

ALLISON HILL NEWSLETTER



An initiative of Tri County Community Action

OCTOBER 2021 • VOLUME 1 • ISSUE 3

HEART OF THE HILL UPDATES

The Heart of the Hill Community Plan was developed through the involvement of over 700 residents and stakeholders defining their shared values: housing and public space, sense of community, safety and youth. The Heart of the Hill Community Plan has been finalized and some projects have already begun! Be on the lookout for a Heart of the Hill mailer coming your way soon with updates and focus area renderings. You can check out the full document here: bit.ly/hoh-action-plan

Projects in Progress!

The Allison Hill Safety Project continues to highlight light fixtures that are out throughout the neighborhood to ensure a timely repair. Additionally, trees have been trimmed and will continue to be trimmed as part of this project to improve visibility and site lines. This project prioritized trees that inhibit safety when walking in the neighborhood and trees that are blocking street lights. Also part of the Safety Project, Wildheart Ministries continues to reclaim vacant lots while creating plans for maintenance. These green spaces are important to the community and reflect that we care about our space. You can find some before and after pictures of vacant lots along Evergreen Street and Derry Street below!



In August, Tri County Community Action partnered with Recycle Bicycle, Safe Kids Dauphin County, Central PA Highway Safety, and the City of Harrisburg Police Department to host a Pedestrian and Bike Safety Event.

Community members gathered to participate in a bike safety course, get their bikes repaired and learn about safe pedestrian crossings. Helmets, bike lights and reflective gear were distributed and fun was had by all!



Have you noticed our streets look a little cleaner recently? The 9th Annual Great Harrisburg Litter Cleanup was held on Saturday, September 25th. With over 200 volunteers, over 2 tons of litter was accumulated as well as almost 400 tires! Thank you to the volunteers and sponsors including the City of Harrisburg Public Works, Capital Region Water, Dauphin County Conservation District, LCSWMA, Covanta and Budget Dumpsters who made this event a success!



This summer the Allison Hill Farmers Market featured a bounty of fresh and local produce as well as community engagement activities. We are thankful to all of our customers but especially to the regulars who made an effort to visit us every week! Farmers loved the opportunity to engage with residents and discuss cooking and growing techniques. The monthly cooking demonstrations were well attended and offered take home meal kits which allowed community members to create fun and fresh side dishes with their families. The Dauphin County Library Marco Van, CCA's Aquaponics and other organizations visited the market to spread important nutritional information. We hope to see you next season!



HEART OF THE HILL UPDATES CONTINUED

MURAL PROJECTS

The Mulberry Street Bridge is a major entryway to Allison Hill where Sprocket Mural Works just completed their largest project to date! The Mulberry Street Bridge was painted with a 640-foot mural in 2014 and has since been removed and remained bare.

As part of Sprocket Mural Works' Mural Fest this summer, this project recruited Ian Potter who apprenticed many local artists who participated in the planter mural project earlier this summer. You can read more about Ian's work as he is our featured artist in our Artist's Corner!

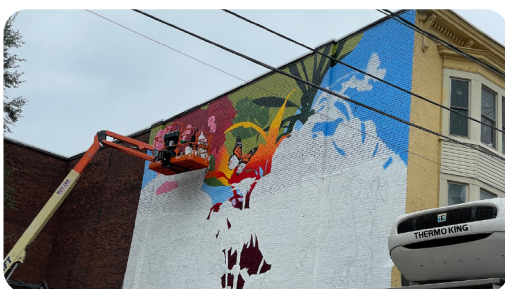
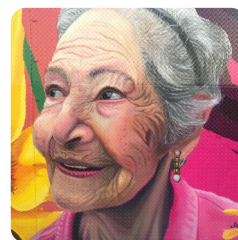
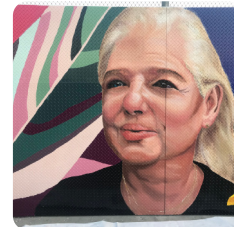
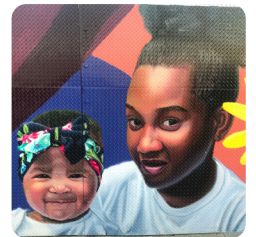
Apprentices Sharnee Burnett, Kwatei Hector and Bryan Hickman worked alongside Ian to complete this giant mural. These local artists and community members collaborated to complete this mural as fall approached.

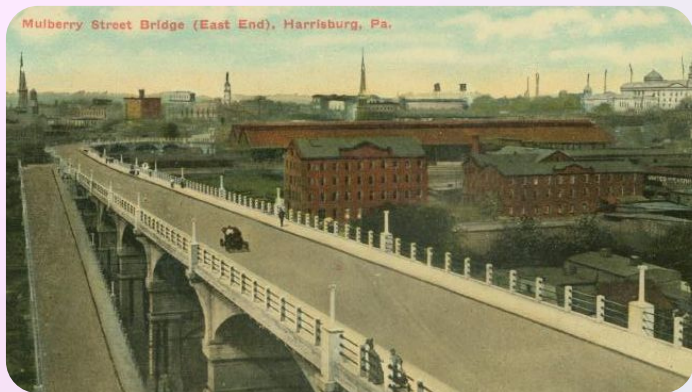
During community events throughout the summer, including the Allison Hill Farmers Market, portraits of Allison Hill residences were captured. You may see some familiar faces painted on the mural! This vibrant mural depicts the diversity and beauty found in the Allison Hill neighborhood.

More Murals to Come!

Another Sprocket Mural Works sponsored mural will be placed along the side of Pizza Boli's at the corner of 13th and Market Streets next to Shadow's Garden. This mural will depict a boy and girl in a flower garden with monarch butterflies!

As part of the Allison Hill Safety Project, vacant homes have been secured with boards. These boards will soon be covered in community murals! Our neighborhood is filled with gifted artists who are willing to share their talents through murals whether it be on walls, planter or vacant buildings!





HISTORY ON THE HILL

The Mulberry Street Bridge is in the midst of a makeover, beautifying the historic bridge and showing off the strength of the surrounding community. This is far from the first time the bridge has enjoyed revitalization. The Mulberry Street Bridge was built in 1909 as a new and improved connector between Allison Hill and downtown Harrisburg. Previous to its construction, a wood and iron bridge connected Allison Hill to downtown. The wood and iron bridge was functional, except that it kept catching on fire, forcing the city to repair it constantly.

In 1907, James Fuertes led the construction of the new concrete bridge. Mr. Fuertes had previously worked as a sanitary engineer for the city, and later worked on the River Front steps. When work completed in 1909, the Mulberry Street Bridge clocked in as one of the longest in the world at 1,598 feet in length. In addition to its great length, its branch down to Cameron street also made it visually and functionally unique.

The completed bridge in 1909 looked very similar to the current bridge, but there were significant changes added over time. These improvements included adding fixed light posts, and in 1957, protective concrete barriers were installed for pedestrians to protect them from new automobiles. Eventually, some stretches of metal fencing were installed as a final safety feature. The bridge went through 2 major repair periods, one in the 1980's and another in 2015. Between 2003 and 2008 murals were installed on the bridge, but were sadly removed in 2014.

Today about 11,000 people make trips across the Mulberry Street Bridge every day. It's an iconic piece of architecture that connects Allison Hill to downtown Harrisburg. Its new mural welcomes people to the Hill, and invites residents back home with smiling faces.

How long have you been an artist? I have been drawing and painting since I was very young, 5 or 6, but I have been working professionally as an artist in one discipline or another for 11 years.

What motivates you to paint? I would say it is less a motivation and more of an internal need to create. Drawing and painting has been my primary form of expression my whole life and is intertwined with my day to day existence.

What are your favorite painting mediums? Sketching with graphite pencil will always be my number one choice and where I operate most comfortably, it allows minimal hurdles between the pent up energy of ideas and the physical manifestation of those ideas. In my early professional career I enjoyed watercolor, minimal clean up and fighting to control the medium always appealed to me. In my current professional life I use strictly oil based paints which hold a time honored place in the art world.

What message would you like to share with aspiring artists? This is a tough question because there are so many different types of artists with different intentions, expectations, and disciplines. However my advice to those individuals who are passionate about art and desire to make it their career is to practice discipline. You can be lucky enough to be given the gift of natural talent but if you don't train your mind and body to channel that talent in the direction you want it to go then you are simply a passenger on the ride instead of at the controls. Learn to wake up early, organize your work space, clean your brushes, get comfortable making mistakes and more importantly learn from those mistakes, apply yourself with real dedication, direction, and passion towards everything you create and the rewards will be astounding.

Please share a little bit about your work on the Mulberry Street Bridge mural: The Mulberry Street Bridge Mural is the result of a year long collaboration between myself and Megan Caruso, President and Co Founder of Sprocket Murals. The project itself had many iterations but finally settled on a mural depicting 14, 7 foot tall portraits of people from the Allison Hill community, painted on a 230' metal wall. Most of the paint and supplies was donated by my Brooklyn based employer, Colossal Media Group. I led a paint crew of three apprentices along with the help of 50+ volunteers and we completed the mural in about 10 days. I am honored and humbled as a Harrisburg born native myself to be able to return to my hometown and share some of the talent that was originally fostered by this very community.

ARTIST CORNER

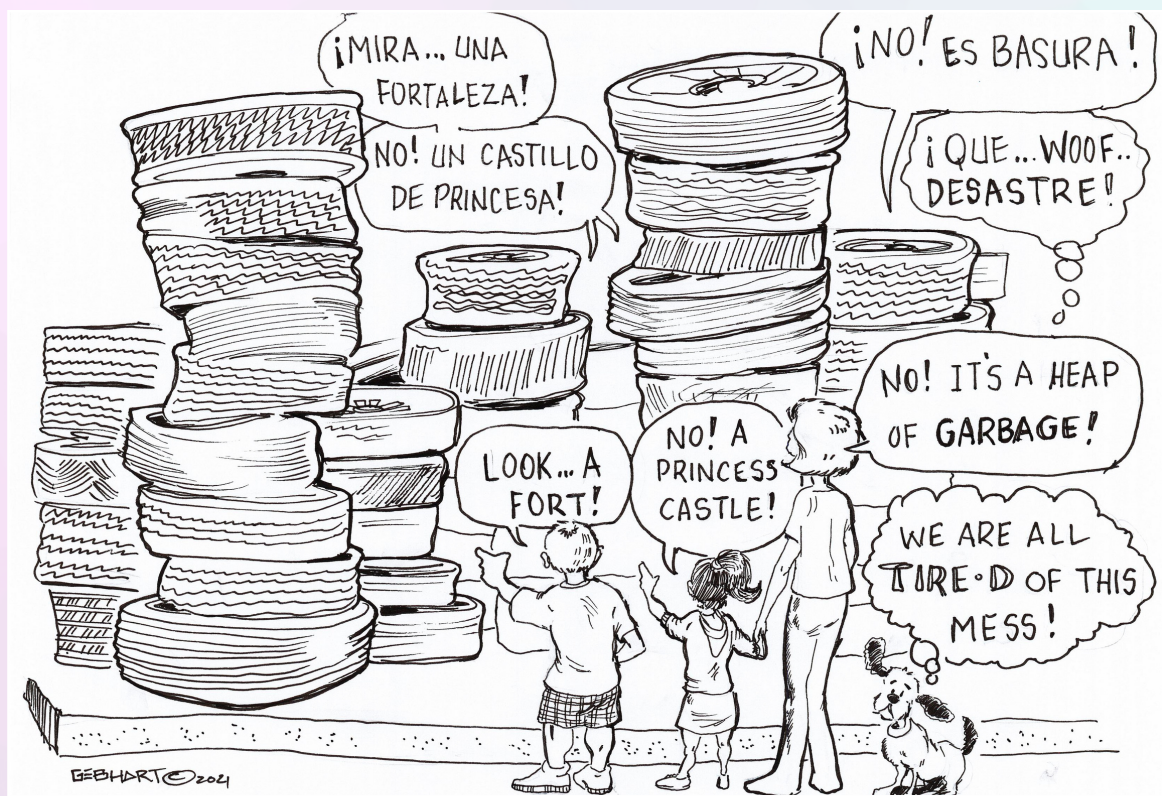


Ian Potter

Facebook: Ian Potter

Instagram: @ianpotterpaints





Cartoon by Bradley Gebhart

Fall Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these fall related words?

laseev

unmkipp

stvrhea

paselp

IMPORTANT NUMBERS

Allison Hill Substation (nonemergency) (717) 558-6900

Capitol Region Water 888-510-0606

Childline (to report child abuse or general child well-being issues) 800-932-0313

Domestic Violence Hotline : 800-654-1211

HELP Ministries (717) 238-2851

Poison Control 1800 222 1222 or text POISON to 7979797 Animal Poison Control 888-426-4435

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 800-273-8255

National Sexual Assault Hotline 1-800-656-4673

ARTISTS AND WRITERS NEEDED!

Share your talents in this quarterly newsletter.

DO YOU WANT MORE INFORMATION OR ARE YOU INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED IN HEART OF THE HILL OR ALLISON HILL SAFETY PROJECTS? EMAIL VKELLY@CACTRICOUNTY.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION!



Access a digital version of this newsletter by visiting our website:
cactricounty.org/allison-hill



@HeartoftheHill | @TriCountyCommunityAction



www.cactricounty.org