

ArtsPaper

Summer 2022
News &
Information on
the Arts from the
Huntingdon County
Arts Council

A New Era of Expanded Programming

Huntingdon County Arts Center

With the acquisition of the former Methodist Church on 12th Street and its ongoing transformation into the new **Huntingdon County Arts Center**, the Arts Council has embarked on a new era of expanded programming. Some of you had a chance to see the **Arts Center** during our Grand Opening last May or at one of the many events we have staged since then. But there is a lot coming up, and we hope that you will find many of these activities to be of interest during the coming year.

The new **Arts Center** is proving to be an excellent home for one of our signature activities: art exhibitions. We have had three exhibits in the new building: *Spring Thaw* (our an-

nual exhibit of student art work) which started in April, *All Fired Up Around Huntingdon* (works from ceramic artists with ties to our area) which started in May, and *Nostalgia and Dreams* (paintings by Bellefonte artist

James Farrah) which started in June. Attendance at the three opening receptions, as well as during our regular exhibit hours, has been about 50% higher than at our previous venue—a promising sign! Our next exhibit, featuring renowned fiber artist Kari Roslund, is sure to be a crowd pleaser.

The availability of a concert space (the nave of the former church) has made it possible for the Arts Council to stage live music events. As the companion article in this newsletter notes, our classical *continued on Page 3*



Our Fine Arts Summer Camp for Kids is one of the many new activities happening at the Huntingdon County Arts Center.

Fiber ArtsFest

Where Art & Agriculture Meet
Annual Celebration of the
Fiber Arts—September 24

If you love the fiber arts, you won't want to miss Fiber ArtsFest. Our celebration of the fiber arts is held every year at the Huntingdon County Fairgrounds, and 2022 will be bigger and better than ever.

This year the event will involve two days of classes and a one-day marketplace and vendor fair. Classes will be held on September 23 and 24. The marketplace will be on Saturday the 24 between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. in Johnson Hall.

At the Marketplace, vendors will offer a variety of fiber arts items for sale. Visitors also will be able to view demonstrations of fiber arts skills, such as spinning, rug hooking, and wire wrapping. In addition, there will be *continued on Page 12*

Arts Center Concerts Begin

One of the advantages of having a new **Arts Center** in Huntingdon is that it provides a venue for concerts and other live performances. We believed from the start that our building would work well for this purpose, so we started booking acts right away. Now that we have had our first public performances, we are happy to report that our expectations were correct: The Huntingdon County Art Center is a great place to hear live music.

The Grand Opening event on May 21 was the first time we used the Art Center for musical performances. *continued on Page 4*



Jonathan Gangi at the first concert at the Huntingdon County Arts Center



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Executive Director

The *ArtsPaper* is a publication of The Huntingdon County Arts Council. We are funded by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, local government and your membership.

Memberships and contributions help us fulfill our mission to provide opportunities to experience the arts.

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Dear Member:

It has been four months since we moved into the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**. And it has been a fun and exciting ride, with lots of activity.

In my mind, that is a good thing. Our vision was always to do so much more, and now we have a chance to fulfill that vision.

But all of this would not have been possible without the support of some angels who donated the money to allow us to buy the 12th Street Methodist Church. We do hope that you too will add to our Capital Campaign, so that we can start on the process of making the **Arts Center** ADA compliant and replace the 25 year old roof.

The best news is that so far there have not been any big surprises with the building, which is amazing for a building, parts of which are 151 years old.

As you peruse the newsletter, you will see many opportunities to engage with the arts. Please avail yourself of whichever ones strike your fancy and tickle your creativity bone, whether it be taking a class, enjoying a

concert, participating in Art Walk, or viewing an exhibit.

As always, thank you for your loyal and continuing support. As I have said before, YOU are the reason we are here—to entertain, challenge, teach, and inspire you. We hope you are as excited as we are by the new opportunities that the **Huntingdon County Arts Center** provides us, and we look forward to seeing you soon!



John Kearns
John Kearns
Executive Director

Tom & Pat Kepple
Larry & Ginny Mutti
Sarah & Don Braxton
Maria Pettinger
Anonymous
Jack Troy
Anonymous
Community State Bank

Thank You

The Arts Council would like to thank these individuals for their generous contributions that allowed us to buy the 12th Street Methodist Church.

We also appreciate the responses we have received to our recent Capital Campaign letter. These contributions will allow us to address ADA issues and replace the aging roof. We will acknowledge these new donations in future newsletters.



Executive Director John Kearns (left) and Arts Council President Larry Mutti (right) accept a \$5,000 check for our Capital Campaign from Morgan Gardner, Marketing Manager, on behalf of Community State Bank.



Council Notes

A New Era of Programming continued from page 1

and folk music performances have been well attended, and we hope to grow our audiences even more as word gets out about these great shows.

The new building also has greatly expanded our ability to offer classes and workshops. Starting in April, Board Members Ginny and Larry Mutti led popular workshops on *Pysanky Ukrainian Egg Decorating*. In June, Arts Council member Prudence Ingerman initiated a 6-week class on *Creative Writing*. And on July 25, Kari Roslund held the first of two workshops entitled *Paper Yarn & Beyond*. In these sessions, Kari taught people how to create kamito, a form of paper yarn popular in Japan.

Additional workshops and classes are being planned for later in the year. We hope to add classes on playing musical instruments, styles of cooking, basic painting and drawing techniques, and other topics. If you are interested in teaching a class or workshop at the Art Center and have relevant qualifications or experience, let us know!

We haven't forgotten the children. On July 28, local artist Olivia Gennaro started a three-week summer camp for kids age 6-12. The first week of the camp allowed children to create galaxies and gassy planets with pastels, whereas the second week focused on having fun with nature, including painting with dirt. The third week repeated the material from the first week. The new building also has been a useful venue for our monthly Art Walk activities, which are held on the third Thursday in each month. In recent months children and adults enjoyed making Q-Tip dragonflies, painting a mural, having a scavenger hunt inside the building, and creating gyotaku fish prints.

The Camera Club, our local group of photography fans, now has a regular place to meet, thanks to our new building. We also used the **Arts Center** for a potluck and jam session for people participating in Folk College last May. And the Art Shoppe—which features the work of local artists and craftspeople—now has a permanent home with expanded hours. The list of ways we can use the Art Center is long indeed.

As we embark on a new era of cultural enrichment in Huntingdon County, we hope that you will enjoy the events we offer, suggest new activities for us, spread the word about what we are doing, consider volunteering in some capacity, and continue to support us in the coming years.



The Fine Arts Summer Camp for Children received a generous grant from Arize Federal Credit Union. We thank them for their support.

Support Us with Amazon Smile

If you purchase from Amazon, you can use Amazon Smile and Amazon will make a small donation to the Arts Council. Just go to Smile.Amazon.Com, click on "Get Started," and designate the Huntingdon County Arts Council as your preferred charity. There is no fee to set up an account. Then, whenever you purchase an item, we will receive a small donation at no cost to you. Just remember to start future online purchases at Smile.Amazon.

Shop at The Art Shoppe

Are you looking for a gift for a family member or friend? Do you like to support local artists by purchasing handcrafted items? You can accomplish both goals by shopping at the Arts Council's Art Shoppe.

The Art Shoppe is located in the new **Huntingdon County Arts Center** and is open during regular exhibition hours. Here you will find a variety of goods including paintings, prints, photographs, pottery, jewelry, textiles, and other one-of-a-kind items—all created by artists and craftspeople living in our very own region. And remember that Arts Council members receive a discount on all items.

If you already have visited The Art Shoppe, keep in mind that we regularly update the items for sale and add new artists to our list of contributors. So drop in and see the latest in our ever changing inventory.

Instead of buying mass produced items from stores with corporate headquarters in other states, consider spending your money where 100% of it will stay in the local economy. Browse our collection of hand-made items and take home a unique gift or two for a special person. Or treat yourself to something special. You deserve it.

Summer Solstice Party

The Arts Council celebrated the arrival of summer on June 21 with a party on the grounds of the Gage Mansion in Huntingdon. Nature cooperated by providing a warm and sunny day, perfect for relaxing, socializing, eating, and listening to live music outdoors. Three Twelve Kitchen & Cocktails provided food, and two great acts, Harley Rae and Biscuit Jam, provided the music. Thanks to John and Angie Thompson for making the event possible.

Hold the Date

The Arts Council will hold a fall fundraiser on Friday, October 28. Prior to the arrival of Covid, our fall fundraiser took the form of a *Monster Mash Halloween Bash*, and we will be using a similar theme again this year.

We haven't decided on all of the details yet, but the event will be held in the evening at the **Huntingdon County Arts Center**, and there will be prizes for the best costumes. More details will be forthcoming. But in the meantime, mark your calendars!



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The Huntingdon County Arts Council is supported in part by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Huntingdon County Arts Council receives state arts funding support through a grant from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.



Recent Events

Fired Up Around Huntingdon Exhibit

Our Fired Up exhibit featured 56 pieces of ceramic art from 18 artists with ties to Huntingdon County. This was the second show held in our new Arts Center, and the exhibit's popularity confirmed that our new building is a great place to view art. The exhibit included a colorful variety of vases, bottles, pitchers, bowls, plates, cups, planters, and tiles, along with a number of sculptural pieces. We thank Board Member Robert Boryk for organizing an outstanding show. The show ran from May 6 to June 12.



Fired Up Exhibit, works by Danny Stainton (left) and Carolanne Currier (right)

Nostalgia and Dreams Exhibit



James Farrah, Robbie and the Triffid Nebula

Bellefonte artist James Farrah exhibited 28 of his finely detailed paintings at the Arts Center earlier this summer. His show featured images of automobiles, children's toys, urban landscapes, and nighttime scenes. James is a master of *trompe l'oeil* or "deceive the eye" painting. He creates paintings so realistic that many viewers mistakenly think they are looking at photographs. His large painting of Robbie the Robot, from the classic science fiction movie *Forbidden Planet*, was one of the more fanciful works on display. The show ran from June 17 to July 31

Folk College Returned in May

After a hiatus of two years, Folk College returned to the Juniata College campus last May. As in the past, the three-day event featured workshops on a variety of folk music styles and instruments, public concerts, and many opportunities for making music with fellow musicians. John McCutcheon's performance at the Saturday evening concert was one of several notable highlights. This is how Arts Council President Larry Mutti summed up the event.

Though we hadn't been able to run a live Folk College since 2019, almost all of the pieces fell into place without snarl-ups. We can wish that more folks had come, but among those who did there was tremendous eagerness and a consistent willingness to operate within the COVID guidelines we had set. Attendance at evening concerts by local community members was at an all-time high. It would appear that our headline roster and advance publicity were effective in generating interest in the evening concerts. Given the success of this year's event we can be optimistic for a more "normal" event in 2023.

We thank everyone who attended this year and helped to carry on the Folk College tradition.

Concerts on the Quad

Our annual series of Concerts on the Quad returned this year, with the first concert being held on June 30th. The Big Band Sound performed on the first evening to an unusually large crowd of people. Apparently, people in our area were eager and ready to hear live music again! Subsequent performers in the series included Urban Fusion, Acoustic Express, and Crooked Line. The concerts were held on the grounds of the Juniata College campus, a great location that we hope to continue to utilize in future years.



The Big Band Sound performs at Concerts on the Quad

Arts Center Concerts Begin continued from page 1

Seven musical acts entertained audiences (for free) on that day with styles ranging from classical to folk, jazz, bluegrass and show tunes.

Jonathan Gangi, a talented classical guitarist from Penn State University, performed at our first ticketed concert on June 26. Reggie Harris—folk singer, guitarist, and storyteller extraordinaire—was the featured performer at our second concert on July 11. Our third concert on July 24 featured the Curtin Chamber Ensemble—a talented family of parents and sons who performed an eclectic mix of musical styles on piano, violin, guitar, and electric bass.

All three concerts were well attended. And judging from the comments of people who were there, audiences were more than pleased with the performances. The Curtin Chamber Ensemble even received a standing ovation! As audience member James Pingry said on leaving, "I can't believe that we have music this good in Huntingdon!"

In addition to hearing great music, concertgoers have opportunities to view our current art exhibit either before the concert or during the intermission. We also keep the Art Shoppe open, so interested people can browse local arts and crafts for sale. And water and light snacks are available during intermission for a small donation.



Reggie Harris

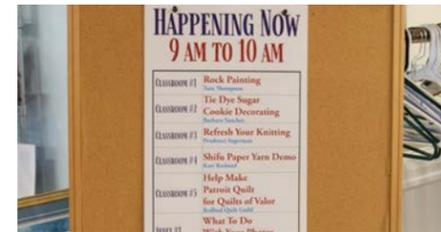
The bottom line: People in our area can now hear outstanding music in a convenient location, in a comfortable venue, at very reasonable prices. And they can view a free art exhibit at the same time and even do some shopping. Information on upcoming concerts is provided elsewhere in this newsletter, and we look forward to seeing you at one or more of them.

We thank Standing Stone Coffee in Huntingdon for supporting our concert series.

Event Updates

Grand Opening A Big Success

Our Grand Opening featured 19 artists leading creative activities and seven musical acts performing throughout the day. Here are a few pictures from photographer Susan Simpson.



Upcoming Events

Concerts at the Huntingdon County Arts Center



Revamped with Mark Minnich and Sally Williams Minnich, Sunday, August 21, 2 p.m.

Revamped is a husband and wife team of violinists who combine classical, folk, jazz, and rock styles in a unique way. Their performances include complex arrangements, electronic instruments, theatrical elements, and signature stunts that amaze and inspire audiences. \$12 general admission, \$10 Arts Council members and students (with ID).



Matt & Shannon Heaton, Monday, August 29, 7 p.m.

The Heatons sing and play traditional and updated Irish music on flute, accordion, guitar, and bouzouki. They perform widely and have become an integral part of the traditional music scene in the United States. \$20 general admission, \$16 Arts Council members and students (with ID).

Ragtime Festival Musicians, Thursday, September 22, 7 p.m.

Musicians from the annual Central Pennsylvania Ragtime Festival will perform works from composers like Scott Joplin and Jelly Role Morton. This high-level show includes many of the top ragtime musicians in the United States, including Frederick Hodges,



Brian Holland, Adam Swanson, Mark Spitznagel, and others. \$20 general admission, \$16 Arts Council members and students (with ID).



Anne Sullivan, Sunday, October 16, 2 p.m.

Anne Sullivan performed with the Philadelphia Orchestra when she was only 12 and, since then, has become one of the top classical harpists in the country. She will perform works from the classical harp repertoire, as well as arrangements of traditional folk songs. \$12 general admission, \$10 Arts Council members and students (with ID).

All concerts are held in the Arts Center at 313 12th Street in Huntingdon. Tickets can be purchased online at huntingdoncountyarts.com, at the Arts Center during exhibition hours, or at the door. Children 12 and under are free at all concerts.

Our concert series is underwritten by a generous grant from



Valleys & Vistas: Fiber Landscape Exhibit

Local fiber artist Kari Roslund will be exhibiting her work at the Arts Center starting in August. Her show will feature landscapes inspired by places she has lived in or visited. Most of these works were completed during the last five years.

Kari earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree in studio art from Lycoming College in Williamsport in 1998. After graduating, she worked as a teacher for several years before becoming a full-time artist. Kari works with wool and a variety of other fibers, and she also makes her own dyes from natural sources. She has exhibited her work in galleries and art centers in Pennsylvania, Ohio, and New York. Kari currently lives with her husband in Saltillo, Pennsylvania.



The opening reception will be on Friday, August 19, from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Arts Center. Everyone is invited. The show will run through October 1.

Upcoming Events

Fall Class & Workshop Schedule

We are excited to offer a number of classes and a workshop in the upcoming months. Class sizes are limited, so don't delay registering: click on the Tickets & Shop tab on our website, www.huntingdoncountyarts.com.

Landscape Drawing Techniques

Brian Ford will teach a two-session class on his techniques for masterful illustrations. Learn the basics of landscape drawing using pen and ink as well as a ballpoint pen. The course will focus on composition, contrasts, depth, and highlights, as well as various techniques used when creating a landscape drawing in monochrome.

The first session is Tuesday, September 13, and the second session is Tuesday, September 20. Both sessions are from 7 to 9 p.m.

Check our website for materials needed for the class. The two-session course costs \$45 for nonmembers and \$40 for members.



Artist's Toolbox

James Farrah, whose recent exhibit, *Nostalgia & Dreams*, recently closed at the Arts Center, will teach a three-session class on painting techniques.



The first session, on Saturday, September 10, will deal with the materials and techniques of watercolor painting. The second session, on Saturday, September 17, will deal with practical applications of color theory, detailing how and why colors work for artists. The third session, on Saturday, October 1, will focus on perspective: how to produce three-dimensional space on a two-dimensional surface.

All classes will start at 9 a.m. and are appropriate for beginners to more advanced artists. The cost for the three-session class is \$75 for the general public and \$70 for Arts Council members.

Fall Foliage in Watercolor

J. Harlan Ritchey is a self-taught artist with almost a decade of teaching experience specializing in ink, watercolor, and gouache.

The *Fall Foliage in Watercolor* workshop is on Saturday, October 8, from 1 to 3:30 p.m. It will explore various watercolor techniques (wet-on-wet, wet-on-dry, drybrush) to express Pennsylvania's vibrant colors and memorable autumn scenery. The class will begin with an instructor demonstration, followed by students working at their own pace and comfort level, with the instructor available for questions and one-on-one guidance. Some familiarity with watercolor supplies and materials will be helpful but is not necessary.

The cost for the workshop is \$25 for nonmembers and \$20 for members.



Creative Writing

Starting on Wednesday, September 14, Prudence Ingerman will again lead a 6-week course on *Creative Writing*. Each session will feature a new technique and include an in-class exercise done by hand. No computers! Classes run from 9-10:30 a.m. on September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12 and 19. Enrollment is limited to eight adults.

The cost for the classes is \$70 for nonmembers and \$60 for members.

Beginning Guitar

This six week course is for complete beginners who want to learn basic guitar taught

by Prudence Ingerman. Familiar folksongs will be used to learn basic chords and strums to accompany your voice. You will need to bring an acoustic guitar. The course starts on Saturday, October 1. Classes run from 9 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturdays, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, and November 5.

The cost for the classes is \$70 for nonmembers and \$60 for members. Enrollment is limited to eight adults.

Music at Greenwood Furnace

The Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering is coming up on September 16-18. This annual event involves a weekend of playing, singing, jamming, dancing, and listening to folk music.

There will be activities for all skill levels, from non-musician to advanced players, and for all ages, including mature children. A large number of workshops will cover a wide range of musical styles and interests. In addition, there will be concerts, a contra and square dance, and many formal and informal opportunities to jam.

One of the unique features of the Folk Gathering is its small size and friendly atmosphere. The teachers encourage participants to learn and share in a positive environment, and the small workshop size allows for easy interaction with the faculty and fellow students.

The teachers this year will include the Rustical Quality String Band (Appalachian string music), Jerry Zolten (blues and folk music), Gene and Gayla Mills (modern folk music), Kelly Armor (folklorist, singer, and storyteller), The Fiddling Thomsons (father and son fiddle players), Henry Koretzky (mandolin and guitar), Richard Sleigh (blues harmonica), and a variety of others. And, of course, Folk College's host band, Simple Gifts, will be there to round out the program.

An important goal of the event is to examine the traditional music of rural Pennsylvania and to preserve and perpetuate this musical heritage. In this spirit, we honor a Pennsylvania Heritage Musician every year, and Saul Broudy will be our honored musician in 2022. Saul sings, plays guitar and harmonica, and has performed in the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, and the Middle East. He has recorded with a variety of artists, including Loudon Wainwright, and holds a Ph.D. in folklore from the University of Pennsylvania.



Saul Broudy

In addition to the music, the gathering allows participants to escape and relax in the mountains at historic Greenwood Furnace State Park, a beautiful place located between State College and Huntingdon. The park features many outdoor recreational opportunities, including a lake with a swimming area, picnic tables, miles of hiking and mountain biking trails, and historical exhibits.

For more information about the event, visit folk-gathering.com.

Spotlight on the Arts

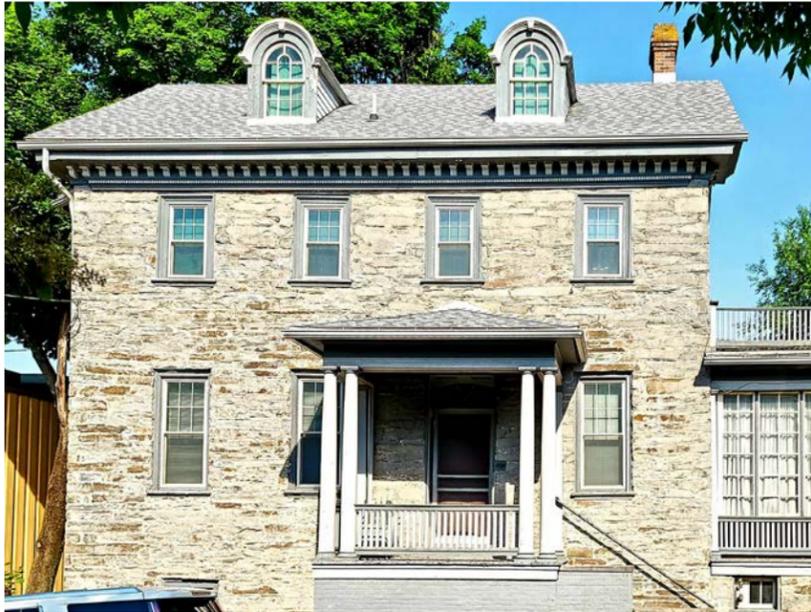
Historic Architecture of Huntingdon Borough

Travelers who drive along Route 22 may think that Huntingdon consists entirely of fast food outlets, gas stations, and strip malls. But those who leave the main highway and visit Huntingdon Borough will discover what local residents know well: Huntingdon is blessed with an abundance of remarkable historical architecture.

Although Huntingdon was founded in 1768, only a few buildings from the 1700s remain intact. A large number of structures from the 1800s and early 1900s have survived in good condition, however, and together they comprise the Huntingdon Borough Historic District (listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1986). Most of the buildings in the Historic District reflect distinct architectural styles that were popular in the past.

Georgian architecture was dominant from the early 1700s through about 1830. In the United States, this style is often referred to as Colonial. Georgian/Colonial buildings are usually rectangular and symmetrical, with the front door in the center and bays of windows on each side. (Smaller, partial Colonial buildings often depart from strict symmetry, however.) Buildings in this style are dignified and restrained, with relatively few external decorations.

The Smith House, at 105 William Smith Street, is an example of a partial Colonial



Smith House

home. Built in 1797 by William Smith (the founder of Huntingdon) and his son Richard, the structure is one of the oldest in town. The home is made of stone, with an off-center doorway. The asymmetry of the building is accentuated by an extension (sunroom) on one side. A porch with Doric columns (added later) sits at the entrance. The home also features two dormer windows and decorative brackets under the eaves.

Italianate architecture was popular in the United States from the early 1840s to 1890. Aspects of this style include low-pitched (nearly flat) roofs; large projecting eaves supported by corbels (brackets); quoins (bricks or stone set at the corners of the building); narrow windows, often in pairs; and decorations around windows, doorways, and porches. Windows are often arched, and towers and cupolas (a small structure on top of a roof) are common.

The Woods Mansion, at 1100 Washington Street, is an example of the Italianate style. William Woods, a prominent local attorney, built the home in 1874, and except for a few renovations, it has remained more or less unchanged since then. Note the low-pitched roof, paired arched windows, extended bracketed eaves, corner quoins,



The Woods Mansion

and prominent tower and cupola. The spacious home captures the atmosphere of a sprawling villa in the Italian countryside.

The Second Empire style (also sometimes referred to as French Renaissance) was popular in the United States between 1865 and 1900. This style's most distinctive feature is the Mansard roof—flat on the top with four steeply curved sides that can be either convex or concave. Homes in this style are usually box-shaped with symmetrical, richly decorated facades. Towers, cupolas, dormers, tall windows, balustrades (railings), and porches are common.

The building at 504 Penn Street, now a law office, is an example of the Second Empire Style. Local businessman Horatio Gates Fisher built the home in 1871, prior to his serving as a member of the Pennsylvania State Senate. The brick building features a Mansard roof, decorative



504 Penn Street

roof shingles, dormer windows, tall hooded windows on the first and second floor, and an ornamental balustrade on (and above) the porch.

The Queen Anne style was popular between 1880 and 1910. In contrast to the symmetrical and relatively austere Georgian and Colonial styles, Queen Anne buildings are asymmetrical and richly decorated. Defining features include steep roofs, multiple gables (triangular wall endings), overhanging eaves, towers or turrets (small corner towers), porches, bay windows, and walls textured with wood shingles.



The Gage Mansion

The Gage Mansion, at 317 Penn Street, is an example of the Queen Anne style. Colonel George F. Gage, superintendent of the Huntingdon and Broad Top Railroad, commissioned the home in 1896. Like many Queen Anne homes, the Gage Mansion features an asymmetrical exterior, a rounded corner turret, gables, overhanging bracketed eaves, and decorative woodwork.

The Huntingdon County Courthouse is one of the most imposing buildings in the county. Its architecture, however, is a curious mix of styles. It was constructed in 1882, supposedly in the French Renaissance style. The mansard roof is consistent with this designation, although other elements are less so. In the early 1930s, the original tower was replaced with a Colonial style clock tower, topped with a round cupola sheltering the bell. Numerous renovations since then, both internal and external, have left the building a hodgepodge of styles.



Huntingdon County Court House

But there is nothing wrong with being eclectic, and the courthouse is a beautiful building that Huntingdon residents can take pride in.

The buildings described in this article are only a small sample of the historic architecture in our area. The next time you are walking downtown, stop for a moment and appreciate the care that went into constructing—and preserving—these remarkable buildings.

ArtistSpotlight

Matt Speck Creates Public Art

Our area has a delightful new work of public art: The Welcome to Huntingdon mural in downtown Huntingdon. The mural adorns a wall in the recently constructed Bryan Park on Washington Street.



Matt Speck with his custom sports shoes

Matt Speck is the talented artist who designed and painted the mural. Although Matt lives in Pittsburgh these days, he grew up in Huntingdon and graduated from high school here. After earning a bachelor's degree in marketing and management from the University of Pittsburgh, Matt embarked on a career as a full-time artist.

Outdoor murals are one of Matt's specialties, and his creations adorn city streets in Pittsburgh, Scranton, Wilkes-Barre, and Blacksburg, Virginia. When he's not working

on murals, Matt designs custom shoes and cleats for professional football and baseball players. He also creates paintings on canvas—mostly portraits of public figures (such as Martin Luther King) and sportsmen, although he occasionally focuses on animals, landscapes, and abstract images.

Matt got the idea for the current mural while visiting Huntingdon. He noticed the blank wall in the park and thought it would make a great backdrop for a photo opportunity. He approached people in Huntingdon Borough with the idea, submitted a plan, and received approval this summer.

The mural looks like a giant old-fashioned postcard. The lettering, "Welcome to Huntingdon Pennsylvania," is superimposed on a sunburst pattern. Each letter in "Huntingdon" contains images of area landmarks, such as the Clifton Theater, the Blair Building, the old J.C. Blair Hospital, Flagpole Hill, and the County Fairgrounds. As Matt intended, the mural makes a great backdrop for people posing for pictures.

Matt created his first mural in his old high school locker room. Matt played with the Huntingdon Bearcats as a student, and his former basketball coach invited him to do the mural in 2016. The mural depicts the team's mascot, the Bearcat, emerging from a locker room wall. It is located in the boys' gymnasium in a section open on basketball game days.

Matt is exploring several possibilities for future mural projects, but none are



Matt Speck, Portrait of Martin Luther King

definite yet. Until the next one comes along, he will return to Pittsburgh and focus on creating more cleats for professional athletes.

Although Matt has been creating art continuously since he was a child, he is mostly self-taught. Not many artists can support themselves entirely from creating art, but Matt has been very successful at doing this so far. That degree in marketing appears to be paying off!

For more information on Matt Speck, including information on how to order art works, check out his website at mattspeckart.com



The artist at work on the Bryan Park mural



Artist Matt Speck with the Bearcat

ArtsCalendar

August 2022–October 2022

The Huntingdon County Arts Council is the hub for local arts and cultural activities. Check here to see what's coming up. Have an art activity? Send details and we will put it on our website arts calendar. Send to info@huntingdoncountyarts.com.

Bold = Huntingdon County Arts Council activity

When	What	Where	Details
Through Wednesday, November 23	Mathemalchemy Exhibit	Juniata College Museum of Art	Explores the beauty of mathematics
Friday, August 19 to Saturday, October 1	Valleys & Vistas: Fiber Landscapes Exhibit by Kari Roslund	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Opening reception August 19, 6 to 8; open Wednesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Thursday, August 18	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Sunday, August 21	Revamped Concert	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., see page 6
Thursday, August 25	Camera Club Meeting	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open to all, 7 p.m.
Monday, August 29	Matt & Shannon Heaton Concert	Huntingdon County Arts Center	7 p.m., see page 6
Friday, September 9	Juniata Presents <i>Tablao Flamenco</i>	Suzanne von Liebig Black Box Theatre, Halbritter Center Juniata College	7:30 p.m. Tickets at JuniataPresents.com or at the door
Saturday, September 10, 17 & October 1	Artist's Toolbox Class	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Taught by James Farrah 9 a.m., see page 7
Tuesday, September 13 & 20	Landscape Drawing Technique Class	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Taught by Brian Ford 7 p.m., see page 7
Wednesday, September 14, 21, 28, October 5, 12 & 19	Creative Writing Class	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Taught by Prudence Ingerman 9 a.m., see page 7
Thursday, September 15	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Friday/Saturday, September 16, & 17, 23 & 24; Sunday Matinees September 18 & 25	Mom's Gift	The Playhouse at McConnellstown	7:30 p.m. Matinees 2 p.m. A haunting, heartwarming comedy
Friday, September 16 to Sunday, September 18	Greenwood Furnace Folk Gathering: Workshops, Concerts, & Contradance	Greenwood Furnace State Park	See page 7. Free concerts Friday & Saturday nights. Full details at folkgathering.com
Thursday, September 22	Ragtime Festival Kickoff Concert	Huntingdon County Arts Center	7 p.m., see page 6
Friday, September 23 to Saturday, September 24	Fiber ArtsFest Classes	Huntingdon County Fairgrounds	14 classes over 2 days see page 1 Full details at fiberartsfest.org
Saturday, September 24	Fiber ArtsFest Market Place	Huntingdon County Fairgrounds	Free day of family fun, page 1 Full details at fiberartsfest.org
Wednesday, September 28 to Friday, December 9	The East Broad Top Railroad: Celebrating 150 Years	Juniata College Museum of Art	Celebrates the start of construction of the EBT
Saturday, October 1	Beginning Guitar Class	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Taught by Prudence Ingerman 9 a.m., see page 7
Friday, October 7 to Saturday, November 5	Picture This Camera Club Exhibit	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Open reception October 7, 6 to 8; open Wednesday thru Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday, October 8	Fall Foliage in Watercolor Workshop	Huntingdon County Arts Center	Taught by Harlan Ritchey 1 p.m., see page 6
Sunday, October 16	Anne Sullivan Concert	Huntingdon County Arts Center	2 p.m., see page 6
Thursday, October 20	Art Walk Huntingdon	Various locations in borough	5 to 8 p.m. Art activities
Friday, October 28	Monster Mash Halloween Bash	Huntingdon County Arts Center	7 p.m.

Stay up-to-date at www.huntingdoncountyarts.com and click the Arts Calendar tab



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**CONCERTS/CLASSES/EXHIBITS
FIBER ARTS & MORE!**



Address Service Requested



Annual Celebration of the Fiber Arts continued from page 1

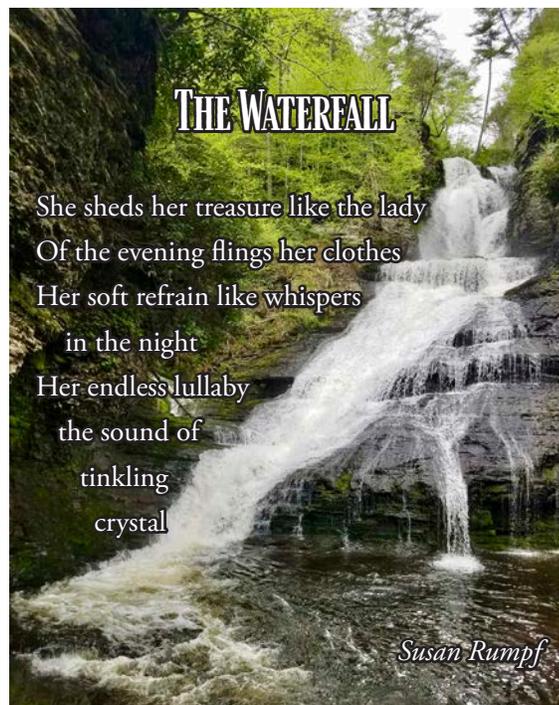
“make & takes” for all ages.

This year we are putting more ART in Fiber ArtsFest. Fiber artworks will be on display at the marketplace, and musicians will perform live music throughout the day. Best of all: Attendance at the marketplace is free.

While attending the marketplace, visitors can take a short walk to the Huntingdon County Fair Farm Museum, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Classes on both days will focus on decorative knot tying, cyanotype printing on fabric, double-faced table weaving, shibori dyeing, quilting, rug hooking, and a variety of other topics. Registration is still open for most classes.

Fiber ArtsFest is sponsored by the Huntingdon County Arts Council. For more information, including class listings and registration, visit www.fiberartsfest.org or call the Huntingdon County Arts Council at 814-643-6220. You also can follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/huntingdoncountyfiberarts.



THE WATERFALL
She sheds her treasure like the lady
Of the evening flings her clothes
Her soft refrain like whispers
in the night
Her endless lullaby
the sound of
tinkling
crystal

Susan Rumpf