



Crossing 250

C1

BUCKS COUNTY HERALD

Volume 24
Number 38

Serving Bucks, Hunterdon and surrounding counties
An independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit community news organization.

July 9, 2026
36 pages, four sections

www.buckscountyherald.com
herald@buckscountyherald.com

What now? “Boutique hotel” plan abandoned in Doylestown Borough

Freda R. Savana

Doylestown Borough officials confirmed this week what’s been rumored for some time. The approved plan to build a fiercely debated “boutique hotel” at 57 W. Court St. has been dropped by local developer Larry Thomson.

“We have received no official submission,” said the borough’s Manager John Davis, in an email, “but are aware that the hotel project is no longer being pursued.”

All that remains today is what the bulldozers left behind a year ago when the former Doylestown Borough Hall was razed.

The sloping lot is covered with shattered concrete blocks, chipped bricks and piles of debris reaching to the metal fencing surrounding the property. Crumbling sections of walls are propped up with wooden planks.

How long it will remain in that state is unclear. Davis said any new owner is responsible for maintaining safety at the site.

Neither Thomson nor his attorney, Kelli McGowan, responded to requests for comment.

Davis noted that “any new proposal will of course have to go through the land development and zoning process.”

For months last year, dozens of residents packed zoning hearing meetings, armed with drone videos, charts and letters decrying the noise, traffic, parking headaches and other problems they said the 47-room hotel, 70-seat restaurant and 120-person event space would create for surrounding homeowners.

While a proposed rooftop terrace was met with derision and ultimately never approved, Thom-



Plans for a “boutique hotel” at 57 W. Court St. in Doylestown Borough have been dropped. All that remains today is what the bulldozers left behind a year ago.

FREDA R. SAVANA

son did get the unanimous support of the zoning hearing board to exceed current zoning and build a fourth floor on the hotel in October 2025.

What’s next for the property is unknown, although many speculate it might be a bank. Located in the borough’s central commercial district, there are multiple permitted uses, including business service, health service, retail shop and more. There are also numerous nonconforming, as well as special exception uses that require variances and other accommodations.

“We were all looking forward to having a hotel in town and made

Continued on page A8

Heralding Our Nonprofits

Angel Housing Solutions tackles poverty’s underpinnings one family at a time

Freda R. Savana

Editor’s Note: This is the third in a monthly “Heralding Our Nonprofits” series that highlights the work being done by local nonprofit organizations and profiles the people who make them go. This project is funded through a grant from Foundations Community Partnership.

Without stable housing, a path out of poverty can be insurmountable. Time and again, studies find affordable housing is a critical first step in changing the course of one’s life.

That understanding coupled with the vision of the late Carol A. Baumhauer and the vital inspiration and support of her husband Joe Baumhauer, Kathleen Beveridge and Sophia Wisniewska, founded Angel Housing Solutions in 2022.

“Carol A. Baumhauer is the angel in Angel Housing Solutions. In her lifetime, she was a presence and a force for good in her community,” said the nonprofit’s directors on its website — angelhousingolutions.org. Her legacy of education, volunteerism and passionate advocacy for women is at the heart of AHS’s ambitious,

Continued on page A8



COURTESY OF LOGAN HODSON
The Carversville Inn menu includes Onion Soup Gratinée.

Carversville Inn brings French brasserie flair to Bucks

Kristen Kwiatkowski

When executive chef Dara Tesser prepares culinary dishes at the Carversville Inn, the creative menu offerings, in addition to the inviting interior decor and ambience of the inn, transport dining guests to a different time and place.

As she creates the menu items that are laden with French brasserie flair, Tesser strives to embrace the authenticity of the cuisine while giving it a creative twist. It’s these menu offerings that bring together the many wonderful features of the breathtaking 1813 inn.

Although Tesser didn’t start her professional career in the culinary industry, food and beverage topics were something that always drew her in. In fact, upon graduating from The George Washington University School of Business with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, finance, and pursuing her first jobs post-graduation in nonculinary areas, this Connecticut native was constantly drawn to the idea of cooking and creating new recipes.

“What was I going to cook?” was the thought always on Tesser’s mind when she finished work each day.

“I would research recipes constantly,” said Tesser. “It overtook me.”

Tesser loved to prepare meals

Continued on page A8



DAVID GARRETT

Angel Housing Solutions’ first client and her children play in the yard on June 30. AHS provided the Warminter home to a single mom enrolled in the Bucks County Opportunity Council’s Economic Self-Sufficiency Program.



NICOLE GOSS

Daryl Goss, who works in security for the Central Bucks School District, collects American flags from various times in the nation’s history and flies them on a rotation at his Chalfont home.

Chalfont man flies American flags of his forefathers

Mike Morsch

guy raising the flag.

When Daryl Goss decides to run something up the flagpole, he likely doesn’t have to wait long to find out if anyone salutes.

That’s because the first salute is probably coming from the same

Goss collects flags and every few days he hoists a different one up a pole that he displays on his front porch in Chalfont. And his neighbors have noticed. Not only do they stop by every so often

Continued on page A8

From showbiz to battle Zelenskyy truck’s path mirror’s its former owner’s

Marie Schmidt

Alfred “Fred” Hagen, a businessman, humanitarian and filmmaker from Bensalem, is no stranger to adventure: he turned down a track-and-field scholarship from Villanova University to help build a pipeline in Alaska. He’s traveled to the North Pole for archaeology missions. He’s been on the now-defunct Titan submarine twice. He also has a history of lending a helping hand: He was recognized by the Smithsonian Institution in 2007 for his role in recovering a WWII aircraft.

Now, he has Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s 2005 Chevrolet Silverado in his driveway to help with the mainland’s war effort.

Originally a bright red truck used in Zelenskyy’s television show “Servant of the People,” which ran from 2014 until 2019, the prop was taken out of a warehouse fol-

lowing Putin’s 2022 invasion of Ukraine.

The armed forces needed all the trucks it could get, so it was painted beige and readied for territorial defense.

And it’s had quite a journey. First, it was used in the defense of Ukraine’s capital city of Kyiv, then five hours away during a counterattack in Kharkiv. It was shot up significantly in Bakhmut. Ukraine Focus, a nonprofit Hagen has been working with to deliver ambulances, bought it intending to

Continued on page A9



ALFRED “FRED” HAGEN



Street art unveiled

B8

Contractor recovering from house explosion

Steve Harmon continues to recover after being critically injured in a June 29 house explosion in Hilltown.

Page A12

How tragedy pushed Matt Weintraub into a law career

Judge Weintraub’s career choice was influenced early on by tragedy — one whose victims were friends of his.

Page A15

Community Voices A6
Voting Record A12
Obituaries A14
Business A15
Sports B1
Spiritual B7
Dining C2
Arts C3

Entertainment C5
Calendar C7
Classified C8

Real Estate
in Area Guide
to Homes
and Gardens

Heralding Our Nonprofits

Angel Housing Solutions tackles poverty's underpinnings one family at a time

Continued from page A1

highly focused mission, said Beveridge, president of Spark Nonprofit Consulting and an AHS board member.

"Increasing access to affordable rental housing is the most effective strategy for reducing childhood poverty and increasing economic mobility in the United States," explained Beveridge and Wisniewska. It's Angel Housing's intention to provide such an avenue and lift one Bucks County family at a time out of the too often intractable cycle of poverty.

With 20% of the county's 14,587 households in poverty headed by single women, according to the nonprofit, Angel Housing, in partnership with the Bucks County Opportunity Council and Woodside Church in Yardley, is turning its attention to that vulnerable population.

Its model works like this: AHS will purchase a duplex or other types of housing and provide one apartment to a single mother

in BCOC's Economic Self Sufficiency Program for free or a minimal rent. The remaining units are rented at market rate, explained Beveridge, helping subsidize the small rent paid by AHS's tenant.

The initial minimal or free rent increases incrementally, as the tenant's finances grow more stable, something secure housing makes a far greater possibility, noted Wisniewska.

The nonprofit recently purchased its first property in Warmint. It was already fully rented when AHS bought it. When one unit became available, a 22-year-old mother and her two small children were selected by the Opportunity Council to move in. The woman's identity is being protected for the sake of her privacy.

"It was definitely a big sigh of relief," said the young mother, when she learned of the apartment, not far from the kids' sets of grandparents.

The two-bedroom apartment is intentionally near a bus line, with walkable stores, said Beveridge.

Before moving in, it was deep-cleaned and painted. Each unit has its own laundry facilities and a yard.

"For once, my kids have a stable home," said the mom, during an interview.

When they moved in and she told her four-year-old son this was now their new house. "He said, 'So we don't have to move anymore. I was so happy,'" his mother said, a wave of emotion in her voice.

To understand the life-changing impact of Angel Housing for its first family, it's important to know that this single mother of two has a foster child. She was adopted when she was nine.

"What I always wanted for myself, now I have for my children," she explained.

Without the stress of continual moving, the mother is now focused on her family and said she plans to attend a nail technician school and open her own salon. She's currently working at a social media manager.

Woodside Church in Yardley recently joined AHS as a partner, giving \$75,000 to the organization. A longtime supporter of many projects helping those in need, the church's Pastor Doug Hoglund said his congregation wanted to raise the funds to mark its 75th anniversary.

"Housing is crucial to lifting someone out of poverty," said Hoglund, who has been the church's pastor for 32 years. "It will really help someone become whole, as God intended them to be."

Beveridge said Woodside's donation will underwrite the rent for a two-bedroom apartment for four years, the length of time the Opportunity Council typically supports a family in its economic self-sufficiency program.

"This is very fitting for our 'one family at a time approach,'" said Beveridge. With approximately 80 families in Bucks County looking for affordable rental housing, according to the BCOC, the need is great.

"It's our hope," said Beveridge,

"the example of Woodside Church will inspire other organizations and individuals to join us and help in whatever way they can—whether through small monthly donations, larger one-time gifts of property, or connecting us to others who are likely to care."

Bucks County's Department of Housing and Community Development's annual survey conducted last single night in January identified 421 people without stable housing in 2025, up from 407 in 2024. Those sleeping in Code Blue shelters increased by 15% compared to 2024.

On a positive note, for the ninth consecutive year, no children were found sleeping outdoors. The number of unhoused people with serious mental illness also dropped, according to the survey.

"Life is not easy," said the mother who has moved into the first AHS apartment. "Now, with housing, it's helped with everything. It's very difficult to make progress when you don't have a stable home."

Chalfont man flies American flags of his forefathers

Continued from page A1

while walking their dogs to ask Goss about the flags — who then inevitably gets them a detailed history lesson about the particular flag that happens to be on display that day — but he's also getting some attention outside the neighborhood.

In particular, neighbor Mary Dautel, who is a member of the Bucks County Chapter, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR or DAR)

noticed Goss' flags and alerted the local chapter to his display.

In turn, the group recently presented Goss with a National Society DAR certificate award for "proper use, correct display and patriotic presentation of the flag of the United States of America" from its flag of the United States of America Committee.

But that's not all. The flags in Goss' collection not only represent the history of America, they coincide with what Goss and his

22-year-old son James have been able to document about the history of the family's tree, which includes 10 grandfathers confirmed to have served in the military and fought under each of those flags.

"My father (Wallace Fayette Goss Jr.) was in the military, a required color, so I've always had a sense of patriotism in the family," said Goss, who is a member of the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR). "And my father's grandmother (Louis Carpenter Goss) was a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution when my father was growing up, back around the turn of the last century. When the DAR was established, she was one of the first to join in Connecticut."

The genealogy family tree that father and son have traced is mostly centered in Connecticut and Massachusetts. Its lineage is connected with Uriah Carpenter, a grandfather who fought in the American Revolutionary War and with Gen. George Washington during the winter of 1779-80

in Morristown, N.J.

According to James Goss, the family located Carpenter's gravesite in North Ashford Cemetery in Ashford, Conn., and has cleaned and refurbished the headstone to where it is once again legible.

And the family tree reaches back further than that — all the way to William Brewster and Stephen Hopkins, both passengers on the Mayflower which landed in the New World in 1620.

Goss, too, has served his country and his community. He started his career as a trooper with the Delaware State Police for five years, then joined the U.S. Secret Service from 1999 until his retirement in 2023. He now works in security for Central Bucks School District.

Among the flags in his collection include the Grand Union Flag (1775-1777), the Betsy Ross Flag (1777-1795), the Bennington Flag (1777), the Bunker Hill Flag (1775), the Connecticut Militia Flag (1775-1783) and the Taunton

(Liberty and Union) Flag (1774-1775).

As for Nicole Goss, her husband and son have not been able to link her family history to the DAR — yet. But as a wedding photographer who documents the history of families, she has an appreciation and connection to the genealogical aspect of the family's interest in the paternal family tree.

"Over the years, it's been neat seeing Daryl and James uncover different family members and the flags that were used during those periods of time," she said. "I know when a new flag arrives at the house, there's a history lesson coming for me that I wasn't expecting."

Daryl and James, who are sometimes joined by younger son Bradley in the research, will continue to dig into the family's history and flying the flags that correspond with that lineage.

"It's a source of pride," said Goss. "The DAR award was quite a surprise."

"Boutique hotel" plan abandoned in Doylestown Borough

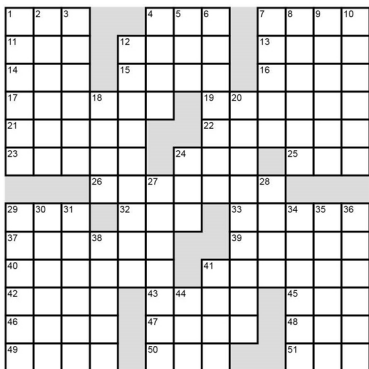
Continued from page A1

concessions to let that happen," said Darrin Hoffman, a Hamilton Street resident who attended many meetings on the hotel project. "Hopefully any new plan will have less impact on the surround-

ing neighborhood."

Thomson bought the property from the borough in 2021 for \$2.3 million. The borough used the money to offset the cost of repurposing its new administrative and police complex at 10 Doyle St.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

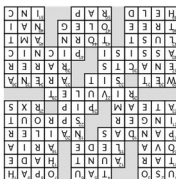


Across

- 1 Noted touring grp.
- 4 Letter used by Iphigenia
- 7 Colorful food fish
- 11 Roofing sealant
- 12 Godmother, often
- 13 Angle, in geology
- 14 Inventory at a fertility clinic
- 15 Article start, in journalism jargon
- 16 Number of operas?
- 17 Adorable "beers"
- 19 Carpenter's power tool
- 21 Actress Stevens of '60's TV
- 22 Germinate
- 23 First-stringers
- 24 Start to squawk?
- 25 Scripts, informally
- 26 Small stream
- 29 Due for a change?
- 32 Stand no more, say
- 33 Place to play
- 37 Passes, in a legislature
- 39 More valuable, maybe
- 40 St. Francis of
- 41 Take-out meal?
- 42 Ardent desire
- 43 Conflicted
- 45 Small price to pay?
- 46 Where to get dates?
- 47 Cassini of fashion
- 48 B's B'nith
- 49 Had in one's hands
- 50 Insistent knock
- 51 Company name abbr.

4 Voting day (abbr.)

- 5 Plus
- 6 Piece of silver, perhaps
- 7 Atheist activist Madalyn Murray
- 8 Word with ice cream or pizza
- 9 Farewells at the Tour de France
- 10 Artichoke servings
- 12 Panic spreaders
- 18 Sugar substitute?
- 20 Coming into view
- 24 Place
- 27 Someone dropping by
- 28 Gillette brand name
- 29 Adam Smith's "The ___ of Nations"
- 30 Guarantee
- 31 Mortarboard attachment
- 34 Title band in a Verdi opera
- 35 Artist LeRoy known for sports images
- 36 Smallest of the Earth's oceans
- 38 Presented with a ticket
- 41 Get ready, casually
- 44 Sao Paulo salutation



Puzzle by Linda Dunn of Furlong.

Continued from page A1

for others and would invite people over to the New York City apartment that she and her sister shared. The food offerings ranged from snacks to meals and showed the enthusiasm and excitement Tesser put into the culinary creations she served to her guests.

And it wasn't just the food that played a central role in the get-togethers. "It was about bringing people together," said Tesser.

As her intrigue, dedication and expertise in the culinary realm grew from her self-taught beginnings, Tesser decided to go all in and pursue a culinary education.

She attended the six-month degree program at the Institute of Culinary Education in New York City and received a culinary/management degree.

"Culinary school gave me the confidence to go to the kitchen," said Tesser. "I was able to build confidence and knowledge."

When it was time to put her culinary talents into motion, Tesser started off by completing an externship at Gramercy Tavern in Midtown Manhattan and then worked at the restaurant for a few years thereafter. After her time at Gramercy Tavern, Tesser filled various chef roles at other popular New York City restaurants, including Houseman and Prune, both in Lower Manhattan.

And it wasn't just working at highly applauded restaurants that helped Tesser hone her culinary skills. She engaged in personal chef jobs, catering roles, worked for a nonprofit organization as a culinary instructor, and was a seasonal manager, merchandising and culinary expert for a large corporation's technology and startup incubator.

When Tesser and her family relocated to Bucks County, she found her way to Carversville Inn and ultimately her current position as executive chef. After meeting the inn's owners, Milan Lint and Mitch Berlin, there were a couple of months of professional courtship and Tesser was hired to lead the kitchen. The inn was purchased by Lint and Berlin in 2020 and underwent renovations prior to its grand opening in 2025.

"It just felt right," said Tesser. "It was serendipitous."

Carversville Inn brings French brasserie flair to Bucks



COURTESY OF LOGAN HOBSON

Dara Tesser is executive chef at the Carversville Inn.

"I was excited to be a part of something in the community," she continued.

At the time she took the position, the kitchen was already built and most everything was in place.

"Everything minus the heavy equipment," said Tesser. Being hired prior to the opening, Tesser was able to choose her kitchen team, approximately 10 to 12 individuals who work together to provide exceptional meals for the guests.

As for the menu creation, Tesser wanted to stay in keeping with the elegant vibe of the inn and created everything from French cuisine specialties to creative twists on the culinary classics.

"It's a classic French brasserie menu," said Tesser.

As for what inspires Tesser's overall menu creation, she stated that the building and location itself provides her with easy inspiration.

"This place, the physicality, staying true to French comfort, all of it," she said. "I wanted the food to reflect the beauty of the inn."

Tesser also gains inspiration from outside the building's four walls as well, such as from cookbooks, memorable dining experiences, and seasonal ingredients. However, there is one primary motivation associated with her cooking inspiration.

"What truly motivates me is the ability of food to bring people together and create meaningful, memorable experiences for guests," she stated.

Tesser sources a lot of the ingredients from local farms.

"I love to cook seasonally but it's more about supporting local farms," said Tesser, who buys from Maximuck's Farm Market in Buckingham, Manoff Market Gardens in Solebury, Roots to River Farm in Solebury, Lancaster Farm Fresh, and Zone 7 in West Amwell Township, Hunterdon County, to name a few.

Carversville Inn dinner menu items include onion soup gratinée, duck leg confit, trout almonde, steak frites and a double cheeseburger. The dessert menu offers dark chocolate pot de crème, bûche de rhum, vanilla crème brûlée and more. Currently, brunch features crepes, quiche Lorraine, French toast casserole, and an omelet. Carversville Inn also offers wine, beer and cocktails as a wide array to accompany Tesser's dishes.

As Tesser continues to create exquisite meals for guests, she has ideas for the future.

"I want to play on old French dishes and bring things back, but in a modern way," said Tesser. "Also, I would love to have a garden onsite for vegetables and herbs. It would be a great addition."

When asked why individuals should visit Carversville Inn, Tesser said, "It's not just a restaurant and not just an inn, it's an experience. Guests will be transported to a different time."

Carversville Inn is located at 6205 Fleeceydale Road in Carversville. Dining hours are Wednesday and Thursday, 4:30-9 p.m.; Friday, 4:30-10 p.m.; Saturday, 11 a.m.-10 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m.-8 p.m.

Down

- 1 An ideally perfect place
- 2 Expert in a specialized field
- 3 Like a screwdriver