



[Friend on Facebook](#)



#### THE BOARD

*President:* Suzanne Ponsen

*Vice President 1:* Julie  
Stapleton Carroll

*Vice President 2:* Mike Ramos

*Secretary:* Lora Lewis

*Treasurer:* Don Maedche

*Zoning and Land Use  
Committee Chair:*  
Julie Stapleton Carroll

*Communications Committee  
Chair:*  
Fairleigh Barnes

*History and Heritage  
Committee Chair:*  
Mike Ramos

*Green Space Committee  
Chair:*  
Phil Kane

Board Contact Information:

## WCGN NEWSLETTER December 15, 2025



Renee Cuninghame & Suzanne with Santa  
at [Center in the Park's](#) Winter Festival

Santa promised a good year for us both.

Photo courtesy of [Bysil Blessingale](#)

[Would you like to see your photo here?](#)

### Make your end of year donation today

Our expenses are many, please consider  
supporting WCGN by making a one-time

*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.*

contribution, or better yet a little something monthly. Make your tax deductible donation [here](#).

### **Restrictive Preservation Bill Paused**

Voting on [Bill No. 251030](#), introduced to City Council on 11/20 by Council member Mark Squilla has, for a time, been paused as Philadelphia's Planning Commission, testimony from preservation leaders, community organizations like WCGN, and your letters have delayed voting for 45 days with hopes that the bill is rewritten to level the playing field for all parties. Read Chestnut Hill Conservancy's [statement of opposition](#) which explains well our position. We will keep you informed when the bill comes before City Council. Your emails to all members of City Council will be necessary if the bill goes forward without major changes. Stay tuned.

### **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](#).

### **5900 Pulaski ZBA Hearing 1/14 9:30 AM**

This variance request to allow visitor accommodations has been kicked down the road so many times that I have lost count. WCGN hosted the original RCO meeting back in July of 2022. 14 neighbors voted to oppose and 2 voted non-opposition. [Register](#) to attend the hearing refer to MI-2022-003966.

### **226 Harvey ZBA Denies Variance**

WCGN and the neighbors on the 200 block of Harvey St. were delighted on 12/2 when the ZBA officially denied the creation of 6 rental units in this 3 story twin home.

### **28-30 W. Haines St. ZBA Approves 2 Year Variance**

The ZBA came through again on 12/10 when they voted to grant a variance for visitor accommodations for 2 years as WCGN and

neighbors requested.

### **America 250 City Art Poster Contest**

The clock is ticking... Create the official poster for the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and enter it to win \$5,000. [Learn more and apply](#) by 12/21.

### **Maxwell Mansion Victorian Christmas**

\*Victorian Christmas Mansion Tours will continue through January 4.

[Learn more and register.](#)

### **Kendra Brooks At-Large Councilmember Job Opening**

[Learn more and apply.](#)

### **Volunteer to Share Our Message**

Our Wharton Nonprofit Connect 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. [Please get in touch and help us](#) share the word about WCGN.

### **Meet the Candidates For the US 3rd District Congressional District**



The poster features a group of people at a table in the background. The text on the poster reads:

**THE 12TH & 59TH DEMOCRATIC WARDS PRESENT**

**Germantown's 3rd District Congressional Community Forum**

An opportunity for Germantown residents to hear from leading voices looking to run for Congress in 2026.

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 6:30 PM**

**@ CENTER IN THE PARK 5818 GERMANTOWN AVE.**

**Invited Participants:**  
SEN. SHARIF STREET  
REP. MORGAN CEPHAS  
REP. CHRIS RABB  
DR. ALA STANFORD

WELCOME SPEAKER:  
REP. ANDRE CARROLL  
201ST DISTRICT

Scan To Submit Questions

THERE WILL BE REFRESHMENTS SERVED.

### **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

Molly Becker & Ben Deadweiler on W. Haines, Medoune Bousso, Umi Howard, Ryan Sarno, Pete Matranga, Maris Darini, Ieris, & Joseph Boruchow on Harvey, and Kimberly Haas from [Hidden City Philadelphia](#) have all joined our mailing list.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.*

\* \* \*

[forward to a friend](#)



[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)