



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

www.wvalleyhs.org

May 2018

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Wissahickon Valley Historical Society Annual Picnic

Please join us for our annual picnic on
Monday, June 11, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
at Pat Plumb's home
910 Valley Rd.
Blue Bell, PA 19422



Baked ham and soft drinks provided.

Please bring a side dish or a dessert that is easy to serve.

Extra chairs would be welcome.

We will also hold a "corn auction". Please bring a wrapped item of value (?) or interest to be auctioned. The fun is in seeing what you get.

RSVP as soon as possible
to Pat Plumb
215-646-3166
fayetteplumb2@aol.com

We hope to see you there!

We have no scheduled WVHS Open Houses in June.
Evans-Mumbower Mill will be open on Sunday, June 17

Mark Your Calendar

- June 2** - Saturday - Open House at Warrington Historical Society - 10 Folly Rd (intersection of Folly and County Line Roads) - see article below - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 2** - Saturday - English Car Show - Hope Lodge - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - admission \$10
- June 7** - Thursday - SpringHouse Estates annual Strawberry Festival - petting zoo, food cafe, goodies sale - 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- June 9** - Saturday - Historical Society of Montgomery County, 1654 DeKalb Street, Norristown, PA - program: "Montgomery County Trolleys" - 1 to 2 p.m.
- June 11** - Monday - WVHS Annual Picnic - Pat Plumb's home - 5:30 p.m.
- June 17** - Sunday - Evans-Mumbower Mill Open House - 1 to 4 p.m.
- June 23** - Saturday - Dedication ceremony and open house - Boehm's United Church of Christ - 10:30 a.m.

Boehm's United Church of Christ to Receive Historic Marker

The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission has chosen Boehm's Church as the site for a historical marker commemorating the life and work of John Philip Boehm.

The dedication ceremony will be held on Saturday, June 23rd at 10:30 a.m. at the Boehm's United Church of Christ, 571 Penllyn-Blue Bell Pike. In addition there will be an open house - an opportunity for people to explore the church building and the cemetery. The open house will be from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the 23rd.

Rev. Boehm is being honored for founding the Reformed Church of Pennsylvania and introducing a unique form of constitutional church government in colonial America.



The Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission administers the historical marker program to recognize the memory of people, places, events, and innovations that have affected the lives of Pennsylvanians over the centuries since William Penn founded the Commonwealth. More than 2,000 aluminum markers tell the important and interesting stories that are part of the history of Pennsylvania.

Warrington Historical Society Members Visit Franklinville School

Several members of the Warrington Historical Society recently visited with Marie Goldkamp at our Franklinville School. They were interested in hearing and seeing Franklinville's story.

They are in the process of reclaiming the County Line Road school house that is located at 10 Folly Road, at the intersection of Folly and County Line Road in Warrington. The original one room school was built in 1858. It was known as the Red Roof College in the early 1900s by locals because of its red tin roof.

After many years as a two-story residence, the building has been returned to its one-room format - thanks to many volunteer hours - including 6 Eagle Scout projects. They have also received Quester grants.

An Open House is scheduled for Saturday, June 2 from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. (Rain date Sunday, June 3 from noon to 4 p.m.)

Work Continues on Our Own 1895 Schoolhouse

Much of the careful packing up of materials and cleaning of the basement has been completed at the 1895 Schoolhouse. Thanks are due to member volunteers and to Whitpain Township workers.

Special mentions: Joan Duxbury and Sally Zeller for cleaning the basement (we are not just talking brooms - also shovels!), Dot MacDermott, Ethel Hutchinson, and Marie Goldkamp for carefully packing boxes of artifacts, Neal Bradley for beautifully repairing several desks and chairs, Russ Bellavance for moving pallets in and out of the basement. Special thanks to you all.

Plaster repairs, electrical installations, and painting will hopefully be completed over the the summer. We are working on new displays for installations in the late summer. If you have time this summer, please give a call to Joan who can share information about jobs available.

Flags Fly for Memorial Day

Each Memorial Day Bob Whittock would bring by flags to be put out in front of the 1895 Schoolhouse. This year we put out some from our collection. Thanks, Bob.

We recently discussed the flag that would have flown at the school in 1895. It would have had 44 stars - one for each state in the Union at that time. By 1896 another star was added as Utah joined the USA. We do have a 45 star flag in our collection.



Prior to 1912, as person was permitted to arrange the stars on the official U.S. flag in any shape they desired - as long as they kept them on a blue field and used the correct number.



Motels of the Area

Buck Amey recently donated a photo of a post card of the Swiss Cottage Motel which was located on DeKalb (202) to the southwest of Skippack Pike. Dr. Clarke's dental office is now on the site.

The photo brought to mind several other motels of the area - including Deck's and The Yellow House. It would be great to have a full list of motels and rooming houses in the area.

One of my favorites is the rooming house for workers on the Lindenwold Estate - which is now a private home on Farm Lane in Ambler. It is currently for sale. Another was the hotel on Butler Pike in Ambler which was a rooming house into the 1990s. It is now a restaurant.

Were there motels in SpringHouse? Or elsewhere along Skippack Pike? Please help us out - pegathome6@yahoo.com

Another recent donation was a set of Ambler area business memorabilia (business cards, pencils, receipts, etc.) from Harry Heckler. Businesses come and go and these items all help us keep the record. Thanks to Harry and Buck.

Worcester Historical Society

Several members have visited/revisited the Worcester Historical Society museum which is open on Saturday mornings from 9 to 12. They have excellent exhibits - featuring local history with special emphasis on farms. It is definitely worth a visit.



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