



## Downingtown Area Historical Society **Hist-O-Gram**

*Interesting local history, accessed from our archives*

[www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](http://www.downingtownareahistoricalociety.org)

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## Where and What Is This?



The first person to correctly identify the building, shown above, will be recognized as a truly perceptive scholar. Better yet, they will win a \$25 gift card from F.H. Swisher Plumbing & Heating, to be used at a local restaurant.

Please send your responses to: [Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtownareahistoricalociety.org).

# Hot local news in August 1977

Here's what was going on in the Downingtown area 36 years ago, according to articles in the East Branch Citizen, a weekly newspaper published at that time:

An appeal hearing for the proposed construction of **Neumann Hospital** along Route 322, near the Downingtown-Caln border, was held at Downingtown High School. The State Secretary of Health had denied approval of the hospital's plan to provide 140 acute care beds and 180 extended care beds, after the Regional Comprehensive Health Council rejected the application because there was no need for another hospital in the Downingtown area. Coatesville Hospital was also seeking approval of a plan to build a facility in Caln. A decision was projected to be announced in the fall.

**Pennypacker Swim Club** won the Brandywine Swim League. St. Anthony's Chris McShane was named the league's outstanding female swimmer, and Rob Ungvary of Pennypacker was the top male.

Winners of the **Home Run Derby**, conducted by the Downingtown Recreation Commission at Kerr Park, were: eight and nine year olds: Steve Doan, first; Paul Mento, second; Rich Poluch, third. Among 10, 11 and 12 year olds, the winners were Jeff Guyon, first; Scott Ramsey, second; Bob Broderick, third. Winners in the 13, 14 and 15 year old group were Stacy Thatcher, first; Victor Johnson, second; and John Vandenberg, third.

Recent **property transfers** included: 1508 Stouff Rd., West Bradford, \$52,750; 105 Saddle Dr., Uwchlan, \$59,500; 361 Mary St., Downingtown, \$33,000; 121 Chapel Ct., East Brandywine, \$42,300; 38 Christine Dr., Upper Uwchlan, \$61,540; 301 Norwood Rd., East Caln, \$70,000.

The **Downingtown Jaycees**, who recently sponsored the Hoxie Brothers Circus, charged \$1.50 per car when they held a car wash on the grounds of St. Joseph's School.

The staff of the Vacation Bible School at **Central Presbyterian Church** included Robin Radcliff, Patti Forbes, Heather and Judy Bullock, Michele Haddock, Karen Guglielmo, Susan Pannebaker, Debbie Petty, Diane Banghart, Jackie Willard, Scott Wilson, Sarah Sullivan, Dee Worthington, Craig Artz and Kay Jones.

Members of **Troop 183**, who attended the National Boy Scout Jamboree in Moraine State Park, PA, included Mike Burkhart, Anthony Fiore, Rusty Scheid, Rich Ryan, Victor Hagerstrom, John Foster, Andy Rolen and Jeff Kane.

Members of the Bright Whites, from the **Downingtown Area Junior Tennis League** who won the Chester County championship, were Debbie Dunleavy, Tim and Jim McCarthy, Scott Evans, Tom and Holly Keane, Rob Patrylak, Kathy Gillooly and Suzanne Spahn.

The American Legion team in the Pee Wee Division of the **Downingtown Little League** included Robert Brown, Randy and Tim Mahan, Michael Winkler, Bobby Gregg, Max Hammer, Martin Egan, Michael Gaffney, Barry Angeny, Brad Titus, Jarvis Davis, Doug Williams, Chris Thomas, Chris Petrangell and Wayne Clark.

Melvin Cohen, school director from Uwchlan, proposed that smoking should be banned in all buildings in the **Downingtown Area School District**. Cohen claimed it was "hypocritical" for the School District to prohibit students from smoking on school property.

Supervised by adult leaders Pat Tuting and Pat Leon Guerro, some 35 **Girl Scouts** in the Downingtown Service Unit attended a day camp in Kerr Park, Downingtown. The cost for each girl to attend the two-week camp was only \$8.25.

## It's 120 Bradford Ave. in Downingtown



Many people were baffled by the *What and Where Is This?* photo in last week's Hist-O-Gram because we had purposely cropped out the first floor of the building, which is shown above in the original picture, taken by Mike Dunn. Despite that challenge, Marybeth Fusco, who lives on Bradford Avenue in the Johnstown section of the borough, is a truly perceptive scholar because she was the first person to correctly identify this as 120 Bradford Avenue.

Teresa Talucci, who grew up in Johnstown and still has family there, provided us with some interesting info on the history of the building, primarily because her uncle, Vince Talucci, as well as others, owned the property over the years.

First of all, no one would use the term “posh” to describe the interior of the first floor, when a tiny barroom was operated there. And ever since it was a speakeasy during the Prohibition era (1920-1932), customers had to stand because there were no stools or seats. Another attraction was the trough beneath the bar so male customers could relieve themselves or spit their tobacco in it.

Joe and May Romano, who primarily operated it in the pre-World War II days, are the first owners of the taproom we could determine. After Joe died, Vince Talucci owned and operated the bar, until he sold it to Dominic “Little Midge” Talucci and his wife, Ruth. And when Little Midge passed, his widow sold it back to Vince Talucci.

Most Johnsontown residents weren’t thrilled with the place, especially when “dancing girls” hung out there. The final straw was in the mid-1960s, when there was a shooting and a Liquor Control Board investigation ensued. Subsequently, the place was shut down after many neighbors signed a petition requesting that the place be closed. After a bar was no longer in business there, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Yohn, now both deceased, and members of their family, lived on the upper floors for many years.

“I remember as a kid,” recalls Teresa, the bottom floor of the building “was just a dark empty space where the owners of the house above stored stuff, back in the 1970’s and I haven’t seen it opened since.”

According to Victor Taraschi, the building now is a rental property, owned by Eric DiSantis and a partner.

## **Friends and family can become Hist-O-Gram subscribers**

Tired of forwarding copies of each week’s Hist-O-Gram to friends and family? If you want any of them to become a subscriber to our Hist-O-Grams, tell them to go to our website: [www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](http://www.downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org), and type their email address into the sign-up box on the home page.

We won’t share or sell any email addresses. Or if you want your email address deleted from the list, contact us at: [Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org](mailto:Info@downingtowntareahistoricalsociety.org).

## **More info on former Seven Springs Water Co.**

Joseph Panichelli, who was associated with Wissahickon Spring Water Co. for many years, told us it was that firm which bought the former Seven Springs Water Co. in 1961. He also said the East Brandywine operation was shut down about 12-15 years ago, because the company started accessing spring water from sites in northern Pennsylvania because the water there was more plentiful and of better quality.

## **Clip Joint will be open Sunday, Aug. 4**

The next clipping and pasting session will be held from 1-4 PM on Sunday, Aug. 4 at Ashbridge House, our **air conditioned** headquarters on East Lancaster Avenue, in the Ashbridge Shopping Center in East Caln. Parking is available in the lot at the Chick-Fil-A restaurant next door, which is closed on Sundays. You’re welcome to arrive and leave at your leisure

# Classified Advertisements

## Paid ads for businesses

### ***Vance Usher, Registered Representative***

Providing a courtesy financial advisory service whose objective is to create a portfolio of:

- 1) Investment Grade Bonds - To achieve preservation of principal, and a stream of monthly income, to meet your budgeted living expenses.
- 2) Equities - To achieve market growth, and increase financial wealth, by exceeding the rate of inflation.

Contact: [vance\\_usher@netzero.com](mailto:vance_usher@netzero.com), 610-329-1056, 320 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, PA 19335.

## Free ads for local non-profits

### ***Teri's Run and Twilight Walk***

Dedicated to the memory of Teri Valocchi and all those who have lost their battle with Scleroderma, the 12<sup>th</sup> annual Teri's Run and Twilight Walk will be held Friday, September 6 on Green Street in Downingtown. Times for Chip-Timed Runs & Walk: 6:30 PM, Kids Run; 7 PM, 5K Run and 1.5-Mile Walk.

Registration info: [Online Registration](#) and [Mail In Form](#). Race Day registration also available.

Pre-registration (posted by 8/24) \$20. Late registration (8/25 and after) \$25. Kids' race (no shirt included) \$5. Technical t-shirts guaranteed for pre-registered runners & walkers.

Packets are available at the Chester County Running Store from Tuesday, Sept. 3 to Thursday, Sept. 5 or at registration tent on Green Street after 5PM on race day.

Race numbers, chips, & T-shirts can be picked up at the Chester County Running Store, 24 South High St., West Chester.

Refreshments will be served after the race. Raffle prizes and age group prizes, donated by local supporters, will be given away during the Awards Ceremony starting by 8PM on Green Street.

Don't miss your chance to be included in the drawing for Four Hall of Fame Phillies Tickets! (All race entries are included in raffle)

All kids participating in the ¼ K & ½ K Kids' Run receive finisher medals!

### ***Health & Wellness Coordinator***

Needed for a busy, non-profit senior adult activity center in Downingtown. Ideal candidate will be a motivated self-starter who enjoys working independently and as a member of a team, and will have a passion for working with the elderly. Candidate will ideally hold certification to instruct group exercise, though training can be provided. Position is part-time (28 hours per week).

Position requires round-trip travel to and from Elverson, twice weekly; transportation is required. Salary range is \$12.54 - \$15.35 per hour; commensurate with experience. Interested applicants should submit their resume and salary requirements via email to:

[bill.pierce@downingtownsensiors.org](mailto:bill.pierce@downingtownsensiors.org). No phone inquiries please; EOE.

### ***Lions Club Golf Outing***

Downingtown/Lionville Lions Clubs will have a golf outing on Monday, August 19 at the Downingtown Country Club, to raise funds for the Lords Pantry, Downingtown Area Senior Center and The Chester County Association for the Blind. For more information, contact Herb Mays (610-389-3747) or Don Greenleaf (484-354-2273).

### ***Downingtown Farmers Market***

The Downingtown Farmers Market at Kerr Park is open from 3-7 PM every Thursday. All of the farmers and food artisans at the market must grow, raise or make what they sell – meriting its classification as a "producer only" market.

The market will also feature weekly musical guests and activities for children. Consistent with the market's social mission, food drives will be held periodically to benefit the Lord's Pantry and other organizations in need of food donations. Additionally, market space will be made available to non-profit groups if their mission is similar to that of the market.

There is plenty of parking in the Kerr Park lots, as well as in the Borough Hall parking lot.

### ***Savings opportunities available at DARC***

Discount Movie Tickets: \$8, cash only. Honored at all Regal Entertainment Group locations (Regal Cinemas, United Artists Theatres, and Edwards Theatres). Valid for all show times. There may be a \$2.50 surcharge for the first 12 days of select films or a \$2.50 surcharge for IMAX Giant Screen Theatres.

For more info/complete price list on these opportunities and upcoming programs, go to the DARC website: [www.darcinfo.com](http://www.darcinfo.com), or call 610-269-9260, or stop by the DARC Office (8:30 AM-4:30 PM, Monday thru Friday), 114 Bell Tavern Road Downingtown.

### ***Banquet Room for Rent***

The Downingtown (Williamson) Masonic Lodge, a non-profit organization located at 210 Manor Ave. has a Banquet Room for rent. The area is perfect for parties of up to 80 people and has a full kitchen. Rental fees are very reasonable. Call 610-269-3555 for more information.

### ***Joseph's People, Downingtown Chapter***

An ecumenical support mission to help un/underemployed people; run entirely by volunteers. We have been at St. Joseph's since 1995. Meets 7:30 PM on the 2nd & 4th Tues. of the month. All are welcome. Visit web page, [www.josephspeople.org](http://www.josephspeople.org) or just come to a meeting at St. Joseph's Parish Meeting Room behind the school, 460 Manor Ave., Downingtown. Call 610 873-7117. Leave Message. Leader: Cheryl Spaulding, Email: [JPCheryl@verizon.net](mailto:JPCheryl@verizon.net).