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## **WCGN NEWSLETTER December 1, 2025**



Photo courtesy of Suzanne Ponsen

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### **Listen for Bells as They Ring Tonight**

At 7:06 PM this evening, December 1st,  
[FUMCOG](#) & [Christ Church and Saint Michael's](#)  
will observe the 70th anniversary of Rosa Park's  
arrest in Montgomery Alabama for refusing to give

*West Central Germantown Neighbors (WCGN) is an all volunteer community organization dedicated to improving and maintaining the quality of life in our neighborhood, bordered by the north side of Cheltenham Avenue, the west side of Baynton Street, the south side of Washington Lane, and in the east by the Chestnut Hill West SEPTA rail line.*

up her bus seat to a white passenger.

This act sparked the 381-day Montgomery bus boycott and became a pivotal moment in the Civil Rights Movement. Both churches will join churches nationwide by tolling their bells 70 times. Christ Church & St. Michaels will close the observance by playing the gospel hymn "We Shall Overcome"

### **Giving Tuesday is Tomorrow**

Please consider supporting WCGN by making a one-time contribution, or better yet a little something monthly. Make your tax deductible donation [here](#). Thank you.

### **ALERT: Historic Preservation Is At Risk**

[Bill No. 251030](#), introduced to City Council on 11/20 by District 1 Council member Mark Squilla, will alter the City's historic preservation efforts and make it significantly more challenging to nominate and successfully protect eligible historic buildings and districts.

**WCGN URGES YOU TO CONTACT:** Our District 8 Councilperson, [Cindy Bass](#) and **all** of our At-Large Council Members: [Katherine Gilmore Richardson](#), [Isaiah Thomas](#), [Jim Harity](#), [Nina Ahmad](#), [Rue Landau](#), [Kendra Brooks](#), and [Nicolas O'Rourke](#) to voice your opposition. Add any additional comments with your name and mailing address.

### **Chestnut Hill Local Needs Our Help**

The Local is experiencing many of the same financial issues that other small independent newspapers have, that ceased operations, in the past several years. Unless we want to lose our only major Northwest Philadelphia print news coverage, sign up for your subscription [here](#).

### **226 Harvey ZBA Decision Pending**

At least 15 neighbors attended the ZBA Hearing held 11/19 to voice their opposition to a variance request to convert the property to 6 residential units. Our Zoning Chair, Julie Stapleton Carroll, testified in person and made the strong case for the ZBA to deny the variance. ZBA Chair Bergman decided to bring the case before their Executive Board on December 3. Interested neighbors can hear the announcement of that

decision by, once again, [registering](#) for the 12/3 9:30 session.

### 28-30 W. Haines ZBA Hearing 12/10

The ZBA hearing for this property has been scheduled for 12/10 at 9:30.

Neighbors interested in attending should register [here](#). Use the property address and #ZP-2025-002638 and #MI-2025-002663. Send an email [here](#).

### 12/6 Tulpehocken Station Work Day

The Green Space Committee, could use your help at the Tulpehocken Station Garden emptying leaf bags into the mulch bins. Join us there at 1:30.

### 12/6 For A Stronger Germantown

G.R.E.A.T. & the [Academy of Natural Sciences](#)



### Maxwell Mansion Victorian Christmas

\*Victorian Christmas Mansion Tours 12/4-1/4

\*Victorians & Christmas MALT class 12/6 & 12/7

\*Coffee, Cocoa & Cookies with **Santa** 12/14

\*Charles Dickens' A Christmas Carol 12/13 & 12/14

[Learn more and register.](#)

### Center In The Park Events

Visit and support our neighborhood hub for everything 55+. Classes in everything from A to Z. Learn [more](#).



## Become a WCGN Guide and Share Our Message

Our [Wharton](#) student partners have come up with an old school and clever way to help us reach the neighbors who live in the area from Germantown Ave. east to Baynton St. and E. Washington Lane south to E. Cheltenham Ave. which we recently added to our community organization. Stay tuned for more information and ways you can help.

## WCGN Parents WhatsApp Group

Click here: [West Central Germantown Neighbors Parents](#) to join the conversation with other young families about meet-ups, after-school programs, scout troops, schools, etc. Call or write to Sean Morris at 610-368-8711 or [seanraymondmorris@gmail.com](mailto:seanraymondmorris@gmail.com).

## Welcome our neighbors and families

Alanna Butler & Jake Winterstein on Burbridge, Lauren Parker on Tulpehocken, Shandora Scruggs on Harvey, Graham Godbey owner of [Uptown Cyclery](#) at Rittenhouse & Wayne, and Anne McNiff, Executive Director of the Chestnut Hill Community Association have all joined our mailing list.

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**Please invite neighbors** to receive WCGN newsletters so they too can stay informed of items related to our neighborhood. They can sign up on our [website](#).

**Your Donations Matter.** To support our mission of service to our community, please consider making an automatic monthly donation of any amount, such as \$5, or one annual donation.

**Pay Online:** Go to our [website](#) and click on “Donate”, and pay via PayPal or debit/credit card. There is a box to check for monthly donations.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Don Maedche via [email](#).

*WCGN's treasury is used for annual Directors and Officers Insurance, purchase of supplies for social gatherings as well as for the train station garden, zoom hosting for RCO and other meetings, printing notices for other neighborhood initiatives, and, on occasion, lawyers' fees.*

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