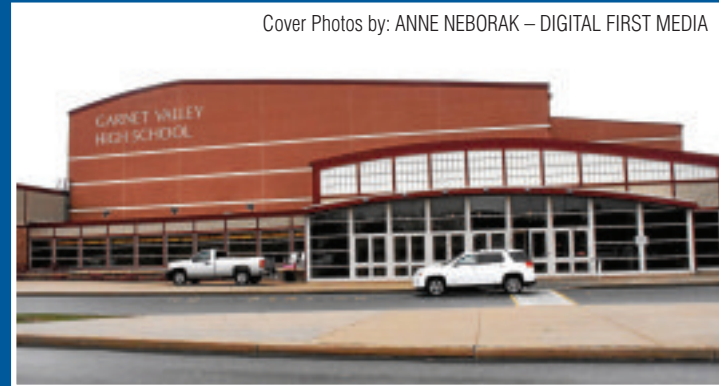


The 2017

Garnet Valley

PRESS *Almanac*

YOUR GUIDE TO
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CHADDS FORD AND THORNBURY



Cover Photos by: ANNE NEBORAK – DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

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610-388-8800
info@chaddsfordpa.gov

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Township Building

222 Llewelyn Road,
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stimmins@comcast.net
www.chesterheights.org

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A view of the Brandywine River.

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ANNE NEBORAK -- DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA

A view of the Newlin Grist Mill log cabin in Concord Township.

Education »»»»»

EDUCATION

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Steven Piasecki, Principal

Concord Elementary School

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Vanessa Stroup, Principal

Garnet Valley Elementary School



ANNE NEBORAK — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO
Garnet Valley High School.

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SCHOOL » PAGE 6

EDUCATION

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PETE BANNAN — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO

Greg Pratico and Alexandra Cavoto lead the procession into Garnet Valley High School's 2016 commencement ceremony at the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware.



PETE BANNAN — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO

Nina Cenatiempo waves to family members at Garnet Valley High School's 2016 commencement ceremony at the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware.



PETE BANNAN — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO

Michelle Margolies clutches her newly earned diploma at Garnet Valley High School's 2016 commencement ceremony at the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware.



PETE BANNAN — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO

Garnet Valley High School Salutatorian Bo Kim assists Valedictorian Lauren Bules with her cap before the start of Garnet Valley's 2016 graduation ceremony at the Bob Carpenter Center at the University of Delaware.

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School

FROM PAGE 5

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GARNET VALLEY SCHOOL DISTRICT

District inducts inaugural Hall of Fame class

By Susan L. Serbin*For Digital First Media*

CONCORD » By simple numbers, Garnet Valley may be one of the younger school districts in the county. But having passed its 50th anniversary, Garnet Valley felt it was time for a new initiative.

“The Hall of Fame was created to recognize, preserve and promote the Garnet Valley School District’s proud tradition of excellence. Since 1963 many individuals have made extraordinary contributions and achieved remarkable accomplishments in our school community. The Hall of Fame honors these exceptional individual so that future generations of GV students can be inspired and guided by them,” said district representatives.

At the homecoming weekend in October, Garnet Valley alumni and the newly formed Garnet Valley Education Foundation (GVEF) inducted four individuals in the inaugural Hall of Fame class.

Nancy Albany, 1971, has served the United States for 34 years as a CIA Officer in the area of National Security. Albany, one of a select group of Americans, was a member of the United States delegation for the arms control negotiations between the United States and the former Soviet Union in Geneva, Switzerland. She was “up close and personal” to the historic Arms Control Treaties between the two countries in the 1980s.

Anthony Bucci, 1999, is a technology developer turned entrepreneur, and the co-founder/CEO of RevZilla.com, the largest online retailer in the motorcycle industry. During the past five years, Bucci has been named to the both a

Philadelphia and Drexel University list of 40 Under 40 Business People; Drexel University’s Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year; YouTube’s Video Marketing Ambassador; and an Ernst & Young’s Entrepreneur of the Year award recipient.

Dr. Sandra Gibson Hassink, 1971, is a pediatrician at Nemours/Alfred I. duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington, Del. In 1988, Hassink founded the weight management program and served as director of the Nemours Pediatric Obesity Initiative. She is co-principal investigator for the Healthy Active Living for Families Project, which promotes active healthy living for parents and families of young children.

Brigadier Gen. Thomas D. Weidley, 1983, currently serves as the commanding general for Marine Corps Installations East and Camp Lejeune, N.C. A decorated Cobra Attack Helicopter Pilot, he has participated in five Middle East United States military operations in the last 15 years. Weidley has earned a wide and impressive array of personal awards and decorations, all representing merit, commendation and outstanding service. Weidley was unable to attend any of the weekend activities or foundation banquet, but sent a video thanking the Hall of Fame and recognized his classmates and other inductees.

The GVEF is an independent, charitable nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote, support and perpetuate exemplary education provided by the school district. The foundation strives to identify and fund important initiatives beyond student needs provided by the school district and taxpayer funding.

The Garnet Valley



Garnet Valley Hall of Fame inductees, riding in back car, Anthony Bucci, Dr. Sandra Gibson Hassink, Nancy Albany wave to passersby. Driving is Hall of Fame Committee Chairman Kevin O’ Donoghue. His passenger is Garnet Valley Education Foundation President Dan Foltz.

SUBMITTED PHOTO

Alumni Association has been significant in establishing the foundation. GV Alumni Associations members Kevin O’Donoghue, Dan Foltz, Patrick Peterson, Robert Hayes and Michael Schmidt presented the foundation with a check for \$10,500.

At the Garnet Valley School Board meeting soon after the celebration weekend, Superintendent Marc Bertrando said, “It made you proud to be part of the Garnet Valley community and family. The students’ introductions of the Hall of Fame inductees were wonderfully thought out and delivered. And each speech of the inductees themselves was uniquely awesome. We will look to have every more individuals added every year, and see that they meet the extraordinary criteria and standards set by the first class,” said Bertrando.

As for monies raised by the foundation, he said, “It will all go back to the students.”

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West Chester
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CONCORD

Library reopens after renovations

By **Leslie Krowchenko**
For Digital First Media

CONCORD » Rachel Kohl Community Library had more to show off March 25 than just new painting, carpeting and lighting.

Closed the month of February for renovations, the library welcomed longtime and first-time patrons to explore the collection and meet newly named Director Susan Sternberg. The festivities were hosted by the library board and Friends of the Library.

"The library has a new face with equipment such as a 3D printer, lovely community room and wonderful programs for children and adults," said board Secretary Jean MacKenzie. "We serve five communities and our goal is to let people in each area know that this is their library."

Founded in 1979, its namesake, a Concord Elementary School librarian, recognized the need for a community library. She and volunteers amassed enough books to fill a small closet at the school to officially open the Community Township Library. The collection was later moved to a trailer.

Through private dona-



LESLIE KROWCHENKO — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO

Susan Sternberg is the newly named director of Rachel Kohl Community Library.

tions and grants, the new library was built in 1989 as part of the former municipal building on Smith bridge Road and renamed for its founder. The library serves residents of Chesster Heights Borough and Bethel, Chadds Ford, Concord and Thornbury townships with a collection that includes more than 43,000 books, videos, DVDs, audiotapes and CDs in addition to access to the Delaware County Library System.

Rachel Kohl received a \$68,342 50/50 Keystone Grant in 2015, which the library matched with capital funds. The renovations included new windows, carpeting, programmable thermostats, electronic door locks, roof replacement and sealcoating the drive-

way, all of which were original from the building's construction in 1989. The project was overseen by RPM Tri-State Area, the property management company which rents the remainder of the building.

"I saw the library before it closed," said Sternberg, who began her duties Feb. 15. "Just changing the lighting, for instance, really makes the room pop."

Sternberg brings non-profit and for-profit experience to the position. She served for nearly 30 years as the director or assistant director of the New Jersey State Legislature library and Trenton and Hamilton public libraries, and from 1999-2008 owned Alphabet Soup: Books for Kids and Their Parents in Lawrenceville, New Jersey. The independent children's bookstore specialized in life issues and cross-culturalism, such as offering books in 27 languages.

"As a bookseller, the idea was not to merely make the sale, but to find the perfect match between the customer and book," she said. "Whether it is retail or the library, the service is the same."

Referring to the hiring as "a good fit for me at this time of my life," Sternberg noted the post differs slightly from those she held previously, which often required both her library science and property maintenance skills. While she is equally adept at building the collection and the community and overseeing financial and administrative management, she prefers the former.

"It is a reasonable division of labor," said Sternberg. "The board is great - it is really engaged and represents all our commu-

LIBRARY » PAGE 11

Local History >>>>

LOCAL HISTORY

Southery Log House a local treasure



The Southery Log House.

By **Loretta Rodgers**
For Digital First Media

The Southery Log House was built in the late 1600s in the William Penn style that was the precursor of the row houses in Philadelphia.

It was once a part of a 150-acre tract built by the Southery family, whose members were among the earliest settlers in Bethel

Township.

Robert Southery died in 1686, leaving behind two daughters. His daughter, Mary, married Robert Palmer, of Concord, and the second daughter, Marjorie, married John Handnum, also of Concord. The two-story house was meticulously transported from a site near the John L. Myers Municipal Building on Bethel Road to its present lo-

cation on the property of Dr. Mead Shaffer, where it was restored. A majority of the chestnut log boards in the original home were saved.

The home was continuously occupied until the early 1940s. It was abandoned for several years until it was purchased by Shaffer, who had it moved, log by log, to his property. It is furnished with antiques of the period.

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LOCAL HISTORY

Bethel dates back to 1684

Bethel, smallest of all the original townships of Chester County, is triangular in shape, its southern line adjoining the state of Delaware, the northwestern boundary being Concord Township, the eastern, Upper Chichester. The township is mentioned as early as 1683, and again at the court held 11 mo. 6, 1684, the inhabitants of "Concord, Bethel and Chichester were ordered to meet on the third day of the next week."

The land is high and very productive; clay used for making fire bricks and Kaolin abound in the northwestern part of the township. Bethel hamlet was founded at an early date, the early settlers building together for the sake of safety. At the September court, 1686, Edward "Beaser" was appointed constable for "Bethel Liberty." In 1683, Edward "Bezer" and Edward Brown had 500 acres surveyed to them in the northeastern end of the township. On this tract, Bethel hamlet, afterwards known as "Corner Catch or Ketch," and the present village of Chelsea, is located. In 1686

the grand jury reported the laying out of the road from Bethel to Chichester (Marcus Hook).

The list of taxables for Bethel township in 1693 shows nine taxpayers: John Gibbons, Ralph Pile, John Bushel, Nicholas Pile, Edward Beaner, Robert Eyre, Thomas Garrett, John Howard, Thomas Cooper. In 1715, the list had doubled: Robert Pyle, John Grist, Robert Booth, Edward Beazer, John Canady, Benjamin Moulder, Joseph Pyle, John Hickman, Edward Griffith, John Hopton, John Gibbons, Thomas Durnell, constituting the list.

There are no railroads in the township, which contains but two villages — Chelsea, in the extreme northern corner of the township, and Booths Corner in the southern part. Public schools are maintained at both these villages. Another in the centre of the township is known as Central School. The Methodists maintain churches and ministers in the township. The population of Bethel in 1910 was 535.

LOCAL HISTORY

Historical Society welcomes new members

Concord Township Historical Society was formed in 1967 when the Pole Cat Road House was donated to Concord Township as part of the development provisions for Fox Valley, an early housing development in the eastern end of the township. In order to restore the house and preserve it for the future, the society was formed and began to raise funds for its restoration.

The Society is a non-profit volunteer organization, open to the public, whose mission is to stimulate interest in Concord Township history through historic document, artifact and property preservation, research and education programs.

Through the years, the organization has changed and evolved to reflect the changing dynamics of the township. The board meets monthly and offers periodic public programs and events. Membership is open to the public.

The key areas of interest and associated purpose are:

- Collections — to document the vast collection of papers, photographs, books and other objects that have been collected over the years and which reside at the headquarters of the society, the Pierce-Willits

House. Work has begun to catalog this rich treasure-trove, which will ultimately culminate in a full database that would be available for research. Future work will focus on archival-quality materials and processes to preserve these artifacts for years to come.

- Buildings & Grounds — to maintain and manage the two important historic properties that are cared for by the society: The Pole Cat Road House (PCRH) and the Pierce-Willits (PW) House. With historic structures such as these, work is never-ending.

- Membership/Web — to increase membership and volunteer participation in the society and to continue to enhance and develop our website at Concordhist.org so that CTHS can reach out and share our town-

ship history and activities. This site's main focus is to provide information on our various historic properties, people and events and will continually be enhanced with new information.

- Public Relations and Fundraising — to increase public awareness of the society and its activities, to raise funds and to promote events. Future endeavors will include programs to increase the funds for the areas of focus described here. We will continue to offer appropriate historic-related items for sale, which will be offered through this website in the future.

- Education — to promote the inclusion of Concord Township's history in the Garnet Valley School District curriculum. Our annual Scholarship Award to a graduat-

Through the years, the organization has changed and evolved to reflect the changing dynamics of the township.

ing senior at Garnet Valley continues, and we are developing a colonial program for fifth-graders in partnership with the Newlin Grist Mill.

The society welcomes new members and volunteers to help with various projects: collections management, research, education, fundraising, and events. Check concordhist.org for more information.

Library

FROM PAGE 10

cnities."

The library was a welcome back for patrons such as Sadanand Sheorey, of Glen Mills, and his daughters, Ananya, 8 and Twisha, 18 months. He enjoys their visits, especially during the winter months

when the family makes selections from the excellent book and DVD collections. Ananya, an avid reader, is looking forward to the warm weather.

"During the summer reading program, you get to pick a prize every time you read five books," she said. "When we come, we also always play in the park."



LESLIE KROWCHENKO — DIGITAL FIRST MEDIA FILE PHOTO

Playing with the building blocks during the open house are, left to right, Aria Giarraputo, 5, Olivia Giarraputo, 9, Agnes Pym, 4, and Lauren Giarraputo, 7, all of Glen Mills.

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