A Note from our President...

If you're feeling anything like I am right now, you likely need a break from the onslaught of media covering the pandemic. Our world looks and feels very different today and it's changing so quickly that it's impossible to keep up. We've included resources to help you navigate the crisis in the latter part of our newsletter, but we've intentionally started on a positive note. This month, our Commonwealth Awards spotlight features two inspiring places in York and Philadelphia that promote creativity, curiosity, and connection. You can't help but find joy in these great spaces, so take a virtual tour today and plan to visit later this year.

Mark your calendar: The General Assembly enacted measures to move the 2020 Pennsylvania primary election to Tuesday, June 2.

April 1 is Census Day nationwide. The Census is important for our democracy and our economy. Everyone counts, including you.

If you appreciate our work, please join us as a member or make a donation today. Thank you for your support.

Be well,
Stacie

Commonwealth Award Spotlight

Commonwealth Awards
Celebrating Community & Economic Revitalization Across the State

Our annual Commonwealth Awards program celebrates visionary community leadership and catalytic development projects and initiatives that find new uses for vacant and underutilized land, increase opportunities for communities on the rise, and breathe new life in to old neighborhoods. In each newsletter, we highlight award-winning projects from the past year. The 2020 Commonwealth Awards are in the planning phase for November 2020 in Pittsburgh. Look for the call for project nominations on our social media, website, and email in April.
Equitable Placemaking: Cherry Street Pier, Philadelphia

The Cherry Street Pier is a year-round, mixed-use public space, located on the central Delaware River waterfront in Philadelphia. The historic pier was strategically improved to activate an open-air public space filled with gardens, event space, artist studios, an open air market for local merchants and artisans, and places to eat, drink, and celebrate. Take a look at this brief interview with Joe Forkin, president of Delaware River Waterfront Corporation. Joe talks about the origins of this historic project, the innovative ways the space is currently being utilized and future plans for this unique piece of the city's infrastructure. Curious about the design? Project architect Alex Gauzza, of ISA Interface Studio Architects, talked to us on IGTV about the design process and resiliency aspects of the site. Be sure to add Cherry Street Pier to your list of must-see places to visit in Philly this summer or fall. More information can be found at cherrystreetpier.com.

Developer/Operator: Delaware River Waterfront Corporation
Architect: Alexandra Gauzza, ISA Interface Studio Architects

Smart & Resilient Education Facilities: York Academy Regional Charter School - Upper School, York

York Academy Regional Charter School expanded its campus with construction of an innovative, stand-alone upper school for grades 8-12. The school was built on the site of the former Pensupreme milk processing plant, a prominent but neglected urban industrial site along Codorus Creek.

The 65,000-square-foot school was designed to facilitate the International Baccalaureate curriculum for 375 students, as well as offer shared space to support a variety of teaching methods. Now, a shining, modern gateway to downtown with its student-run cafe, the school offers state-of-the-art facilities to cultivate 21st century learning for a diverse student body. CEO Angela Sugarek (right) and Kim Brenner-Zirkle (left), Marketing and Development Coordinator, recently gave us a tour of their incredible school, complete with an impromptu student music recital and visit to the student library, a collaboration with the York County Library. Hear from the partners and see their "outside the box" designs in this two-minute video from project architect, Warehaus: York
2020 U.S. Census

Why the Census Matters to Pennsylvania

On April 1, 2020 the U.S. Census Bureau will be counting all residents living in the United States. By now, you should have received information in your mail at home about how to respond to the 2020 Census online, by phone or by mail. When you respond to the census, you'll tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020. To enter your Census data now, visit my2020census.gov. *Please note: you'll need to enter your unique census ID that was included in the mailing from Census Bureau.

Why is the Census data so important? The Census is more than a counting exercise. It is critical to our democracy and our economy, from determining how many seats each state receives in the House of Representatives and subsequently the number of electors in the Electoral College, to the proper allocation of federal government resources, to informing research and business decisions every day.

Census data informs spending allocation of $675 billion in the federal budget. Federal funding supports many critical programs and services for Pennsylvanians, including healthcare, food assistance, education, transportation, housing, community development, families and more.

View full article to learn why your census response is vital to PA, including a list of critical programs & services that are supported by federal funding.

State Legislation

Gov. Wolf Announces $50 Million to Fight COVID-19

"Just as doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers have their part to play in this battle, so do each of us. When we choose to stay home, we are thanking a medical professional." - Governor Tom Wolf

Governor Wolf announced Wednesday that he will spend up to $50 million in transferred state funding to purchase medical equipment and supplies for hospitals, nursing homes, and emergency workers to help fight the COVID-19
The $50 million in funding will be deposited into a restricted account under the governor's jurisdiction and funds will be used if there are insufficient funds available from the disaster proclamation "to buy medical equipment and supplies for health care entities to meet urgent patient and staff needs to address surge demand. Health care entities include hospitals, nursing facilities and emergency medical services" states the text of House Bill 1232. The state House passed the bipartisan bill unanimously on Wednesday. The Governor is expected to sign the bill on Friday.

House Bill 1232

"As this crisis has evolved, our members have heard consistently from workers in need, parents and students with a lack of direction and the healthcare community concerned about a surge in patients," said House Majority Leader Bryan Cutler. "I hope every resident of our state sees the actions we took to help all of those groups this week and knows their government is working to make sure we will get through this crisis together."

The House of Representatives unanimously approved a plan to move the 2020 Pennsylvania primary election to Tuesday, June 2. The election code changes in Senate Bill 422 allows county officials to begin processing mail-in ballots at 7 a.m. on Election Day and gives county election officials flexibility to consolidate and add new polling places.

The General Assembly also advanced significant unemployment compensation legislation as part of House Bill 68. The bill would enact emergency provisions, waiving certain waiting requirements for claimants and more lenient repayment terms for reimbursement of employers among other technical changes to match federal changes to unemployment law.

On Wednesday, Gov. Wolf announced $60 million in loans to small businesses in the COVID-19 Capital Access Working Program through the Pennsylvania Industrial Development Authority's (PIDA). All loan applications must be submitted through a Certified Economic Development Organization (CEDO). For the list of CEDO's operating within Pennsylvania, visit dced.pa.gov/programs/covid-19-working-capital-access-program-cwca/.

Federal Legislation

Landmark $2.2 Trillion Relief Package: The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act

The U.S. Senate unanimously passed 96-0 a landmark $2.2 trillion relief package in response to the coronavirus pandemic on Wednesday, March 25.

The bipartisan H.R. 748 Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security (CARES) Act contains $2.2 trillion in funding to combat the pandemic, stabilize the
economy, and address the needs of the American people by providing relief to individuals through expansion of unemployment benefits and direct payments of $1200 per adult for households with income up to $75,000 plus $500 per child. The plan offers:

$377 billion in federally guaranteed loans, establishes a
$500 billion government lending program for distressed companies
$100 billion to hospitals and healthcare systems on the front lines

Of note to 10,000 Friends interests:

$25 billion is earmarked for public transit and $1.018 billion to Amtrak
$24.3 billion for SNAP and child nutrition programs plus $750 million to food banks and food assistance programs
$5 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program
$4 billion for Emergency Solutions Grants to prevent eviction and homelessness
$3 billion for housing providers for rental assistance for low income families
$900 million for LIHEAP assistance
$158.4 million to the Department of the Interior for response needs in national parks, wildlife refuges, and other public lands and $70 million to Forest Service

More than 80 percent of the total funding provided in the emergency supplemental appropriations division of the package will go directly to state and local governments.

This legislation is the third phase of relief packages, following H.R. 6201 Families First Coronavirus Act passed on March 11 and the $8.3 billion emergency spending package, H.R.6074 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, passed on March 6.

The House will convene at 9 a.m. on Friday to consider the relief package. The plan is to pass the bill by voice vote, to avoid forcing all House members to return to Washington for a recorded roll call vote.

HR 748 The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act

CARES Act Summary

On March 11, the bipartisan HR 6201 Families First Coronavirus Response Act was passed. The legislation guarantees free coronavirus testing, secures paid emergency leave, enhances Unemployment Insurance, strengthens food security initiatives, and increases federal Medicaid funding to states.

HR 6201 Families First Coronavirus Response Act

Families First Summary

On March 6, President Trump signed H.R. 6074, the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Act to fund response to coronavirus, including vaccine development, support for state and local governments, and assistance for affected small businesses.
HR 6074 Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Act

HR 6074 Summary

Upcoming Events

PALTA Announces Webinar Training
Due to the cancellation of the 2020 Pennsylvania Land Conservation Conference, PALTA has scheduled a series of webinars, beginning April 2. Please visit the PALTA website to register for the webinars below. Additional training sessions will be listed on the site as they become available.

* Farmland Preservation for a New Generation
* Ready or Not: Switching from ArcMap to ArcGIS Pro
* Program Evaluation Methods for Environmental Outreach
* Easements and Rights of Way in Forests
* Plan Implementation: Going Beyond the Planning Stage

COVID-19 & Resource Links

10,000 Friends Statement on COVID-19
10,000 Friends of Pennsylvania places the safety of our staff, volunteers, partners and community first. We voluntarily closed our office and suspended all in person events and meetings on March 16. The office will remain closed until Gov. Wolf and the PA Department of Health determines that it is safe for the Capitol Complex to reopen to the public. Our staff members continue to work remotely and are available to you by phone, email, social media, and Zoom.

10,000 Friends is committed to protecting the health and safety of our communities. We've gathered resources for individuals, organizations, and businesses to navigate the crisis. As we monitor further developments with COVID-19, we will continue to provide updates and share resources via email and social media. Stay calm, stay home, and stay safe.

Everyday Preventative Recommendations from the CDC
* Stay home when sick
* Cover coughs and sneezes
* Frequently wash hands with soap & water
* Disinfect frequently touched surfaces
* Avoid touching eyes, mouth, nose & face

Resources

State Updates
Facebook Live Daily Updates from Gov. Wolf and Sec. Levine
Twitter: @GovernorTomWolf, @PAHealthDept, @PAlegis

Residents
PA Department of Health COVID-19 (updates posted daily)
Guide to COVID-19 in Pennsylvania
Governor Wolf and Sec. Levine Daily Facebook Live
PEMA Daily Operations Reports
As a recognized authority on responsible land use, 10,000 Friends partners with and provides technical assistance to government officials, non-profit organizations and the private sector on policy and development solutions that protect the natural and built environments, strengthen local economies, provide access to economic opportunity for all, and improve community health and quality of life in our state's diverse cities, towns, older suburbs, and rural communities. Through a diverse coalition focused on a positive agenda, we advocate proactive solutions and options for local, regional and state leaders.

We update our website regularly with articles and links, so please stop by often: http://10000friends.org.