

For Release
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17th Annual OcTrolleyFest Celebrates Transportation Heritage and Community

Darby: Since 1858 when the first horse car lines connected Delaware and Philadelphia Counties, the Philadelphia region, and Darby in particular, have been blessed by a remarkable transportation network connecting it with the region and the world. That transportation heritage will again be celebrated on **Saturday, October 30, 2021** as part of OcTrolleyFest 2021. "There are many, many historic sites accessible by light rail" said John Haigis, who with his wife Jan helps to coordinates the annual event. Sites include the home and gardens of botanist John Bartram, the Minshall House in Media, the site of Pennsylvania's first water powered mill going back to 1645, America's oldest log cabin, and much more. "Our trolley transportation system connects us with the world," Haigis continued. "It's like Disneyworld," he said, "except we have the real thing." OcTrolleyFest this year is dedicated to the memory of Darby fireman Kevin Carry, and artist Ted Manczur.

The day will begin in Darby at 11:00 am at Darby Free Library, America's oldest public library in continuous use located at 1001 Main Street. The library is next door to Darby Friends Meeting which was founded in 1682 and across the street from that is a house designed by Minerva Parker Nichols, one of the first women architects to be successful in her own firm. These and other sites will be part of a walking tour starting at 2:00 pm from the Library.

One of the highlights of OcTrolleyFest is the 5th grade Art Contest sponsored by Sharon Bank, where students in local elementary schools draw or paint their best picture of a trolley. "It is fascinating to see the different and creative ways our young people see their world," said Jan Haigis, co-coordinator. Samples of the Art Contest winners' work will be on display in November at Sharon Bank and winners will be announced at Darby Free Library at noon on OcTrolleyFest Day, Saturday, October 30.

History, Harmony, Heritage and Fun are all on the menu. Get On Board!