2016 TROLLEY TOUR OF DELAWARE COUNTY’S CLASSIC TOWNS

FRIDAY, MAY 20TH, 2016, FROM 8:30 AM TO 4:00 PM

HOSTED BY THE DELAWARE VALLEY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION, MEDIA BOROUGH, LANSDOWNE BOROUGH, AMERICAN PLANNING ASSOCIATION – PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER, SOUTHEAST, DELAWARE VALLEY SMART GROWTH ALLIANCE, AND THE DELAWARE COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT
WELCOME AND GREETINGS!

We are delighted that you have joined us for the fourth annual Classic Towns Trolley Tour! We hope that you will find the tour of Lansdowne and Media both educational and enjoyable, and make valuable connections with community development colleagues.

Classic Towns have retained the physical and social characteristics that make them interesting places to live, work, and play. Today's tour will feature two Classic Towns' unique attributes.

Our tour highlights include:

➤ An early breakfast in the heart of Downtown Lansdowne at the Avenue Deli with your fellow Classic Towns. Welcome remarks will be given by Lansdowne Mayor Mr. Anthony Campuzano and Council President, Mr. Michael Schleigh.

➤ Continue onto the Historic Lansdowne Theater, where our tour guide, Mr. Matthew Shultz, will lead us on a private tour. A trolley tour through the residential areas of Lansdowne will conclude the morning.

➤ Upon arriving in Media, Mayor Robert A. McMahon will welcome the group at Spasso Italian Grill. We will hear a brief presentation about new development coming to downtown Media.

➤ Mr. Keith Lockhart will then lead us on a walking tour that highlights the wonderful architecture and history of Media along State Street.

➤ We’ll finish the tour of Media with a trolley ride through the residential neighborhoods and end with a tour of the Minshall House, led by Kathleen LoRusso, before heading back to Lansdowne.

Have fun and enjoy the tour!

DVRPC WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE HOSTS, TOUR GUIDES, SPEAKERS, AND LOCAL BUSINESSES FOR THEIR ASSISTANCE WITH THE 2016 CLASSIC TOWNS TROLLEY TOUR.

Hosts
American Planning Association – Pennsylvania Chapter, Southeast (APAPASE)
Delaware County Planning Department
Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
Delaware Valley Smart Growth Alliance (DVSGA)
Lansdowne Borough
Media Borough

Tour Guides & Speakers
The Honorable Anthony Campuzano, Mayor, Lansdowne Borough
Linda F. Hill, Director, Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development
Mr. Keith Lockhart, Delaware County Historian
Ms. Kathleen LoRusso, President, Media Historical Preservation Society
The Honorable John P. McBlain, Delaware County Councilman
The Honorable Robert A. McMahon, Mayor, Media Borough
Mr. Michael Schleigh, Lansdowne Borough Council President
Mr. Matt Schultz, Executive Director, Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation
Mr. Barry Seymour, Executive Director, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
Mr. Jeff Smith, Borough Manager, Media Borough
Mr. Craig Totaro, Borough Manager, Lansdowne Borough

Catering & Facilities
Avenue Deli, 27 N. Lansdowne Avenue, Lansdowne
Spasso Italian Grill, 1 West State Street, Media
Philadelphia Sightseeing Trolley Company, Inc., Philadelphia, PA
OVERVIEW OF THE DAY

8:30 AM  Registration and Breakfast
Avenue Deli, 27 N. Lansdowne Avenue

9:30 AM  Lansdowne Borough
Private tour of Historic Lansdowne Theater
(10:15) Trolley Tour of Lansdowne’s historic residential neighborhoods
(11:30) Depart for Media Borough

12:00 PM  Media Borough
Lunch at Spasso Italian Grill
1 West State Street

1:30 PM  Walking Tour of historic State Street
(2:30) Trolley Tour of residential and commercial district
Private tour of Minshall House

3:30 PM  Depart for return trip to Lansdowne Borough

4:00 PM  Return to Lansdowne Municipal Lot
30 N. Lansdowne Avenue

ABOUT OUR TOUR GUIDES

Mr. Matthew Schultz
Mr. Schultz serves as the executive director of the Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation. In this role, he has raised over $5.5M to purchase, plan the theater’s adaptive reuse, and complete several restoration projects within the building.

Recognized as an expert in the field of historic preservation, Mr. Schultz has led efforts to establish two National Register Districts in Lansdowne, and restoration of the Lansdowne Railroad Station and Lansdowne World War Monuments. He also led the effort to create Sycamore Park, home of a 390 year old sycamore, and has written extensively about the history of the borough. Mr. Schultz was the Assistant Director and Project Manager of Avenue of the Arts, Inc. where he was integral to the development of Philadelphia’s premiere performing arts district Avenue of the Arts.

For his efforts, Mr. Schultz has been honored by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission, Preservation Pennsylvania, Delaware County Heritage Commission, and the Borough of Lansdowne.

Mr. Keith Lockhart
A lifelong Delaware County resident, Mr. Lockhart first became interested in Delaware County as a teen. He began interviewing residents and copying old pictures. He wrote his first history booklet in 1976 for the Bicentennial. Over the next 30 years, he wrote six more books and did a history column for Town Talk for 15 years. Mr. Lockhart has received numerous awards and recognition for his work. In 2007, just as he retired from the Ridley Township Police force, he started the delawarecountyhistory.com website. In almost 40 years of collecting, he has put together one of the largest private collections of Delaware County books and memorabilia. Mr. Lockhart is also a board member of the Colonial Plantation in Ridley Creek State Park.
LANSDOWNE

Lansdowne is a diverse and progressive community of people, places, interests, and ideas. Its services, charm, architecture, and history of civic dedication combine to create a warm sense of community, all within sight of Center City Philadelphia.

8:30 AM  Breakfast
           Avenue Deli
           27 N. Lansdowne Avenue

8:45 AM  Welcoming Remarks
           The Honorable Anthony Campuzano, Mayor
           Mr. Michael Schleigh, Council President

9:30 AM  Historic Lansdowne Theatre Tour
           Led by Matt Shultz, Executive Director,
           Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation

10:15 AM  Trolley Tour
           Ride the trolley through Lansdowne’s residential neighborhoods

11:30 AM  Depart for Media Borough
1 Lansdowne Railroad Station
Designed by Frank Furness, the Lansdowne Railroad Station was constructed in 1902. Originally owned by the Pennsylvania Railroad, today the station serves commuters on SEPTA’s Media/Elwyn regional rail line. The station building was restored in the 1990s by a task force of SEPTA employees and Lansdowne residents. This project was the first of several public-private historic preservation projects undertaken in Lansdowne Borough.

2 Matthews Hollow
Matthews Hollow was the site of cabins for trappers and hunters in the 17th and 18th centuries. Permanent structures were constructed for the owners, managers, and workers of the water-powered mills located along the Darby Creek. Matthews Hollow became famous when Samuel Lubin, a Philadelphia-based filmmaker, used the cliffs as background for his movies.

3 Coral Hills
Coral Hills was the last large tract of land to be developed for housing during the mid-1950s. The split-level houses reflect a more modern form of architectural design compared to the rest of the borough. The meandering streets, unlike much of the borough, are geared to automobiles.

4 Griffith's Lake
Griffith's Lake was a man-made lake that was constructed in 1912 and served as a recreation attraction both in the summer and winter. The lake was drained in the 1920s. The Lansdowne School District purchased the land and constructed the Ardmore Avenue Elementary School to accommodate the growing population of Lansdowne.

5 Henry Albertson Historic District
Henry Albertson Subdivision Historic District includes 70 contributing buildings in a residential area of Lansdowne. The subdivision consists of single and double houses, built between 1884 and about 1940. Mr. Albertson’s house, designed by Frank Furness, sits at the center of Balfour Circle.

6 Sycamore Public Park
Located at LaCrosse and Wycombe Avenues stands a 350-year-old Sycamore tree, which is one of the largest in Pennsylvania.
MEDIA

Media’s history dates back to the late 18th century. Less than one square mile, Media has made the most of its relatively small space. Residential and commercial corridors complement each other and make it easy to enjoy all that Media has to offer.

12:00 PM  Lunch
Spasso Italian Grill
1 West State Street

Welcoming Remarks
The Honorable Robert A. McMahon, Mayor

1:30 PM  Walking Tour
Stroll along State Street
Led by Keith Lockhart, Delaware County Historian

2:30 PM  Trolley Tour
Ride the trolley through Media’s neighborhoods
Led by Keith Lockhart, Delaware County Historian

   Minshall House Tour
   Led by Kathleen LoRusso, President, Media Historical Preservation Society

3:30 PM  Depart for Lansdowne Municipal Parking Lot
30 N. Lansdowne Avenue

“Everybody’s Hometown”
MEDIA THEATRE FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS
The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts is a growing non-profit organization that has been operating since the year 2000. The Media Theatre was constructed in 1927 as a vaudeville house, which also featured “talkies.” In 1993, Walter Strine Sr. purchased the theatre and undertook a massive $1 million renovation to restore the theatre to its former aesthetic glory.

MEDIA ARMORY
The Media Armory is a raised two-story Tudor revival. It was built to house the Cooper Rifles, organized in 1877. Today, it houses the Pennsylvania Veterans’ Museum and Trader Joe’s. It was designed by renowned architect William S. Price and M.H. McClanahan and constructed in 1907.

MINSHALL HOUSE
A Quaker and early Media resident, Thomas Minshall, settled outside the small village of Providence. The original village included a tailor shop, blacksmith shop, wheelwright shop, barn, and other buildings. Thomas Minshall bought 625 acres from William Penn and the Providence Friends Meeting was established in February 1688. The meetinghouse was later built on land be donated for the purpose.

STATE STREET HISTORIC DISTRICT
The Historic District includes properties from 400 to 412 West State Street. The brick townhouses are typical of Media during the pre-Civil War period, roughly 1855. The designated historic district is one of the last undisturbed blocks of old Media. Numbers 331-341 were built between 1855 and 1873.

LEGAL ROW
Legal Row is remembered as the first business district of Media occupied by lawyers and early merchants in 1850. An early photographic studio, Thompson’s Daguerreotypes, as well as a druggist and chemist were located here.

MEDIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Media Presbyterian is located on Baltimore Pike and was the first church constructed in Media. It was designed by John McArthur, architect of Philadelphia City Hall, and completed in 1855. It is well known for its classic Greek revival style.
THE CHIRP
HEAR THE LATEST!
www.classictowns.org/chirp
CLASSIC TOWNS OF GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Character, culture, and convenience are the characteristics that define a Classic Town. Ranging from colonial settlements to college towns, streetcar suburbs to waterfront communities, Classic Towns are sprinkled throughout the Greater Philadelphia region, providing a quality of life unfound in this age of suburban sprawl.

Created in 2008, the Classic Towns of Greater Philadelphia initiative of the Delaware Valley Planning Commission (DVRPC) is designed to foster the growth of the region’s timeless communities by promoting what makes each place a wonderful place to live, work, and play!

Borough of Ambler
Borough of Merchantville
Borough of Monitor

Township of Moorestown
Borough of New Hope

Borough of Oxford
Borough of Phoenixville

Borough of Quakertown
Borough of West Chester

Borough of Souderton

City of Philadelphia Neighborhoods:

Germantown
Manayunk

The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission is dedicated to uniting the region’s elected officials, planning professionals, and the public with a common vision of making a great region even greater. Shaping the way we live, work, and play, DVRPC builds consensus on improving transportation, promoting smart growth, protecting the environment, and enhancing the economy. We serve a diverse region of nine counties: Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia in Pennsylvania; and Burlington, Camden, Gloucester, and Mercer in New Jersey. DVRPC is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Greater Philadelphia Region — leading the way to a better future.