

Chestnut Hill Local



SERVING NORTHWEST PHILADELPHIA & SOUTHEAST MONTGOMERY COUNTY

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The Chestnut Hill Local Candidate Forum NW Philly's questions answered

Four battling for open seat in U.S. Congress

by Tommy Tucker and Maggie Dougherty

Two weeks before the May 19 primary election, the Local invited the candidates running for Pennsylvania's 3rd Congressional District to answer questions submitted by Northwest Philadelphia organizations, for a seat opening with the impending retirement of U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans.

The participating organizations are the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, Friends of the Wissahickon, Face to Face Germantown, the Mt. Airy Business Improvement District, and West Mt. Airy Neighbors.

Each group submitted one question for a total of five. The Local gave each candidate one minute to think about each answer and two minutes to respond on camera. Candidates were given an additional two minutes at the end of the questions to discuss



Candidates are state Sen. Sharif Street (top left), Dr. Ala Stanford (top right), state Rep. Chris Rabb (bottom left) and Shaun Griffith (bottom right).

their platforms.

The candidates had only one chance to respond to the questions, with no re-shoots, and did not receive the questions prior to the shoot.

Democratic candidates Shaun Griffith, state Rep. Chris Rabb, Dr. Ala Stanford and state Sen. Sharif Street all participated. There are no Republicans running.

In the transcribed versions of

the interviews, the Local lightly edited for clarity and removed filler or repeated words.

To watch the full interviews, visit our social media pages or website, chestnuthilllocal.com.

Shaun Griffith

Question 1 – Mt. Airy Business Improvement District: What specific federal policies or programs would you support to help small businesses grow, hire locally, and remain viable in commercial corridors like ours?

Some of the things that I would do to assist small businesses is to increase funding available from the Small Business Administration, the SBA. I would try to streamline the application processes and make sure that there are low interest rates that are fixed. That would make it easier for small businesses to start and also to acquire funding whenever they're ready to expand or if they have any new project.

Similarly, I would want to make it easier to file and remain compliant for Subchapter S corporations as well as for partnerships. This would make it much easier for all small businesses to operate and to stay compliant with federal regulations. I would also increase credits for those small businesses if they want to provide, say, retirement plans or other kinds of benefits to their own staff.

(Continued on page 4)

State Rep. Chris Rabb

Question 1 – Mt. Airy Business Improvement District: What specific federal policies or programs would you support to help small businesses grow, hire locally, and remain viable in commercial corridors like ours?

This is near and dear to me because I wrote a book called 'Invisible Capital: How Unseen Forces Shape Entrepreneurial Opportunity.' I'm very interested in social impact and local entrepreneurship. So I actually use the term local businesses, not small businesses, because not all small businesses are community centered, and I think that should be our focus. I used to work at the White House Conference on Small Business after I left as a legislative aide in the U.S. Senate many years ago, and I learned that there's not enough resources to allow entrepreneurs to build business, get access to capital and have the training they need to have viable businesses.

I would have a revolving loan fund for those businesses that are focused with the business model around community wealth building. So those are all the businesses that actually help

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Dr. Ala Stanford

Question 1 – Mt. Airy Business Improvement District: What specific federal policies or programs would you support to help small businesses grow, hire locally, and remain viable in commercial corridors like ours?

I am a small business owner, and I have been going on 10 years, for a medical practice. I understand how challenging it is and to have the expertise to keep your business viable. At a federal level, programs will be those with low interest rates, for example, to get a loan to start your small business. There will be incentives to hire locally.

I've seen firsthand that when you have a business in a community, how it brings up others, like restaurants and other businesses with different goods, that when people come to the health center, they know they can also get other things in the community.

All of this leads to economic viability. It leads to the generation of generational wealth for communities in a city like Philadelphia, where we are one of the poorest, the second poorest in the nation, and how we get to that is by having sustainable

(Continued on page 2)

State Sen. Sharif Street

Question 1 – Mt. Airy Business Improvement District: What specific federal policies or programs would you support to help small businesses grow, hire locally, and remain viable in commercial corridors like ours?

There are a number of programs that I would support to help small businesses in our commercial corridors. This is something that I've worked on as a member of the state Senate, and making sure that we have resources for our communities is incredibly important.

Small businesses account for 85% of new job creation. One of the challenges is access to capital. So I think we need to focus on making sure that there's adequate federal enforcement of the Community Reinvestment Act that can make sure that small businesses can get resources that are needed.

As a state senator, I was proud to help create a program where we work through the community development financial institutions to deliver \$125 million that went to small businesses throughout our communities. Additionally, I think we need to look at the 8(a) program. The 8(a) program is a

(Continued on page 4)



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Dr. Ala Stanford

(Continued from page 1)

businesses that we can invest in and that the community themselves can be proud of.

Question 2 – The Chestnut Hill Conservancy: How would you support federal funding and policy that help communities preserve historic buildings, protect open space and watershed resources, and expand access to local history?

For a project like this, you’ve got to work inter-agency, meaning city and federal funding and possibly even state. I’m going to give an example of Marian Anderson, who was a great soprano, national figure, but from Philadelphia.

[Her] house collapsed in South Philly, and I watched them work tirelessly to have funds to restore and keep that history in Philadelphia, and they shouldn’t have had to work that hard with fundraisers.

We need to clearly delineate the process [in which] federal funds are available, communicating with our city and local agencies in my constituent offices, so that if you have land or you have a building, and you can demonstrate why it’s important that we preserve it for Philadelphia, and we don’t have to watch us lose this history that’s so vital to not just Philly, but to our nation.

My constituent services will be apt and ready, because I know how valuable it was to keep Marian Anderson’s legacy alive in our city of Philadelphia.

Question 3 – Face to Face

Germantown: What laws do you think Congress can pass in the current political environment to increase housing supply for low-income renters?

In the current climate, I think everything is difficult, but in January 2027 when I hope you elect me to be sworn in, we will be able to flip the House. With that, and also with bipartisan support, I would be voting for better and more availability of Section 8 housing, for people to keep a home that maybe was left to them, and also to be first-time homeowners.

Why it’s so important to me is that it wasn’t uncommon growing up to come home and see an orange sticker on the door. My brother and I knew what that meant, that we were about to get evicted. We had to go to the ACME right on Germantown Avenue and get the boxes to pack up quick to get to the next location before the landlord found out that my mom couldn’t pay the rent.

So it’s how do we disseminate these federal programs and the information so people know what is available to them, working with our city government for our renters, but also having low interest loans for people to be first-time homeowners. I’ve been over to [the Philadelphia Housing Authority] with [President and CEO] Kelvin Jeremiah, and I see homes that can be purchased that are income driven, where people can get into a home and have that stability.

In this country, wealth is measured by home ownership. Home ownership is linked to education, and education is linked to health outcomes. It’s all a continuum, and so for someone who knows how important it is to have a stable

place to lay your head, particularly as a child and even as a parent as you’re trying to comfort and keep your children safe, I will push federally and legislative-wise for these programs so that people can have low rent and own their homes.

Question 4 – Friends of the Wissahickon: As flooding, extreme heat, and biodiversity loss intensify across Pennsylvania, what role should urban forests and watershed parks play in the federal climate strategy, and what concrete steps would you take to increase federal investment in places like the Wissahickon Valley?

As a kid who grew up in Philly and loved Fairmount Park and playing hide and seek, I understand how important it is to preserve these areas, but what I believe we would need to do first is have the funding for a needs assessment to see what needs to be pruned, what needs to be cut down, what needs to be rebuilt, what is not on a solid foundation.

We will need the city and we will need the environmentalists and the arborists to come through and help us so that we have as much information as we need to support the preservation of these spaces. It’s not just for the climate in the environment, but it’s also, I will say, for mindfulness and peace and beauty that it brings. But there needs to be funding, and there needs to be a congresswoman that understands the importance of the preservation in these spaces.

I’ll do that by working with the community and with the city and seeing where we are now, because there has not been support in this space, but I will be committed to preserving that land.

Question 5 – West Mt. Airy Neighbors: Can you recall a

moment from your career where you wish you did things differently? What did you learn from that experience?

I would say the moment from my career that I wish I did things differently is right now. Why I say that is that I was so committed to “How do I impact as many people’s lives as I can?” As a surgeon, I did it one patient at a time during COVID; it was 100,000 people, and people came to know my name from service. I thought, “How do I use this name recognition and this influence to have significance in people’s lives?”

So I thought about being a congresswoman, because it serves over 800,000 people, and I thought about how I was able to serve without a title and without the infrastructure of the federal government. What might I be able to do to impact lives in Philadelphia with that support? What I would do differently is because I was so excited about the opportunity, I would have asked more questions about this space, because in medicine, integrity is everything, values are everything. You have to have trust, and when you lie or you tell half-truths, you can’t keep a job and no one will rehire you.

In this space where I was there and you were there, but the story you’re telling we both know is not true, but people say it with a straight face. I don’t think anyone could have told me that in a way that I could understand it until I experienced it. So what I might have done differently is dug a little deeper, but it hasn’t changed my commitment. It just meant that I entered this in a selfless way, wanting to impact people’s lives.

For the full interview, see the Chestnut Hill Local’s Instagram and Facebook pages.

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Community members, officials protest school closing vote

by Abby Weiss

The Philadelphia Board of Education voted 6-3 last Thursday to approve Superintendent Tony B. Watlington Sr.'s \$3 billion plan to close 17 schools, including some in Northwest Philadelphia, and modernize 169 buildings.

But the decision met with vehement protests from elected officials and community members, and as tensions flared, the board finished its vote virtually, with the meeting streamed in the auditorium. Many people had signed up to give public comments, but only a portion were able to speak during the online meeting.

After the vote, City Councilmember Isaiah Thomas called for the board members who voted yes to resign, vowing, "This fight is not over." Councilmember Curtis Jones Jr., said the vote will kill Mayor Cherelle Parker's "Uber tax," which would help fill the district's \$300 million deficit.

City Council also is threatening to sue the school board, block the reappointment of those who voted yes, and use other powers to fight the plan. The board is appointed by the mayor, but City Council confirms these members and approves funding.

"I've never seen elected officials get pushed to that point where they are so frustrated that they're not being listened to... that their only recourse is to shut it down and to practice civil disobedience," said state Rep. Tarik Khan, calling the board's decision "demoralizing" and "incredibly sad."

Also at the meeting were more than a dozen students from Lankenau Environmental Science Magnet High School in Roxborough, who showed up with "Vote No" signs and "Don't sell Lankenau Environmental" shirts.

Amy Szymanski, a special education compliance monitor and assessment coordinator at Lankenau, walked out of the meeting in disbelief.

"I definitely had faith. I was the



The Philadelphia Board of Education last Thursday approved a \$3 billion facilities plan that would close Lankenau High School in Roxborough and other Northwest Philadelphia Schools. Photo courtesy of Kris Soffa

one who really thought the school board would vote no," she said.

The district says its 10-year plan will improve access to high quality academics, renovate aging buildings and address over- and under-enrollment at some schools. Goals include co-locating six schools, increasing the number of pre-K-8 schools, expanding access to career and technical education schools, and offering Algebra I to every middle school student.

Critics say the plan is rushed and will disproportionately impact Black students.

"This is what this is about — to make sure that students are getting access to the highest quality public education. You don't do that by closing schools down. It is counterproductive. It's counterintuitive. It's against common sense to close down these schools that are high performing, like Lankenau," said Khan, who represents the 194th District.

City Councilmember Nina Ahmad said she and her colleagues feel the board has steamrolled the plan without properly consulting City Council and other stakeholders, with board members refusing to have individual conversations with them.

"I said, tell me the rationale of what you're doing and then we can

go point by point and say, which ones can we fix? Which ones can we not? You are not willing to do that. You just came out and told us, oh, we talked to everyone and this is our plan. That is not talking to the community," she told the Local at Thursday's meeting.

The board said it can change the "sequencing, timing, scope, and prioritization of recommendations determined to be necessary after consultation with the superintendent." And school closures require hearings and procedures under the state school code.

"I am not done fighting for our schools and our children. The school district may think this is finished, but it's not," Ahmad said on social media.

City Councilmember Cindy Bass said in a statement that while she's "especially troubled by the impact on families in the 8th Council District, my concern extends to every school affected across our city."

"History has shown that closing schools without clear, thoughtful, and well-resourced plans for students' safety, stability, and development does more harm than good," she said. "These decisions impact not just buildings, but entire communities. They are disrupting learning environments and



City Councilmembers attempted to shut down the Board of Education's vote on a facilities plan last Thursday. Standing from left to right is Nina Ahmad, Anthony Phillips, Jamie Gauthier, Kendra Brooks, Curtis Jones Jr. and Isaiah Thomas. Photo courtesy of Kris Soffa

creating uncertainty for children and families."

Impact on NW schools

Under the plan, Samuel Penny-packer School in West Oak Lane would close and students would move to Franklin S. Edmonds Elementary School and Anna B. Day School.

Fidler Academics Plus in

Germantown would be phased out, meaning they will stop enrolling new students. Parkway Northwest High School, also in Germantown, would close and merge into Martin Luther King High School as an honors program. The building would be repurposed as "swing space." In Roxborough, the Academy for the Middle

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Shaun Griffith

(Continued from page 1)

I would like to generate more grants for local businesses that they could apply to, that could be easily funded and administered without much difficulty. One of the big problems that small businesses face is compliance and being able to obtain funding. I would like to streamline the funding process and the application process for Build Back Better projects. We had a trillion-dollar infrastructure plan that was approved by the Biden administration. However, the Trump administration has clawed back much of the funding that was already dedicated.

Certainly here in Philadelphia, we have many projects that could be done for infrastructure, and I would like to make it easier for local businesses to apply for those funds to do the projects and make sure that the union jobs are created in the construction projects. So these are some of the ideas that I would have that would help local businesses thrive.

Question 2 — The Chestnut Hill Conservancy: How would you support federal funding and policy that help communities preserve historic buildings,

protect open space and watershed resources, and expand access to local history?

First, I would like to increase funding for the preservation of historic buildings. As we filmed this morning, we are actually in a designated historic building built in 1880 that commemorates some of the history of Roxborough. This building was part of the Manayunk project for the canal. I have a very personal interest in preserving history, but having said that, I also have experienced some of the impediments that face landowners. So first thing, I would like to see the landowners who may be affected have some kind of right to compensation under the Fifth Amendment, because there is, at least in theory, a takings issue.

I would also like to incorporate the educational purposes. For example, people on Ridge Avenue may not know that this was part of the Manayunk canal development, and that is why these buildings are historic. I would want everyone in Philadelphia to understand the rich history that we have here. As far as doing more to designate, I would like there to be a more integrated process between, say, local municipalities like Philadelphia as well as the federal government to make sure that any federal funding that is available, is available to the municipality whenever they are reviewing what should be considered historical.

I would like to comment on the open space and watershed resources. I appreciate the fact that we are in Philadelphia and where we have the largest municipal park in the world, with Fairmount Park, the Wissahickon Creek park less than a mile away from where we're filming. All of these things make our city so rich and sort of so great for living and working in this area.

Question 3 — Face to Face Germantown: What laws do you think Congress can pass in the current political environment to increase housing supply for low-income renters?

I have several thoughts that I think could use existing law and existing precedent to help make life easier for low-income renters and for our population in general. The first thing I would want to mention is that we need to stop private equity from buying up real estate and creating an entire country of renters. The American dream is for home ownership. Because billions, \$10 billion alone, just a BlackRock, have been acquired by private equity, it keeps most people out of the housing market.

For people who are renters, I would like to add a new entitlement under FICA [Federal Insurance Contributions Act]. FICA being the Medicare and Social Security that is designated for housing, specifically. Knowing that people who receive Social Security are either elderly or disabled in many cases, or widows or the orphans, so those people have fixed incomes that are limited, I would like to create a new FICA entitlement. Locally, I would like to provide more funding to the Philadelphia Housing Authority. Where I live is actually in a PHA project. I am very concerned and care very much for the PHA, similarly, Project Home and many other organizations throughout the city that are working to provide affordable housing.

I would like to acknowledge that homelessness, as well as just housing, is not identical throughout the country. We have different concerns here than we do, say, in LA or Seattle or San Antonio. So most funding, in my opinion, should be block grants, so that the local governments or the local municipal organizations can make decisions for their area.

Finally, I would like to mention that all mortgages are underwritten by the federal government. So I would like to see there be fixed rates that are not subject to market volatility.

Question 4 — Friends of the Wissahickon: As flooding, extreme

heat, and biodiversity loss intensify across Pennsylvania, what role should urban forests and watershed parks play in the federal climate strategy, and what concrete steps would you take to increase federal investment in places like the Wissahickon Valley?

I hold the Wissahickon Park and the valley and the creek very dear to my heart. My very second date with my wife, before we got married, was to go hiking along the Wissahickon Creek. I care very much about this area. Also, as we film here today, it's less than two miles away. Every summer I go there frequently.

Specific to this question, it is important to note that, as you have identified, deforestation is one of the biggest risks that we have for global climate change. This is not just an urban issue, but it's actually more importantly an issue of agriculture, because we have subsidized the agricultural industry to where it is way cheaper to mow forests than it is to rehabilitate agricultural land. On a grand scale, I would want to focus on rehabilitating and using the existing agricultural land more efficiently, so that we are not promoting deforestation. That would be essential to any comprehensive global climate strategy.

Specific to our local area and the many parks throughout the country that help preserve watersheds and local forests, I would want to make it easier to streamline any kind of grant process. Also, I would like to see some kind of partnership between the Department of Interior that regulates national parks with municipal and state parks so that we can take advantage of tourism, of grant programs, the very things that make national parks economically feasible and make them available to municipal parks as well as state parks. I think this is a comprehensive plan to preserve our existing watersheds, both locally and nationally, as well as our existing forests.

Question 5 — West Mt. Airy Neighbors: Can you recall a moment from your career where you wish you did things differently? What did you learn from that experience?

I am grateful to have had a varied career over the past 25 years or so since I went to law school. I have had the opportunity to represent criminal defendants and make sure that they were given due process. I've had the opportunity to defend the environment by suing polluters in both the Bay Area, San Francisco, as well as Western Pennsylvania, protecting landowners from the oil and gas industry that was exploiting very old leases.

Likewise, I was able to serve our state as an appeals referee for roughly 15 years, deciding unemployment appeals and most importantly, getting to know many of the people here in Northwest Philadelphia, particularly in Roxborough, where we have operated USA Tax Service. I've helped several small businesses, hundreds of small businesses, and thousands of local residents resolve various tax issues.

But if I were to identify one thing that I wish I had done differently, I wish that I had used my legal background and my legal acumen to focus more on protecting the environment over the past 20 years, as well as promoting the welfare of working-class Pennsylvanians and working-class Americans. Over the past 20 years, we have seen degradation of our standard of living as the wealth gap has increased, affordability has reduced. More and more people are struggling.

If anything, my decision to run in this campaign is a reconciliation of my abdication of that responsibility over the past 20 years. That is why I am now dedicated to fighting for working-class Americans as well as for the environment.

For the full interview, see the Chestnut Hill Local's Instagram and Facebook pages.

CHCAAgenda

ALL MEETINGS ARE
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

**Tuesday, May 19
7 p.m.**

Development Review Committee Meeting via Zoom

Agenda

240 E. Highland Ave. - Zoned RSA-3. For massage therapy use (Personal Services) in an existing structure with existing single family dwelling use to remain. This is the official RCO meeting.

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State Sen.
Sharif Street

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federal program designed to help small and diverse businesses do business with the federal government.

The federal government procures all kinds of services, and we need to make sure businesses in our community can access those programs. Then, for many people that own bricks and sticks shops, new market tax credits can be incredibly helpful as a tool to stimulate investment in those businesses and again allow them to be able to have the kinds of capital they need to fix their businesses up.

Ultimately, this is one of the most important issues, because growing our commercial corridors helps grow our economy, stabilize our community, make sure people have access to things like fresh fruits and vegetables, and I've been a champion as a state legislator of the urban ag program. The urban ag programs help businesses with agriculture. I'm running out of time. I'd love to talk more about this, but there's so much we can do, and I'm looking forward to working on it as your congressman.

Question 2 — The Chestnut Hill Conservancy: How would you support federal funding and policy that help communities preserve historic buildings, protect open space and watershed resources, and expand access to local history?

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PHILADELPHIA CITY COUNCIL 250

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CINDY BASS

8TH DISTRICT COUNCILMEMBER, DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP

State Rep. Chris Rabb

(Continued from page 1)

communities grow and sustain themselves, instead of predatory practices or things that are just about profit maximization for private individuals. This is what we need in terms of our corridors. We need to make sure we have the right local businesses that are not just small, but are re-investing in those communities, including a living wage for all. I am the author of the boldest living wage for all bill in the entire country, which would start at \$15 an hour and go up to an actual living wage for Philadelphians. And the reason that's good for local businesses is the more people have money in their pockets, the more they spend locally.

We should also provide subsidies in terms of grants and other means to incentivize local businesses that are committed to community wealth building, and that should be a priority, not bailing out Wall Street corporations and so forth, but those folks who are truly invested in local communities and care about their employers, the environment and their consumers and other stakeholders. That's something I will continue to work on in Congress.

Question 2 — The Chestnut Hill Conservancy: How would you support federal funding and policy that help communities preserve historic buildings, protect open space and watershed resources, and expand access to local history?

I'm proud to say that I helped get state funding for the Chestnut Hill Conservancy, and have been involved as a partner in the work that they do in the district and beyond. I'm particularly interested in their new mission statement, to go beyond

Chestnut Hill, to talk about all issues along the watershed. And I'm a former board member of the Friends of the Wissahickon, who I also helped get state money for. These are important issues when we talk about green spaces, when we talk about protecting historic spaces, this is Philadelphia. We need to make sure that we have all the resources to protect and preserve these historic sites, and so I've been a strong advocate for it on the state level. I will continue to do that on the federal level.

The money is there. How do we know the money is there? Because we're sending it overseas for wars we shouldn't be in. We have everything we need to have all of these things and understand that this is part of what I said earlier about what community wealth is. It's our shared history, it's our green spaces, it's all of the built environment and the natural environment that we have to preserve, protect and uplift, because that allows us to strengthen our communities in all the most meaningful ways.

Question 3 — Face to Face Germantown: What laws do you think Congress can pass in the current political environment to increase housing supply for low-income renters?

Well, in this current political environment, I don't think we can pass anything, which is why we need to change this current environment to make sure we have more progressive public servants and fewer centrist politicians representing us. To make sure that the boldest housing policies are what we put forth, and not just things that help private real estate developers, private equity and so forth, because those are the folks who have the biggest influence on the Democrats we send to Congress, which is why I don't take corporate PAC money, and I'm funded by the people.

But going back to housing

policy, we need to have social housing. We need to make sure that we fund the Whole Homes Repair Plan, which was sponsored by [state] Sen. Nikil Saval, who has endorsed me, and who is trying to take this to a national level, and I will be one of the advocates to do that. We have to have support for the Place to Prosper Act, which was introduced by [Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez] who also endorsed me, to make sure that folks can stay in their homes, get the support they need, but also build more housing, which includes social housing.

Housing should be a guaranteed human right. We have the money for it. We don't have the political will, but if we elect the right people and take back the House in 2027, we will have the substantive policies that allow us to build a lot more housing that is deeply affordable, green and accessible. Those are the things that have to be a priority, because we shouldn't have to worry about people not being able to buy homes and to have rents that are way too high. This is born out of policy. We can do this if we have the political will to make it happen.

Question 4 — Friends of the Wissahickon: As flooding, extreme heat, and biodiversity loss intensify across Pennsylvania, what role should urban forests and watershed parks play in the federal climate strategy, and what concrete steps would you take to increase federal investment in places like the Wissahickon Valley?

Well, this is close to my heart, because obviously part of the Wissahickon is in my current legislative district, and much of it is in the congressional district which I seek to represent going forward. I'm a former board member of the Friends of the Wissahickon, and I said, "You can either keep me on as a private citizen, or you

can allow me to take my leave from the board so I can help you get grant money from the state." So I left the board, and since then, I was able to bring home several hundred thousand dollars for the Friends of the Wissahickon because it's organizations like this that promote all of these policies and programs that help us embrace nature and incorporate that into our urbanity and our fabric of society in the most meaningful ways.

This is something that we can do on the federal level. There are funds that are available, but the thing is, this current extremist administration is anti-environment, anti-urban, anti-anything that is truly equitable. These programs are being stripped of the funding they need. All of that can be restored. We've got to make sure first we get Trump out of office, but in the interim, we can also work across the aisle to make sure that we work with conservatives who believe in conservation and who do share some of these values. And I know that because I serve on the National Caucus of Environmental Legislators, and work with some Republicans who share our values around green space, around protecting our natural environment.

I believe that we can find common cause with folks in order to restore and, more importantly, broaden the funding for all of these types of programs and initiatives that are so necessary, particularly in the city of Philadelphia, where we benefit from a rich ecosystem, where people come from all over to take advantage of this gem that is the Wissahickon that I am so deeply proud of and will continue to support in whatever capacity I can.

Question 5 — West Mt. Airy Neighbors: Can you recall a moment from your career where you wish you did things differently? What did you learn from that experience?

I love this question. In 2016, the year before I took office, the state legalized medical cannabis, and in 2017 there was discussion of implementing and figuring out how to license medical cannabis dispensaries and where they should be sited across the Commonwealth. Here in Philadelphia and in my current legislative district, there was discussion about whether they should be in our communities, and because I was brand new to office, I didn't think about leading on this and having town halls and having interactive discussions with folks.

Instead, I was more reactive, because I didn't have the benefit of being part of the process of enacting this bill into law, and so I was more in reactive mode. As a result, the narrative got away, and it became very combative, and people were saying, "Oh, these are businesses that we shouldn't have in our community, because it's bringing in a bad element," and so forth and so on. Instead, I wish I had engaged and initiated instead of reacting to other elected [officials] and other folks, without inserting myself as someone who agreed with bringing in medical cannabis as a legal alternative to pharmaceutical products, et cetera.

As someone who became a medical cannabis patient, it was personal, but the thing I learned most was if you lead with authenticity and vulnerability and you show people instead of just telling them, they can come to better-informed decisions. So one of the best things that came out of it was I actually personally picked up people who were against dispensaries, who had never visited a dispensary, and I got them to see what they could look like and how they could actually benefit our community. That changed hearts and minds, and I've used that approach ever since.

For the full interview, see the Chestnut Hill Local's social media pages.

State Sen. Sharif Street

(Continued from page 4)

Those are all important issues. So first, I would continue to support an expansion of historic tax credits. Historic tax credits can be used to deal with the enhanced costs of preserving historic buildings and making sure that the character of those buildings can be maintained. I've supported similar tax credits at the state level, but ultimately, expanding the pool of those credits is something that the federal government can and should do.

We need to have, we need to plant more trees, and we need to make investments in that. I've worked with the Department of Commerce and natural resources to make sure that we have resources to tend our trees and our open spaces. Additionally, I sponsored legislation for the urban ag program, which when you think of urban ag, sometimes it's community gardens and it's helping maintain our green spaces in an urban setting, something that's incredibly important. At the state level, we've provided resources there, and I will make sure I work with similar departments at the federal level to do the same thing.

Expanded access to our local history. This is an issue that certainly we need to make sure we're investing in our monuments in our history, but we need to make sure we're accurately telling our story. I've sued Donald Trump quite a few times. Most

(Continued on page 7)

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Policy Statement

It is the policy of this publication to anticipate community problems and prepare public opinion for their solutions, to review community problems as they arise and to present possible solutions, and, with the help of expert opinion, direct community thinking toward a solution consistent with local tradition and the best forward-looking interests of Chestnut Hill.

It is the policy of The LOCAL to publish all responsible points of view on issues presented in our paper. Unless otherwise expressly indicated, the opinions and points of view expressed in this publication are those of the individual writer who shall be identified by name.

Positions presented or adopted by the Community Association or its board of directors on any matter will be expressly identified as such.

All letters addressed to The LOCAL must be signed and must include an address and a verifying telephone number. All letters must not exceed 300 words.

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OPINION

The system for mental illness isn't broken, but working as designed

by Sam Beckett

In my work, I see the same people over and over again.

A man arrives from the emergency room with a discharge packet and a list of medications he does not understand. He has a serious mental illness. He hears voices he cannot ignore. He loses track of time and place. He cannot manage medications or basic needs. He has been using. He is unstable, but no longer in immediate danger. That is enough to send him out.

He cannot regulate his emotional state. He often resorts to aggression to communicate his needs. He is afraid, confused, and has never felt safe.

He is told to follow up. There is no clear place for him to go. This is not an exception. It is routine.

People cycle through emergency rooms in moments of crisis, medical, psychiatric or both. They are stabilized just enough to get

through the immediate danger, then discharged — not because they are well, but because they are no longer the hospital's responsibility.

They cannot pay. They are not a viable revenue stream. In a system shaped by cost, that fact carries more weight than their long term stability, their safety or their chances of recovery.

Their humanity is reduced to dollars and cents. We do not say this out loud. But we organize care around it.

Hospitals move people out as quickly as possible, especially those who are poor, uninsured or difficult to treat. The highest need patients do not stay. They are discharged to settings with fewer resources, less clinical capacity and staff who were never trained to manage that level of complexity.

They end up in places like mine.

I work in a supportive housing program in Philadelphia. We are not a hospital. We are not staffed like one. We are not resourced like



Moving high-need patients out of hospitals faster can mean they'll end up in shelters or on the streets.

one. But we are expected to absorb what hospitals discharge.

Someone arrives from the emergency room. We take them in. We manage medications, psychiatric instability, active substance use and escalating behavior. We do it without the clinical infrastructure those situations actually require. We watch for decompensation. We try to keep everyone safe. We make judgment calls that carry real consequences. We prioritize preserving participant autonomy.

We operate with fewer restrictions in order to keep people engaged. We hold ourselves to a high ethical standard because it is the only way this work makes sense. That standard is not always shared across the system.

In practice, hospitals often rely on narrow clinical thresholds to determine who qualifies for care. If someone is not deemed an imminent threat to themselves or others, they are discharged.

From where we stand, those decisions often ignore what happens next. I can raise concerns. I can document what we are seeing. But the final decision rests with the licensed clinician making that call. Once that decision is made, we are the ones expected to manage the consequences.

Eventually, most of these men destabilize again. They return to the hospital. Then back to us. The loop continues.

At times, I am on the phone with attending psychiatrists after a legal petition for involuntary treatment has already been approved. They decline to uphold it, citing no imminent threat based on a brief evaluation. I try to explain what we see day to day. The call ends. The person is discharged.

This is often described as care coordination. It is not. It is cost shifting.

Hospitals reduce their burden. The risk is pushed onto shelters and supportive housing programs. The system appears to function, but the people inside it are no better off. In many cases, they are worse.

Addiction is often used as the explanation. It becomes a reason to discharge, to limit intervention, to frame the problem as behavioral instead of clinical.

The men I work with are living with severe mental illness layered with trauma, cognitive impairment and medical fragility. Substance use is part of the picture, but it is not the whole story. It reduces them to that label, makes it easier to move them along — and harder to treat. Meanwhile, the settings they are discharged to are expected to manage all of it with fewer tools, less training and far less support.

And it is getting worse.

The people coming through these systems today are sicker than they were even a few years ago. They are more complex, more medically fragile, more behaviorally acute. The resources available to meet those needs have not kept pace. So the pressure moves downward.

Onto staff. Onto programs. Onto places like mine.

We stretch. We improvise. We make decisions we were never trained or authorized to make. We hold situations together because there is no one else to hold them. And we are expected to keep doing it.

This is often called burnout. That is not quite right. This is what it looks like when responsibility is pushed onto people without the authority or resources to meet it. When institutions with the most capacity decide what they will not hold, and smaller systems are left to absorb the consequences.

There are real conversations happening about reducing emergency room use and improving efficiency. Those conversations matter. But if the strategy is to move high-need patients out of hospitals faster without building something stronger to receive them, then we are not solving the problem. We are relocating it.

Into shelters. Into supportive housing. Or directly back onto the street.

If we want different outcomes, we have to be honest about what is happening. Right now, the way we treat sick, homeless men with severe mental illness is shaped less by what they need and more by what institutions are willing to absorb.

Until that changes, this cycle will continue. It's not because we do not understand the problem, but because we are choosing to manage cost instead of care.

Sam Beckett is a Chestnut Hill resident.

Postcard of the Week

“Flowering trees along my daily walk down Crest Park Road near the corner of Roumfort, in East Mount Airy.”

Photo by Rebecca Hoenig, East Mt. Airy

To submit a photo, email: editor@chestnuthilllocal.com



from our readers

Weavers Way donations

Your donations at our electronic recycling event on April 11 enabled the Environment Committee of Weavers Way Co-op to give grants to the following community groups:

An environmental education project for the summer camp at Allens Lane Art Center.

A microscope for Center in the Park so they may continue to test water and soil in the Wissahickon and Monoshone Creeks.

Garden beds and native plants

for DePaul USA, who serve homeless men and women.

Fencing for Farm Sanctuary, so they may continue to distribute free produce in North Philadelphia.

Trees for Friends of Turtle Park, a once neglected neighborhood park.

Native plants for Journeywork to conduct workshops to increase biodiversity in neighborhoods with limited green space.

Native plants and seeds for LandHealth Institute to restore the Schuylkill River peninsula.

A pollinator garden on an

underutilized campus space at Norwood-Fontbonne Academy.

Fruit trees at Redeemer Valley Farm for donations at their HUD facility and food pantry.

Native trees to replace invasives on a neglected parcel of Fairmount Park by Ridge Park Civic Association.

Native plants for volunteers to plant for Roxborough Manayunk Conservancy.

Restore native plants at Awbury Arboretum.

Native hydrangeas for garden

at Water Tower, which serves many communities.

Flower garden for Whosoever Gospel Mission. In their words, “Our residents are working hard each day to overcome obstacles and rebuild their lives. While flowers may seem superfluous to some, we know — because we see it firsthand — that they truly lift spirits and instill hope.”

Sandra Folzer, on behalf of
Environment Committee of
Weavers Way Co-op
Chestnut Hill

State Sen. Sharif Street

(Continued from page 5)

recently, sued him to make sure that in our Constitution Center, we were able to preserve the monument to the 10 enslaved individuals.

I was a part of an amicus brief. We sued Donald Trump when he wanted to sanitize and erase portions of American history that talked about slavery and inclusion for African Americans. I fought him on this and won as a state senator, and I'll do it as a member of Congress.

Question 3 — Face to Face Germantown: What laws do you think Congress can pass in the current political environment to increase housing supply for low-income renters?

This is a topic, housing, that used to be one that was easy to get bipartisan support there. Almost everything is now more challenging. This is an area I'm quite familiar with, having spent 18 years of my life as a lawyer who dealt with developing affordable housing and have worked on these issues in over 14 different states, but we're time limited, so we'll get to some of the tools.

Low-income housing tax credits is the first tool that comes to mind. The federal government should dramatically expand the access to low-income housing tax credits, and they shouldn't expire in just 15 years. They should be expanded to last at least 30 years, and maybe even 40 so that housing remains affordable for a longer period of time. And we should have resources where the government can re-up and expand it once those credits expire. That's been a challenge in many communities.

There are [Annual Contributions Contract] units which are usually funded through the housing authority, and we need to expand the number of units that are available that way. There are the housing choice voucher programs. We need to expand access to housing choice voucher subsidies, which allow people to live in communities across the city.

There are some specific programs for specific communities we also need to focus on. We need to expand access to development of housing for domestic violence victims. There are too often domestic violence victims, when fleeing, one of the reasons they stay is there isn't adequate access to housing. There can and should be housing choice vouchers and low-income housing tax credits focused on that population.

Finally, we need to expand housing choice vouchers and access to low-income housing tax credits for veterans. This issue, I'd love to talk about more. It's important, and I want to continue to work on it.

Question 4 — Friends of the Wissahickon: As flooding, extreme heat, and biodiversity loss intensify across Pennsylvania, what role should urban forests and watershed parks play in the federal climate strategy, and what concrete steps would you take to increase federal investment in places like the Wissahickon Valley?

One of our greatest treasures in Philadelphia really is Fairmount Park. It stretches from one end to the other end to this district, and it is really the heart and meat of the district. It is a resource for so many. My daughter rowed crew on the Schuylkill. I've run the trail, the Forbidden Trail, and it is really important to me.

I think the federal government should make significant investments in supporting the city and the state in it. As a member of the state Senate, I pushed the Department of Commerce and natural resources to expand its programs around protecting and tending trees and making sure that we protect the biodiversity of our trees, both in urban and rural areas.

We need to make investments in clean water and protecting our clean water in our watersheds. We can do that through a number of federal programs that are through the national Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. We need to make sure that we are investing in things like restoring our trees, making sure when there are floods, that we build up the infrastructure. Matter of fact, planting trees along flood plains will stop flooding, and it creates more habitats for wildlife as well.

Additionally, we need to invest in things like the zip-lining that exists off of Moyamensing Avenue, and some of the things like that that allow people to engage and be involved in it. Look, this is a topic I could talk about a little bit more, but we only have two minutes. Federal investment in these spaces is important. They're recreational and they're important for the environment.

Question 5 — West Mt. Airy Neighbors: Can you recall a moment from your career where you wish you did things differently? What did you learn from that experience?

When I first got to the state Senate, I was really concerned about education funding, and I am a little bit of a lawyer, a little bit of a nerd, as people have pointed out in the trail, and I

was looking at the effects of AVI [Actual Value Initiative]. Michael Nutter had recently implemented it and so it hadn't been in place that long, and it increased the value, on paper, of the portfolio of real estate in Philly. But because the millage was reduced, and it wasn't designed to increase people's tax rates, there wasn't additional revenue for the school district.

The way the state poverty index worked it was going to cost the school district \$180 million. So I scheduled a press conference to talk about this and expose the terrible things that were happening and demand that my colleagues in the General Assembly from across the Commonwealth, and

the legislature which was controlled by Republicans, move forward with correcting this wrong.

My colleagues, Sens. Vincent Hughes and Tony Williams, got a hold of my idea for this press conference before the press release went out, and they told me, "Sharif, if you really want to solve this issue, you got to cancel this press conference. We got to sit by, you got to pull your bill." And they said, "You can introduce this as an amendment. We can get this as an amendment in the school code. If we do it this way, we'll save the school district \$180 million. Now you're not going to get a press hit, but the question is, are you really

more concerned about helping kids or getting a press hit?"

Ultimately, I took their advice. We did reschedule it. I didn't have the press conference. We did save the school district, and it taught me something about getting things done. Getting things done required me to work with leadership, talk with folks on both sides, listen and build coalition. Because we did that, we were able to save the school district that money. And I learned it's not always about the press hit. It's about getting things done. That's what I've done. That's what I'll do.

For the full interview, see the Chestnut Hill Local's Instagram and Facebook pages.



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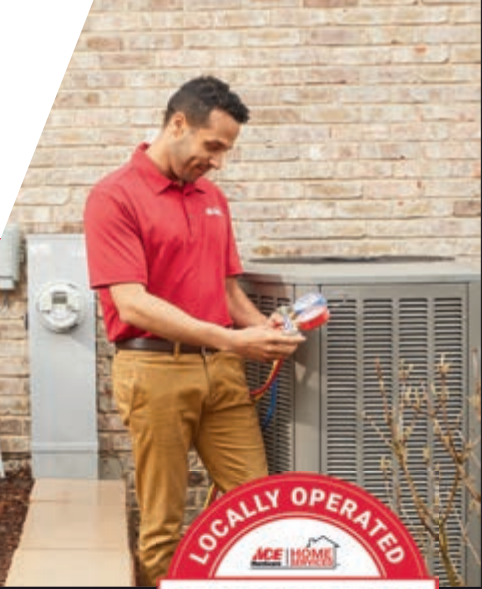
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SPORTS

GA tennis sees early lead dwindle away against visiting George School

by Tom Utescher

Rain is more likely to disrupt tennis matches than other spring sports contests,

so it was lucky that the April 29 match at Germantown Academy wrapped up about 20 minutes before a round of evening showers set in.

Earlier in the afternoon, the host Patriots were on the verge of securing a victory over visiting George School, winning three matches and needing just one more successful outcome to carry the day. The Cougars proved tenacious, though, eventually leveling the team score at 3-3.

First singles was the last match out on the court, and here George School sophomore Raj Nagra outlasted GA senior Vincent Zhou, rounding out the 4-3 come-from-behind victory for the Bucks County team.

The outcome of this non-league match gave the Patriots an overall record of 4-6, while they remained 2-2 within the Inter-Ac League. GA defeated Malvern Prep and Springside Chestnut Hill (4-3), while losing to the teams currently tied for first in the league, Episcopal Academy and Haverford School. The two Main Line powers were to clash on May 5.

GA's 1-6 loss to Haverford happened on April 28, when only a win at third singles by Patriots sophomore Jake Barenbaum prevented a clean sweep by the Fords.

The GA racquetmen are now in their 10th season under head coach Lupe Prince. Returning as assistant coach is Jonathan Freeman, a 1994 graduate of the old Chestnut Hill Academy who is head coach of the Patriots' girls' tennis team in the fall.

On April 29, GA got out to its 3-0 lead by winning the second, third, and fourth doubles flights.

In the second spot, sophomore Jason Ma and freshman Damian Chang won a pair of 6-2 sets from George School junior Vishnu Anand and freshman Asher Schmidt. In the fourth flight, Patriots junior Ravi Bhatt and senior Jayden Gattuso also made relatively short work of their Cougar counterparts. The GA tandem won, 6-3, 6-2 over the George School combo of junior Daniel Shen and



In first doubles, GA junior Gabe Freeman reaches for a shot near the net while senior Connor Bradley watches from the baseline. Photo by Tom Utescher



GA junior Justin Huang rips a two-fisted backhand during Wednesday's match. Photo by Tom Utescher

senior Vincenzo Restituto. In the third flight, sophomore Jayden Czapla and senior Taalin Rajagopal of the Cougars put up more resistance. In the end, though, Patriots freshman Tristan Dey and junior Jacob Malenbaum prevailed, 6-4, 7-5.

Now, the hosts needed just one more "W" to clinch a team victory, but they never got it. In a hard-fought first doubles battle, GA senior Connor Bradley and junior Gabe Freeman (no relation to Coach Freeman) succumbed, 5-7, 3-6, to sophomore Prem Dhillon and junior George Bugayev of the visiting side.

In a bout between two juniors at second singles, Justin Huang of the Patriots lost 2-6, 3-6 to Bruno Menckel, a George School exchange student from Sweden. In the third singles flight, a 6-3, 6-1 win was earned by the Cougars' Jason Ma, who played against a fellow sophomore, GA's Barenbaum.

Everyone then gathered around the court where the first singles match was still underway. Here, George School's Nagra had won the first set, 6-4, over Germantown senior Zhou. In the second set, each player held serve until the score reached 4-3, in favor of the Cougars' number one.

Finally, Nagra secured a service break in the eighth game. He then held serve in the ninth, finishing out his 6-4, 6-3 victory with an ace.



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Crime Report

The following is for crimes reported from April 26 to May 2. This report is compiled from information provided by the 14th Police District. (Some crimes that occurred on dates earlier than the current period but were not reported until later may be included.)

Chestnut Hill
April 26. Motor Vehicle Theft. A complainant reported their Cadillac Escalade was stolen while parked in the 7000 block of Stenton Avenue.
April 26. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant reported their vehicle was broken into from the passenger side window at Orange Trail and West Bells Mills Road.
April 26. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant returned to the parked vehicle to see the window broken and items stolen from the car in the 9000 block of Orange Trail.
April 26. Retail Theft. An offender put items in a bag and left a grocery store in the 7000 block of Crittenden Street.
April 26. Retail Theft. An offender stole items from a drug store in the 7000 block of Germantown Avenue.
April 26. Motor Vehicle Theft. A complainant reported their Honda CRV was stolen while parked in the 100 block of West Springfield Avenue.
May 1. Retail Theft. An offender stole \$52.47 worth of merchandise from a grocery store in the 7000 block of Crittenden Street.
May 3. Aggravated assault. A complainant states she had an argument with her boyfriend and he threw a speaker at her in the 200 block of East Mermaid Lane.
May 3. Retail Theft. An offender stole items from a grocery store in the 7000 block of Crittenden Street.
May 3. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant told police that an offender broke a vehicle's rear window and stole a purse from a vehicle in the Valley Green Road and Wissahickon Creek block.
Mt. Airy
April 26. Motor Vehicle Theft. A complainant reported their Infiniti Q60 stolen while the vehicle was parked in the 400 block of Carpenter Lane.
April 26. All Theft Excluding Vehicle Theft. A complainant had her purse stolen at a party after setting it down under a jacket in the 500 block of East Gorgas Lane.
April 26. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant's work truck was broken into overnight in the 100 block of West Weaver Street.
April 27. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant reported that tools totaling \$4,000 in value were stolen in the unit block of West Johnson Street.
April 27. All Theft Excluding Vehicle Theft. A complainant states a contract company was in his house doing electrical work when he noticed money was missing in the unit block of Montana Street.
April 27. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant states their vehicle was broken into and a backpack was stolen in the 6000 block of Emlen Street.
April 28. Motor Vehicle Theft. A complainant reported his Mitsubishi Outlander was stolen while parked in the 6000 block of Chew Avenue.
April 28. Motor Vehicle Theft. The complainant's wife parked the vehicle in the 6000 block of Wayne Avenue and was stolen overnight.
April 28. Retail Theft. The

offenders walked into a convenience store and stole items totaling \$120 in the 7000 block of Germantown Avenue.
April 28. Retail Theft. An offender stole merchandise totaling \$8 from a Wawa in the 7000 block of Germantown Avenue.
April 28. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant reported that a gun left in the glove box of his vehicle was stolen while parked in the 200 block of East Cliveden Street.
April 28. Retail Theft. An offender stole merchandise totaling \$7 from a Wawa in the 7000 block of Germantown Avenue.
April 28. Burglary. A complainant reported they just ended a relationship with the offender. The offender kicked his door to gain entry and began entry into the house in the 1000 block of East Johnson Street.
April 29. Robbery. A complainant reports the offender who is their upstairs neighbor started banging on his front door and arguing with the complainant. The offender entered the complainant's apartment in the 6000 block of Blakemore Street.
April 30. Aggravated Assault. A complainant is an employee at

ACME and states the offender struck her in the face with the store phone in the 7000 block of Germantown Avenue.
May 1. Theft Excluding Vehicle Theft. A complainant has a video of the offenders stealing items off of the complainant's porch in the 200 block of Garrett Street.
May 1. Retail Theft. An offender stole \$49 worth of product from a grocery store outlet in the unit block of West Hortter Street.
May 1. Retail Theft. An offender stole \$135 worth of merchandise from a CVS in the 7000 block of Lincoln Drive.
May 2. Burglary. A complainant and witness said they observed the offender enter through the property's front door and watched them remove items from the property into a vehicle. Incident took place in the 500 block of Pelham Road.
May 2. Motor Vehicle Theft. A complainant reported a Honda CRV was stolen while parked in the 200 block of West Gorgas Lane.
May 2. Motor Vehicle Theft. A complainant told police they parked their vehicle in the 100 block of West Cliveden Street

and when they returned they observed their steering wheel column being broken.
May 2. Theft from Motor Vehicle. A complainant reported they came out to their vehicle and noticed the rear passenger side window was broken and items were stolen from inside the vehicle in the 400 block of Carpenter Lane.

PLUMBING ISSUES?

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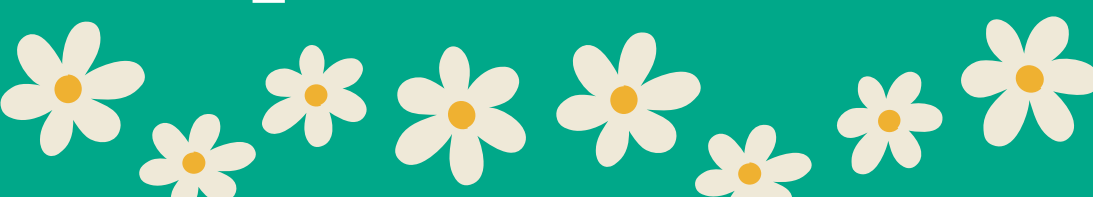
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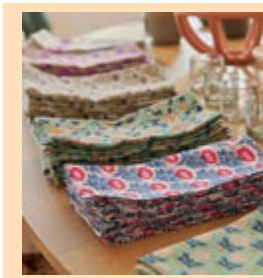


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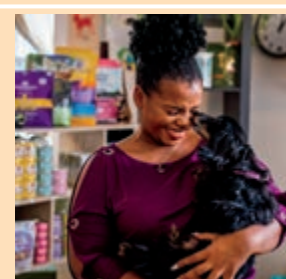
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CH festival draws large crowds on sunny day

Vendors lined Germantown Avenue on Sunday for the Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival, with throngs of visitors taking in the sights, sounds and smells. From McNally's Schmitters to bacon on a stick, it was impossible to go hungry. Bands like the Dukes of Destiny rocked out on stage near Bethlehem Pike. Here's some of what we saw.



Germantown Avenue was transformed into an outdoor marketplace on Sunday. Photo by Josh Pero



Glassblower Andrew Leventhal of Leventhal Glass demonstrated his craft. Photo by Jeff Meade



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This Week in Chestnut Hill Local History, 1966-2016

May 5, 1966

Thousands watch annual parade of horses and riders in Wissahickon

Wissahickon Day was early this year, and spring was late. Sunday’s popular event saw the spectators in parkas and sweaters instead of the customary sports shirts and bright spring dresses, but at least the rain desisted for the day and the annual parade drew its customary crowd of thousands, who lined the bridle paths from Northwestern Avenue all the way down to the ancient inn at Valley Green in order to witness the longest, gayest, gaudiest parade of horseflesh and equestrians in these parts.

Landlords promise to clean up littered Wyndmoor station area

The Chestnut Hill Community Association has been running a clean up, fix up campaign with an emphasis this year on particular spots: the vacant lots and public places owned, by and large, by absentee landlords. These areas, as is well known, quickly become “attractive nuisances,” magnets for unwanted wrecks of automobiles, dumpers of various kinds, and general refuse. It is to little avail to ask householders in the community to show their pride in the area by sprucing up their homes and yards with these glaring eyesores in their midst. The year 1966, however, saw the advent of a



From the May 5, 1966, story on Wissahickon Day.

small but electric force for community betterment with the intervention of the Association, especially now that the Department of Licenses and Inspections has entered the scene. With some firm words from L&I, all three of the large property owners involved agreed they would go to work immediately.

May 6, 1976

Trolley turn-around, new SEPTA facility covered

A \$25.6 million grant recently awarded to SEPTA will cover the cost of the requested top-of-the-hill

trolley turn-around plus razing SEPTA’s luncheonette (8641 Germantown Ave.) and constructing a new facility (a combination restroom, locker room and waiting room). Nearly three years ago, a committee suggested that SEPTA’s trolley Route 23 enter the top-of-the-hill terminal in a direction opposite to the way it now enters — that is, right-handedly through Germantown Avenue — and that the trolley tracks be relocated to the other side of Bethlehem Pike — that is, on the Acme Market side of the trolley loop.

Bird in flight

Bird in Hand, the new thrift shop at 12 E. Highland Ave., will open

May 10. Proceeds from the shop will go to the Chestnut Hill Community Fund. Bird in Hand needs donations and consignments of all seasonal clean attractive items except clothing. Especially needed are sporting goods, musical instruments, merchants’ overstock, framed pictures, bric-a-brac and small upholstered pieces of furniture in good repair. Volunteers are also needed to help in the shop.

May 8, 1986

Nalle mansion walls razed

The remaining stone walls and brick fireplace of the Nalle mansion, 145 E. Bells Mill Road, have been demolished. As the Local went to press, it learned from American Demolition Company that everything was to be torn down except the garden wall and the foundation walls that are below ground. A subdivision plan for the property, approved in 1984, called for eight lots on the 6.13 acre site. What remained of the original house was to be rebuilt as a two-family dwelling. The Nalle house was gutted by fire in 1983.

Parking Foundation vote on building legal

The vote to purchase 8426 Germantown Ave. as the headquarters for the Chestnut Hill Parking Foundation and the Chestnut Hill Development group was legal, according to a recent study. The foundation had voted to buy the building in

1985 for \$152,500 but a past president of the group had challenged the legality of the deal.

May 9, 1996

Pizzeria proposed for Kay-Bee site

Representatives of Bertucci’s Brick Oven Pizzeria will appear before the Chestnut Hill Community Association’s Development Review Committee on May 20 to present plans for a restaurant proposed for the former Kay-Bee Toys store at 8514 Germantown Ave. The property is zoned C-1 which does not allow a restaurant use. A variance will be needed to allow Bertucci’s to operate at that site. An attorney for the company said “this will be a full-service restaurant that will have 170 seats and 46 tables,” plus a small takeout area.

May 4, 2006

Neighbors say no to New Covenant Church

Near neighbors to New Covenant Church voted at a meeting on April 24 not to support the city’s proposed homeless program on the church’s campus. The meeting, organized by the East and West Mt. Airy Neighbors, focused mainly on New Covenant’s relationship with the neighbors. They said the church was a poor landlord, with complaints about thrown trash and the land maintenance, though the main concern was what they saw as the church’s lack of communication and response to issues. WMAN and EMAN sent a letter to Councilwoman Donna Reed Miller, making her aware of the vote and requesting the formation of a committee. A spokesperson for her office said she planned to host more meetings. A New Covenant spokesman said that everyone has a right to their opinions and believes there are those who consider the church to be a good neighbor.

May 5, 2016

Vanna Venturi house sold after 9 months to local buyer

One of Chestnut Hill’s most significant historical locations, the Vanna Venturi house, was sold after more than nine months on the open market. While the buyer’s name and official selling price will be kept anonymous until June, the real estate agency behind the sale confirmed that the new owner is from the area and apparently wants to preserve the property as it has been maintained thus far. The last known price of the house was \$1.5 million back in March. Built by famed local architect Robert Venturi for his mother in 1964, the Vanna Venturi house is one of the earliest examples of the postmodern architectural movement in America and is in the process of receiving a historic designation from the city’s Historical Commission.

Clifford C.R. Hood

2/15/27- 3/30/26

Clifford Charles Randolph Hood, recently of Wyndmoor, died on March 30th, 2026. He was the former president of C.C.R. Hood & Company, Inc., an advertising and public relations firm for 40 years.

His clients included a wide range of fields from retail and industrial companies to colleges and retirement communities. They included such names as Cathedral Village, where he resided for the last 8 years of his life, Hatboro Federal Savings, Poinsettia Groves of Florida, The Rhodes Garden, Seifert X-Ray of Germany and Westminster Choir College.

Mr. Hood was a singer from age ten. At that time he won a vocal competition against hundreds of other boys for one of the 20 positions in the St. James Choir. The reward was a full scholarship at The Episcopal Academy. Besides singing twice on Sundays, the choir also sang every day, Monday through Friday, at regular services at school, and rehearsed every day, except Saturday.

Following graduation in 1945, Mr. Hood served as a Cadet Midshipman in the Navy. In 1947, he transferred to the University of Pennsylvania, from which he graduated in 1951 cum laude. He also received a Naval Reserve commission. At Penn he was active in the Daily Pennsylvanian, becoming Features Editor in his senior year.

Following a brief period with WFIL radio and television, he entered the Navy in November 1951, and was attached to the USS Pictor (AF 54) in February 1952. He served on the Pictor off Korea until the war was over. On the Pictor, he invented the first safe way for personnel and cargo to be moved between ships at sea. This service is still in use today. He was discharged in December 1953 with the rank of Lieutenant JG.

He rejoined WFIL at their new headquarters at 46th and Market Streets in their promotion department. He promoted “Bandstand” with Dick Clark among many programs. He served there for six years until he was recruited by the Richard A. Foley advertising agency as a copywriter. In January 1962, he was able to start his own firm with two clients, Poinsettia Groves and Leary’s Book Store. Because of his commitment to the firm, he had to resign from the Naval Reserve with the rank of full Lieutenant.

In 1984 he directed the successful bicentennial of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania. While running his own agency, Mr. Hood was also vice president of Doremus & Company for two years, the financial public relations and advertising division of the international Omnicom group. He was also manager of corporate communications for Scott Paper Company for two years.

Except when in the Navy, Clifford sang in quartets and the choirs at various churches. He also sang in The Savoy Company from 1954-1958 as a principal where he met his wife, Charlotte Parke Stevenson. They were married in 1958. He joined the Orpheus Club in 1962 when he dropped his other singing engagements. He sang with them until 2018. He also joined the choir in St. Barth’s FWI where he and his wife spent their winters.

Mr. Hood was active with a variety of civic groups. He was a Board member of The Seamen’s Church Institute of Philadelphia, a Board member and past president of the Philadelphia chapter of the Public Relations Society of America, a Board member and past president of both the Musical Fund society and its foundation, a past president of the Orpheus Club, and a Colleague of the Creative Education Foundation of Buffalo, NY.

Mr. Hood’s wife, Charlotte Stevenson Hood died in August of 2018. He was also predeceased by his son, C. Charles R. Hood Jr. of Travis, Italy in 2021, and daughter, Annette Stevenson Hood, in 1972. He is survived by his daughter, Christianna Thompson Hood of New York City and two grandsons and 3 great grandchildren in Italy

A memorial service will be held at St. Martin-in-the-Fields, 8000 St. Martin’s Lane, on Saturday, May 23rd at 11:00 am, followed by a reception in the Parish hall. Burial will be private.



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Community members, officials protest school closing vote

(Continued from page 3)

Years (AMY) at Northwest would be phased out.

As for Lankenau, it would turn into an honors program at Walter B. Saul High School, two miles away, and all students will move there starting in the 2027-28 school year. District officials changed their initial plan, which was to merge Lankenau with Roxborough High School.

Board members, including those that voted against the plan, have argued that school closures are essential and inevitable. But local community members and councilmembers have asked why Lankenau, a high-performing school with mostly Black students and a 100% graduation rate, is on the chopping block. Lankenau partners with the neighboring Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education for programming, and students intern at places like the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Academy of Natural Sciences.

The school district has cited low enrollment and declining applications as reasons for closing Lankenau. Less than half of the building is utilized and there are 225 students. But critics say the enrollment decline was caused by the district's change to its enrollment process in 2021.

The property was slated to be used for workforce housing and/or job creation, with the land having a market value of \$5 million. But the Schuylkill Center, which sold the land to Lankenau decades ago, says it has the right to repurchase the property if the district considers selling it for anything other than environmental education, according to a 1973 legal agreement. As a second line of defense, Jones, Thomas and Ahmad introduced legislation in April to change the zoning of the area to be

used for public-serving institutions.

Following the pushback, the district revised the plan to say Lankenau will turn into an environmental education center that will be used by all district students.

"We cannot drive faster improvement and at the same time support really small high schools," Watlington said at an earlier board meeting in April. "It is just inevitable that we've got to reallocate some of our resources."

At Thursday's meeting, Erin Mooney, the executive director of the Schuylkill Center for Environmental Education, criticized the board's plan to use the Lankenau property for environmental education when her 365-acre facility is next door and already serves Philadelphia students.

"Turning Lankenau into an environmental education center is like building a Giant next to an Acme. It's like building a Sheetz next to a Wawa. ... It makes no sense," she said in her public comment.

Daniel Rothman, chief technology officer for the City of Philadelphia and a Lankenau parent, said he doesn't understand why some schools were saved from closure while Lankenau remained. He said board members avoided answering his questions and failed to engage in a "real conversation" with the public. "They have a script. If they're caught with something that isn't on the script, they just shut down. It really is a frustrating process," Rothman said.

On Thursday, board president Reginald Streater said the board engaged the public in its decision process before the vote, sparking outrage from the crowd. Engagement included 90 public listening sessions, 35 data verification sessions with principals, two district-wide surveys and

two town halls, the district said in a press release.

"I believe this plan is a necessary step to address the long-standing challenges the district has faced while ensuring every student has equitable access to high-quality opportunities," Streater said.

Board member Crystal Cubbage, who voted against the plan, said it needs to be better thought out, isn't "financially viable" and lacks a "clear path forward." But she reiterated that school closures are necessary and inevitable.

"We do need to make hard decisions, and people are going to be upset," she said. "But those decisions need to be grounded in a coherent vision that gets us somewhere better. Urgency is not an excuse for approving a flawed first draft."

Local reactions

Rothman said he and his family moved to Philadelphia from Boston last year, and he was happy to see his daughter in a school that she loves. Now, he worries that the curriculum will be disrupted and that faculty members will leave in search of better positions.

"I worry about her next year. Is it going to be a functional school next year?" he said. "My daughter's education situation is in jeopardy."

Sophomore Christian Bowser, sporting a tree costume, said the school's location by the Schuylkill Center allows him to do lots of hands-on learning, including raising trout and testing water.

"We've got a rich culture here and we've got a different culture [than Saul]. You can't replace that by trying to relocate us somewhere else," he said.

Kris Soffa, an Upper Roxborough resident and founder of

Toxic Free Philly, said Lankenau sits as the gateway to more than 600 acres of preserved open space in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties, making it a "critical entrance and living classroom."

"It doesn't make any sense to kick out this highly functioning school,

the kids, the faculty and the whole program," she said, "and then have a magic pie in sky environmental center."

Abby Weiss is an environmental reporter for the Local and a Report for America corps member. She can be reached at abby@chestnuthilllocal.com.

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Her passion is nurse safety: ‘It’s saving healthcare workers’ lives’

by Robert Calandra

Betty Long doesn’t understand politics. It’s not that she is new to what Ronald Reagan called the world’s second oldest profession. As a nationally recognized expert on patient advocacy, Long, a Wyndmoor resident, has testified before Congress. So she’s familiar with the arena. Yet even with her experience, politics leaves her, to use her word, “flummoxed.” For instance, during the Biden Administration, the Department

of Labor convened a committee to address the bureaucratic red tape insurers use to deny patient claims. Long traveled to Washington to testify about the “ridiculousness” of the denials. “You would think ... that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid would want to do something about this crazy bureaucracy that puts so much burden on physicians and hospitals to prove that they are doing the right thing,” says Long, MHA, RN, president and chief executive officer of Guardian Nurses Healthcare Advocates Inc. in Flourtown.

The committee and CMS did nothing. She returned to Washington a year ago to support the Save Healthcare Workers Act. The bipartisan bill with 40 co-sponsors would make it a federal crime to physically or verbally attack nurses and hospital personnel. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, “nearly half of all nurses report experiencing physical violence and 68% have faced verbal abuse.” If that sounds like a slam dunk, a year later it’s still languishing in committee. “I’m flummoxed,” Long says. “It’s saving healthcare workers’ lives. This is not a heavy lift.”

But Long is far from resigned. She’s determined to spread the word about the bill. It’s her latest “passion project” in a career made of passion projects.

Way back when, Long wanted to be a sports writer like her idol, the legendary Frank Deford. Graduating from Temple University with a journalism degree, she scored an office assistant job at The Philadelphia Inquirer. She seemed on her way. But during her senior year at Temple, Long’s mother was diagnosed with cancer. She died four months later. Long was so impressed by the nursing care her mother received that it changed the trajectory of her life. A year later, Long forfeited her sports writing dream and entered nursing school. “My family was like, what?” she remembers.

Over the years, Long worked as a floor nurse at several area hospitals, eventually rising to a supervisory position. That’s when she began to notice a communication gap between medical staff and patients and their families about the care plan. The disconnect struck home in 1999, when Long’s 80-plus-year-old Uncle George fell down the steps and had a brain bleed. The resident was explaining to her aunt that George needed a breathing tube. “She turned around and looked at me and had this look on her face and I thought, I wonder what do other families do that don’t have a nurse to explain what is going on?” Long said. At that moment, the idea for Guardian Nurses was born. Long would create a nursing service that would help patients navigate the medical maze. It took four years to convert the idea into a business. Even then, the first year wasn’t easy.



Betty Long, left, and U.S. Rep. Madeleine Dean (D. Montgomery), are backing passage of the bipartisan Save Healthcare Workers Act. Photo courtesy of Betty Long

“I had a great idea but I didn’t know how to make it a business,” she said. “I made \$15,000 the first year and thought well, this is going to be a great hobby.” The business became real when a friend mentioned that the Philadelphia Police Union Health and Welfare Fund was looking for a nurse to help its members. “I was like, perfect, I can do that,” she said. She got the contract and in the first year helped 49 patients. But before renewing, the fund manager said he wanted to calculate the return on investment, or ROI, to find out if her work was actually saving money. “I was like, what’s an ROI?” she recalled.

Long hired a consultant to run the numbers. The result? A \$1.7 million return on investment for the fund. “The experience encouraged me to go to other unions,” she said. “So I just started to grow the business.” A decade later, Long was searching for ways to make Guardian more proactive for patients. Her answer is the Mobile Care Coordinator program, in which nurses work with patients with acute, complex or chronic illnesses. Nurses accompany patients to doctor visits, visit them in the hospital, support follow-up care, and where needed find and coordinate assistance programs and deal with insurance issues. From the sole proprietor 23 years ago, Guardian has grown to 61 nurses. While most of its 22 programs are located in the mid-Atlantic region, it has two in Seattle, two in

Long Island, and one each in Buffalo, Plattsburg, and Syracuse, New York, and southern New Jersey. Now Long is turning her attention and energy to the Save Healthcare Workers Act. She became interested in the bill in 2024 after reading about three Penn Presbyterian Medical Center nurses who were seriously injured when struck by a car as they attended a shooting victim outside of the emergency department. During a staff meeting, Long asked her nurses to raise their hands if they had ever been physically or verbally assaulted. Thirty-nine of the 61 nurses raised their hands. “My stomach flipped,” she said. “I think that it is unconscionable that we are allowing this. There aren’t consequences.” When the Save Healthcare Workers bill failed to make it out of committee, Long asked why. After all, a similar law was passed to protect airline pilots and flight attendants. “Why are they drawing the line at nurses?” Long said. “Are we not important enough? There are more than four million of us. I get pretty worked up.” Long may not understand politics. But 23 years ago, she didn’t understand anything about business. And that turned out pretty well. Now she is applying that same determination to getting word out about the bill. “I feel like the campaign that we’re doing is just about educating the public so they can say to their elected officials, ‘Hey, what are you doing about the Save Healthcare Workers bill?’” Long said. “I think for me individually, this passion project is really to see this bill see the light of day.”

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The Weekly Crossword by Margie E. Burke

ACROSS

- 1 Auto parts giant
- 5 out (declined)
- 10 Puts away
- 14 Oil acronym
- 15 Mania
- 16 Put on a long face
- 17 Lively
- 18 Solid ground
- 20 No longer good
- 22 Former Kudrow co-star
- 23 Made off with
- 25 Nature calls?
- 26 Balances
- 28 Fed the fire
- 31 Cowboy nickname
- 32 Fit to eat
- 34 Deep black
- 38 Bobby Brady, to Carol
- 40 One fleeing a flood, maybe
- 42 Jedi guru
- 43 Sketcher's tool
- 45 Funnyman Brooks
- 46 Type of union or bureau
- 48 NFL's Beckham Jr.
- 50 Old photo tint
- 53 Opt for first
- 55 Chocolate treat
- 58 Scottish flatbread
- 61 Venom neutralizers, e.g.
- 63 News bit
- 64 Chart toppers
- 65 Hollywood Holmes
- 66 2021 film, "Look Up"
- 67 "we forget..."
- 68 Apple desktops
- 69 Aphrodite's son

DOWN

- 1 Yep's opposite
- 2 High point
- 3 Bewildered
- 4 Film genre
- 5 Musical eight-some
- 6 Set in advance
- 7 Road-paving stuff
- 8 Pound of verse
- 9 Campus VIP
- 10 Like most sitcoms
- 11 Main blood line
- 12 Chemo target
- 13 Musial and Laurel
- 19 Captain's command
- 21 Romantic dozen
- 24 Do a voice-over
- 26 Crafty site
- 27 Bill killer in D.C.
- 29 Like some music
- 30 Zachary of "Shazam!"
- 33 Inside info
- 35 Part of a fraction
- 36 Ship's backbone
- 37 Shout out

39 One opposed to war

41 High up

44 Quick drink

47 Rapids ride

49 Get off the fence

50 Lesley of "60 Minutes"

51 Tennessee Ford

52 Golf strokes

54 Lessens

56 Villain in "The Avengers"

57 SAT or GMAT

59 Bingo's cousin

60 911 responders, briefly

62 Give ___ go (2 wds.)

Answers to Previous Crossword:

A	R	C	S	S	C	U	D	I	R	O	N
F	I	A	T	S	C	O	F	F	N	O	D
A	C	M	E	A	R	R	O	W	H	E	A
R	E	P	L	A	C	E	D	E	R	N	S
A	L	I	K	E	D	A	R	T			
N	A	I	A	D	N	A	I	L	B	I	T
A	G	G	R	E	S	S	I	V	E	A	R
M	E	N	S	H	A	R	E	R	S	A	R
E	N	E	S	O	V	E	R	T	U	R	N
S	T	R	A	I	N	E	R	S	R	E	S
A	M	O	U	R	N	F	L	T	E	A	M
W	A	L	K	S	O	N	A	I	R	A	T
E	S	A	I	C	L	U	E	S	S	O	D
S	S	N	S	R	E	T	D	E	R	S	T

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Medical center seeks to bring new model of health care to Germantown

by Chelsea Lubbe

ArchWell Health, a new primary care center for patients ages 60 and up, is now open in Germantown, with a business model designed not just for a specific age group but to address pricing, geography and networking.

During a recent ribbon-cutting at ArchWell's new location at 6201 Germantown Ave., members of the community were invited to learn more about the new facility, and to give ArchWell caregivers a way to learn more about the Germantown community. Part of the goal is to respond to specific neighborhood needs with a holistic approach to care. For one thing, ArchWell is for Medicare Advantage patients only, with many people choosing those plans to save money over traditional Medicare.

For another thing, "if you look at the Germantown area specifically, people really don't have good access, and have to travel many miles to get to good primary care," said Dr. Doron Schneider, the company's Philadelphia medical director.

A core value of ArchWell Health is that holistic approach, Schneider says, that takes into consideration the physical, spiritual, behavioral and social needs of patients. ArchWell has already begun contacting organizations in the area like Center in the Park, a community organization providing social services, classes and fitness programs for older adults; the Greater Philadelphia Alliance Social Services Center, which connects people

citywide to needed resources and information; Community Legal Services, which offers free civil legal assistance to low-income Philadelphians; and faith-based communities.

"There's very much an appetite to stay local, to be finding partners who have a similar mission," Schneider said.

The goal, he says, is more effective use of the health-care system.

"We are trying to reduce unnecessary emergency room utilization and unnecessary hospitalization," he said. "And so when you look at it, you know, ultimately, what we're bringing to communities are the conditions for health to emerge."

ArchWell Health accepts a number of Medicare Advantage plans like Aetna, United and Humana. It does not accept commercial or business insurance, and does not participate in straight fee-for-service Medicare.

The company's doctor-to-patient ratio is small by design.

"Our providers see just a fraction of the total number of patients that a usual primary care provider physician would see," Schneider said. "... We're able to spend more time with you, and build the relationship with you and your family."

From their opening on Feb. 19 in the former RiteAid pharmacy building, ArchWell has been trying to build bridges into Germantown, even offering opportunities for social activities and events.

"I think that people saw that space, saw that it was vacant for some time, and a lot of different options could have gone into that



The ArchWell Health team in Germantown.

space. We are really doing this for the long haul. We're here, not in a transient way. We intend to be here for many, many years, and to be a part of the community," Schneider said.

ArchWell Health has been in business for about five years. Over the past year, the company has launched at least 50 centers across the country, including eight in Philadelphia, doubling the organization's size, now operating in 14 different markets.

To learn more about care offered through ArchWell providers, visit archwellhealth.com/locations/germantown. The center is open Mon-Fri, 8 a.m.-5 p.m..

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Chestnut Hill Local

How a Germantown newspaper, loyal to the British, lost it all

by Jeff Meade

(Editor's note: As the Chestnut Hill Local this month will celebrate the start of its 68th year, we bring you the story of one of the area's first newspapers, founded by an ambitious businessman who came to Philadelphia 300 years ago.)

The 13 American colonies had just declared independence from England. Newspapers throughout Philadelphia enthusiastically rallied around the cause of freedom.

All except one. Die Germantowner Zeitung — in English, The Germantown Newspaper.

Die Germantowner Zeitung was either pacifist in its outlook or outright loyalist. Maybe it was a bit of both. Regardless, and given the times, those views were far from popular. Here's how Johann Christoph Sauer Jr. and his son Christoph 3d, wealthy publishers of Germantown's longtime newspaper of record, paid a steep price for swimming against the rising tide of rebellion.

In Germantown, the members of the Sauer family had been highly esteemed for many years. Christoph Jr. inherited Die Germantowner Zeitung from his enterprising father, who migrated to the colonies in 1724. Christoph Sr. was a tailor back in his hometown of Ladenberg, Germany, but once here, he reinvented himself in a big way.

He and his wife and son settled in Germantown, and he set about making clocks and repairing pots and pans, according to Sattler College historian Hans Leaman, who has written about the Sauer family. As the years passed, Leaman said,



The Sauer printing house, circa 1789. Image courtesy of the Germantown Historical Society

Sauer added to his enterprising skillset, including cabinet maker, bookbinder — even opening an apothecary shop, performing surgeries and bloodletting.

That might have been enough for most, but Sauer Sr. had one more trick up his sleeve. He built his own printing press, made his own ink powder and began publishing a German language Bible — the first European language Bible printed in the colonial United States, Leaman says — along with religious broadsides, an ABC book, an almanac, and most ambitious of all, a newspaper. He purchased the paper it was printed on from another enterprising publisher by the name of Benjamin Franklin.

"Some of the other biographers I've read seem kind of amazed that

he was able to convince folks that he could be successful with it," Leaman said. "He had to import the very expensive type (the Fraktur font, which German audiences were used to reading), and he needed to borrow money for that. Ben Franklin had earlier tried to produce a German paper, but with his own Antique type. That's one reason why it didn't take off."

Whatever skills Sauer Sr. might have possessed, naming a newspaper was not one of them.

It was called Der Hoch-Deutsch Pensylvanische Geschicht-Schreiber, oder Sammlung Wichtiger Nachrichten aus der Natur und Kirchen-Reich. Translation: High German Pennsylvania Recorder of Events, or Collection of Important News from the Realms of Nature and the

Church. Not a name that rolls trippingly across the tongue.

His son Christoph Jr. inherited the newspaper upon his father's death in 1758 and published it under the much more manageable, if not particularly original name of Germantowner Zeitung. Christoph Jr. was at least as entrepreneurial as his father. He built his own paper mill along the banks of the Schuylkill. He was also, by that point, one of the wealthiest men in Pennsylvania, and board president of Germantown Academy, which was founded in 1759.

Over the years, the newspaper became a roaring success for its time, with a respectable circulation of 4,000.

Christoph Jr. was, unlike his father, a member of the Church of the Brethren and a pacifist, according to Brethren Historical Library and Archives.

All went well until the colonies threw off the yoke of British colonialism and declared independence.

By this time, Christoph Jr. had been joined in the publishing business by his son Christoph 3d. Christoph Jr. had warned against the violence and horrors of war, but Christoph 3d was a devout British loyalist, Leaman said.

Christoph Jr., he adds, harbored complex beliefs.

"Anabaptists (Christoph Jr.'s faith) and Mennonites would have talked about there being two kingdoms," Leaman said. "Their prime loyalty is to a kingdom of God that cannot be seen. That transcends all national boundaries. At the same time, they do find themselves coincidentally citizens of particular nations, nations here on earth. It was not their role

to influence that. For Christoph Jr., he wasn't trying to change the government that there was. As long as the king was head of state, his conscience would be that he shouldn't assist in overthrowing him."

Christoph 3d harbored far more radical views. In this, among the German-speaking population, he might not have been alone.

On the one hand, he might have perceived his father as having come in for mistreatment for his beliefs by the continentals, Leaman said. On the other hand, the political allegiances of many German settlers were suspect, perhaps because King George was only three generations removed from his German forebears.

"The Germans were thought to be loyalists in that they came from the same line as their rulers and that they were afraid of an independent government in the New World," Leaman explained.

(That said, plenty of other German settlers were active in the American Revolution. John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg, for example, served as a military officer in the Continental Army.)

By Leaman's accounting, the Sauers' loyalty to the crown wasn't confined to words only. When the British army captured Germantown, Christoph 3d and his brother Peter published loyalist propaganda for the local Germans and Hessians.

When the British were driven out, Christoph 3d made his escape with the British army to New York. He consequently emigrated to England after the war. He was named a royal printer and moved

(Continued on page 19)

'Police Story' combines inventive action with humor and star power

by Will Standish

On a purely plot level, "Police Story" is, well, simply just that. Hong Kong police officer Chan Ka-Kui (Jackie Chan) is part of a special forces team tasked with bringing down drug smuggling kingpin Chu Tao (Chor Yuen) and his gang. But when corrupt officers and the



machinations of Tao's slick lawyer (Lau Chi-wing) let Tao walk free, Chan must go rogue to make sure justice is served.

It was a well-worn premise even at the time of the film's release in 1985. It's within this familiar framework, however, that "Police Story," which screens at Woodmere on Tuesday, May 12, delivers one of the most visually inventive — and one of the funniest

— martial arts movies ever put to screen. Both directed by and starring Jackie Chan, the kinetic stuntwork on display is more Buster Keaton than Bruce Lee.

While perhaps best known in America for his turns in family friendly action-comedies from the late 1990s and early 2000s (fellow millennials may fondly recall the seminal cartoon series "Jackie Chan Adventures"), Chan's career began in the 1970s in the Hong Kong film industry, where his background in acrobatics, Chinese opera and martial arts made him a versatile star in films like 1978's "Drunken Master." Chan's on-screen persona, a harried everyman who overcomes his opponents with his wits and his acrobatics rather than brute strength, translated well to period piece costume pictures and urban crime movies alike and found perhaps its purest and most satisfying expression in "Police Story."

Chan as a performer understands what precious few action heroes do: that a willingness to be caught on the wrong foot or to be the butt of the joke endears you to the audience all the more. For



Jackie Chan in "Police Story."

every triumph, there's a pratfall to balance it out. In a film loaded with some of the most ingenious action set pieces ever realized, the standout stunt is a gag involving a rolling chair, an office filled with ringing telephones, and an increasingly overwhelmed Chan trying to answer them all. It's clear that Chan holds both physical comedy and action in equal regard because both are at different ends of what Chan truly loves: the

joy of motion.

Chan's instincts as a performer are complimented by his instincts as a director because of his understanding that so much of cinema is about physical space, and how a character moves through it. Set pieces, like Chan scaling a hijacked bus with the aid of an umbrella or the showstopping multilevel chase through a crowded mall in the film's final act, are still stunning over 40 years later because of the

way they allow the sets to become an extension of the performers.

When Chan kicks one of Tao's goons, the point is not the impact of the kick, but how it impacts the space around them. As a result, the joys of the choreography are less like that of a modern tentpole blockbuster and more like witnessing Charlie Chaplin's Little Tramp cause havoc in a factory in "Modern Times," Gene Kelly dance, or Jacques Tati bring human chaos to a sleek and airless nightclub in "Playtime."

"Police Story" stands as one of the greatest action movies ever made because in a genre all too frequently dismissed as "mindless," it reminds us that the best of them are anything but.

"Police Story" screens at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 12, as part of the Tuesday Nights at the Movies series at Woodmere, 9201 Germantown Ave. in Chestnut Hill. The film is presented in Cantonese with English subtitles. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and light refreshments will be provided prior to the screening. Tuesday Nights at the Movies screenings are free to the public, but donations are greatly appreciated.

World-class organist to play recital at St. Paul's Church

by Len Lear

Acclaimed organist Mark Laubach, who has served as organist and choirmaster at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkes-Barre since 1986, where he administers an active liturgical and choral music program and concert series, will present an organ recital on Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m., at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill.

His program will include pieces by J.S. Bach, Franz Liszt, César Franck and others that will explore the many voices and moods of the church's newly renovated and expanded pipe organ.

Laubach has an international reputation, having performed recitals and led church services all over the world. He was recently honored for his 40 years of service as organist and choir director at St. Stephen's.

"I have really enjoyed the time I've spent with the wonderful organ at St. Paul's," Laubach told the Local in an interview last week. "I knew it before the rebuild by Stephen Russell, though not as intimately as I know it now. In the past, it was a rather disparate



Mark Laubach at the organ console of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, where he will present an organ recital to the community on Friday, May 8, at 7:30 p.m. Photo courtesy of Andy Kotylo

collection of ranks of pipes and the different divisions and styles of pipework and voicing did not always combine as successfully as one might want.

"But now, since the rebuild, I find that the sound of the instrument has a much greater degree of cohesiveness. The organ certainly has an amazing breadth of

color and variety of sounds, which is perfect for the pieces I'm playing, especially the one by Liszt. ... Organs like this did not really exist in Liszt's time, but my guess is that Liszt would have loved the colors and diverse sounds on this instrument."

During the Mass in January honoring Laubach, the Rev. Wesley

Poole, who serves two Lutheran churches in the Wilkes-Barre area, said in an interview with the Times Leader, "I'd rather hear Mark play a few bars of anything than listen to many sermons."

Laubach, who holds the leadership title "Canon" at the church, can be compared to "the glue that holds the place together," St. Stephen's rector, the Rev. Timothy Aleman added in the Times Leader.

In an interview on YouTube, Laubach said, "An organ should have real character and qualities that make it sound beautiful. I consider myself something of a purist, but I am enough of a realist ... to know that not every church can afford an organ they'd like. We can't always have perfection, but we try as best we can. It is astonishing how technology is making it possible for digital instruments to recreate effectively the sounds of a pipe organ."

Laubach received a bachelor's degree in church music from Westminster Choir College in 1982 and a master's degree in organ performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music of the University of Rochester in 1984. He served for one year as Fellow in

Church Music at Washington National Cathedral.

Since winning first prize in the 1984 American Guild of Organists National Young Artists' Competition in Organ Performance, Laubach has performed in many of the most prominent churches and concert halls in the United States and Western Europe.

"Having grown up as the son and nephew of three brothers who all served as Lutheran pastors," Laubach told the Local, "I was literally born into and grew up in churches, so singing and playing hymns has always been and still is one of my greatest joys as an organist. Nothing excites me quite as much as the thrill of accompanying singers who joyously and enthusiastically sing hymns."

Laubach is also a frequent recitalist, clinician, presenter of hymn festivals and competition adjudicator for national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, and national and regional conferences of the Association of Anglican Musicians. He has recorded three critically acclaimed compact discs on the Pro Organo label.

Interestingly, there is currently a shortage of church organists in the United States. The website of the American Guild of Organists indicates that its membership has dropped significantly from its peak of about 20,000 to just over 10,000 today.

According to Andy Kotylo, music director at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, the May 8 concert is free to the public "in loving memory of St. Paul's parishioner Ann Stookey (1952-2012), a resident of Chestnut Hill in whose name a fund was established to provide for the maintenance and enhancement of the landmark instrument, which now counts as one of the finest pipe organs in the region."

For more information, visit stpaulschestnuthill.org. Len Lear can be reached at lenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com

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‘Dyke Pride Dance’ for lesbians returns to Mt. Airy church

by Len Lear

Organizers of the “Dyke Pride Dance” are hoping for a big turnout Friday, May 15, at Summit Presbyterian Church in Mt. Airy, one one of the most gay-friendly communities in the United States.

Tickets for the 7 p.m. party may range from \$5 to \$35, but “No dykes or queers will be turned away for lack of funds,” said Kali Morgan, spokesperson for Sisterspace of the Delaware Valley, a nonprofit that “provides services and events for individuals who identify as women (cis or trans) and nonbinary sisters with a history of girlhood.”

“These phobias and biases [against LGBTQ+ people] continue to exist,” Morgan said, “but one thing about Northwest Philadelphia is that people here are passionate, and there are so many queer folks with an inclusive and expansive view of the LGBTQ+ umbrella in general and of [lesbians] in particular who will show up with their whole heart and soul. The Dyke Pride Dance is for those who want to celebrate sapphic connection and existence in all of its forms.”

Mt. Airy has a higher concentration of lesbian couples than any other neighborhood in the United States, according to a survey conducted by The Advocate, a national LGBTQ+ news and information publication,

The first “Dyke Pride Dance” was Feb. 9, 2024, at Summit Church, which was chosen because



Members of Sisterspace of the Delaware Valley (SODV), a nonprofit that “provides services and events for individuals who identify as women (cis or trans) and nonbinary sisters with a history of girlhood.” Photo courtesy of SODV

“its hall holds up to 150 people, because it is local, affordable and community-minded,” activist Arleen Olshan, organizer of the first event, said in an earlier interview. Olshan is a founder of Mt. Airy Art Garage.

Morgan, a resident of West Germantown who studied photography at Community College of Philadelphia, said, “I was always ‘out’ at school but not with my fundamentalist family. Luckily, I had a great counselor at school who was able to get me out of school and away from religious counseling one day a week at Voyage House,” the predecessor to The Attic Youth Center.

Sharon Yates, another

organizer of the May 15 event, studied medical laboratory technology at Camden County Community College and currently lives in Berlin, New Jersey.

“I came out to my mother when I was 12 years old, but she did not believe me,” Yates told the Local last week. “I officially came out when I was 20. ... At this point, we are only in the beginning stages of publicity for the dance, but the responses we have gotten are very good. I would love for us to have this as an annual dance.”

Although conditions for the LGBTQ+ community have undoubtedly improved over the years in Philadelphia, Yates insists there

still needs to be more progress.

“Just like in the rest of the United States,” she said, “there are pockets and communities of folks who are incapable of seeing us as people who are the same as them. I have always made it a point to share my story with people I meet who haven’t had interactions with gay people. I try to let them see that I am just like them and hope that they can pass on that knowledge.”

Merri Rich, another organizer of the May 15 event, is a New York native who now lives in this area. She attended a specialized nursing school and completed three years of college.

“Nursing was a practical and

meaningful path for me,” she said last week. “It allowed me to provide for my son while he was growing up. Later in life, with the encouragement and support of my wife, Jenny; my sister, Linda; and a strong circle of friends and family, I was able to return to my creative work and focus more fully on my art practice. ... I never really had a formal ‘coming out.’ I’ve always experienced myself as fluid. It was never something I felt I had to explain or hide. It was simply who I was.”

When asked if there are still issues involving bias even in the generally progressive communities of Northwest Philadelphia, Rich replied, “Yes, absolutely. Even in places that feel progressive, there are still underlying issues, whether it’s lack of representation, subtle bias or unequal access to opportunities and resources.”

“In the art world specifically, there are still barriers around who gets visibility and support. More broadly, there are still spaces, both public and private, where people don’t feel fully safe or accepted. That’s part of why building our own spaces is so important. It’s not just about inclusion; it’s about ownership, visibility and creating environments where people don’t have to shrink themselves.”

The dance begins at 7 p.m. Summit Presbyterian Church is at 6757 Greene St. For more information, visit sisterspace.org. Len Lear can be reached at llenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com

How a Germantown newspaper, loyal to the British, lost it all

Continued from page 17

to the Canadian maritime province of New Brunswick, where he published two newspapers. Peter made for the West Indies, where he became a physician.

Christoph Jr. stayed behind and eventually he was left holding the bag.

A detailed Sauer family history

takes it from here.

Christoph Sauer Jr. was arrested on the night of May 25, 1778, and marched off to take an oath of loyalty at a nearby military encampment. He refused on religious grounds.

By his own account, he was treated badly.

Again, the family history picks up the narrative:

“They frequently struck me in the back with their bayonets till they brought me to Bastian Miller’s barn, where they kept me till next morning. Then they strip’d me naked to the skin and gave me an old shirt and breeches so much torn that I could hardly cover my private parts, then cut my beard and hair, and painted me with oil colors red and black, and led me

along barefooted and bareheaded on a very hot, sunshiny day.”

This mistreatment eventually caught the notice of Gen. Muhlenberg, who suggested that Sauer petition Gen. Washington for release, which he did. He was set free on May 29.

But Sauer Jr.’s sad story was far from over. According to the family history, while in captivity he

missed a public notice of demand that he appear to take an “Oath to the States.” Consequently, all of his properties were confiscated and sold at an auction. He was allowed to keep only his glasses. This once wealthy civic leader of Germantown lived out his remaining days in poverty.

Christoph Sauer Jr. died August 26, 1784.

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Local Foodie

Fine dining at Chestnut Hill location — and it's free

by Len Lear

It is no secret that a visit to a supermarket, grocery store or upscale restaurant these days might result in a painful case of sticker shock thanks in part to inflation and the spike in gasoline prices, which have led to cost increases for so many commodities.

But Chestnut Hill resident and chef Deborah Lotterman has been offering a prescription for this skyrocketing prices ailment — as least temporarily. During most of the year, Lotterman, founder of the DoubleDown Supper Club, serves a free — yes, free — monthly multi-course dinner at her residence near the Water Tower.

The only catch is that each participant must make a monetary donation of any amount to support Germantown Community Fridges, two very busy sidewalk fridges and pantries at 20 W. Armat St. and 19 E. High St. According to the organizers' website, the initiative's mission is "to help fight hunger and food insecurity and provide free, supplemental food in Germantown. Stocked by the community and for the community, anyone who needs food is welcome to take it. The fridges are maintained and stocked by volunteers and community members."



This shrimp ceviche puttanesca appetizer was a big hit at a recent pescatarian-themed DoubleDown Supper Club dinner. Photo courtesy of Deborah Lotterman

Lotterman grew up in the Baltimore area, where she graduated from the Baltimore International Culinary Arts Institute (she calls that name "a mouthful," which is only appropriate for a cooking school). She went onto college at Towson University, then studied professional writing in graduate school at Emerson College in Boston where she paid for school with loans and by waiting on tables. She stayed in Boston for 36 years starting in 1987, eventually becoming chief creative officer for a medical advertising agency, Precision Effect. While there, she fell in love with a teacher, Brett Flehinger, who moved with her to

Philadelphia in 2023, after he was hired to teach history at the Agnes Irwin School in Rosemont.

"When I came to this area, I found out about the Germantown Community Fridges," Lotterman told the Local, "and I fell in love with them. I wanted to help out, so I came up with the idea [of the free dinners]. It is so much fun for me. You are constantly learning. So when I would meet people, I would invite them to the dinners, up to 16 at each dinner. I did a test drive in May of 2024 and started doing them regularly that fall."

Lotterman puts on the dinners from September to November and January through May. Needless to say, there are waiting lists since word has gotten out in the community. Lotterman spends \$250 to \$400 for the ingredients for each dinner. "I have to prepare food ahead of time so I can spend time with guests," she said. "I am also willing to prepare dinners in other people's homes. They can eat in their own home and help with the cooking if they want to get all the glory."

Last month, Lotterman made a shrimp ceviche puttanesca that scored a home run with guests. One diner called it "epic." In January, she made individual mushroom Wellington with a port wine reduction, which resulted in all empty plates. Other extra-base hits were bucatini with a mushroom fauxlognese (no



Chestnut Hill resident Deborah Lotterman's DoubleDown Supper Club has raised \$6,000 so far for the Germantown Community Fridges with her free, multi-course dinners. Photo courtesy of Deborah Lotterman

meat) and a dessert of cardamom pots de crème with ginger molasses snaps and strawberry tirami suzettes.

"I'm fortunate to have been one of the charter members of the DoubleDown Supper Club, said Mark Mattson, an interactive art director, artist and Mt. Airy resident. "The company is always lively, conversation just flows, and the food is out of this world."

"I'll never forget those latkes with creme fraiche and smoked salmon," added Andrea Appel, an attorney and owner of The SPACE Art Gallery in Bella Vista. "Deborah has an extraordinary ability to combine ingredients and people. It's always such fun!"

Lotterman said, "I love it here in Philly. Chestnut Hill is like a Hallmark card — gorgeous area, trees everywhere, [a] walk to the co-op.

I like to shop the way the French do, buy for that day. We just did a birthday dinner that was so much fun. We got a sitting ovation. When you come to a new city, it's not easy to make friends, but I have made so many wonderful friends this way."

The supper club has raised more than \$6,000 so far for Germantown Community Fridges.

"Some people keep giving," she said. "The conversation is natural at the dinners. Life gets better all the time. My mom was a great cook. I've found that people in general are generous. They like the fact that it is all for a good cause."

For more information, contact @doubledown_supperclub (Instagram) or email at doubledownsupperclub@gmail.com. (There is no website yet.) Len Lear can be reached at lenlear@chestnuthilllocal.com.



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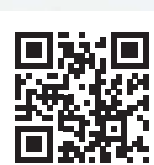
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Spring is here in Chestnut Hill...
and so are we!

Celebrate the new season with early plant starts, seed packets, fresh flowers and more!

Chestnut Hill 8424 Germantown Ave. Open 8 am to 8 pm, Every Day



Thur
May
7

‘Mommy’s Khimar’
presented by the
Enchantment
Theatre Company

Lovett Memorial Library,

6945 Germantown Ave., Mt. Airy

With expressive masks, life-size puppets, original music, and imaginative scenic effects, Enchantment Theatre Company brings to life “Mommy’s Khimar” by Jamilah Thompkins-Bigelow. In this story, a Black Muslim girl imagines all the things she can be in her mother’s beautiful yellow khimar. Recommended for grades K-5 and families. 1 p.m.

Author Reading and Signing with
Anndee Hochman

Big Blue Marble Bookstore, 551

Carpenter Lane., Mt. Airy

Celebrate the release of local Mt. Airy author Anndee Hochman’s newest collection of essays, “Parent Trip: Unexpected Roads to Form a Family.” As a Philadelphia Inquirer columnist for nearly a decade, Hochman interviewed hundreds of parents about the paths they forged and the obstacles they faced on the road to form a family. This book is Hochman’s collection of these poignant, wry, and complicated stories. 6 p.m. [bigbluemarblebooks.com](#)

Fri
May
8

Moody’s Mood &
Beyond: Celebrating
King Pleasure

Woodmere, 9201

Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Emerging in the 1950s, vocalese transformed the human voice into an instrument, mirroring the phrasing and improvisational spirit of the saxophone. Pioneered by artists like King Pleasure, the style brought a fresh, inventive dimension to jazz vocals. Enjoy classics such as “Moody’s Mood for Love” and “Red Top.” 6 p.m. [woodmeremuseum.org](#)

Sat
May
9

2026 Spring Art
Market

Allens Lane Art Center,
601 W. Allens Lane, Mt.
Airy

Looking for something unique and handmade? Check out the selection of handmade pottery, unique gifts, and vibrant artwork at this market. Admission is free. 12-5 p.m. [allenslane.org](#)

Tempesta di Mare presents
Revolution Tunes

Woodmere, 9201 Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Harpsichordist John Walhausen plays music from the Francis Hopkinson Collection of Music, one of the most important sources of early American music. From country dance to tunes from Highland reels and Philadelphia hymns, this recital will provide a glimpse into the popular music at the time of America’s founding. 5 p.m. [woodmeremuseum.org](#)

Saturday Signing: ‘The Day
When Daisy Learned to Dance’

booked., 8511 Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Local author Holly Beebee will be signing copies of her book “The Day When Daisy Learned to Dance.” The story follows Daisy, a white Maltese, who hears music one day and sees children dancing. Although she is afraid to make a fool of herself, Daisy joins them and realizes dancing is fun, teaching children not to be shy about trying something new. 1 p.m. [bookedch.com](#)

Mother’s Day BYO Happy Hour
with the Philly Goats

Awbury Arboretum, 6336 Ardleigh St.,

Germantown

Bring mom, aunt, grandma, or any mother figure in your life to meet the Philly Goat Project’s 13 goats. There will be a chance to win original hoof-made art. Tickets are \$35. 5 p.m. [phillygoatproject.org](#)

Pressed Flower Workshop

NoName Gallery, 8127

Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Using real flowers and plants, participants will create a handmade

ceramic piece — such as a dish, plaque, or small tray — by pressing natural forms into clay to leave delicate botanical impressions. 1 p.m. [nonamegalleryphilly.com](#)

Sun
May
10

Mixed Media
Mosaic Workshop

Andorra Library, 705

E. Cathedral Rd.,

Roxborough

Mixed media mosaic

is a type of artwork that combines multiple materials (such as glass, tile, beads, metal, shells, etc.) in a single picture. The result is a work that adds texture and depth to create rich dimensional effects. All supplies will be provided. The second class will be on May 18. 2 p.m.

Mon
May
11

Tuesday Nights at
the Movies: ‘Police
Story’

Woodmere, 9201

Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Jackie Chan delivers some of his most astonishing stunt work in this high-octane blend of action, comedy, and procedural drama. Playing a resourceful Hong Kong cop framed for murder, Chan’s Sgt. Chan Ka-Kui battles criminals and corruption with reckless athleticism. From explosive chases to a legendary mall finale, the film’s inventive set pieces helped redefine the genre and cemented Chan’s international reputation as a bankable action star. 7 p.m. [woodmeremuseum.org](#)

Tues
May
12

Ongoing

Theater

‘The Hypochondriac’

Quintessence Theatre, 7137

Germantown Ave., Mt. Airy

Argan is convinced his undiagnosable illness is fatal and he must spend his wealth on celebrated doctors to survive. He schemes to have his daughter marry a doctor to ensure free health care. Can his daughter’s loveless marriage give Argan the insurance he needs against illness, or will he realize that the true ills threatening his life are not medicinal? This show runs from April 15 to May 10. [quintessencetheatre.org](#)

‘Don’t Sing No Blues for Me’

Allens Lane Art Center, 601 W. Allens

Lane, Mt. Airy

Max’s barbershop is a staple in a small country town where Black men can exist with one another, romantic plans are discussed, dreams are born, and bets are made. That is until Ima Jean,

one of the town’s most popular women, passes away. Rumors begin to rise in the barbershop about her abandoned son, Choice, who has escaped the law to come to town. This show runs from April 24 to May 9. [allenslane.org](#)

Art

Craft Club Meeting

Mt. Airy Art Garage, 7054 Germantown

Ave., Mt. Airy.

Collage sessions for \$10 per session. Supplies provided, and no experience necessary. For more information, email [info@mtairyartgarage.org](#). Second and fourth Fridays of the month, 6:30-8 p.m. [mtairyartgarage.org](#)

‘The Personal is Political: Conni
Billé’s Women’s Liberation Series’

Joseph E. Coleman Northwest Regional

Library, 68 W. Chelten Ave., Germantown

This retrospective of linocuts from 1968-1969 celebrates the art of Conni Billé, a co-founder of the National Abortion Rights Action League with Betty Friedan. Through protest art, Billé reflected on how society limited women’s roles and prospects and asserted her human rights. This exhibition will open on Jan. 31 and run through June 30.

‘Planting in Time, Place, and
Memory’

Woodmere, 9201 Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Experience the profound and evocative work of Syd Carpenter in this retrospective celebrating over 50 years of her influential career. This exhibition will showcase the full breadth of her artistic journey, highlighting her innovative explorations at the intersection of African American history, land and agriculture, the human body, and the elemental materiality of clay. This exhibit will be on display from Jan. 24 to May 24. [woodmeremuseum.org](#)

‘Bodies and Souls’

Woodmere, 9201 Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

This exhibition focuses on late 20th and early 21st century paintings, drawings, and sculpture by many different artists. Bodies are depicted as relational, vulnerable, and resilient, attending to gender, sexuality, interiority, and urban life. “Bodies and Souls” presents representation as a liberatory strategy, enabling artists to see and be seen on their own terms. The exhibition will run from March 14 to June 7. [woodmeremuseum.org](#)

‘Hand in Hand’

Allens Lane Art Center, 601 W. Allens

Lane, Mt. Airy

This painting exhibition features the work of Philadelphia-based artist Jacob Stevens. The featured works encourage close looking, or an artistic practice defined by spending an extended period of time with one piece to glean information obscured at first glance. This exhibition will be on view from April 11 to May 10. [allenslane.org](#)

‘Peacock Landscapes and Other
Joyful Moments’

Awbury Arboretum’s Cope House, 1

Awbury Rd., Germantown

In many cultures, the peacock is a symbol of beauty, grace, new beginnings, and spiritual awakenings. Enjoy a collection of artist Diane Pieri’s paintings featuring peacocks. The exhibition will

be on view from May 5 to June 29.

[awbury.org](#)

Family Fun

Chestnut Hill Farmers Market

Intersection of Germantown Ave. and

Mermaid Ln., Chestnut Hill

Local farms, bakeries, and food artisans come to sell their goods at one of the longest running food markets in Philly. Every Saturday, year round, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. [chestnuthillpa.com](#)

Friday Matinees

Free Library of Springfield Township,

8900 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor

Watch a free movie every Friday afternoon at 2 p.m. Most movies are rated PG or PG-13.

Fun and Games

Trivia Night!

Chestnut Hill Brewing Company, 8231

Germantown Ave., Market at the

Fareway, Chestnut Hill.

Whaddya know? Put your knowledge to the test on Trivia Night with Steve and enjoy some beer and pizza or food from one of the many other vendors in the Market at the Fareway. Wednesday nights, 7-9 p.m. [chestnuthillbrewingcompany.com](#)

Quizzo!

Char & Stave, 8441 Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill.

Every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. at the Hill’s perky place for coffee and cocktails. Hosted by DJ Jamie Callen. [charandstave.com](#)

Knit Night

Free Library of Springfield Township,

8900 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor

Knitting is about more than making hats and scarves. It’s relaxing and healing for the mind and soul, in addition to fun craftsmanship. Every Wednesday night at 7 p.m. This is an open group for adults 18 and older. No registration required. 215-836-5300

Rummy Tiles (aka Rummikub)

Center on the Hill, Chestnut Hill

Presbyterian Church, 8855 Germantown Ave., Chestnut Hill.

Join this fast-paced, fun and easy game combining elements of the card game rummy and mahjong. Open play space is limited, so please RSVP for each week you plan to play. Game sets are provided. Wednesdays, ongoing. \$2. Registration is required. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. To register, call 215-247-4654 or email [msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org](#).

Mah Jongg Open Play

Center on the Hill, Chestnut Hill

Presbyterian Church, 8855 Germantown Ave., Chestnut Hill.

Enjoy Mah Jongg in a relaxed environment. You should be familiar with the game and have played some before. Wednesdays, ongoing. Join at any time. \$2. Registration is required. 1:30-3:30 p.m. To register call 215-247-4654 or email [msaavedra@chestnuthillpres.org](#).

Adult Chess Night

Free Library of Springfield Township,

8900 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor.

Wednesday 6-8 p.m. All ages are welcome, with sets available. For adults and older teens.

Coding Fun with Raspberry Pi

Lovett Memorial Library, 6945

Germantown Avenue, Mt Airy

Kids will learn how to code using Scratch and Python, two coding learning platforms. Participants learn how to code games, music, digital art, and more. The coding will be done on Raspberry Pi devices that will be supplied so bringing a device from home is not needed. The program is designed for kids ages 8-12. Every Tuesday at 4:30 p.m.

Valley Green Chess Club

Valley Green Inn, Valley Green Rd.,

Wissahickon Valley Park

All levels of players are welcome to attend this chess club. Limited sets are available. For more information, contact Bill Zager at [billasg@verizon.net](#). Every Tuesday from 5-7:45 p.m.

Health and Fitness

Senior Stretch

Free Library of Springfield Township,

8900 Hawthorne Lane, Wyndmoor

Join Jeromee Baker, a certified yoga instructor and personal trainer, for an engaging and rejuvenating class that anyone can do. Sit, stand, or use a yoga mat. Please bring a yoga mat or a blanket. Meets every Monday from 11 a.m.-noon.

Gentle Yoga with Josh

Lovett Memorial Library, 6945

Germantown Ave., Mt. Airy

This weekly yoga class offers gentle movement, quiet meditation, and guided breath work. Josh Mitteldorf will lead the class, which is adapted to all abilities and disabilities and suitable for all ages and backgrounds. Dress comfortably and bring yoga mats or props if you have them. Meets most Mondays from 5-6:15 p.m.

Music

Open Mic Night

The Royal Music & Arts Center, 1 S.

Easton Rd., Glenside

Do you have musical talent? Take the stage Wednesdays at The Royal, a hidden gem in Glenside. Sign-up at 7:30 p.m., show starts at 8 p.m. Lasts until 11:30 p.m. 610-220-2071. [theroyalglenside.com](#)

Upcoming

Spring Floral Arrangements

Friday, May 15, 1 p.m.

Morris Arboretum, 100 E. Northwestern

Ave., Chestnut Hill

In this hands-on workshop, you’ll design your own four-piece bud vase arrangement using a vibrant selection of seasonal blooms. Hand-select your four vases and receive a carrying case for easy transport while learning tips and best practices for working with flowers. [morrisarboretum.org](#)

Sassy and Sublime: The Music of
Sarah Vaughan

Friday, May 15, 6 p.m.

Woodmere, 9201 Germantown Ave.,

Chestnut Hill

Inspired by the artistry, velvety tone, and sweeping range of Sarah Vaughan, this concert moves from the intimate beauty of “Misty” and “Send in the Clowns” to the buoyant swing of favorites like “Lullaby of Birdland” and “It Don’t Mean a Thing,” capturing the full range, elegance, and joy that made her an enduring icon. [woodmeremuseum.org](#)



Spring is Spectacular
at Morris Arboretum & Gardens

MORRISARBORETUM.ORG



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E-MAIL: **classifieds@chestnuthilllocal.com**

DEADLINE:
Mondays at noon

PAYMENT ACCEPTED:
• Cash • Check • Mastercard
• Visa • AmEx • Discover

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8434 Germantown Avenue
Philadelphia, PA 19118

Online at: www.chestnuthilllocal.com

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267-234-7958, silverblatt.net

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Jonathan Sills: 215-896-8049

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Please contact Deborah at
215-687-0133

HOUSE & GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE
Saturday, May 9
9-11 am
9417 Meadowbrook Ave,
Philadelphia, PA 19118
Furniture, kids bikes, bed frame, toys, clothes and more!

HOUSE & GARAGE SALES

YARD SALE SEASON is finally here!

The Local is the best place to advertise your yard sale, estate sale or flea market. Your ad will reach both print and online readers.

Approx. 30 words for only \$20!

BONUS! All yard sale ads will receive a FREE yellow highlight in print to stand out!

Deadline for Thursday edition is Monday at noon.

Call 215-284-8818 or email to classifieds@chestnuthilllocal.com

LEGAL NOTICE

Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Hearing Board of Springfield Township, Montgomery County, will hold a meeting as required by the Zoning Ordinance of Springfield Township. This meeting will be held in the Boardroom of the Springfield Township Administration Building, located at 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038, on **Monday, May 18, 2026**, at 7:00 p.m. at which time the following application will be presented:
Case #26-11: This is the application of **Kara & Ronald White**, owners of the property located at 517 Cresheim Valley Road, Wyndmoor, Pa 19038, and known as Parcel #5200-0451-3502. The applicants seek approval to construct an addition to the front of the home that would encroach 10 feet into the required 40-foot front yard setback area. The applicants seek a variance from Section 114-54. A. of the Springfield Township Zoning Ordinance. The property is zoned within the A-Residential District of Ward #5 of Springfield Township.

Copies of the application packets are available for review in the Community Development Office during normal business hours, located at 1510 Paper Mill Road, Wyndmoor, PA 19038 or on our website at springfieldmontco.org. Any questions you may have can be addressed by contacting the Zoning Department at 215-836-7600, ext. 1114.

By Order of the Springfield Township Zoning Hearing Board
Mark A. Penecale
Director of Planning & Zoning

ESTATE NOTICES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, in the estate of the decedent set forth below, the Register of Wills has granted letters, testamentary or of administration, to the persons named. All persons having claims against said estate are requested to make known the same to them and all persons indebted to said decedent are requested to make immediate payment without delay to the executors or administrators named below.
DECEDENT: LILLEAS A. CALHOUN of Philadelphia County, PA
ADMINISTRATRIX/PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE:
Lois Kulp
1728 Green Street, 3F
Philadelphia, PA 19130

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LOST & FOUND

LOST & FOUND

The Local has a lost & found in our office as a community resource.

If you have found an item, feel free to turn it into us. We will place an ad for any item we receive.

If you have lost an item, you can call to see if we have it or place a free ad in the Local.

Call 215-248-8818 or email classifieds@ChestnutHillLocal.com by **11 am on Monday** to include your item in our next issue.

Check this spot weekly for any lost items!

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Call 717-602-5002

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The Chestnut Hill Local is providing this space to help local organizations who are seeking volunteers to help with a non-profit event or project.

For information on posting your call for volunteers here call 215-248-8813 or email leisha@ChestnutHillLocal.com

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3 apartments for rent 1 bdrm each
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All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation, or discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preferences, limitation, or discrimination." We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings are available on an equal opportunity basis.
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866-540-FAIR (3247)

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1 BDR + DEN, WEST MT AIRY
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RECENT HOME SALES

Philadelphia Real Estate Transfers March 1-10, 2026
Source: *Redfin.com*

CEDARBROOK (19150)
8505 Mansfield Ave, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, \$333,000
1128 E. Hortter St, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$150,000
8319 Woolston Ave, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, \$330,000
7920 Provident St, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$315,000
940 E. Allens Ln, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$300,000

CHESTNUT HILL (19118)
234 E. Benezet St, 5 bed, 1 bath, \$940,000
422 W. Chestnut Hill Ave, 6 bed, 7 bath, \$4,250,000
225 E. Gravers Ln, 4 bed, 2.5 bath, \$800,000
8702 Seminole St, 4 bed, 3 bath, \$2,075,000

GERMANTOWN (19144)
28 E. Johnson St, 6 bed, 2.5 bath, \$610,000
527 E. Walnut Ln, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$117,500
738 E. Rittenhouse St, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$240,000
320 W. Earllham Ter, 6 bed, 2 bath, \$155,000
366 E. Wister St, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, \$240,000
6146 Wayne Ave, #3, 2 bed, 1.5 bath, \$64,900
5502 Crowson St, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$149,900
731 E. Rittenhouse St, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$85,000

MT. AIRY (19119)
433 E. Horrtter St, 3 bed, 3 bath, \$342,000

8643 Sprague St, 2 bed, 1 bath, \$130,000
608 W. Phil Ellena St, Unit 4A, \$750,000
302 Wadsworth Ave, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, \$431,000
6758 Emlen St, #14, 2 bed, 1.5 bath, \$290,000
116 W. Sedgwick St, 3 bed, 1.5 bath, \$385,000

ROXBOROUGH (19128)
201 Rochelle Ave, 5 bed, 3 bath, \$585,000
7025 Valley Ave, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$380,123
435 Martin St, 4 bed, 3 bath, \$410,000
7508 Manti St, 4 bed, 2 bath, \$470,000
833 Green Valley Dr, 4 bed, 2.5 bath, \$460,000
442 Hermit St, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$390,000
468 Paoli Ave, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, \$460,000
4107 Manayunk Ave, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$170,000
8516 Chippewa Rd, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$455,000
7026 Ridge Ave, 2 bed, 2.5 bath, \$250,000
611 Roxborough Ave, 2 bed, 1 bath, \$155,000
4784 Silverwood St, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$329,000
314 Pensdale St, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, \$425,000
286 Parker Ave, Unit G, 3 bed, 3 bath, \$585,000
112 Vassar St, 3 bed, 1 bath, \$329,000
587 Wigard Ave, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, \$445,000
3804 Manayunk Ave, 3 bed, 2 bath, \$362,500
3913 Terrace St, Unit A, 3 bed, 2.5 bath, \$610,000

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

STORAGE SPACE in Wyndmoor

Garage for car or household storage, Unheated, 11'x26'

Call 215-280-7010

TOP OF THE HILL TOWNHOUSE Available in April.

3 bedroom, 2.5 bath, C/A, W/D, living room w/fireplace, dining room, bright master bedroom suite.
Walk to shops and trains, off-street parking.
\$3400/mo + electric
Call Mal: 215-206-1004

Wyndmoor Apartment Available June 1st
Bright 2 bed, 1 bath in small garden complex on quiet street.
Just blocks from Chestnut Hill. Hardwood floors, kitchen island, DW, laundry, off street parking.

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REAL ESTATE FOR RENT - COMMERCIAL

Office Space Now Available at 40 West Workspace,
a thriving Coworking space located at the top of Chestnut Hill.
Contact us to set up a visit
sarah.james@40westworkspace.com.
Visit our website at
<https://www.40westworkspace.com>

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

Seashore home near Ocean City NJ. Excellent condition. Spacious 2 bed, 2 bath, plus office sized loft. Large fenced in yard, hot tub, pavillion. New HVAC, hot water, refrigerator. Reasonable. 131 W. Groveland Ave. Somers Point 08244. Agent: Karen Carboni, Berkshire-Hathaway.
For information, call owner, Jerry in Mt. Airy 215-840-1149

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Answers

Word Scramble: Duty

Guess who:
Emma Watson

Crypto Fun:

A. military

B. service

C. troops

D. honor

Word Search

O H E K M S C V I U Y T D R A U G N A V

U L C U T H S I M R I K S F Q P I B A Y

R T N R N N H I B A R R A C K S S T O U

G T A E O H A I P A R T I L L E R Y F N

B I S E R Y K N S B U I V F H V G M D L

I P S D D T O R E A E N M L T M V E Q O

N U I N A T T R U T N G O R T F P F N G

F K A A U P V A E A U C A N O L S K C I

A L N M Q L P C R G O E E L O F Y S T S

N U N M S O N E T T N M I Y F Q I A O T

T T O O A T S O P I U M L Q U C N N I

R F C C N E T R T G P E K U F T O D U C

Y R E D V R P G E B N C O K I T L M S S

H G R A A E T R C T L S P C L L G H A B

G O R T I T Q N C R K H S C M K T H S C

M O E F O R T I F I C A T I O N T K K C

H G H N V M M L B A T T A L I O N K C B

Y M E C R E V U E N A M B N T P O L Q Y

C O A L I T I O N Q O V L D Y V Y H L L

Y E P I H E C F N O S I R R A G R T S E

Sudoku

3	5	1	8	4	6	2	7	9
2	8	4	1	9	7	3	5	6
6	9	7	3	2	5	4	1	8
9	7	6	4	8	3	5	2	1
8	2	5	9	7	1	6	4	3
4	1	3	5	6	2	9	8	7
1	3	9	7	5	4	8	6	2
7	4	2	6	3	8	1	9	5
5	6	8	2	1	9	7	3	4



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\$575,000 : 4 BED : 3 FULL BATHS



Elkins Park
805 Rock Lane : MLS #PAMC2175962
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East Mount Airy
309 E. Roumfort Road : MLS #PAPH2611410
\$500,000 : 3 BED : 2 FULL BATHS



West Mount Airy
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