



ANNUAL MEETING

Don't forget to register for the 2023 Lancaster Downtowners **Annual Meeting** will be held in-person at **Hub450** (450 N. Prince Street).

[Register Here](#)

Join us on **Wednesday, September 27th** to catch-up with other members, enjoy a spread of heavy hors d'oeuvres, and hear exciting organization updates in the **State of the Village** address. We will also hear from Kristin Jones, Deputy Director of Lancaster County Office of Aging.

Doors open at 5:30pm for grazing table, mocktails, and mingling; program begins at 6:45pm.

Lancaster Downtowners Annual Auction

[CLICK HERE
TO START
BIDDING!](#)

lunch with the Mayor : Marriott staycation : coconut cake : ride the Chief Uncas : local artists : local theater: massage and spa packages: Downtown Dollars : electric grill : architecture tours : cottage getaways : handmade clocks : sterling silver jewelry : Barnstormers first pitch package : cafe and restaurant gift cards : custom satin jacket : terrarium workshop : books by Downtowner authors : pies made to order : art workshops : arcade & bowling : movie package : handyman service : baskets : cottage chocolates : Tanzanian family dinner : board game : home organizing : custom legacy video : yoga package

Bid Online September 13th - September 27th



Friday, September 22, 2023: 10:30am
at Albright Life (417 W. Frederick St.)

UPCOMING EVENTS

9/20 - Leaving Your Personal Legacy

9/21 - Zoetropolis: I'm Your Man

9/22 - PDA Listening Session

9/26 - BIC Writing Session

9/27 - **ANNUAL MEETING**

9/28 - Downtown Gardeners

10/4 - Wright's Ferry Mansion Tour

10/9 - SoloAgers

10/11 - Bocce (every Wednesday)

10/12 - **AGE-FRIENDLY SUMMIT**

Go to our [Event Calendar](#) for details and to register.

Downtowners Around Town

Meet the Police Mounted Unit

BY MARY HINKLE

Ignoring the threat of rain, on August 29, 2023 Downtowners gathered in a remote corner of Long's Park to tour the stables of the **Lancaster City Police Mounted Unit**. Officer McDonald, a 14-year Mounted Unit veteran, addressed its history, the variety of its duties, and the horses; the group then entered the stables to meet the three Percherons.

Lancaster's Mounted Unit was founded in 1979. Its primary duties include patrolling in the city—particularly in the downtown business district; performing community engagement with schools and groups like the Downtowners; and assisting other police forces at large-scale events. For example, members of the unit helped with crowd control and safety when Pope Francis visited Philadelphia in 2015.

The three black male Percherons are distinguished by their facial markings. King, the tallest and heaviest of the three, has a white patch often hidden by his forelock; Jake has a longer white blaze; Angus, the newest addition to the unit, has a white blaze that extends all the way down his nose. The Mounted Unit is in the process of acquiring another horse to reach its full complement of four mounted pairs.



Above: King, the largest of the three Percherons in the Mounted Unit, enjoys meeting people when on patrol.



Photos: Downtowners gather at Long's Park for a program on the Lancaster City Police Mounted Unit.



Aside from the officers' salaries, all expenses for the Mounted Unit are paid by the [Lancaster City Police Foundation](#), which welcomes donations.

After the program ended, most of the group moved to a nearby picnic area in the park for a BYO lunch and social time, thankful that the rain held off.

Resource Committee Corner

News to Note

Member-recommended articles from a variety of sources.

Updated COVID-19 Vaccination

On September 12, 2023, CDC recommended a COVID-19 vaccine updated for 2023-2024 for everyone aged 6 months and older to protect against serious illness. They should be available at the end of the week.

The main reason to get vaccinated against COVID-19 is to protect yourself against severe illness, hospitalization, and even death. COVID-19 vaccines also reduce the chance of having Long COVID. This vaccine is expected to provide better protection against variants that are currently making people sick.

The updated COVID-19 vaccines are similar to earlier COVID-19 vaccines that were safely administered to hundreds of millions of Americans during the pandemic.

[Visit the CDC website for up-to-date information.](#)

Three shots for fall

It's not just COVID. This [NYTimes](#) article shares what you need to consider about flu and RSV vaccines as well.

Get to Know the Office of Aging

Are you ready for a volunteer experience that provides flexibility and variety, requires a minimal time investment and is richly rewarding? If you answered yes to these questions, you'll want to explore the [volunteer opportunities](#) available at Lancaster County Office of Aging.

Volunteering

Are you interested in a challenging and rewarding volunteer position that requires a dedicated time commitment and ongoing learning opportunity? Or in an opportunity that is rewarding but requires a minimal amount of time commitment?

- The **PA MEDI** and **Volunteer Ombudsman** positions offer online training modules, in-person volunteer training and shadowing experienced volunteers.
- Volunteers may also assist in the office with completing **Property Tax Rent Rebate Program** applications.
- Volunteers are also needed to help with special events like such as the **Senior Games**.

For more information:

- Contact 717-299-7979

DIRECTORY UPDATES

HAVE YOU MOVED RECENTLY?

The Resource Committee is collecting recommended **movers** for the directory. If you have been satisfied with a provider, please share with us!

Your reviews and feedback help keep our Resource Directory up to date and relevant! If you have a resource to recommend, [use the online form here](#) or send an email to director@lanasterdowntowners.org and our Resource Committee will update the directory.

LOOKING FOR REGULAR PET CARE?

If you need a long-term dog walker or an extra special cat sitter, check out the new recommended "**Pet Services**" listing [in the directory](#). (Members must be logged in.)

Downtowner Gardeners

BY NANCY NORTON

Do you find bliss with your hands in the dirt or Zen strolling through a garden? Then you might be interested in joining the new Downtowners Gardeners group. As a gardener new to the Lancaster area, Nancy Norton found herself searching for a community of fellow gardeners. So last May, with help and encouragement from Marsha DiBonaventuro, Nancy put out a sign-up sheet at the *Downtowners' Wolf Museum Garden Party Swan Song* looking for other folks who were interested in forming a community of gardeners. And the Downtowners Gardeners group was born.

At the very first meeting in June, the conversation jumped from favorite nurseries and plants, to questions about all things botanical, to advice on recalcitrant plants and resulted in a long list of things the group would like to do together. (See the meeting notes on the Downtowners website under Past Events > Interest Groups > Downtowner Gardeners for the brainstormed ideas.)

At the July meeting, the group heard from Master Gardener Priscilla Simmons with tips for cultivating a lush summer garden. And, taking the concept of gardening very broadly, in August the group will scour antique shops in Emmitsburg and New Oxford for “treasures” that might give our gardens some pizzazz. The gardeners are an enthusiastic group and any Downtowner, with or without a home garden, is invited to join. If you are interested in joining the group and receiving emails about its upcoming meetings and adventures, contact Nancy Norton at npngm64@gmail.com or 540-257-9977.



LEFT: More gardeners at work! Downtowners Nancy and Judy cart away their “black gold” from a Linear Park compost sifting event. Downtowner Allan, who was behind the camera, also sifted at the community compost bins on a rainy Monday evening.

Welcome to Downtowners' Newest Members

Timothy Lynch

Happy Birthday to these Downtowners in October!

Patricia L, Dave R, Barbara S, Ezetta W, Kathy P, Nancy B, Brenda H, Ellen B, Maria H, Larry C, Lee S, Carol R, and Mona S,

Just One Call Volunteer Spotlight: Bob Bennett

BY MARY CAE WILLIAMS

The Just One Call program is a vital part of the Lancaster Downtowners community. Volunteers, both Downtowner members and others, support us in many important ways. For instance, they provide transportation; they help with household repairs; and they give a hand with yard work. Therefore, we are pleased to shine a spotlight on JOC volunteer Bob Bennett in this month's newsletter.

Bob moved to Lancaster from North Carolina just over a year ago. As soon as he arrived, he joined Downtowners. He submitted paperwork to volunteer for Just One Call and has been helping Downtowners ever since.



Above: Bob Bennett with his car.

Most of Bob's calls have been for transportation. Although he signed up for light housekeeping and snow removal, he has not yet answered any calls for either. He has had only one home repair request, and when he checked up months later he was pleased to see that the repair has lasted.

Every driving assignment has given Bob the opportunity to meet Downtowners. Time spent together during a drive provides opportunities for good dialogue, especially during longer trips such as those to the Harrisburg airport. When Bob meets up with these people at other events or around town, they are now acquaintances -- familiar faces to someone recently relocated from North Carolina.

Bob sees many good reasons for Downtowners to use JOC volunteer support and he believes it is wise to accept assistance in view of the small disabilities that occur with aging. Asking for help with tasks that could once be easily managed on our own is a smart approach to successful aging. Healthy aging includes accepting changes and learning how to work with them. Through helping others, Bob recognizes he may one day ask for the kind of support he currently provides.

Bob encourages Downtowners to volunteer and to call for volunteer support when needed.

Bob also takes daily walks around town, picking up litter, armed with a grabber and a plastic bag. Welcome to our Lancaster community, Bob Bennett. Thank you for bringing your spirit, insights, and helping hands into our lives.

2023 ::::: AGE-FRIENDLY LANCASTER SUMMIT

A SHOWCASE OF HOUSING SOLUTIONS

THURSDAY OCTOBER 12TH, 9AM -2PM

HOSTED AT THE LANCASTER PUBLIC LIBRARY AND CARGAS

REGISTER NOW



Explore.....

- SHARED HOUSING
- THE MISSING MIDDLE
- ACCESSORY DWELLING UNITS
- HOME REPAIR
- APARTMENT & COMMUNITY LIVING
- & MORE

Thank you to our Age-Friendly Sponsors!



AGE-FRIENDLY LANCASTER CITY IS POWERED BY OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS AND CRITICAL IN-KIND SUPPORT FROM THE FOLLOWING LEAD ORGANIZATIONS: CITY OF LANCASTER, LANDIS COMMUNITIES, LANCASTER DOWNTOWNERS, LANCASTERREC, AND UNITED WAY OF LANCASTER COUNTY.

Downtowners Out of Town

The Mount Gretna Art Show

BY ANDY BERFOND

If you've ever been to Mt Gretna in Lebanon County, you know what a tranquil place it is, with its dense tree cover, biking and hiking trails, paths lined with quaint cottages and the Mt. Gretna Theatre as reasons to visit. Once a year over a weekend in late August however, that all changes.

This year the Chautauqua Community of Mt. Gretna held its 49th Annual Outdoor Juried Art Show with a crowd reported to be around 10000 people. Talented artists and crafters from all over the country displayed their creative works under those big majestic trees, and the vibe of this usually peaceful community is transformed into something special.

As visitors wander the paths lined with tents displaying art in all forms, the large parking lot which is usually filled with cars for ice cream at the popular Jigger Shop, becomes a large tent enclosed food court, while another area nearby has local talent performing throughout the day. Outside of the Hall of Philosophy behind the Jigger Shop, you had an opportunity to enjoy beer, wine or mead, and not far away on the Hall's porch, a young lady was selling some very delicious cupcakes. An added bonus to the show is a second area across the road and next to the entrance to the rail trail where more artists and crafters display their work.

Last year, there were Downtowners who established a special connection to the Mt. Gretna area. Gerald and Mary Alice Ressler became the proud owners of a cottage in the Chautauqua Community, while Ellen and I acquired a cottage which we named Getaway Day, in the neighboring Mt. Gretna Campmeeting Community. You might remember a long weekend at Getaway Day being offered last year for the Downtowner's annual online auction fundraiser, and it will be available for bid again this year.

Gerald decided to sign on as a volunteer at the show to be part of a group of volunteers who were available to briefly stay at a tent when an artist needed a break. Ellen and I tried to use a little restraint in our art acquisitions, since last year we were excited to make several purchases.

The Mt. Gretna Annual Outdoor Art Show is considered to be one of the most popular and long running juried art shows in the country, so if you can, give it a try next year, when it celebrates its 50th anniversary.



Above: Art Show Attendees

Below: Gerald Ressler volunteers



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Townstead Through the Eyes of Architects

Thursday, Sept. 21st at 9:45am

Join your friends at Homestead Village for a captivating presentation that will dive into the details of **Homestead Village's** newest apartment neighborhood: The Townstead! Learn the history of the project from the original findings of the focus groups, to the design charrette process, and the important construction considerations which makes The Townstead the only apartment building of its kind in Lancaster County.

At the **Bachman Center** at Homestead Village, 633 Community Way, Lancaster PA 17603

No Longer Alone Support Group

Sunday, Sept. 24th at 3pm

Do you need have a family member or friend living with mental illness?

The No Longer Alone Family Support Group, a program of **Landis Communities**, is a place where those who have a loved one experiencing mental illness can find Christian support. Join us for an overview of Services at Lancaster Behavioral Health Hospital.

Crossings Meeting Room (2nd floor) in the Calvin G. & Janet C. High Learning & Wellness Center at Landis Communities (1001 E. Oregon Road, Lititz, PA).