales leading up to kickoff tonight could push that number well over 50,000 and perhaps maybe the 60K mark.

And why not? The greatest soccer team in the world is in town. It's a must-see event.

Ticket sales have continually increased throughout the past two weeks. The friendly against Portugal was officially announced via US Soccer back on July 24th and since,

USWNT fans have been making plans to cheer on the group – some shelling out nearly \$200 for lower-level seats. In fact, as of this morning on [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com), some lower-level seats are priced (after-market) at over \$300. These figures point to the fact that Philadelphia is 1) a giant sports-crazed city and 2) Lincoln Financial Field is the perfect venue for this event.

“The Victory Tour has been amazing. Obviously, being here in Philly has made it extra special,” said Ertz. “From being here for Zach [Ertz]’s first game seven years ago, I was always in the stands and was thinking about playing here at the Linc.”

For Ertz and teammate Carli Lloyd, the Philly area and the city itself has been a constant sense of comfort for the two big-time soccer stars. Lloyd, a Delran, NJ native, has been a Philly icon for some time now.

“It’s really special and I’m completely biased to be here at the Linc and to be setting an attendance record as well,” said Lloyd this week when asked about playing in Philly. “Little Delran has held a really special place in my heart.”

Lloyd further solidified her local legendary status by [kicking a 55-yard field goal at a Philadelphia Eagles practice](#), sending NFL media pundits into a frenzy last week over the possibility of [having a female kicker join the league](#).

Both Lloyd and Ertz will likely feel a bit more excitement when the USWNT takes the field later tonight. After all, there’s nothing quite like playing in your hometown.

“Philly is my home now. Every time I come here – even from the second I land at the airport – I know where I’m coming, I know I’m home,” said Ertz. “The fans here have supported Zach’s career and mine collectively together, separate, off the field, on the field. So it feels like family. I’m always excited when my team is here so I can take them to my spots in the city. It feels like home.”

The USWNT created some opportunities to give back to the local community as well in the days leading up to tonight’s match. On Tuesday, there was a [public World Cup trophy viewing event](#) at the Independence Visitor Center in the city.

Just yesterday, the team [opened up their final training session to the public](#) and despite some rain, it was a success for the fans.