

The Source

By TheNortheastLife



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THE PURPOSE OF OUR PAGE

Northeast Philadelphia, often referred to simply as the Northeast, is a large region of the city that covers approximately 58 square miles and is home to over 300,000 residents. Despite its size and population, the Northeast has sometimes been overshadowed by other parts of Philadelphia. Ever been to a party and been asked, why you live "up there"? Or have you ever read an article and it fails to name any neighborhood beyond just labeling it the Northeast? Each of these examples belies the reality of the Northeast, with its diverse neighborhoods, delicious food options, beautiful parks, outdoor activities, and convenient public transit connections that make the Northeast a hidden gem in the City of Brotherly Love.

One of our goals in creating TheNortheastLife was to challenge the negative view that some Philadelphians may have about the Northeast. It's true that the Northeast has had its share of challenges, just like any other part of a major city. However, it's also a place with a rich history, unique culture, and a strong sense of community. The Northeast is a melting pot of different cultures and diverse neighborhoods that offer a wide range of dining options from traditional cheesesteaks and hoagies to international cuisine from around the world. There's something for everyone's taste buds in the Northeast! (Cont. Next page)

In addition to its culinary offerings, the Northeast also boasts an abundance of parks and outdoor activities. From the expansive Pennypack Park, with its miles of trails for hiking and biking, to the scenic Delaware Riverfront with its growing Riverfront North, and its goal to unify the multiple riverfront parks abutting the Delaware. The Northeast is also well-connected by public transit, with multiple SEPTA bus and train lines that provide access to other parts of the city.

The Northeast is also home to many unique neighborhoods, each with its own character and charm. From the historic architecture of Tacony to the quaint feel of Millbrook, and from the bustling commercial corridors of Bustleton Avenue and Castor Avenue to the peaceful residential streets of Somerton and Rhawnhurst, there's a neighborhood to suit every taste and lifestyle.

TheNortheastLife on our social media and now in our newly launched online newsletter remains dedicated to showcasing the gems the Northeast has to offer.

From its local businesses and parks to its diverse neighborhoods and cultural offerings, we hope to offer a glimpse of what makes this large area worth checking out. By highlighting the positive aspects of the Northeast, TheNortheastLife aims to challenge perceptions and foster a sense of pride and community among its residents. Of course, the Northeast isn't an island. Well connected with other areas of the city, in addition to easy access to the suburbs, we do at times venture out – much like many residents of the Northeast.

So, whether you're a longtime resident of the Northeast, a newcomer to the area, or someone looking to explore new parts of Philadelphia, be sure to follow TheNortheastlife on Instagram and Facebook, and sign up for our new online newsletter! As a newsletter subscriber, we hope you'll be the first to hear about upcoming events and activities in and around the Northeast. Discover the hidden treasure of this vibrant part of the city and let TheNortheastLife show you why it's a great place to live, work, and play!





Statues Along the Avenue

If you haven't done so already, take a stroll down Frankford Avenue in Mayfair! You'll encounter a captivating display of sculptures by the renowned artist Seward Johnson, on loan from the [Grounds for Sculpture](#). These lifelike and whimsical sculptures are inspired by everyday life, and they are sure to inspire, provoke thought, and create unforgettable experiences for those who see them.

[Seward Johnson](#), a celebrated American artist, has left his mark on Frankford Avenue with his unique sculptures. The Seward Johnson Atelier, located in Hamilton, New Jersey, has generously loaned several of his masterpieces to be displayed in Mayfair.

These sculptures depict everyday scenes like people sitting on a bench, a person hailing a cab, and a person talking on a cell phone. These sculptures are created with incredible attention to detail, capturing human emotions and actions with a sense of realism and warmth.

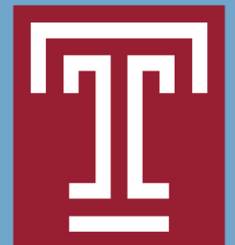


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The presence of these sculptures has transformed Frankford Avenue into an outdoor gallery, bringing a one-of-a-kind artistic experience to Mayfair. These sculptures bridge the gap between art and everyday life, inviting viewers to engage with the artwork in a personal and relatable way. They are sure to spark contemplation, conversations, and inspiration for the entire community. For those interested in taking photos, either of the art or selfies with the art, these also provide an excellent opportunity!

The installation of these stunning sculptures on Frankford Avenue is made possible through collaborative efforts between the Seward Johnson Atelier, the Mayfair Business Improvement District, and local businesses. Don't miss out on this unique exhibit, as it will only be on display until October 2023. Make sure to visit Frankford Avenue in Mayfair and immerse yourself in the captivating world of Seward Johnson's sculptures!



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NEIGHBORHOOD SPOTLIGHT

Foxchase

As was all too common for businesses during the pandemic, Joseph's Pizza Parlor shuttered its doors in 2021. Fortunately for this neighborhood establishment, the owners of Gaul & Co. Malt House, the popular Port Richmond Restaurant, purchased Joseph's as well as the adjacent upscale restaurant, Moonstruck. What originally seemed like a disaster for Fox Chase, the closing of a neighborhood icon, became a blessing in disguise as Joseph's Pizza Parlor reopened to much fanfare. For this cozy neighborhood in the Northeast, it marked just one of many changes to come. It also demonstrated Fox Chase's resiliency as a strong Philadelphia neighborhood.

Known for its unique charm and small-town feel, Fox Chase sits on the city border with Rockledge Borough, in Montgomery County. Home to multiple restaurants and bars, and within walking distance to the many great businesses in the Rockledge area, Fox Chase has activities for everyone. With only a short walk up Pine Road, you can visit Fox Chase Farm, which offers events throughout the year such as sheep shearing and apple cider pressing. Connected to the farm you have access to Abington's Lorimer Park, and across the street is an entrance to Pennypack Park with bike trails that span all the way to the Delaware River. During the holiday season Fox Chase hosts its annual tree lighting ceremony at Lion's Square Park, which acts as a sort of town square for Fox Chase. Lion's Square Park also hosts other events throughout the year, including an artisan market in the spring. Fox Chase boasts a regional rail station that allows for convenient trips into Center City should you wish to make a trip. At any time of year, however, you can visit one of the many restaurants and businesses that anchor this community. You will find most of these along the Oxford Avenue corridor, which represents Fox Chase's main street and becomes Huntingdon Pike when it enters Rockledge.

For this article, we focused on downtown Fox Chase, or its main business corridor along Oxford Avenue. It then runs into Rockledge as Huntingdon Pike, and we did touch on a handful of places. Not every place is mentioned, but stay tuned for future articles!



FOX CHASE: THE OXFORD AVENUE CORRIDOR



Joseph's Pizza Parlor

Serving customers at this location since 1967, Joseph's is a staple of the Fox Chase community. Many in the neighborhood recall heading here for a slice of pizza after their Fox-Rok little league games, though it was also popular for a night out with friends. Despite the popularity of the shop, former owners Clair DiLullo Schiavone and Toto Schiavone decided to sell it, along with the adjoining Moonstruck, to the owners of Gaul and Co who had recently opened a location in nearby Rockledge prior to Joseph's closure. Instead of immediately re-opening, the new owners, Joseph Forkin, Jimmy Lyons and Matthew Yeck, decided to take the time necessary to perfect their pizza pie process, including bringing in experts to assist. Their patience paid off, as they opened to much fanfare, showcasing their smoky cupped pepperoni and air pocket filled crust. Though upgraded both the pizza and the menu, the interior of the restaurant with its old-school charm remains untouched. Indoors you will find its famed stained-glass ceiling as well as a small ornate wooden bar and period décor. While the bar may be small, it's fully stocked including Gaul's own lite beer and tea. For any espresso martini lovers, be sure to order one to finish your meal. Looking ahead, keep an eye out for what the new owners plan to do with Moonstruck, although they have begun holding some events in the upstairs event area, Club Ciao, we can't wait for when Moonstruck officially opens!

Bisho's and Le Souk Market

Originally located in the Roosevelt Mall on Cottman Ave, Bishara Kuttub moved this Middle Eastern restaurant to the Fox Chase location where it now resides. It serves many traditional dishes inspired by Bishara's Palestinian upbringing, including shawarma, falafel and hummus. Bisho's also offers unique items like the beef and lamb cheesesteak as well as rotating specials such as their kifta burger, a minced meat patty with special seasonings. When ordering a wrap, consider the more traditional saj wrap, a thin unleavened flat bread named for the oven in which it's baked. After your meal, consider finishing with an Arabic coffee or lemonana, a frozen lemon slushy made with mint.

Directly adjacent to Bisho's, Bishara and his wife recently opened Le Souk Market. With its lighted signage, this corner building is reminiscent of a market one might find on a small town corner in rural PA. Conversely, its multiple loose spice options harken back to the open-air spice markets prominent in Istanbul. From smoked paprika and loose-leaf teas to a variety of olives and coffee beans, you will find plenty of ingredients here worth exploring. Be sure to explore their olive oils where you can refill your own bottles or purchase new. For those with a sweet tooth, explore the barrels of gummy candies and chocolates or stock up on traditional items like baklava or mann al sama (nougat bars).





Reiker's

Although not a restaurant, you need to consider Reiker's when planning your next weekend barbecue. This classic German butcher shop serves up a wide variety of beef, poultry and pork. The bacon wrapped pork burgers are especially delicious and ready for the grill. For those interested in more than burgers, don't overlook the season split chicken as well various cuts of poultry and beef. For more traditional German fare, consider the wide variety of homemade sausages. Don't forget to stock up on Zyada's spicy pickles and other condiments available.

John's Sushi House

One of the newer establishments on the list, locals will recognize this historic building as previously housing the popular Hop Angel Brauhaus which, much like Joseph's, closed due to the pandemic. While the Hop Angel had a German theme, John's takes a different approach entirely with a redone décor and a focus on lighting. After Hop Angel's closure, a seafood restaurant had briefly opened here, but closed after only a year. John's Sushi House opened shortly after. John's serves sushi and hibachi meals, and boasts a full service bar as well, allowing you to order a cocktail or sake while enjoying your favorite Japanese dish.



ROCKLEDGE: THE HUNTINGDON PIKE CORRIDOR

Though they sit in different counties, one cannot easily separate Fox Chase from Rockledge. In fact, the little league the two areas share is known as Fox-Rok. Whether taking a stroll, or hopping on the 24 or 28 bus routes which run the length of Rockledge's Huntingdon Pike, one can easily explore Rockledge's main thoroughfare. Below are some places within walking distance to Fox Chase you might want to check out:



Rocks Deli

A great neighborhood deli serving up hoagies and other sandwiches – be sure to grab a spicy Italian hoagie.

Danish Baker

A classic neighborhood bakery. Although there are many great items, come here for the buttercake!

Austrian Village

If you are in the mood for food with a German/Austrian flare, check this place out. The food tastes homemade with the feeling that someone's grandma is cooking it up for Sunday dinner. Don't forget to grab one of their delicious German beers like a Hofbrau or Warsteiner!

Muellers

Big box stores have put most independent candy shops out of business. Thankfully you can find Muellers on Huntingdon Pike, serving up everything from chocolate-covered pretzels and Easter eggs to their notorious chocolate-covered onions and other unique treats! This is the second location of the popular Reading Terminal shop.



Gaul and Co.

This is the second location of the popular Port Richmond pub, known for its Wit or Witowski – a cheesesteak made with kielbasa. In addition you will find other pub items including buffalo wings and French fries served with cooper sharp as well as Gaul Lite beer and Gaul tea.

Hope you enjoyed our short trip to the Fox-Rok area! Be sure to let us know where we should showcase next!



New Life at The Arsenal

In 1977, after 161 years of operation, Bullet Row, or “the street that beat Hitler”, went quiet as the U.S. government officially closed the Frankford Arsenal. Its sprawling campus located on Tacony Street in the neighborhood of the same name, has been occupied by both private businesses and even a school over the years. Though, these pale in comparison to the 22,000 who once called this their employer in the 1940s, and since then most of it has sat dormant. Only recently has this historic site been finding a new lease on life. New businesses have been popping up, bringing with them both visitors and much needed foot traffic. Two of the newer tenants, both owned by the Weizer family, include BLDG39 (Pronounced Building 39), a wedding and event venue; and the Culinary Collective, a collection of private and coworking commercial spaces.



Following the Great Recession of the late 2000s, food trucks experienced a boom. They had little overhead compared to brick and mortar establishments, and could travel. However, it is easy to overlook the need for these vehicles to have proper storage for prepping, cleaning, and safekeeping. In fact, Philadelphia made it a requirement for food trucks to have an off-site commissary in order to obtain and maintain a license to operate. Recognizing the evolving landscape for food trucks and the need for a commissary, father and son team Craig and Brandon Weizer opened what was originally called Bridesburg Commissary. This allowed for multiple food trucks to have a commissary. Since then, they have relocated to the Frankford Arsenal and rebranded as the Culinary Collective, while also opening BLDG39.



What exactly is a commissary? Exactly what the food trucks need: a kitchen in which food trucks can prep and store food, and if need be a location for the truck to stay. Commissaries are not new and are commonly referred to as ghost kitchens. The Culinary Collective, however, seems different. The Culinary Collective appears to nurture a supportive almost family-like relationship with and between its members. Recently expanding to include a neighboring building, they have grown their number of available kitchens, thereby growing the number of businesses they can work with. The Culinary Collective has also partnered with Temple University's Small Business Development Center, which allowed for two businesses access to coworking kitchen space for six months free of charge. It's also worth pointing out that unlike many other coworking kitchens, many of the members of the Culinary Collective are local and use it as a starting point before establishing a brick-and-mortar location. This includes businesses such as *Mac Mart*, *Kouklet*, and *Gilda* that are all alumni of the Collective. As for the Culinary Collective's future: it continues to grow. They may create a patio sitting area, allowing one to take in the beauty of this historic site on the Delaware while enjoying delicious food from one of the Collective's partners.



Photo Credit: Neal Santos

New Life at The Arsenal

Continued

Of course, not everyone owns a food truck or is in need of a coworking kitchen. This is where BLDG39 can serve the rest of us: as an event host. In fact, you may describe it as an influencer's dream, with its updated yet rustic appeal. Despite some modern touches, the space has kept much of its old industrial look and that early 1900s charm. BLDG 39 hosts private events, and at times has partnered with community groups and other vendors to hold craft fairs and other pop-up type events. For those of you on instagram, you may recognize it in photos as some influencers have sought it out. Others may recognize it as having hosted their favorite brewery or most valued winery, since it has hosted both wineries and breweries within its space for various events these past few years.

Between the Culinary Collective and BLDG39, the Weizer Family has repurposed a once dilapidated historic site on the Delaware. There is more to this area of the Northeast than just i95 (yes, it's not far from 'THAT' part of i95). But more than just location, they have allowed for the growth of many businesses and have shown that repurposing can work well. The future seems bright for not only BLDG 39 and the Culinary Collective, but also the Frankford Arsenal and it will be exciting to watch their continued growth.

Culinary Collective Members

Mom Mom's Kitchen
Bao & Bun Studio
Have a Ball
Chewy's
Pink's Cold Treats
Muncho
Moji Masala
El Tlaloc
Meekstreats
Grubaholics
Tuck-ins
Chief 10's Smokehouse
Everfran Coffee
Angie's
Chef Klamar
Lui's Kitchen
Life Stylesessions
Ruani
Marvdaddy's
Happy Bites
Tiny Cakes
Olive & Shae



Historical Note



Historical Fact: Trinity Church Oxford
Speaking of historical sites, did you know the 4th oldest building in Philadelphia located in the Northeast? Trinity Church Oxford was founded in 1696 and erected in 1711 and has hosted several well know people in American history. Additions were also added to the church by well know architect Frank Furness.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Mayfair Third Thursdays Night Market
 - Aug 17, Sept 21: 6-9:30PM
 - Cottman and Frankford
 - @statestreeteventscompany
- Tacony Third Thursdays
 - Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19: 6:9:00PM
 - 6846 Torresdale Ave.
 - @taconycdc
- Parks on Tap - Burholme Park
 - Aug 2-6
 - <https://www.parksontap.com/parks2022/burholmepark-2023>
- Evening Hayrides and Events - Fox Chase Farm
 - Aug 2, Aug 16
- Grand Opening - New Riverfront Trail
 - Aug 11 at Lardners Point (5202 Levick St.)
- Otherworld Opening
 - "Beta" Opening: July 21-23 and July 28-30
 - otherworldphila.com

