

“ IN A FREE STATE, THERE  
SHOULD ALWAYS BE AN  
INQUIRER ASKING ON  
BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE ”

JOHN NORVELL, INQUIRER CO-FOUNDER  
JUNE 1, 1829

The Inquirer

[Inquirer.com/joinus](https://inquirer.com/joinus)



Terry Egger  
Publisher and CEO  
[TerryAMA@inquirer.com](mailto:TerryAMA@inquirer.com)

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

### Dear friends,

The above quotation from our co-founder is as relevant today as it was when the first edition of the Inquirer rolled off the presses. Almost two centuries later, the core purpose of our organization – to serve the people of the Philadelphia region – has remained the same.

Over the past decade, however, much has changed at the Inquirer. Years of ownership change and financial turmoil have taken their toll, but thanks to the vision and generosity of the late H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest, we have emerged on stable footing.

Now a public benefit corporation, the Inquirer is locally owned by the non-profit Lenfest Institute for Journalism. A first-of-its-kind partnership, this means we have no shareholders, hedge funds or out-of-town corporate parents. Any profit we make goes back to sustaining our mission. All of us – our reporters, editors, salespeople, pressmen, drivers and digital technologists – answer to no one but you, the people.

**Gerry Lenfest asked, “Where better than Philadelphia to invent the future of a free press?”**

We have set out to define what that future looks like. We have unified the newsrooms of the Inquirer, the Daily News and Philly.com, and have hired a strong crop of new journalists to infuse the organization with needed skill sets and talent to propel us into the future. This makes the Inquirer more diverse and more relevant than ever, and allows us to tell the story of Philadelphia – and all Philadelphians – from new and multiple perspectives.

Along with increasing the diversity and depth of our coverage, in the coming months we will launch “Spotlight PA,” a much-needed joint investigative news project with 12 full-time journalists who will shed light on issues of statewide importance, and “The Upside,” a new section dedicated to positive, feel-good stories about our community.

**What was once literally just a “newspaper” is now a multi-platform news report – in print, digital, voice, video and more – delivered every day, at all hours.**

On the following pages, you will find a snapshot of the new kind of investigative and service journalism we have produced, most of it in just the past three months. These stories are also collected at [Philly.com/inquirer2019](https://Philly.com/inquirer2019), where you can experience multimedia and interactive graphics that enrich their presentation.

Even bigger changes are coming in the year ahead and we promise to keep you informed of them. In the meantime, please let me know how we are doing at [TerryAMA@inquirer.com](mailto:TerryAMA@inquirer.com).

Sincerely,



# YOUR STORYTELLER, TOUR GUIDE AND WATCHDOG

In 2018, our newly unified newsroom produced stories that invoked significant change, from city hall to public schools and beyond. We also brought you the events and personalities that celebrate what makes Philadelphia special. We do this work because we love our region. To read these stories in full and learn more about what’s coming to the Inquirer in 2019, **VISIT PHILLY.COM/INQUIRER2019.**

## The Road to Rhodes

### THE UNLIKELY ROAD TO RHODES SCHOLAR

In a two-part series, the Inquirer followed Hazim Hardeman, Temple’s first Rhodes Scholar, on his journey from North Philly to Oxford. Spot­lighting Hardeman’s path from a tough neighborhood with one of the city’s highest violent crime rates to earning one of the world’s most celebrated post-graduate awards, staff writer Susan Snyder’s profile dives into Hardeman’s journey and what has driven him to make sure his path is not so unusual in the future.

## From a North Philly Lot to the Hottest Beach in Town

### YES, THERE IS A NEW FAUX BEACH IN THE HEART OF NORTH PHILLY

Staff writer Cassie Owens took you inside the new “beach” in North Philly, where hundreds of party-goers turned out for the New Beach Club in Swampoodle — once a parking lot adjacent to an auto body shop, transformed by owner Chris Knight and a crew of like minds.

## The New Comcast Tower IN SYNC WITH PHILLY

The Inquirer’s Pulitzer Prize winning architecture critic Inga Saffron took readers inside the city’s tallest skyscraper, showing that it offers something far more meaningful and lasting than a mere height record. Where it really soars is on the ground — and by speaking directly and affectionately to its hometown.

## Shoobies, Locals and The Schmoozer #DOWNASHORE

Last summer reporters Amy S. Rosenberg and Tommy Rowan hitched a ride with the shoobies, setting out to capture what it’s like to spend a summer at the Jersey Shore. Shoobies, lifelong locals and boardwalk expats sent memories and moments using the hashtag #downaShore; the Inquirer catalogued their responses in a new series, “SHORE: Shoobies, Locals & Moments #downaShore.” In the first story of the series, Rosenberg profiled Chuck Leiber, dubbed “the Schmoozer” and “the Duke of Dorset,” the unofficial mayor of Dorset Avenue beach. Every Sunday through Labor Day, they covered everything from locals favorite shore spots and events to where to find the best happy hour.

## A Slow-Drip Housing Crisis

### FROM DREAM HOME TO NIGHTMARE

An Inquirer investigation by staff writers Caitlin McCabe and Erin Arvedlund based on interviews with more than 40 people, including nearly two dozen homeowners, attorneys, inspectors, builders and construction experts, as well as a review of thousands of pages of legal filings, uncovered that Pennsylvania is the epicenter of an industry-wide epidemic of poor housing construction.

**RESULTS:** The reporting found that rushed production, undertrained workers, lower-quality materials and lax oversight by builders and code inspectors have left at least 650 homeowners in at least 55 zip codes in houses so damaged by water that each requires tens of thousands – sometimes hundreds of thousands – of dollars in repairs.

## Toxic City, Toxic Schools

### DANGER: LEARN AT YOUR OWN RISK

The Toxic City investigative series exposed the ongoing struggle to protect Philadelphia’s children from environmental harm. Our reporters examined lead paint in old homes, contaminated soil in once-industrial neighborhoods; and unhealthy conditions in public schools.

**RESULTS:** After two years of reporting, the five-part Toxic City series led to four new protective laws; 770 landlords fined; \$15.7 million in emergency school repair funds; and \$900,000 in additional city money to protect kids from lead paint in their homes.

## Revealing Gun Violence’s Blast Effect

### THE HIDDEN TOLL OF GUN VIOLENCE

Inquirer staff writers David Gambacorta and Helen Ubiñas uncovered the hidden toll of gun violence in America, detailing how shooting victims face lifelong disabilities and financial burdens.

The duo’s reporting outlined that gun violence survivors face an average of \$46,632 in medical costs with little to no assistance. Many do not know where to turn, and even if they do, there are few viable assistance programs.

**RESULTS:** Our report was amplified by a long NPR *Morning Edition* story featuring our reporters, bringing national attention to these important, often-ignored topics. Also in response, numerous paralyzed gunshot victims connected with one another over their shared stories of struggle. Experts at a Philadelphia teaching hospital have also started an in-depth study of patient data for gun violence survivors.

## Combining Newsrooms to Uncover Abuse

### CATHOLIC BISHOPS FAILED TO POLICE THEMSELVES

An Inquirer and Boston Globe joint investigation into Catholic clergy sex abuse revealed that more than 130 bishops had faced accusations of covering up their own sexual abuse or abuse by priests in their dioceses.

**RESULTS:** The report sparked a national conversation among Catholic bishops about how to better hold themselves accountable. It also led to the chairman of the National Review Board, which advises bishops on sex-abuse policies, to criticize the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ suggested reforms as “incomplete.”

## Uncovering Abuse, Sparking Change

### A FAILURE TO PROTECT: SEXUAL MISCONDUCT

Starting with an investigation into sexual harassment allegations against prominent drum corp director George Hopkins, staff writer Tricia L. Nadolny spent a year reporting on abuses in drum and bugle corps, uncovering numerous cases of teachers who had been disciplined for misconduct with students and then went on to work in drum corps.

**RESULTS:** Nadolny’s work led to national reforms in the youth activity, including a requirement that corps have sexual harassment and misconduct policies and other safeguards. Hopkins resigned as director of the cadets and in November was charged with two counts of sexual assault.

## Data Reveals Disparity

### POT’S BURDEN

Even though marijuana possession has been all but decriminalized in Philadelphia and large swathes of Pennsylvania, misdemeanor arrests are way up statewide and in South Jersey, with African Americans increasingly making up a disproportionate share. Police also are providing misleading arrest data to the FBI.

**RESULTS:** The NAACP pushed for reform in Plymouth Township, where arrests went up 50%, with blacks bearing the brunt.

## BROKE IN PHILLY

Throughout 2018, the Philadelphia Inquirer has been one of 21 news organizations producing Broke in Philly, a collaborative reporting project on solutions to poverty and the city’s push toward economic justice.

To read our stories in this series, visit **philly.com/brokeinphilly**, or learn more about the project and other participating news organizations at **brokeinphilly.org**.

## CURIOUS PHILLY

We launched Curious Philly in 2018 to enable readers to ask questions of our reporters and suggest stories. So far, we’ve revealed what happened to the Hunting Park carousel, why Philly’s suburban station is in the heart of the city, why our city’s average income is still down while the national economy’s improving — and we’re just getting started. To see all of the questions we’ve answered so far and to submit your own story suggestion, visit **philly.com/curiousphilly**.

## SPOTLIGHT PA

We’ve partnered with the Lenfest Institute to create an unprecedented investigative news cooperative combining the strengths of The Inquirer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette and The Caucus (part of the LNP Media Group). The 12-person watchdog team will launch this spring with a mission of informing, engaging and empowering Pennsylvania citizens and serving the public good.

## Craig LaBan’s Ultimate Dining Guide

No one chronicles the rise of our culinary stars, the decline of others, and the constantly-evolving neighborhood dining scene like restaurant critic Craig LaBan. This year, he assembled a new top 25, his favorite classics, and a new guard you need to know about in his 2018 Ultimate Dining Guide. Get reintroduced to LaBan’s trusted favorites, plus check out his bold new discoveries and more than 200 recommendations in Philadelphia and the suburbs, at **philly.com/2018diningguide**.

## #OurPhilly

We love when our readers show us the park that their family walks through every weekend, the block party in their neighborhood, or the historic stretch they see every morning on their commute to work. Tag your photos with **#OurPhilly** for the chance to be featured in the Inquirer Morning Newsletter, on the @phillydotcom Instagram channel, and on Philly.com.

## WE THE PEOPLE

Inquirer culture reporter Stephanie Farr’s weekly column, We the People, profiles the ordinary people who make Philadelphia extraordinary. In 2018, she told the stories of a 94-year-old great-grandmother who’s worked in the bakery of the Giant supermarket in Montgomery County since 1996, a pet groomer who unleashes dogs’ inner rock stars with mohawks, and “Pete the Groin Crusher” who has crushed 10,000 patients’ groins “without even a sweat.”

To read the stories in this series, visit **philly.com/wethepeople**. If you know someone whose story deserves to be told, send suggestions to Stephanie at **farrs@inquirer.com**.





# Securing the future of a free press in Philadelphia and nationwide



Local news is the promoter of shared knowledge, the champion of homegrown triumphs, the guardian of everyone’s rights, the watchdog on power. Local news is the lifeblood of free and fair communities.

That’s why **The Lenfest Institute for Journalism** is committed to preserving journalism in Philadelphia and across the nation. The Lenfest Institute was created by the late H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest to build viable, replicable business models for sustainable local news enterprises, starting here in the birthplace of American democracy.

And the cornerstone of our enthusiastic investment in local news is The Philadelphia Inquirer, which is owned by the non-profit Institute, and is dedicated to public-service journalism.

The Lenfest Institute is collaborating with journalists, entrepreneurs, civic leaders and philanthropists to secure the future of a free press. Journalism requires new business models, powerful innovations and diverse audiences. We’re working throughout local news, in Philadelphia and beyond, to crack the code on a sustainable future for this vital civic resource.



**Our sole mission is to save local journalism, and to meet that goal we’re focused on three core priorities:**

**High-Impact Journalism** - Quality, in-depth reporting remains the fundamental value proposition between local news organizations and their communities. Over the past two years, Lenfest Institute investments helped double the size of the Inquirer’s investigative news team and enabled the Inquirer to pursue indispensable, public-benefit journalism.

**News Technology & Innovation** - To survive and to thrive, local news enterprises must be nimble, tech-enabled and committed to constant innovation. Investing in the technical muscle of news organizations and introducing new tools to improve customer experience, audience engagement and operational efficiency, are all key to business sustainability. The Institute is providing both capital and technology expertise to help the Inquirer serve readers with a best-of-breed digital news experience.

**Diverse, Growing Audiences** - Diverse and inclusive newsrooms attract diverse and growing audiences. Our investments in newsroom diversity, community listening projects and multi-cultural news media address one of journalism’s biggest challenges. The Inquirer and The Lenfest Institute share a long-term commitment to creating a newsroom that is as diverse and vibrant as the city it serves.

The Lenfest Institute is working hand-in-hand with The Philadelphia Inquirer as we embark on our transformation. We are proud of what we have accomplished and optimistic about our bright future together. And, like any transformation, we couldn’t do it alone. Thank you to these leadership donors who also believe that a strong local press is fundamental to our democracy.



Timothy Abell and Firstrust Bank  
Sandra K. Baldino  
Mr. and Mrs. Peter D. Barbey  
Michael and Randi Berry  
John Binswanger  
David and Barbara Winslow Boardman  
Jill and Sheldon Bonovitz  
Sharon Brand  
Anita Brody  
William and Laura Buck  
David L. and Rhonda R. Cohen  
Mike and Sandy Dean  
Michael X. Delli Carpini  
Democracy Fund  
Tobey and Mark Dichter  
Renuka and Terry Egger  
Erie Community Foundation  
Facebook, Inc.  
Craig Forman  
Richard Fox and Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC  
Jim Friedlich and Melissa Stern  
Google  
William A. Graham, IV and The Graham Company  
Charles D. Graham and Alison B. Graham  
Carole Haas Gravagno  
David Haas  
Otto Haas Charitable Trust  
Mary Halloran  
Stephen J. Harmelin and Dilworth Paxson LLP  
The Heinz Endowments  
The Honickman Foundation  
Feather Houstoun  
Suzie and Crawford Hill  
Independence Blue Cross  
Lisa D. Kabnick and John H. McFadden  
Caroline Kennedy  
Henry L. Kimelman Family Foundation  
Knight Foundation  
The Kopelman Foundation  
Robert and Hale Krasne  
Geraldine Laybourne  
Sara Lomax-Reese  
William and Annie McCain Madonia  
The McClatchy Company

Leslie Miller and Richard Worley Foundation  
The Miranda Family Fund  
National Geographic Society  
Lancaster County Community Foundation  
Ethelyn Leaphart Foundation of The Philadelphia Foundation  
H.F. “Gerry” Lenfest and Marguerite Lenfest  
Judy and Peter Leone  
Leon Levy Foundation  
LiquidHub  
David and Sandy Marshall  
Bill and Diane Marimow  
Donald McCormick Fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities  
Craig Newmark Philanthropic Fund  
News Integrity Initiative  
Martin and Anne Nisenholtz  
The O’Toole Family Foundation  
Neil Oxman  
The Nicholas B. Ottaway Foundation  
Michael Pearson and Union Packaging  
Permit Capital Advisors, LLC  
The Philadelphia Foundation  
Poor Richard’s Charitable Trust  
Pedro A. Ramos and Rafaela Torres  
Vijay and Vibha Ravindran  
Richard Ravitch Foundation  
Rosalind Remer  
Charles H. Revson Foundation, Inc.  
Roy Rosin  
John Salvesson  
Judith von Seldeneck  
Solutions Journalism Network  
The Steinman Foundation  
The Joy H. Tartar Charitable Fund  
The Lois Tack Thompson Fund of The Pittsburgh Foundation  
Brian P. Tierney and Brian Communications  
Waterman II Fund of The Philadelphia Foundation  
A. Morris Williams, Jr.  
Constance and Sankey Williams  
Wyncote Foundation  
York County Community Foundation  
Michael F. and Sue E. Young Fund  
Zisman Family Foundation

To learn more about The Lenfest Institute or to join in our mission, please visit:  
[lenfestinstitute.org](http://lenfestinstitute.org)

