

Good Vibes All Around

There are a million reasons to be excited about Philly. All you have to do is pay attention.
BY BRADFORD PEARSON

Mayor Kenney's biggest legacy—the soda-tax-funded **Rebuild**—is finally bearing fruit.

There's lots (lots) of work to be done, but the city's **poverty rate has fallen** from 28.4 percent in 2011 to 21.7 percent in 2022.



A **\$660 million fund balance** in the city coffers.

With Calder Gardens underway and the planned move of the African American Museum—plus upcoming design changes—the **Parkway** may come closer to its grand potential.



MASSIVE

The **250th anniversary** of the United States in 2026. Maybe we'll still be a country by then!

The (possible) infusion of **\$242 million in state funding** to Philly schools.

As the city grows, we should create an audacious goal: **two million Philadelphians**.

The **Roosevelt Boulevard subway** would make Philadelphia a greener, more equitable city. There's more momentum than ever. It must be built.

Philly school **test scores**—they're getting better!



Take a breath: **Air quality** in the city is better than it's been in decades.



The state approved Philly **speed cameras** for perpetual use. Safer roads, fewer deaths.

Converting 130,000 streetlights to LED **cut the city's carbon emissions** by a whopping nine percent with just one project.



Philly Shipyard is building *Acadia*, the ship that will be used to construct **offshore wind farms**. Could Philly become a hub of the industry?



Six **2026 World Cup** matches, including one on July 4th, the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. If the U.S. Men's National Team makes it that far ... may God help us all.



Come hell, high water or some other plague, we'll **legalize marijuana** someday. Probably.



The proposed **return of rail service** between Reading and Philly, with stops in Pottstown, Phoenixville, King of Prussia and Norristown.

The **Port of Philly** is booming. New super-max cranes mean the biggest ships ever to call here are now arriving.



With *The Holdovers*—and her armful of awards for her role—**Da'Vine Joy Randolph** is finally getting the shine she deserves.



Tyrese Maxey, in general.

More and more ugly surface parking lots are being **turned into buildings**.



South Philly playwright **James Ijames** continues to churn out generation-defining works.

The library has **expanded weekend hours** at branches across the city. More reading = a better Philly.

Once construction of two sections of the **Schuylkill River Trail** is completed in 2025, pedestrians will have unbroken, car-free trail access from East Falls all the way to Bartram's Garden in Southwest Philly.

The **Parking Authority** is actually a well-run organization now, making the city cleaner and safer.

30th Street Station renovations—making an iconic building even better.



As great as *Abbott Elementary* is, we can't wait to see **what Quinta Brunson does next**.

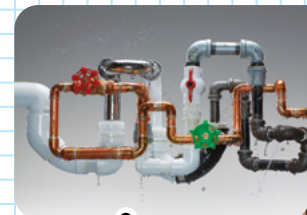


Beavers have returned to the Delaware—a major sign of the river's renewed health.

A quarter of Philly municipal buildings are now **powered by a solar farm** in Adams County, helping the city toward its 2050 emissions goals.

The continued growth and expansion of **St. Joseph's into a top-tier university**—new nursing and pharmacy programs, the purchase of the University of the Sciences, growth along City Avenue—from a small commuter school just 30 years ago.

A \$317 million check from the feds means **200 new cars for the EI**.



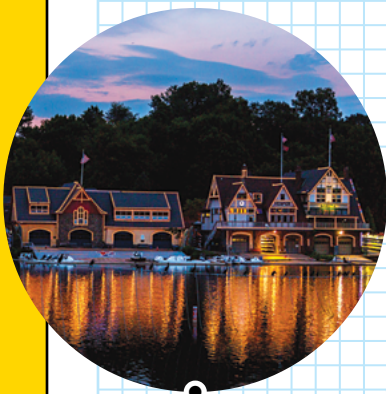
An infusion of federal funds will lead to long-needed updates to the city's **water-management infrastructure**.



The second phase of the **Rail Park**, which would vastly expand the now-tiny green space.

Finally (maybe!) getting some **mixed-use development** in the Stadium District.

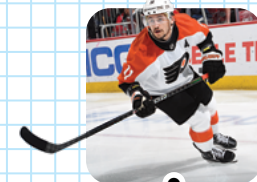
WNBA expansion could (finally) mean a team for Philly, the largest U.S. city never to have a franchise.



The **lights on Boathouse Row** are back, and they're spectacular.

The **eastern end of South Street** ... not so dumpy anymore!

The **Vile family**: Philly's noodly, crowd-surfing id.



The **Flyers** are ... kind of good again?



The long-shuttered **Franklin Square PATCO station** will reopen later this year.

The **MLB All-Star Game** comes to Citizens Bank Park in 2026.

Finally (maybe!) getting some **mixed-use development** in the Stadium District.

PRESENT-DAY

SOMEDAY

MODEST