



Village Updates: Annual Downtowners Online Auction

Our Ruby, the great horned owl who flew all the way here in early summer to help kick off (as best an owl can kick) the online auction, has made her way safely back to the International Owl Center. As reported in the August newsletter, she left Lancaster County September 7, the day our auction opened online, and left behind a few items on the auction (category: "Ruby Sends Her Love") in order for us to remember her and to raise money for the Downtowners. She was eager to get home for two reasons and, despite her detour to Oshkosh, Wisconsin, to check out the Ruby Owl Taproom (she gives it a hearty talons-up), she was not delayed for the Owl Prowl on September 17th, an event she loves to participate in. She will admit to needing to rest a bit; flying such a distance takes more out of her than it used to.

The 17th is the first of six Owl Prowls, ending in February, in which humans, after receiving instruction on how to identify local owls by size, shape, silhouette, and sound, are led by staff to three or four known owl territories in the area to call and listen for screech owls, barred owls, and owls like Ruby. She enjoys adding her varied sounds to fellow owls!

Another reason Ruby wanted to get back was to greet Bea, a baby burrowing owl, pictured here. Bea was given to the Center by a Maryland owl breeder who raises non-releasable owls to serve as education ambassadors. Ruby reports that Bea is just toooo cute!

Ruby hinted that, if an owl center could be opened in the Lancaster area, she'd consider moving here permanently. In the meantime, she sends her best regards and hopes for a very successful auction!

If you have questions about the auction you may contact Dolores Parsil (find her in the Membership Directory) or the Office (717-584-1224).

If you would like to stay on top of Lancaster Downtowners and Village to Village Network news, you can follow both organizations on Facebook.

[Follow the Downtowners](#)

[Follow the Village to Village Network](#)



Auction Highlights

What: Annual Fundraiser

Where: Online at
[www.biddingowl.com/
LancasterDowntowners](http://www.biddingowl.com/LancasterDowntowners)

When: September 7-21, 2022

Why: To support our vision of a vibrant, multigenerational, inter-dependent community and to keep membership dues affordable for all neighbors.

How to Support: Share about the auction with your community and bid on items when the auction opens!

Program Highlights

Downtowners Night at the Ballpark!



We enjoyed Group Appreciation Night at Clipper Stadium on September 16th, and especially enjoyed watching board member and Downtowner Bill Stephan toss out the first pitch!

[Register* Here for all Events.](#)

***Members must log-in**

Coming Up Soon

Monthly Ongoing:

Supper Club, Lunch Club, Yoga, Walking Group, Koffee Klatch, Book Club, Community Meal Volunteering, Happy Hour

Limited Edition:

Tuesday, September 27th: 1pm-2:30pm

Navigating Retirement Living Options

The possibilities that exist when considering retirement living in Lancaster County continues to evolve to meet the growing demands of retirees. Navigating the vast array of options can be simply overwhelming, yet it doesn't have to be. Jessica Pavelko with Pavelko Senior Consulting will be joining us to address some of key decision factors including when to start exploring retirement housing options and how to decide on which community will meet all of your needs and desires.

Annual Meeting

Our annual meeting will be held in-person this year on Wednesday, September 21st from 6pm-8pm.

Please join us at Clipper Stadium starting at 5:30pm and connect with other members over hors d'oeuvres and a cash bar.

Executive Director Melissa Ressler will give an annual State of the Village Report, including program, partnership, and leadership updates.

Celebrate the 20th year of the Village Movement with the Downtowners 200+ members!

Just One Call Volunteer Spotlight

The Just One Call program is a vital part of the Lancaster Downtowners community. Volunteers, both Downtowner members and others, support us in many, important ways. For instance, they provide transportation, they help with household repairs, and they give us a hand with our yard work. It is our pleasure to shine a spotlight on Kathleen Ramey in this month's newsletter.

Kathleen has been a volunteer for Just One Call since she joined Downtowners in 2012. When she was completely new, two things happened to help her settle in quickly. On her first day, the owners of the building that she moved into gave her an extensive tour showing her all the shops and where to find things she might need or want. They also introduced her to their neighbor, Pat Coller. Pat knew almost everyone in Lancaster or spoke to them as if she did. She introduced Kathleen to Downtowners, which seemed like an excellent way to meet people in her new home.



Pictured: Kathleen Ramey and Charley

As a volunteer with Just One Call, Kathleen has done a variety of things. Most of the calls have been for transportation. People ask to be driven to appointments, to go shopping, and to the airport. Vacation pet care and plant watering also help to enable people to get away from time to time. Sometimes odd jobs come up, such as helping a member flip a mattress. Kathleen was an early pioneer in the telephone assurance program, too.

In Kathleen's own words: "being a part of the community, giving back to the community, the joy of giving to individuals, who in turn are so grateful for what one does for them. I can't tell you how many times, people have said thanks to me for what I do...that always makes my heart swell! Side benefits include meeting interesting people from every walk of life...and forgetting about my own aches and pains!"

Kathleen extends her JOC involvement as one of the relief coordinators for request calls, when John Kanagy takes a little time away. She also serves on the Program Committee for Downtowners, the group that provides us with the great variety of educational, supportive, and fun programs we enjoy. Her volunteering extends well beyond Downtowners and includes several other organizations in the larger community.

Kathleen feels that being a member of Downtowners has, indeed, given her many opportunities to become involved in and connected to the Lancaster community. Being part of a community is something she has always wanted. In this way, people both benefit from belonging to the community and contribute to the community's health and success.

Tropical Rhythm in the Garden Park

The Program Committee worked hard to arrange a gathering of Downtowners and prospective new members called Tropical Gatherings at the Wolf Garden on West Chestnut Street on September 7th.

Matthew Woodson is a local musically diverse gentleman from Lancaster who works for Music For Everyone (the organization that paints the pianos and places them all over town), and is a member of the Big Boy Brass (the home town musicians who play all over town). He looked forward to playing for us in the garden.

Then it rained.

Plan B. Pavilion 21 at the County Park.

Matthew played the Steel Plate and shared it's history from the Islands of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean.

There was jerk chicken and fresh fruit skewers.

Executive Director Melissa welcomed everyone.

It was good to meet new friends. We had a great time.

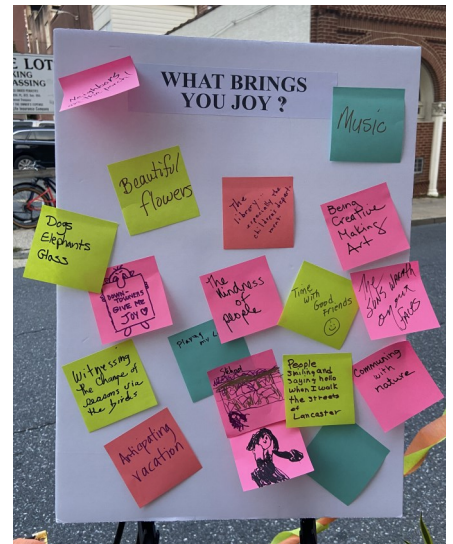
As reported by Andy Berfond, for Downtowners Around Town

Support for this event was provided by the Rick Frankhouser Award for Music and Linguistics Fund. Thank you to Bob and Nancy Frankhouser for the facilitation of this generous gift in honor of their son, and for our shared love of music.





Downtowners Mimi Shapiro and Ellen Kanagy brought joy and wonder to Water Street with their installation “Fiesta of Objects” as part of Lancaster’s PARKing Day celebration—a global, public, participatory project where people across the world temporarily repurpose curbside parking spaces and convert them into public parks and social spaces to advocate for safer, greener, and more equitable streets for people. Dozens of Downtowners and old and new friends enjoy the temporary place of creative rest on Friday, September 16th. Thank you to all who supported!



New Member Reception

Since January we have welcomed over 40 new members to the Downtowners! Saturday, September 17th was the perfect day to gather in Susan and Gary Leinberger’s garden for a mixer and new member reception.



Happy Birthday to these Downtowners in October!

Steve Coulson, Barbara Strasko, Diana Branski, Ezetta Walter, Dolores Parsil, Brenda Hayasaka, Ellen Berfond, Maria Hayes, Larry Clement, Lee Stoltzfus, Barbara Williams, Mona Sauder

Emma Hamm, Senior Planner

Vibrant. Connected. Community.

Downtowners contributed their voices to the City of Lancaster's Comprehensive Plan! On **September 12th from 10am –12pm** we had a special session with Emma Hamme, Senior Planner for the City of Lancaster. If you weren't available, there is still opportunity to share your thoughts at: <https://engage.cityoflanasterpa.com/en/>



Downtowners Participate in
9/12/22 Input Session

Members of Lancaster Downtowners receive discounts from some special partners. Just mention you are “a Downtowner” when registering or signing up.

Pathways Institute for Lifelong Learning: 10% Discount on Courses;
717.381.3577; www.thepathwaysinstitute.org

West End Yoga: 10 Class Card for only \$140 or a Monthly Unlimited Membership for \$87 per month;
reach@westendyogastudio.com; 717.406.9681

Untours: 5% Trip Discount to Downtowner Members, and 5% Donation back to our organization
www.untours.com



There will be a **Continuing Care at Home In-Person Seminar** held at the Calvin G and Janet C High Learning and Wellness Center at Landis Homes on Tuesday, November 15 at 1:30 pm. Registration is required and can be completed by contacting Joy at 717-381-3599 or FriendsLifeCare.org/Landis/ Pre-recorded webinars are also available by registering at <https://www.friendslifecare.org/landis/>

The **No Longer Alone Family Support Group** will meet in the High Foundation Auditorium on Sunday, October 23, 2022 at 3:00-5:00 pm; will be the Focus on the Family video interview with Dr. Matthew Stanford, PhD: “A Look at Mental Health in the Bible.” Registration is required and can be completed by contacting Joy at 717-381-3599.

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