

The Carversvillian



carversville.org

THE 2024 CARVERSVILLE ROAD RALLY

Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Happy Fall! We have much to celebrate and share as a community. **Hoping it's Red October – Go Phillies!** Cooler days for walking and biking locally with beautiful foliage and the last flourishes of wild flowers along our roadways.

Recently, HCS brought back the tradition of our Road Rally and a good time was had by all! Some long time residents returned for the new course and our winners were first timers. Over the summer months, we hosted Sips on the Square for our members and we didn't get rained out this year. The Inn construction is progressing and there is renovation activity in the general store. I look forward to our village center being a social hive once again. In the meantime, in this issue the board is sharing their new favorite things to do/ places to go in the area. I hope you will join us for our Annual Membership meeting, Monday, November 11.

Be well, Lori



On September 8, 2024, car enthusiasts and adventure seekers from Carversville and the surrounding area gathered for the highly anticipated return of the Carversville Road Rally. This has been a long-time tradition in the village but hadn't been done for 19 years. With beautiful landscapes, interesting routes, and a sense of camaraderie, this year's rally proved to be one for the books.

The rally kicked off at the Carversville Church. Participants were gathered in the parking lot to reminisce about past rallies and to welcome first timers to the event. With over 20 teams registered, a diverse array of cars—from vintage classics to modern sports models—lined up, ready to tackle the winding roads that lay ahead.



Before the rally commenced, drivers attended a briefing where organizers laid out the route and safety guidelines. This year's course included a mix of scenic backroads through bucolic

Bucks and Hunterdon counties that included a few stops along the way. The first leg led them through a guided tour of upper Bucks County, where drivers navigated the course while answering challenging clues along the way. There were several covered bridges and landmarks that needed to be found on the route. There was a stop at Van Sant airport, where drivers had to find several clues and received bonus points for taking a video of a plane taking off. Midway through the rally, teams were required to take a mandatory break at Descendant's Brewery in Milford, NJ. It was here that they had a chance to chat with fellow drivers and enjoy a quick snack before heading back out on the course. They also had to answer several clues from within the restaurant.



After the rally, teams arrived at the finish line in Stockton, NJ where a festive celebration awaited them at the beautifully renovated Stockton Inn! Friends and supporters gathered to welcome the rally drivers, and to enjoy the excellent food and beverage selection. Awards were given out to our first-place finishers, Brittanie Leibold and Dan Dittmer. The second-place team of Jim Davock and Tanner Graham was honored as well.

What set this year's rally apart was not just the driving but the spirit of community that brought together all ages of participants (many were first timers for the event). Although, two cars broke down before the race even started, the drivers were able to regroup and find other cars to complete the rally. While a great day was had by all, the HCS also raised money for our scholarship fund. This fund provides scholarships to graduating New Hope - Solebury high school seniors for outstanding contributions in the form of community service. The HCS would also like to thank our corporate sponsors, PURE Insurance, GMG Insurance and Rockwood Wealth whose generous contributions enabled us to have a wonderful experience while raising money for charity.

As the sun set on another successful road rally, participants reflected on the experiences shared and the strong sense of community.



The Paunacussing Watershed Association

by Kurt Leasure

The Paunacussing Creek and watershed is vitally important to the health and character of Carversville, Solebury Township and the surrounding area. Founded around the mills that were powered by the creek, Carversville would not be here without the Paunacussing. The Lenni-Lenape were the first residents of the region, giving the Paunacussing its name, which loosely translates as "where powder was given to us."

The number of people taking walks and rides along Fleecydale Road and Old Carversville Road is a testament to the importance of the Paunacussing in our lives.

The Paunacussing Watershed Association (PWA) was founded in 1972 by Bill Tinsman, Sr. and Ned Harrington, among others in response to a large residential development proposed within the watershed. Since then, the PWA has been active in advocating for the protection of natural resources within the watershed. After years of inactivity, in 2023, largely in response to recent extreme flooding events, the PWA has reconvened to strategize and develop ways to mitigate the causes and effects of flooding along the Paunacussing and continue the mission of conservation in the watershed. Now that we have settled on how to spell Paunacussing, we're off and running.

The Paunacussing has been classified by the PA Department of Environmental Protection as a high-quality, cold water fishery, one of only a few in Bucks County. The Paunacussing Watershed Association is committed to promoting the conservation of the natural resources of the Paunacussing Watershed and

maintaining this classification. Conservation is critical to protecting our water resources, soils and the flora & fauna that thrive within the watershed. Hand-in-hand with our conservation goals, we are working to learn more about the causes and effects of intensifying flooding in the watershed and develop long-term mitigation strategies to address flooding and promote the protection of the watershed.

We are here to help educate individuals and organizations within the Watershed and beyond about the benefits of a healthy watershed and what one can do to help achieve these goals. Some projects we are planning for the near future are community creek walks to gather data on the health of the watershed, rainfall and stream level monitoring, and long-term, an effort to model the watershed, which will help to understand the hydrology of the watershed and guide targeted flood mitigation efforts. We are also encouraging property owners to employ best-practices in maintaining their properties. An excellent example of this is Sue Wiedorn's stream bank stabilization project on the north bank of the creek just above the three-arch stone bridge. Sue is in phase two of the project, single-handedly planting 1,000 native shrubs. Check it out on your next walk.

Whether you walk, run, bike, drive or live along the creek, if you are interested in learning more and pitching in, please visit our new website at <https://paunacussingwatershed.org>. We are looking for new members to help us achieve these goals and protect the gem that is the Paunacussing Watershed. If you would like to attend our monthly meetings and want to help us gain meaningful momentum, or if you have suggestions, ideas or just some photos of our beautiful watershed, send us an email at info@paunacussingwatershed.org.



My Old House by Sue Wiedorn

How do you say no to a house with a waterfall and a bucolic view overlooking the Carversville Inn and Village? You don't and so we didn't. It was love at first sight and we decided to make 4224 Wismer Road, formerly *Byron Quinby's House* and originally named *Hilltop House*, ours. My husband Jonathan and I were looking for a home in which we could retire. We've raised our kids and lived in Yardley for 30 years and wanted to stay in Bucks County. Carversville allowed that and gave us a fascinating history too.

As he worked around town, Mark Hall, Carversville's carpenter and builder, came to regard a rocky outcrop overlooking the town along the then Pipersville Road, as a fine place to build a home. He purchased the land in 1872 and completed a new home in his signature style by 1875. Between the house and the setting, he decided to keep this home for himself and named it "Hilltop House".

In 1925, Warren DeLong saw Hilltop and all the same qualities Hall had seen and expanded it to the home you see today. DeLong added stucco to the vertical hemlock wood plank exterior, a garage, an addition, beautifully landscaped gardens and massive stone retaining walls. DeLong took Hall's simpler design and gave it a Gothic Revival makeover. DeLong also purchased the small tract of land with the cliff adjacent to the Paunacussing Bridge on Fleecydale Road, which we now call the "Lower Yard". He was a major stockholder in Philadelphia Electric, which resulted in this being one of the first houses to be fully electrified in 1931. The stone wagon house, which still exists in the backyard, held a 300 gallon air tank and gas compressor which blew air into the 1000 gallon cistern (still existing in the basement) producing pressurized running water. Prior to that, a windmill (novel in its time) stood in the back and is said to have performed this function. The concrete pillars that supported the windmill are still there, as are the original 1872 outhouse and covered stone well. It has also been said that there was a "phone room" off of the kitchen which fielded calls to/from the Carversville Inn.

When we toured the property, we noticed major cracks in the foundation. The entire property was "leaning" with a slant towards the Village center

below. A basic home inspection wasn't enough to convince us that this 150-year old structure was sound. We engaged two independent structural engineers to assess the shifting land and house and were reassured that it had finished settling and likely wasn't shifting any more. Ecstatic with this news, we purchased Hilltop House this past March of 2023. While the property features are stunning, with two bridges, two creeks, beautiful stone walls and steeply sloped woods, the house itself is a bit of a challenge. What old house isn't? We discovered asbestos in the attic and the basement and hired a remediator to remove it all. It was obvious to us that many of the old trees on the property were dead or diseased, so we had any dangerous trees removed or pruned. Feeling extremely connected to the history and land, we have engaged an experienced naturalist (and previous property Manager of the Bucks County Audubon Society) to help guide us in removing the invasive plants on the property (like Poison Ivy and English Ivy) and reintroduce native plantings. This not only enhances the property's natural beauty, but also preserves it. Adding the right balance of plants will stabilize the soil on the steep slopes of our ravine as well as the creek banks. As many of you know, storm water has devastated Carversville in the past. Several of the (inefficient) culverts diverting water off of Wismer Road happen to be on our property. One of our biggest concerns is the erosion of our banks along the Paunacussing Creek. The entire creek bed has shifted from wide, slow-moving waters, to a slim 4-5 foot width of narrowly rushing water right by our lower bridge. We were recently informed by a stream water management company that this narrowing may eventually accelerate deterioration of the historic Paunacussing Bridge. It is obvious to any passers-by that the exposed roots of our sloped creek bank is a sign of severe erosion damage. In an effort to preserve the bridge, as well as our property banks, we hope to look into this issue in the future.

While doing yard work in the lower yard, we have met a handful of our lovely neighbors as they walk by. We feel our lower yard is an integral part of the Carversville community and we added the stone tables, Adirondack chairs and a rotation of seasonal flowers hoping this charming community would enjoy the beauty as much as we do. We love the woods above the cliff too. If you look up, you may just see a deer or two there!



Scholarships Awarded

Part of the HCS mission is supported by our efforts to bring together the community and to give back to our community. It is in the spirit of volunteerism and giving back that we select recipients of our annual scholarship from seniors at New Hope- Solebury High School. For 2024, we awarded a total of \$2,100 to **Caroline German, Adam Stiefel, and Reed Finch III**. These students demonstrated qualities of support and service to either an organization or variety of volunteer activities, in and out of school. They all found unique and inspired ways to meaningfully give back to the community. We wish them well in their futures.

The Carversvillian

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carversville.org

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FOR RESIDENT OF CARVERSVILLE
CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913

New Favorite Things

▼ Rhonda Heffren

Hello! My fav new place to dine is Finnbar, 7 Bridge Street, Frenchtown, NJ. Daily seasonal menu changes, attentive service, classy but casual venue. Easy and beautiful drive up the river. Every dish I've tried there hit it out of the park! Small menu, but focused on fresh, local ingredients. I just love it.

▼ Kathy Stein

My new favorite "boutique" place to eat in 'the area' is "Rosemont Supper Club" in Stockton NJ. <https://www.rosemontsupperclub.com/rsc>. If you haven't gone it is worth the trip...inspired and creative dinners on Saturday evenings.

▼ Sarah Weikert

Here is my new favorite thing: Manoff Cider Club <https://www.manoffmarketgardens.com/cider-club>. This a great way to experience Manoff's delicious hard ciders through their quarterly or biannual memberships. Members also get discounts and free admission to really fun community events at the farm.

▼ Vicki Ghiz

If you haven't had a chance to visit the Black Shed in Stockton, New Jersey, now would be a great time. This favorite spot of mine is a high end nursery with an awesome outdoor space in which customers are encouraged to relax and take in the beauty of the farm like setting. Even housing

an eclectic bar in the back, serving up cocktails or even a bottle of wine to enjoy! Often hosting live music, food trucks and even some art festival events on the weekends. it is a great spot to stop, shop and smell the roses!

▼ James Davock

Right up the road from the village on Saw Mill Road is a microbakery called Pedestrian Farm. They offer pre order pick ups of incredible sourdoughs and sometime other baked delights. Their Browned Butter Sourdough Chocolate Chip Cookie was my treat of the Summer. Does not get more local than this. Enjoy! <https://pedestrianfarm.com>

▼ Laura Viehweger

My favorite new place right now is the Stockton Market. They have an excellent menu with many sandwiches and bowls. In addition, the fish, produce and cheese selection is outstanding. My favorite items are the Equator coffee, tuna poke bowls, sourdough bread and carrot cake. You can also pick up many lovely gift items from the retail part of the market.

▼ Elizabeth Gabrielson

Hi! My favorite new discovery for a pleasant walk is the Goat Hill Overlook trail in Lambertville. It features an easy gravel path on a slight incline and concludes 1/2 mile later at a delightful vista overlooking the Delaware river and New Hope. There is a grassy clearing at the top that is perfect for picnics, painting and napping. It is easy to navigate with kids and dogs, too!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20

PUMPKIN CARVING

SAVE THE DATE

**HCS ANNUAL
MEMBERS MEETING**

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11

Not a member yet. Join today.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 22

CAROLING IN THE SQUARE