



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy Spring! For the Historic Carversville Society, the year 2023 calendar filled with many chances for our members to come together and celebrate Carversville's history and present day community.

We are welcoming new neighbors and continue to appreciate our lifetime members. Thank you to our board members and volunteers serving on committees for your spirit and commitment. We are keeping our traditions and bringing new opportunities for our community to gather and learn about the village and its surrounds.

This issue provides a montage of articles and photos from our events as we look forward to 2024 and beyond. The board is working on planning. In addition to our calendar of social events, we are actively enhancing our website and historic archives to preserve the stories of Carversville and its inhabitants.

I believe we are hopeful of future improvements on the square's commercial district and a renewal of the vitality and spirit of our village. Please share your ideas and feedback and volunteer to get involved. Also please pay your annual dues which we note have increased this year given rising costs of operating our society. Dues and additional donations may be also made via the HCS website.

See you out and about soon, I hope! – Lori White



carversville.org

If you haven't paid dues for 2024, please send them in the enclosed envelope or via the HCS website.

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FOR RESIDENT OF CARVERSVILLE CARVERSVILLE, PA 18913

HCS Annual Meeting

Our annual membership meeting was once again held in person this year in the social hall of the Carversville United Church of Christ. The meeting was also offered in a zoom option for those unable to attend. The meeting was well attended and was preceded by an hour-long social gathering with refreshments and good cheer. The meeting was called to order at 7:32 p.m.

All board members were in attendance, with Jim Davock on Zoom. The Board introduced themselves, followed by a recap of the year's activities by Lori White. Laura Viehweger presented the Treasurer's report, along with a review of how to pay dues.

Our guest speaker was Milan Lint, co-owner of the Carversville Inn. He presented a very detailed update on the work to date at the Inn, and outlined a few of the challenges and change orders that were necessary as construction progressed. It was very informative and well received. He emphasized that opening the restaurant is a priority with a goal to open it by end of 2024.

Elections were held and approved to renew 3 year term board positions for Sarah Weikert, Vicki Ghiz, and Rhonda Heffern.

During the open question period, Robert Stein presented photographs and a case inquiring about the aesthetics of the new bridge on Old Carversville Road, specifically the use of expressway-like guardrails. He wondered whether the HCS could petition their removal. It was decided the Board would discuss at our next meeting.



The Carversvillian

Will renovations of the Carversville Inn mark the rebirth of a small Bucks County village?

THREE MONTHS AFTER REPAIRS BEGAN ON A PORTION OF THE CARVERSVILLE INN, A GLIMMER OF HOPE SHINES ON LOCALS WHO HAVE LONG AWAITED THE REOPENING OF THE SHUTTERED 19TH CENTURY BUILDING.



Michele Haddon, *Reprinted with permission of the Bucks County Courier Times*

The property, which was purchased by Milan Lint and Mitch Berlin a little more than three years ago, is expected to open by the end of next year.

For Carversville, which has faced a number of hardships in recent years, the project marks the beginning of a new chapter for the small village nestled in bucolic Solebury Township.

"When COVID hit and things closed down, it really left a gaping hole in the soul of our community," said Rhonda Heffern, who has lived a few doors down from the inn for almost 25 years. "So, with the new construction going on, we're very hopeful for a rebirth of life here in Carversville."

Within a short time of the inn's closing in 2020, Carversville also experienced the shutdown of its old general store, which most recently operated as The Carversville Kitchen. Only a small dental practice and the post office remain open in the town square.

The following year, flash floods ravaged the village when Hurricane Ida soaked the town, overwhelming the three forks of the Paunacussing Creek that converge in Carversville, damaging several homes and ripping up its streets in a matter of hours.

"It was really a depressing state for the center of the village and everyone here," said Lori White, president of the Historic Carversville Society.

Holding onto Carversville's Historic Charm

Despite ongoing development and a growing population throughout most of Bucks County's towns, Carversville somehow maintained much of its historic character.

The village itself feels like a trip back in time, a beloved trait not lost on its residents.

"It's very old fashioned in a way. I think there's an appreciation of the historic, and a lot of people want to engage with their neighbors and feel a strong sense of community, which doesn't exist in a lot of places anymore," said White.

Like a gracious host inviting visitors to pull up a chair and stay a while, the town square embodied Carversville's peaceful nature and welcoming spirit, while hosting the community events, such as Carversville Day, summer movies nights and Caroling in the Square.

And while it is considered a focal point of the village, The Carversville Inn was not its only remnant of the past.



Modern conveniences, such as mail delivery, are absent in Carversville. But it's features like this that are a part of its charm, said White, whose visits to the post office are a welcome part of her routine, when she can look forward to catching up with neighbors.

The Carversville Post Office occupies a portion of a building it once shared with the old general store.

The old general store was another hallmark, serving as a relaxing pit stop for visitors out on a Sunday drive or cyclists needing to refuel with a breakfast sandwich or a hot cup of coffee.

Heffern and White said they look to The Carversville Inn's reopening as a way to reinvigorate the entire community.

"The inn was a place for special celebrations, community gatherings and a place to grab a drink with friends," Heffern said. "My hopes are that it will provide the same wonderful warm level of community spirit that was here before, and that it just brings us all together again."



"It's just a matter of time before it's going to be back to being vibrant and things going on around here. We're just waiting and trying to be patient," White said.

When will the Carversville Inn reopen?

Renderings show plans to renovate The Carversville Inn in Solebury Township.

The aim is to open the restaurant and lounge by the end of 2024, Lint said, with the rest of the inn opening shortly after.

"We're very focused on getting the restaurant and lounge area open first, because that's what's going to impact the local community the most," he said.

A Brief History of the Carversville Inn

The Carversville Inn building was originally built around 1813-1815 by Isaac Pickering and has gone through several owners and renovations over the past 200 years, first opening as a tavern, and carrying various names, including Milton Tavern, Bird-in-Hand, Carversville House and the Carversville Hotel.



An undated photo of the 19th century building in Solebury Township, known today as The Carversville Inn.

A number of businesses have operated out of the building, including a hotel, restaurant, general store, hardware store, ice cream parlor and a gas station.

Most recently, it operated for 30 years as a restaurant and bar under the ownership of Will and Denie Mathias before it was purchased by Lint and Berlin in 2020.

Has construction started on the Carversville Inn?

Thanks to special permissions granted by the township, Lint said some exterior work was performed from June to September, which included replacing all the columns and their foundations, removing the second-floor porch flooring and rails and replacing the joists.

However, building permits must be issued before they can proceed with the main renovations, which involve demolition of the interior and the rear building, renovation of the interior, construction of the rear building and a restoration and renovation of the exterior.

Plans include a 65-seat, full-service restaurant and lounge on the first floor. And the second and third floors, which previously housed three apartments, will be converted into six guest suites.

“The community has a huge void there right now. I don’t think anyone would deny that, so it’s very important for Mitch and I to stay focused on that and to work with our team to get this thing up and running,” Lint said.

“We’re not going anywhere. We’re stewards of this property, and we want it to be in a condition where it’ll last another 200 years.”



Five Mills Along the Paunacussing Creek Tour

Beginning in 1725, five mills were built along the Paunacussing Creek from present day Carversville to Lumberville. The surrounding Paunacussing watershed provided raw materials and demand for milled products. The market grew rapidly as canals and railroads were built and New York and Philadelphia expanded. The mills provided flour, lumber, millwork, plaster, corn meal, carded wool, hulled clover and even guano. The roads developed primarily to serve the mills and were built in chronology with the mills changing over time to reach surrounding farms, towns, and cities. Each of the five mills has been known by several names over the past nearly three hundred years usually named after the families who owned and operated them.



The village was named Milton or “Mill Town” prior to the turn of the nineteenth century. The creek itself was known as Mill Town Creek and later Mill Creek. There was a Native American village for many years at the juncture of the creek called “Paunacussing” believed to be the source of the name of the creek as we know it today.

Kurt Leasure, historic architect and longtime resident led our educational tour.

2023 Season of Films in the Field and Sips In the Square Recap

Films in the Field, one of our annual HCS traditions, continued this year with great excitement!

This year’s film calendar included classics – *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*, and *The Sandlot*.

The summer weather however made things a bit tricky. Mother Nature sadly did not cooperate for our June film, *The Man Who Came to Dinner*, and had it be postponed. We were able to show our July and August films – *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and *The Sandlot*.

Marc Stiefel, HCS Board Member, led the selection of our movies and setup of events. A small group of neighbors and die-hard fans showed up in July to watch the comedy classic, *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Interesting fact: the film’s initial budget of £200K was raised by convincing 10 separate investors to pitch in £20K apiece. Three of those investors were the rock bands Pink Floyd, Led Zeppelin, and Genesis.

Our family movie night, featuring *The Sandlot*, had roughly a dozen viewers – lighter than we had expected. However, that did not prevent the fun and laughter of watching Scotty Smalls learn to play baseball – “You’re killin’ me, Smalls!” You may not have known this, but the original title of the film was not *The Sandlot* but “*The Boys of Summer*.” Also, there were multiple English Mastiffs that played “The Beast.” The largest one, the one that licks Scotty’s face at the end of the movie, was one of the largest dogs in the world at the time, over 200 pounds!



We also continued the great success of our Sips on the Square prior to the films as a way for Carversvillians to come together and connect and socialize with one another. It was a wonderful opportunity for neighbors old and new to gather and connect.

Given the lighter than usual attendance at the films, we plan to take next summer off and revisit in 2025. We will look to host summer gatherings with more Sips in the Square as an opportunity to bring the community together as we continue to see progress and happenings in the square.

Thank you to all those that joined us and participated!



Carversville Day was a success this year! Many local villagers and visitors from other neighboring towns came out to enjoy the festivities. We started the day off with our beloved Pet Parade.

Thank you to Alexandra Heffern (who grew up in Carversville) for creating our wonderful poster this year.

David Stier and his band played smooth jazz in the background during the event. We also had several volunteers working the grill.

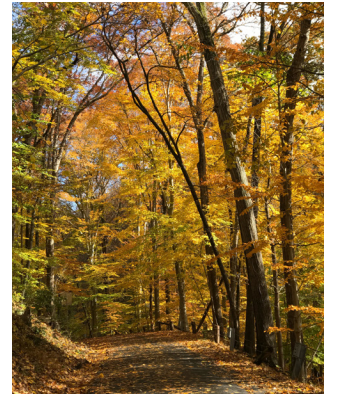
The Watermelon Eating Contest is always a crowd favorite!

Everyone enjoyed the cookie contest as well. This year’s winner was Alexandra Heffern with her recipe for **Mai Tai Swirls**.



This year, we introduced a new photo contest. Several entrants submitted their favorite photo of Carversville. All pictures were displayed, and votes were taken next to the cookie booth.

Thanks to everyone who donated for the live auction and raffle jars. We had lots of excitement around the many items such as a fabulous Paella Dinner from Chef Chadd Jenkins, prints from local artists such as Joseph Crilley and Charles Hargens (both were former residents of Carversville). There was also a cruiser bike, wine basket, golf foursome at Lookaway and many other unique items. Thank you to the many local businesses that donated to our raffle jars as well. Several restaurants, spas and stores donated gift cards as well as several families donating cash for the cash jar.



Do you know where this is?



We look forward to seeing everyone next year as we celebrate our wonderful village!

NSH Scholarships

Each year, the Historic Carversville Society selects graduating seniors from New Hope-Solebury High School to recognize for their achievements. Students are generally chosen for their volunteer work and community service in and around our local area. This year we are thrilled to have been able to recognize two students for their outstanding contributions. We are pleased to announce the 2023 scholarship winners:

Mia Chuma and Alexandra Scott

These fine students have excelled during their time in the New Hope-Solebury Schools, and we are sure they will continue to thrive as they leave our community and begin the next phase of their lives. Each student received a \$1000 scholarship to help finance their education. The ability of the HCS to continue to fund these valuable grants is thanks to the annual dues paid by members and the various fundraising activities our group runs each year.

Please join us in congratulating these students on their accomplishments!

Saturday, April 20
Clean up Day

Sunday, June 9
Historic Mills of the Paunacussing
Walking Tour with
Social Hour at the 1740 House

Sunday, June 23
Summer Gathering in the Garden

Monday, July 22
Sips on the Square

Monday, August 19
Sips on the Square

TBD
Historic Homes of Carversville
Walking Tour

Sunday, October 20
Community Fall Gathering Along the
Creek with Pumpkin Carving

Monday, November 11
Annual Meeting – Membership

Sunday, December 15
Caroling in the Square

Note: Carversville Day on hold until Spring 2025 due to active construction on the Square