

THE MAN WITH THE GOLDEN GLOVE

Carlos Garcia wins boxing title in Kansas City, Missouri



Congratulations to Carlos Garcia of The City's Reading Inner-City Boxing Club who won the 189-lb title at the Ringside World Championship Tournament held at the Expo Center, in Kansas City, Missouri. Carlos was the 2012 PA District Golden Gloves Champion, 2012 PA State Silver Gloves Champion, 2011 PA State Golden Gloves Champion, 2011 PA District and Regional Golden Gloves Champion, 2011 PA State Silver Gloves Champion. Carlos is the Reading Inner-

City's first world amateur champion!

Our local boxing clubs, which also include the East Reading Boxing Club and King's Gym, do significant work with our youth and giving them something constructive and positive to do, and deserve the recognition for the great job they do with all the young men and women boxers.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION

October 20 at First Energy Stadium 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM Rain or Shine

WHAT IS HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

Household Hazardous Waste is any household product which is labeled: Caution, Flammable, Toxic, Corrosive, Poison, Danger, Explosive, Warning, Explosive, Volatile, or a combination of these characteristics. Look for warning or skull and crossbones on label.

WHY COLLECT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

These collection days are intended to provide Berks County residents with a responsible way to dispose of old, unusable and unwanted hazardous products. Putting them in the trash or down the drain contributes to the pollution of our air and drinking waters.

HOW TO BRING MATERIALS TO OUR COLLECTION SITE?

Do not mix the materials

Tighten lids on all containers. If containers are leaking, pack in larger containers. Bring all materials in original containers with labels, if possible. If not in original labeled container, please label container used.

ACCEPTABLE MATERIALS OIL PAINTS

Turpentine, Wood Preservatives, Paint Thinners & Solvents, Oil Based Paints, Varnishes and Stains

OUTDOORS

Weed Killers, Pesticides, Asphalt & Driveway Sealants, Pool Chemicals, Herbicides & Fungicides

AUTOMOTIVE

Antifreeze, Gasoline, Transmission Oil, Motor Oil, Automotive paints and finishes

HOUSEHOLD

Solvents, Disinfectants, Rug, Oven & Drain Cleaner, Button Batteries, Photographic Chemicals, Floor & Furniture Polish, Lithium & NiCad Batteries

DO NOT BRING

Latex Paint will not be accepted

Joint & Caulking Compound, Organic Peroxides, Gas Cylinders Explosives & Ammunition, Radioactive Waste, Infectious or Medical Waste Water based sealants



THE READING OUTLET

THE MONTHLY PUBLIC NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF READING, PA

ISSUE #6

MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR



Now that schools are back in session, I can't emphasize enough the need to keep our children safe. Please be careful and respect speed limits around our schools especially in the morning and the afternoon when children are on their way to and from school. Please get involved with your child's education by working on homework with them and encouraging and supporting them in after school activities.

Our children are our most precious asset and our future. We need to protect them and encourage them to get the best education they can. We have great schools and teachers in the City of Reading, as well as in the Reading School District, and although the district is struggling with budget cuts, we can work together with their teachers to insure they are learning what they need to prepare them for their future. Good luck to all of our students for a great and enriching school year!

City Exceeds Goal: Residents Save A Bundle

Friday, August 17th, was the last day to apply for the City of Reading's Tax Amnesty program.

"The amnesty program has been a success," Mayor Spencer said. "We've been helping hundreds of business owners file their tax returns and get up to date with their business privilege licenses."

The Tax Amnesty program, which began June 18th, allowed citizens to pay their Per Capita Tax owed back to 2001 (\$5 to the city, and \$10 to the school district), and for businesses to file and pay their Business Privilege Tax returns for income generated in the City back to 2001. In addition, during the Amnesty period, the City offered to forgive penalties and interest on unfiled taxes. The program applied to those who have unreported and unpaid tax liabilities.

"With what we have already collected, it looks like we will exceed our goal of \$250,000," added the Mayor. "I think the program was a success. It was a fair way to allow people to pay what they owe, without penalty. Now that we gave them a chance to pay, we will go after those who owe the city. They had their opportunity, and they should have taken advantage of it."

"I have a stack of applications more than

a foot high," said city Business Analyst David Kersley, the day before the program ended. "We also learned a lot about the tax collecting process which will help us improve our tax data base and improve our compliance rates. We plan to cross-check with other departments such as codes and zoning to make sure a business has all the required licenses and permits, as well as making sweeps of neighborhoods to make sure they are in compliance. This will help us determine if they are paying the proper business privilege tax as well."

"Once we get them into the fold, they'll be repeat customers," added city Auditor David Cituk.

"This is the first of several similar programs we plan to implement for other taxes," added the Mayor. "We're only asking for what is fair and what the city should have been doing all along. There is a cost for doing business in every city in this country, and Reading has done a poor job of collecting it. My administration is changing that. We want this to be a more business-friendly city, but the business have to start being friendly to our tax payers, and pay their fair share."

INSIDE THE OUTLET

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A Reality

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Possible Expansion of
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Planetarium Reopens

Reading's Boxing Champ

Hazardous Waste Collection

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Getting Ready To Hit The Streets

New officers in field training

The Reading Police Department recently hired twelve new recruits to replace police officers who have retired or left the department. Five of the new officers have already obtained their training and certification as police officers and will go right into the field training program, riding with experienced officers to prepare them for their new careers.

The remaining seven entered the Reading Police Academy in July. These recruits will undergo five months of rigorous academic and physical training before hitting the streets. Chief Heim said, "It is so important for the city to have qualified recruits ready to go into

service. The department needs high caliber individuals to help keep this community safe." Several of the new recruits are fluent in Spanish, a language skill sought by the department to enhance relationships with the city's Hispanic residents.

"My administration is dedicated to public safety, and we look at every opportunity to strengthen our force and our commitment to safer streets. We will cut crime in this city and make it a safe community again, and these extra officers are receiving the best field training and will help bring our numbers closer to where we want them to be," said Mayor Spencer.

RICKTOWN ARTS DISTRICT

Development anchored by GoggleWorks becomes a reality



On August 9th, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded the City of Reading a HUD 108 Loan guarantee for \$1.5 million dollars and an accompanying BEDI (Brownfield Economic Development Initiative) for \$750,000 for the Downtown Arts District known as Ricktown.

"This is a big boost in helping to develop that area," said Mayor Spencer. "With The Goggleworks and the Gogglworks Apartments as anchors, this development will finally push the Ricktown Arts District into more than just a plan."

The HUD 108 funds will assist in the creation of 25 low and moderate-income rental units; seven low- and moderate-income homeownership units,

and 20,000 square feet of commercial/retail space. The BEDI initiative can be used for environmental remediation and housing/streetscapes.

"This loan will give local residents and first-time homebuyers an opportunity to own their own home in a very exciting area of the City, as well as allow artists to use the ground level to showcase and sell their art while living above," said Community Development Manager Dan Wright, who applied for the grant on behalf of the Community Development Department. In addition, the project will result in the creation of 28 full-time equivalent jobs.

Wright explained that the grant proposal originated from the concept of creating an

artist community with the GoggleWorks Center for the Arts serving as the main "anchor" for the neighborhood (named "Ricktown" after the Rick Family who set up businesses in this part of the 6th ward in the 1800's). The funds will go to the rehabilitation of units already in the Ricktown area joining all of the recent development including the Imax movie theater, the Panevino Italian restaurant and accompanying new parking garage, and the new GoggleWorks Apartments.

This development will not only see the plan of the art district come to fruition, but add an exciting, vibrant, hip neighborhood to the city to attract new residents.



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN HEROS: September 11th Ceremonies

The City of Reading's 9/11 ceremony will take place on Tuesday, September 11th 2012 starting at 9:55am in City Park. The 9/11 memorial area is located near the intersections of Hill Road and Constitution Boulevard in the southeast corner of City Park. Ceremony speakers will be Mayor Spencer, Fire Chief David Hollinger, and Firefighters Local IAFF 1803 President Michael Shoumlisky.

Unfortunately, last October's surprise snow storm severely damage the original 9/11 memorial tree. This tree was planted for the first memorial service in 2002. A new tree will be planted on Monday, September 10TH, and dedicated on the 11th during the ceremony. The new tree will be accompanied by two new benches as well as a new memorial stone and plaque memorializing the tree's significance.

Please come out and join city firefighters to remember all the fallen heroes and victims of the attacks of September 11th, 2001.

Cleaning Up Reading: SILOT Program response overwhelming

The City of Reading has received an overwhelming response to the PILOT and SILOT programs. In April, Mayor Spencer sent out letters to local non-profits in the area asking for a Payment In Lieu of Taxes, or "PILOT," in exchange for the services they receive from the city like Fire, Police and Street Maintenance. The entities that were targeted own their land but do not pay property tax since they are not-for-profit, but receive the same city services that those who do pay property tax. In June, the Mayor sent letters stating that a service could be provide instead of a payment, or a "SILOT."

"Many non-profits have already given back to the city, and we appreciate that" said Mayor Spencer. "We're just asking



those who have not given their fair share to do so through a payment or a service. That's why we created the PILOT and SILOT programs."

There have been over 36 SILOT programs completed and 25,377 volunteer hours logged. The clean-ups taking place through the SILOT program is definitely making a difference in the cleanliness of our city. On August, 21st, 80 Albright College students volunteered to clean up Oak Lane, where the sidewalks were completely covered by debris.

Reading Applies for a Grant To Expand Recycling Program



The city has applied for a \$250,000 grant for our Recycling Program through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Municipal Recycling Program.

If awarded the City will receive funding to purchase a multipurpose baler, which will be used to compress cardboard and paper into small, manageable bales.

We will also build a cement pad and building to house the baler, as well as develop a bilingual recycling education program with this grant.

The completion of this project will allow the City's recycling program to provide Reading citizens with better service and continue to move forward toward sustainability by adding additional revenue from the City baling process.

So far, the in-house recycling program has been a success with most residents taking part in the program. PLEASE RECYCLE!! It saves the city money by reducing our solid waste costs and is good for the environment.



Ongoing Programs at the Reading Public Library Main Branch

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

PRE-SCHOOL STORYTIME

Mondays @ 1:00 PM

MOVIE NIGHT

Tuesday @ 5 PM

CRAFTY CORNER

Thursdays @ 4 PM

TEEN PROGRAMS

MOVIE DAYS

Saturdays @ 12 PM

Please check with your local branch for current program schedule.



The planetarium at the Reading Public Museum will reopen September 1st after being closed the month of August for renovations.

Sunday Star Shows starting September 2:

- 1 p.m. The Zula Patrol: Under the Weather
- 2 p.m. Astronaut
- 3 p.m. Tales of the Maya Skies
- 4 p.m. 2012: The End of the World? NOT!

Prices for Star Shows (per show) are \$7 for adults (18-59) and \$5 for children, seniors and students w/ID. Members and children 3 and under free.