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Real Estate



# Philadelphia's latest rental and utility assistance program is now open for tenants and landlords

For the first time, the city's pandemic rental assistance program includes funds to help tenants pay for utilities.



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Mayor Jim Kenney during a tour of the COVID-19 vaccination site at the School of the Future in West Philadelphia in March. The city's rental assistance program has raised more t ... [Read more](#)  
YONG KIM / Staff Photographer



by Michaelle Bond  
Published Apr 5, 2021

Philadelphia's latest iteration of its pandemic rental assistance program, which for the first time includes funds for renters' utility payments, is accepting applications from tenants and landlords.

People who have experienced financial hardship due to the pandemic can apply for a piece of the roughly \$97 million in federal funds now available in this latest round of assistance at [phlrentassist.org](https://phlrentassist.org). Tenants



\$2,000 each for water, electric, and gas bills.

### CORONAVIRUS COVERAGE

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VIRUS TRACKER

The city has distributed more than \$65 million to more than 14,000 households since last May, according to Mayor Jim Kenney. Tenants who have received assistance in prior phases of the program are eligible to apply again for months not already covered.

Tenants must meet income requirements and show that they are at risk of housing instability or homelessness without assistance. Landlords cannot begin eviction proceedings against tenants receiving funds for 90 days from the last month of assistance.

Tenants can call 311 with questions.

The city’s rental assistance program has raised more than \$100,000 in donations and is asking individuals and companies to [continue to contribute](#).

Published April 5, 2021



Michaelle Bond [✉](#) [🐦](#)

I’m an urbanism writer covering how people live in their homes, how the market directs choices, and how policies shape communities.

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Philadelphia News



## AWBURY ARBORETUM WANTS TO BUILD A WELCOME CENTER. NEIGHBORS SAY NO.

Members of the Awbury Neighbors Association have accused the arboretum of planning to develop the property behind homes on Haines Street without first discussing it with nearby residents.

 Valerie Russ May 11, 2021

### Home & Design



## How to make the most of a home warranty — and avoid the pitfalls

“You need to have a reasonable expectation as a consumer,” one expert said. “Don’t expect that just because something breaks, you’re going to get a brand new one.”

Terri Akman, For The Inqu... May 11, 2021



### Francisville residents turned a vacant lot into a bustling park. But the city has plans to build affordable housing there, and wants it cleared.

“It’s a good problem to have — that there is land that is identified for affordability, and that there are active neighbors that want to see that space thrive.”



Ellie Rushing May 10, 2021

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Philadelphia News



### Fire guts former St. Leo’s church in Tacony

The historic stone structure was shuttered by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia in 2013.



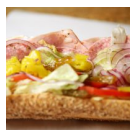
Andrew Maykuth May 9, 2021



Jillian Wilson  
@JillianGloria



Hoagies reign supreme in Philadelphia! @phillyinsider and @CraigLaBan shared their favorite hoagie spots with me & we created a guide to the best hoagies in Philly — [inquirer.com/philly-tips/be...](http://inquirer.com/philly-tips/be...)



#### Best hoagies in Philly to eat right now

Jillian Wilson, Craig LaBan, and Mich... 6 hours ago

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Opinion



## Helmut Jahn, designer who modernized Philadelphia skyline with Liberty Place, dies at 81

One Liberty Place is still considered the German-American architect's finest high-rise design



Inga Saffron | Columni... May 9, 2021

### Residential Real Estate



## PHILLY'S HOUSING SHORTAGE WON'T REBOUND SOON, EXPERTS SAY

Active listings are at record lows, and homes are selling at record fast rates. The market may see some supply relief "at the earliest, maybe autumn," one Philly economist said.



Michelle Bond May 9, 2021

### Gardening

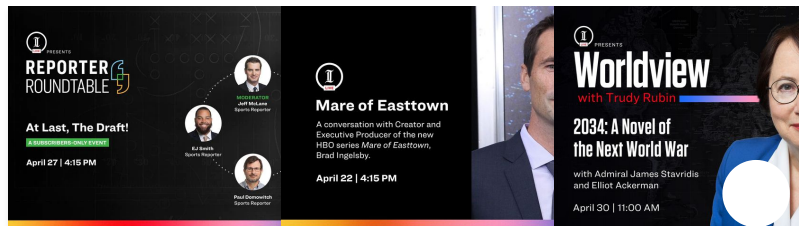


### Hate mowing your lawn? Get a robot to do it.

Like a robot vacuum, the Automower is designed to run often. Instead of mowing once a week, it's designed to mow much more often — even every day.

Jim Rossman, Dallas Morning... May 8, 2021

#### Inquirer LIVE

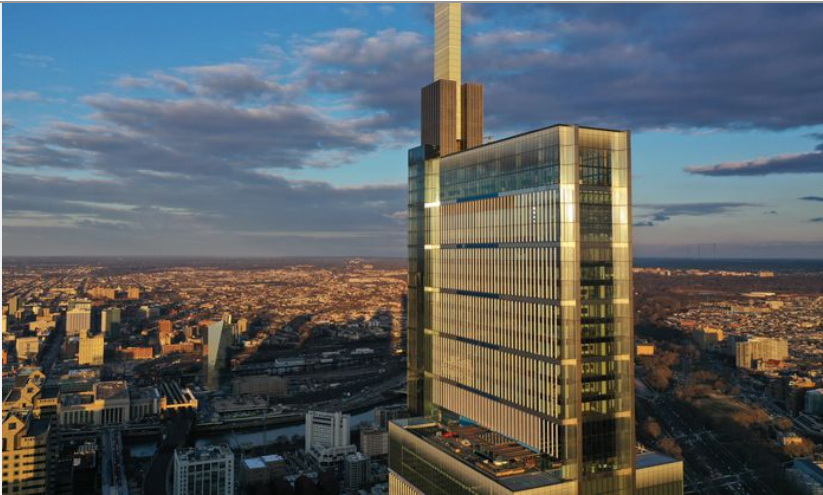


Inquirer Live replay: NFL Draft reporter roundtable

Inquirer LIVE replay: Mare of Easttown

Inquirer LIVE: Worldview with Trudy Rubin

#### Business



### Comcast buys its CEO’s sky-high condos for \$13.5M, with plans to turn them into Four Seasons suites

Comcast Corp. has bought three multimillion condominiums from its CEO Brian Roberts, who sold the sky-high units at a loss.

 Christian Hetrick May 7, 2021

#### Residential Real Estate



### The only eviction moratorium that covers Pa. remains in effect — for now

Unlike Philadelphia and New Jersey, Pennsylvania does not have its own ban on locking out most tenants, so renters have been relying on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s national ban.

 Michaelle Bond May 6, 2021

#### Tourism & Gaming





### Part of Center City hotel high-rise to open, hoping for a visitor rebound

The 460-room Element hotel, a Marriott brand, is set to open May 14, as relaxing coronavirus restrictions make some hotel owners optimistic.



Jacob Adelman May 6, 2021

#### Residential Real Estate



### On the market: A rowhouse in Brewerytown, built in 2017, for \$479,900

The rowhouse comes with six years left on its property tax abatement.

Paul Jablow, For The Inqu... May 5, 2021

#### Philly Tips



### 7 places to volunteer in a garden or farm in the Philly area this summer

Want to get your hands in the dirt? Here are farms and gardens where you can plant, harvest, weed, mulch, and more, to your heart's delight.

 Grace Dickinson May 5, 2021



Kristen Graham  
@newskag



"This current hybrid approach is unsustainable. It is too difficult to navigate," @SDPHite says, answering Council questions. A fully virtual option will be offered in the fall, but it will look "very different" than this year. #PHLed

We The People



# TYPEWRITERS

In this corner of Philly, greenery and machinery don't just coexist, they complement each other.

 Stephanie Farr May 5, 2021

## Broke In Philly



# GUIDE TO LGBTQ TENANTS RIGHTS IN PA.

What are your housing rights if you identify as LGBTQ? And what can you do if you feel you have been discriminated against? Here is what you need to know.

 Nick Vadala May 4, 2021

## Home & Design





## and the pandemic

The condo was a refuge while one of the owners was undergoing cancer treatment. It's been equally comforting in the pandemic.

Sally A. Downey, For The Inq... May 4, 2021

### Retail



## CENTER CITY LOCAL BUSINESSES FEEL RELIEF AT LAST

For a year, Center City has recorded alarmingly low rates of visitors and office workers. As vaccinations have become readily available and the weather has warmed up, people are coming back.



Katie Park May 3, 2021

### Home & Design





## Giving your rental a refresh without angering your landlord

While homeowners have been renovating like crazy during the pandemic, renters may have felt stuck, not wanting to risk violating their lease.

Laura Daily, Washington ... May 2, 2021

### News



## OFFICIALS ASK COURTS TO POSTPONE SHERIFF'S SALES OF FORECLOSED-ON PHILLY PROPERTIES

The sheriff proposed a 60-day moratorium to better gauge the impact of the federal funding.

Marina Affo Apr 29, 2021

### Residential Real Estate



### On the market: A three-bedroom corner rowhouse in Bridesburg for \$235,000

Because it's on an end, this rowhouse was a little larger than the adjacent properties.

Paul Jablow, For The Inqu... Apr 28, 2021

#### Home & Design



### An 1848 Colonial transformed for 21st-century living in Delaware County

"The footprint was not up to today's living at all," said owner Laura Yeakle. "We knew it needed major change, but we wanted to maintain the integrity of the house."

Terri Akman, For The Inqu... Apr 28, 2021

#### News



## A MOVE TO VIRTUAL SHERIFF SALES FEELS LIKE ONLINE GENTRIFICATION TO CITY COUNCIL

After making its foreclosure sale virtual, the Philadelphia Sheriff Office is under scrutiny from City Council. Critics fear the virtual sale could cause more gentrification and land speculation.

Marina Affo Apr 28, 2021

### Residential Real Estate



## HOMES IN BLACK COMMUNITIES ARE REGULARLY UNDERVALUED

In Philadelphia, homes in primarily Black neighborhoods are undervalued by an average of about \$26,000, or 27%, compared with similar homes in primarily white neighborhoods.




Philly Tips



**Circulars and fliers are a big litter problem. There's a free program to curb it.**

There is something you can do to get fewer fliers: Sign up for the "Circular Non-Delivery Decal" program.

 Nick Vadala Apr 28, 2021

Restaurants



**Old restaurant menus are the latest trend in Philly home decor**

As restaurants have shifted to contactless QR codes, some people are framing printed menus for memories.

Sarah Maiellano Apr 27, 2021





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