



WVHS Member Picnic

Monday, September 10 - 5 p.m.

at Pat Plumb's home - 910 Valley Rd. Blue Bell, Pa 19422

Please RSVP to Jean Bellavance - 215-646-6541

Please bring a dish to pass. Meat and drinks provided.

Election of WVHS officers will be held.

Open House - Franklinville Schoolhouse

Sunday, September 16

1 to 4 p.m.

on Morris Rd.

between DeKalb Pike and Normandy
Farm Estates

This is a great outing for children.



1895 Building Closed For Construction

Scaffolding and paint drop cloths are on the front porch and throughout the first and second floors. Absolutely no one should be in these areas until further notice, especially visitors.

The outside work is completed - enjoy the view.

Mark Your Calendar

- Tues., Sept. 4** - Whitpain meeting about the potential land development of the Reed's property - 8 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 8** - Wings N'Wheels - Wings Field - 11 to 4
- Mon., Sept. 10** - WVHS member picnic - 5 p.m. (see first page for details)
- Wed., Sept. 12** - Cheston Family Preserve - WVWA Celebration of preservation of 8 acres at Briar Hill - Prophecy Creek Park - 6 to 7:30 p.m.
- Sat., Sept. 15** - Lower Gwynedd's Pike Fest - 10 to 4
- Sun., Sept. 16** - Franklinville Schoolhouse Open House - 1 to 4 p.m.
- Sun., Sept. 16** - Evans Mumbower Fall Mill Festival - 1 to 4 p.m.
(Please note that Franklinville and Evans Mumbower are within a mile of each other. One can easily visit both for a special family outing.)
- Sat., Sept. 29** - Whitpain Community Fest - MCCC
- Sat., Oct. 6** - Oktoberfest in Ambler
- Sat., Oct. 13** - WVHS trip to Gwynedd Quaker Meetinghouse - 2 p.m.
- Fri, Oct. 19/Sat., Oct. 20** - The Valley Forge Quilt Show, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 132 E. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia - 10 to 4 - \$7 donation

Progress at 1895 Schoolhouse

Everyday brings new activity at the 1895 Schoolhouse. Joan Duxbury, project manager, and Sally Zeller are at the building almost every day. You may have noticed the REACH (see photo below) being used by Verco Painting for the exterior. When you drive by, please notice how nice the schoolhouse looks.



Inside not only are walls and ceilings being repaired, they are also getting a new coat of paint. The ceiling on the first floor - covered with tiles that had been placed over the cracking plaster in the 1960s - has stripped and covered with drywall. This work was completed by J. T. L. Contracting.

New more efficient lighting will be installed. United Electric has recommended new lighting appropriate for the schoolhouse and GR Electric will handle installation.

The plan is still to have the museum - including the basement - ready to reopen by the end of the year with a grand reopening in the spring.

If you have interest and/or spare time, please consider helping with setting up the new displays and hanging of blinds. We have plenty of artifacts and materials to work with. Sewing, basic carpentry, poster making, labeling are just a few of the skills that can be put to use.

In the meantime, please be aware that no visitors can be in the building.



Exhibits at Whitpain, Ambler, and Lower Gwynedd Buildings

The WVHS is pleased to share small exhibits at the township buildings for Whitpain and Lower Gwynedd and the borough building for Ambler.

The current display at Whitpain celebrates back to school with photos and items from early schools in the area. Ambler's display features the history of the local post office (see right). The numerous books about Lower Gwynedd are on exhibit in the township lobby.

We will also have a table at Lower Gwynedd's Pike Fest on September 15 from 10 to 4, at Whitpain's Community Day on September 29th, and at Ambler's Oktoberfest on October 6. Of course, members are invited to help at our table for an hour or so. It is a fun way to get in some volunteer hours and to take part in a really local celebration with your family. Please contact Russ Bellavance if you are available. The table and displays are provided.



Election Reminder from Russ Bellavance

We will hold the 2018 bi-annual election at the beginning of the picnic on Monday, September 10. Under our revised Bylaws, we elect Officers (who also become Board Members) and the remaining Board members, and all terms are for two years. The Board will be presenting the following slate: President – Russ Bellavance; Vice-President – Mary Lou McFarland; Treasurer – Tom Goldkamp; and Board Members – Marie Goldkamp, Peg Johnston, Dot MacDermott, Frank Russo and Emmy Simon. We bid farewell to three Board Members who have served the Society with skill and energy - John Simon, who was also Treasurer for many years (John will continue his work with web-site.), Joan Duxbury, who has been Project Manager for our renovation project, and Pat Plumb, who has helped ease the merger with Whitpain Historical Society. We thank them for all the many things that they have done for all of us and look forward to seeing them in a more relaxed mode.

We do not have a candidate for Secretary. If anyone is interested in the position, it is not too late to let us know. The floor will be open for nominations for any of the positions, and we will use paper ballots if there are any contested positions. If there are no contested positions, we will have a voice vote on the entire slate. Please try to make the picnic, for the great food and socializing and for the election.

Recent Donation

We recently received the sign from the barber shop of Frank Russo, Sr. This will be added to the collection of barber tools and be featured in an exhibit about the Russo/Notoris families. We would like to add a barber pole. If you are interested in helping with this project, please let us know. The barber shop was at the corner of Brannockburn and Church Streets in Ambler.



Questers - Their Roots are Local

Over the years one of WVHS most loyal supporters has been the Questers - local groups whose members are interested in in antiques and preserving them. It is interesting then to learn that Quester was started in Fort Washington by Mrs. Bess Bardens in 1944. According to an article by Ambler's Newton Howard, Mrs. Bardens stated her collection of antiques with a syrup pitcher that she found in a second-hand store on Main Street in Ambler. It was the nucleus of her collection which continued to grow as did the original Quester group. (We all know how collections can start - and can take over!)

There are over 75 Quester groups active across Pennsylvania as well as many more across the United States and in several foreign countries.. There are several active Quester groups in our area - several of whom have been very supportive of the WVHS in past years. Each group holds monthly meetings from September to May with a program about a collection or historic site of historic significance. Emphasis is on preservation, restoration, and education. In addition to grants, they also offer scholarships.

The WVHS has presented programs for several Quester groups. In recent years Russ Bellavance has given programs based on our collection of local deeds. We have also shared programs about our quilt collection. It is always nice to find groups with common interests.



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
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