



Wissahickon Valley

historical society

Ambler
Lower Gwynedd
Whitpain

Box 96, Ambler, PA 19002
November 2013

www.wvalleyhs.org
215-646-6541

Info@wvalleyhs.org
Vol. 15, Issue 3

“Back to College” The Past, Present, and Future of MCCC*

*Montgomery County Community College, Blue Bell

Meet at Advanced Technology Center at MCCC at 7:30 p.m.

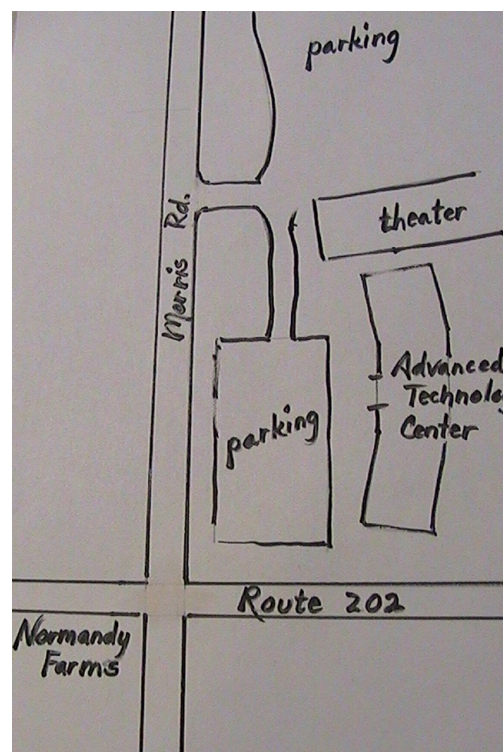
Use parking lot off of Morris Rd. - near the
AdvancedTech. Center

Call 215-542-7753 or 215-646-6541 to
access car-pools.

If you haven't been on the MCCC campus
recently, you are in for a treat. The school and
campus are an amazing asset to our
community. Community members are welcome
to sign up for classes; there are opportunities
for senior citizens to audit classes.

MCCC is always one of the most commonly
chosen colleges for graduates of Wissahickon
School District.

The program includes a student-made video
and chance to meet students and faculty.





Thanks to: **Simon Emmy** and **Mabel Whittock** for cleaning the Schoolhouse kitchen,

To all those who brought baked goods and other treats for the Flea Market and for the Open House,

To **members and friends** who worked at the Flea Market on Friday evening and Saturday,

To **Russ Bellavance**, who filled many bags with the yearly bounty from the black walnut tree in front of the school.

To **members** who have sent in memberships. Special

thanks to those who gave gift memberships and extra donations.

To everyone who stops by on Thursday mornings to lend a hand and/or story.

To **our Veterans** - especially on November 11 - Veterans' Day.

Notes on Local Projects

Whitpain: According to the Ambler Gazette - The new Centre Square Park was formally opened on Oct. 19 . After several years of planning, controversy, and construction, an community opening ceremony was held.. The park is about 1/2 of the 100 acre parcel of township owned open space along the Northeast Extension. Fill came from the current work on the road.

Ambler: The Borough Council has approved a series of ordinances that will allow the construction of a 115 apartment complex which will be located at 201 S. Chestnut St. Fifty-six townhouses are scheduled for the same site. The area is currently an empty lot near the Boiler House.

Whitpain: Meanwhile, the BoRit Superfund Site work continues. Work on the Reservoir has begun. Along Maple Avenue, behind McDonald's, the vegetation has been removed and the next steps include draining the 11 acre pond The water will be treated before it is discharged into the Wissahickon Creek. The project includes sealing the floor before it is filled again and vegetation is planted. Work is anticipated to last six ro nine months. The Reservoir is owned by the Wissahickon Valley Waterfowl Preserve, a charitable organization.

Ambler: The fate of St. Mary's Villa and the grounds (Lindenwold, the home of Dr. Mattison) continues to be discussed in Upper Dublin Township. The castle and grounds are an intregal part of the story of the history of Ambler, and the estate would be an important part of any historic district. This is an issue that would seem to involve the WVHS. Upper Dublin does not have a strong historic preservation commission nor a lot of support for it on their board.

Chemical Heritage Foundation Visits Society

On October 24th **Sarah Hunter-Lascoskie** from the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia stopped by the Schoolhouse. She explained a project that the Foundation is undertaking. They are researching the Keasbey-Mattison company and how it helped shape Ambler. They wish to interview individuals who had contact, directly or indirectly, with the factory and its operation. Their goal is a display and a drama presentation to be completed in 2015. Research will continue, and remembrances and stories are welcome.

Membership Reminder

If you haven't returned your membership information and dues to **MaryLou McFarland**, please do so soon. MaryLou would like to get the year's membership bulletin completed. Please consider gifting a membership to an interested individual.

Market Day and Open House Both Successful

The weather cooperated and members were generous with food donations for our annual Market Day. **Audrey Hahn** managed with great success the rental of spaces to vendors. This is our major money making event of the year. Thanks to all who helped make it a success. We may be an historical society, but we are also great bakers!

There was a good turn-out of members and visitors for the October 20th Open House. Several visitors shared their experiences in the 1895 Schoolhouse as well as the 1916 building next door. Thanks to **Mr. Stanley Mansfield** who



facilitated tours of the 1916 building. Many stories were shared - including those by Carol and Dave Spacht (left) and by Bob Whittock (right) - in the



stairwell at the 1916 schoolhouse.)

Special Thanks

Krista Lewis e-mailed the Society recently - offering to volunteer with whatever we needed. Wow! Krista has been an amazing asset to our museum and library. With a master's degree, she brings much knowledge and experience and is eager to share. She has taught us how to photograph artifacts, made suggestions on exhibits, and, most importantly, is helping us choose a computer program to catalogue our collection. This will make our collection much more flexible and accessible. Above, Krista shares the computer program with members **Emmy Simon** and **Peggy Diorio**.



Mark Your Calendar

November 8 (time - 10 to 4) and **November 9** (time - 9 to 12) - Market Day at Brittany Point, Lansdale

November 11 - Monthly meeting of WVHS - 7:30 p.m. at the Montgomery County Community College. See front page of newsletter.

December 8 - WVHS holiday party at **Russ and Jean Bellavance's** home, 2 p.m., Details in the December newsletter.



Wissahickon Valley Historical Society
P.O. Box 96
Ambler, PA 19002

www.wvalleyhs.org

