

**Publisher**  
**Patrick McNally**  
Executive Editor

**John Steinruck**  
Advertising Manager

**Elizabeth Dougherty**  
Special Issues Director

**Cynthia Camacho**  
Production Manager

Phone: 215-969-5100  
General Fax: 215-969-5400  
Classifieds: 215-969-6200  
News Fax: 215-969-7850  
Email the editor  
pmcnally@news-gleaner.com  
Email advertising  
design@news-gleaner.com

Address is not included. We will, however, withhold your name at your request.

If you would like to submit a guest column, please write to the editor. All serious submissions will be considered.

### Got something on your mind?

### Sound off in the News Gleaner

Letters should be limited to 200 words. Longer letters will be considered as special guest columns. We reserve the right to edit all pieces. All submissions become property of the News Gleaner. Please include your name, address, and phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Addresses and phone numbers will not appear in your letter.

## Truancy programs work!

While school districts such as Philadelphia's work daily to address the academic needs of today's youth, they also understand that a large part of making sure that all students reach their potential is ensuring that they attend classes. But with truancy rates steadily rising across the state, more must be done to get and keep kids in class.

To combat this growing problem, we at Delaware Valley High School-Bustleton (DVHS) recently established a Truancy Prevention Program designed to increase our attendance rates by rewarding students and their parents/guardians for consistent school attendance. Though the cost is considerable, if programs like this mean the difference between graduation and dropout for just one student per year, I feel they are a reasonable and worthy investment.

But this effort only touches a small number of students. For large scale change, school districts across Pennsylvania must urge the State Legislature to follow the lead of other states across the country by adopting Truancy Prevention Programs, based on both positive and negative incentives for parents and their truant children.

In Pennsylvania, there are currently two state statutes enforcing student attendance, neither of which provides for much enforcement authority against parents or guardians nor offers much support for individual school districts. The time has come to examine our laws, regulations and statutes. The problem is real and the solutions must be comprehensive.

David T. Shuick, Esq.

## Recycling program

The City of Philadelphia Streets the expansion of its innovative single curbing collection method.

Beginning March 5, 2007, approximately located in West and Southwest Philadelphia Northeast Philadelphia residences in recyclables, including flattened cardboard containers, generally beverage and into one container for curbside pickup.

"The City has seen an increase of recycling tonnage since the summer 2006 recycling collection method in North City of Philadelphia Streets' Comm Tolson. Expanding this process, which easier for residents, will continue of material we divert from our waste stream.

West and Southwest Philadelphia to use their blue recycling bins for curbside one bin not be enough to hold all recycling add another container and mark it "recycling."

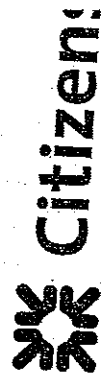
For more information regarding recycling the City of Philadelphia Streets Department at 215-685-7329 or visit recyclingPA.com

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