



The Gazette



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Sponsoring Historic Bristol Day—Third Saturday of Each October

BCHF is a 501 (C) (3) non-profit, all volunteer Organization.

OCTOBER 2026

President's Corner Dear Members:

We are looking forward to the fall weather and all the upcoming events.

Historic Bristol Day is on October 17th.

Thank you to everyone who has helped to plan for this borough-wide event.

After Historic Bristol Day, our general membership meeting will be held on November 18th at our building on Cedar Street. David Marshall will be speaking about Historic Fallsington at the November 18th event.

Historic Fallsington Inc (HFI). was founded in 1953 to protect and preserve the historic community of Fallsington, Pennsylvania. The history of Fallsington begins with the Falls Friends Meetinghouse, the first formal house of worship in Bucks County, which was completed in 1690. Today HFI maintains 6 historic buildings in Fallsington, 4 of which are now Museum spaces, as well as an extensive archival collection of

historic artifacts. HFI also hosts Historic Fallsington Day, held the second Saturday in October each year.

David Marshall joined HFI as Executive Director in March of 2026. Born and raised in Bucks County, he is proud to be a second-generation Historic Preservationist. His father, Jeffrey Marshall, is the retired president of the Heritage Conservancy. Before joining HFI, David worked in non-profit management and issue advocacy. David and his wife, Beth, live in the Snowball Gate section of Levittown, and their children Ellis and Avery are fourth-generation Levittowners.

Information about additional BCHF programs and trips are included in this issue of the Gazette.

Sincerely Jesse Walker

Volunteer Maintenance Liaison Needed

The BCHF building on Cedar Street is our headquarters. Over the years we have had a volunteer liaison oversee the maintenance of the building. We are looking for a new person to help.

Typical duties include walking thorough the building on a regular basis checking

plumbing, lighting, and the other conditions on the inside and outside of the building. It would be a plus if the person is able to resolve minor issues like changing light bulbs. We hire professionals for more involved repairs. If interested, please email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com and we can provide more details.

HISTORIC BRISTOL DAY TICKETS NOW ON SALE!

Tickets are now on sale for the **2026 Historic Bristol Day House Tours & Tea!** This year's tour features **12 homes to explore**, showcasing the wonderful mix of **historic and newer homes that make Bristol such a special community.**

To celebrate our anniversary, we've lowered ticket prices so everyone can take part!

Tickets are \$15 each or 2 for \$25 with our Anniversary Special.

Tickets may be purchased in advance online at **BristolHistory.org**. On Historic Bristol Day, online tickets can be redeemed at **any of the 12 homes on the tour or at one of our ticket tables along Radcliffe Street**, so you can start your tour wherever makes the most sense for you.

Tickets will also be available for purchase at our ticket tables on Historic Bristol Day.

Explore **12 Bristol homes**, enjoy **Tea on the South Lawn of the Grundy Library overlooking the Delaware River**, and experience one of Bristol's favorite traditions!

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17 • 10 AM–4 PM

**12 HOMES • \$15 SINGLE TICKET •
ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL: 2 FOR \$25**

Purchase tickets online at:
BristolHistory.org/Tickets.html



GAZEBO SCHEDULE On the Riverfront

10:00 – 10:45	Men of Harmony <i>(Continues on the 200–300 blocks of Radcliffe Street)</i>
11:00 – 11:45	Jillian Ashcraft
12:00 – 1:00	Proclamations
1:00 – 1:45	Mindy Murray
2:00 – 2:45	Jackson Pines
3:00 – 3:45	BCHF Community Band

WHARF & SPECIAL ATTRACTIONS

- Gazela Tall Ship
Bristol Docks (Free Admission)
- First Crossing Encampment
Set up at the Wharf
- 304th Civil Affairs Brigade
Set up at the Wharf



KIDS' ZONE Mulberry Street

- Face Painting – Lorean Murphy
- Balloon Artist – Scott Meyers
- Peaceable Kingdom Petting Zoo



GRUNDY LIBRARY EVENTS 680 Radcliffe Street

Library will be open 10:00am – 4:00pm and public restrooms are available.

Programs:

- Library 60th Anniversary Exhibit and Short Film – all day
- Crafts in the Youth Area – all day
- Cops n' Kids (book giveaway) – all day
- Community Digitization Day with the Grundy Archive in the Williams Room 10:00am – 3:00pm

Activities with Snyder-Girotti Students:

- 2nd & 3rd: Bristol Then & Now – Interactive spinners
- 4th & 5th: Windows Into Bristol – Interactive windows into Bristol's past
- 6th: Bristol in Motion – Moving automaton bringing Bristol's history to life



Historic Bristol Day Highlights

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Snyder-Girotti Elementary School
450 Beaver Street

Stroll through a collection of classic cars.



*Classic Cars
Timeless Style!*

FOOD COURT

Along the river behind Radcliffe Street and Market Street.

- Local restaurants & food vendors
- Refreshments
- Sweet treats & desserts
- Beverages

*Good Food • Great Music
Community Spirit*



HISTORIC BUILDINGS & EXHIBITS

Visit these locations and more throughout Bristol

- Bethel A.M.E. Church – 260 Wood St., #254
- Bristol Borough Municipal Building – 250 Pond St.
- Bristol Fire Company – Station 51 – 198 Wood St.
- Bristol Friends Meeting – 235 Market St.
- Bristol Lodge #25 (Masonic Temple) 219-221 Cedar St.
- Bristol Riverside Theatre – 120 Radcliffe St. Information table outside the building.
- First United Methodist Church of Bristol 201 Mulberry Street
- St. Ann Church – 357 Dorrance Street
Open 10:00am – 2:00pm for their 120th Anniversary
- Margaret R. Grundy Library – 680 Radcliffe St.

Free Shuttle Available to Home Tours and Events

2026 Home Tours



244 EAST CIRCLE
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



264 EAST CIRCLE
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



222 COOLIDGE PLACE
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



117 TAYLOR STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



430 JEFFERSON AVENUE, UNIT D
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



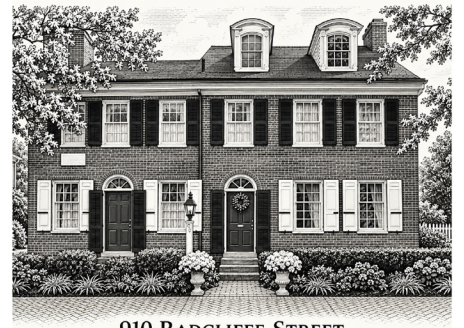
922 RADCLIFFE STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



237 RADCLIFFE STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



200 POND STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



910 RADCLIFFE STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



316 RADCLIFFE STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



800 RADCLIFFE STREET
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA



RADCLIFFE COURT
CONDO MODEL HOME
BRISTOL, PENNSYLVANIA

Pages from Bristol's Past

As Bristol prepares to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, the Bristol Cultural & Historical Foundation Gazette will look back at some of the traditions, events, and moments that have helped shape the life of the borough. Bristol's history is not only found in its historic buildings or well known events, but also in the small neighborhood places where residents gathered and daily life quietly unfolded.

Historic Bristol Day: Fifty Years of Celebrating Bristol **By: Michael Crossan**

For half a century, Historic Bristol Day has brought residents and visitors together to celebrate the borough's rich history and vibrant community.

What many people may not realize is that the event began in a much smaller way.

In its early years, the celebration was held on the open grounds of the old St. Mark School along Radcliffe Street between Dorrance Street and Penn Street. Large tents were set up across the property, creating a small festival atmosphere where visitors could gather to learn about Bristol's history, browse displays, and enjoy the company of neighbors.

One of the early highlights of the event was an antique market, where vendors displayed vintage items, collectibles, and historic pieces that reflected the borough's long past. These early markets attracted visitors from outside the community and helped establish Historic Bristol Day as both a celebration and a way to showcase Bristol's rich heritage.

As interest in Bristol's history grew, the event expanded beyond those early tents into a larger community festival. Organized by the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Historic Bristol Day became a way to showcase the borough's historic homes, museums, and waterfront while bringing neighbors together for a day of celebration.

Today the event is held each year on the third Saturday in October and draws thousands of visitors to Bristol's historic district and waterfront.

Throughout the day, Radcliffe Street and the surrounding neighborhood come alive with activity. Historic homes and gardens open their doors for tours, giving visitors a rare opportunity to step inside some of Bristol's most beautiful and historic properties.

Along the streets, artisans and craft vendors line the sidewalks while food stands offer everything from traditional festival favorites to local specialties. Live music and entertainment fill the air as visitors stroll through town, exploring historic landmarks, museums, and shops.

Other attractions throughout the borough add to the festive atmosphere. A popular car show brings classic and antique automobiles to the streets, while families enjoy displays, activities, and entertainment throughout the day.

The waterfront has also become an important part of the celebration. Over the years, visits from tall ships and antique boats have occasionally tied the event to Bristol's maritime past, giving visitors a glimpse of the kinds of vessels that once traveled the Delaware River during the borough's steamboat era.

Community organizations and local institutions take part as well. The Grundy Museum hosts special programs and its traditional afternoon tea

on the lawn overlooking the river, while the Grundy Library and other local groups offer activities for children and families.

Despite how much the event has grown, the spirit of Historic Bristol Day remains much the same as it was in the beginning. It is a day dedicated to celebrating the borough's history, welcoming visitors to explore the town, and bringing the community together.

Now, as Bristol prepares for the 50th anniversary of Historic Bristol Day, the event stands as a testament to the dedication of volunteers, residents, and local organizations who have worked for decades to preserve and celebrate the borough's history.

What began under a few large tents on the grounds of the old St. Mark School has grown

into a festival that fills the streets, waterfront, and historic homes of Bristol each autumn.

And like the many traditions that came before it, Historic Bristol Day continues to remind us that Bristol's greatest strength has always been its sense of community.

Share Your Memory

Do you remember attending Historic Bristol Day over the years? Share your favorite memories of house tours, the antique market, the car show, tall ships, music, food, and community celebrations with us.
www.bristolhistory.org/memories.html

Bristol Day Car Show **By Mark Gesualdi**

It's hard to believe that Summer is nearly over! The kids are back in school and the number of chances to show off our beautiful cars and trucks at local shows is quickly coming to a close.

The Bristol Day Car Show group will be offering two more chances to display our cars and trucks this Fall. The first chance will be our 15th annual Bristol Day Show to be held on Saturday, October 17 at the Snyder-Girotti School on Beaver Street in Bristol, PA. Registration begins at 9 a.m. and the show is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Since Bristol Day is a rain or shine event, there is not a rain date. Pre-registration is available at this website: <https://bristolhistory.org/car-show.html>. Registration is \$20 and will be collected at the show.

The show is being held as part of the Bristol Day festivities that take place throughout town. A shuttle bus will be available to take participants to the other events. For those who wish to stay with their cars, there will be food and drinks on sale at the school, as well as indoor restrooms.

Trophies for first, second and third place People's Choice in both the antique (2001-older) and Classic (2002-2027) divisions will be awarded as will a Best of Show trophy and new this year, a Mayor's Choice trophy. In addition, door prizes will be raffled off. At the conclusion of the show, a Car Cruise is being planned with the route to be determined.

The second chance, and most likely final chance in 2026 to show off our cars and trucks, will take place on Saturday, November 28 at the annual Bristol Borough Christmas Parade through town. The parade steps off at 1 p.m. and has a rain date of Sunday, November 29 at 1 p.m.

If you would like to join us, please email Parade Car Coordinator Mark Gesualdi at gez49@aol.com. In your email please note if you would be willing to carry a parade honoree or if you just want to ride with the Bristol Day Car Show group.

15TH BRISTOL DAY CAR SHOW

ALL AMERICAN AND FOREIGN ANTIQUES, CLASSICS, NEWER CORVETTES, CAMAROS, FIREBIRDS, MUSTANGS, CHALLENGERS, T-BIRDS, STREET RODS, LOWRIDERS, LUXURIES, EXOTICS AND MORE...



SPONSORED BY
THE BRISTOL
CULTURAL
& HISTORICAL
FOUNDATION



Snyder-Girotti Elementary School
450 Beaver St, Bristol, PA 19007



OPEN TO THE PUBLIC starting at 10:00 am until 3:00 pm
Car cruise through Bristol Borough at 3:00 pm

Registration starts at 9:00 am

\$20 registration per participant on the day of the show.
Same cost for one or multiple cars.

Show on black top

Indoor Restrooms, Food and Seating

The following trophies will be awarded

Pre-1997 | 1997 - 2027 | Best of Show
1st, 2nd and 3rd Place People's Choice and others...

Saturday, October 17, 2026

Visit www.bristolhistory.org/car-show.html and pre-register

No Rain Date.

Out Of the Past

The following items were excerpted from The Bristol Courier October 1926 2¢ a Copy

October 1 – Football – St. Ann's Club vs Burlington Tigers
Sat. Oct. 2 at 2:30 PM at Garden St. & Jefferson Ave.

October 2 – The Bristol Firemen are ready to parade on
Thurs. at the Pennsylvania State Firemens Association
Convention.

Forrest Theatre on Mill St. showing Buster Keaton in
"Battling Butler".

October 4 – Parishioners from St. Ann and St. Mark parishes
participated in a special Mass at the sesquicentennial
exposition grounds in thanksgiving for 150 years of American
freedom.

October 5 – This is Fire prevention Week. Fire Chief
Franklin Gilkeson states that carelessness is the cause of three
quarters of all fires.

October 6 – The Bristol School Board announced that the
new addition to Bristol High School will be dedicated the first
week of November. Classrooms will be ready for occupancy
next. Wednesday.

October 7 – Bucks County is now included in the Japanese
Beetle Quarantine effective next Monday.

The 10th anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sagolla
was celebrated at their home on Penn St.

H. Popkin Shoe Store at Dorrance and Pond St. is
holding a special 10-day sale. Women's Pumps \$1.98, Baby
shoes \$1.25.

October 8 – For Rent – Nicely Finished bungalows in
Harriman. Hot water heat. Rent \$22.50 Apply at 2417 Trenton
Ave.

October 9 – Castor & Weed Chevrolet located on Farragut
Ave. has cars priced from \$510 - \$765.

Hobbies of well-Know Women of Bristol – Mrs. A. F.
Winterstein collects antique furniture which she displays in
her home.

October 12 – The regular Bristol Borough Council meeting
heard from 3 municipalities about recommendation of the
Philadelphia Suburban Underwriters that they adopted. All
stated that their fire departments now operate on a part-paid
basis.

October 13 – Miss. S. M. Hawke a well-known Bristol
woman died in a Philadelphia hospital where she had gone for
eye treatment.

October 14 – American Store: one pound Louella Butter 56¢,
Gold Seal Flour- 12 lbs./55¢, fresh ground hamburger steak
20¢/lb.

October 19 – Riverside Theatre on Radcliffe St. Tues – Fri.
presents Harold Lloyd in "For Heaven's Sake".

October 20 – Miss Ellen Cameron is using a new method to
teach typewriting at Bristol High School. They are learning to
type to the rhythm of music being played on a record. The
results are wonderful.

The Mother's Association of Bristol public schools
will give their annual supper in the high school cafeteria.

October 21 – Bristol Police Chief John McGuckin stated that
parking of autos on streets after midnight must cease. Many
are using the street instead of renting a garage.

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Robert W. Bracken Post
hosted the ladies of the Jesse W. Suby Post of Langhorne last
night at the Post headquarters on Cedar St.

Four years after the Fordney-McCumber Tariff Act
became law the results are: 5 million men and women have
jobs, it put 2 ¼ billion dollars of customs revenue into the
treasury and it did not increase the cost of living.

October 22 – St. Mark students will give a Masquerade dance
on Nov. 1st. Music is furnished by the Dixie Land Serenaders.
This will be an annual event.

October 23 – Bristol Athletic Association held a special
meeting at the Forrest theater and elected Wm. Fine president.
A committee of the Mill Street Business Men's Association
reported that they have funds to help buy equipment and
make up any deficit at the end of the football season.

October 25 – Secretary of the Treasury Mellon said that
lowering tariffs would be good for Europe, but not the U. S.
and we will fight any moves to reduce tariffs.

October 26 – The Supreme Court held that the President has
to power to remove appointees at will without consent of the
Senate.

October 29 – Students of Bristol will help collect funds for
the Dental Clinic on Oct. 29 and 30 – Daisy Day. Each donor
will receive a Daisy



**Bristol Cultural &
Historical Foundation, Inc.**
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Bristol, PA 19007

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Calendar of Events For 2026

October 17, 2026 – Historic Bristol Day
10 AM – 4 PM Details in the October
Gazette

**October 28, 2026 - The Strasburg Railroad
and the Choo Choo Barn With Lunch at
Casey Jones' Restaurant.**
\$156 for members/\$166 for non-members.
Call 215-781-8591 to register.

November 18, 2026 @ 7 PM
BCHF General Membership Meeting
David Marshall, Executive Director of Historic
Fallsington, Inc. will be speaking about Historic
Fallsington following the business portion of the
meeting..

BCHF Headquarters are at 321 Cedar Street, Bristol.
For current information about activities and events, check our website at www.bristolhistory.org
Email us at bchf2157819895@gmail.com Follow us on Instagram - - [IG@bristol_historic_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/IG@bristol_historic_foundation)

THE GAZETTE is a publication of the Bristol Cultural and Historical Foundation, Inc. — Linda Rowan, Editor
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