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ISSUE 3 | 2025

MARY'S GARDEN

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Letter from the Editor:



Kathy Chang
EDITOR

Hello 08033! I am excited for you to check out our monthly edition magazine dedicated to the lifestyle and community of Haddonfield.

We start our issue with Charles "Chas" Floyd Johnson. He's a Hollywood veteran, who executive produced *NCIS* for 22 seasons, and was a one-time borough resident. He has joined a group of notable writers for an anthology, *A Gathering of Voices*, of compelling essays, that resonates with wisdom. Follow the stars on page 4.

Next, we visit the beauty of Crows Woods Gardens that sit along the Cooper River, with plenty of wildlife and bird migration coming through the area every season. Tucked behind the Crows Woods sporting fields, garden enthusiasts start with a blank slate in a planting season that begins on April 15 and ends on Nov. 15. One of the gardeners included Mary Pre-vite before her passing in 2019. Look at the

beauty on page 12.

We round our issue remembering Sept. 11, 2001. There are thousands of monuments to the courage displayed on that day. New Jersey has more than 150 in towns across the state that incorporate pieces of the tower wreckage. Haddonfield is one of them. Remember on page 20.

Also check out our three expert contributors including "Building and Living the Life You Want" on page 8, "Haddonfield, NJ: A Glimpse Into The Fall 2025 Real Estate Market," and "Good Design Is More Than Just Good Looks" on page 22.

Haddonfield Happenings on page 24 gives you a glimpse of future community events and hear what your neighbors have to say, Pumpkin Spice or Apple Cider? on page 2. All of this and more awaits on the pages ahead!

Enjoy!

Kathy Chang

Kathy Chang
Editor

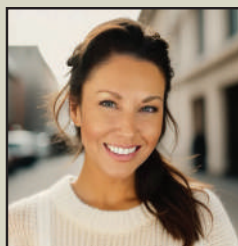
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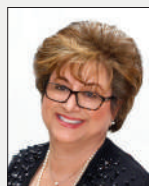
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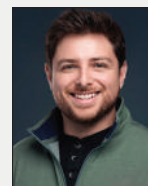
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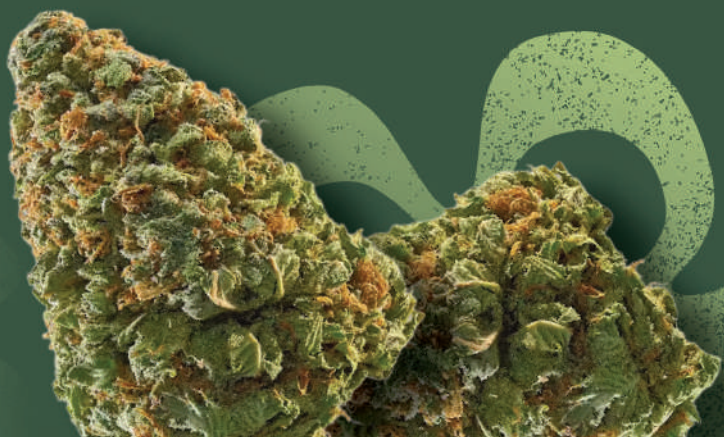


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Make the ‘good stuff’ even better

HOLLYWOOD VETERAN AND ONE-TIME BOROUGH RESIDENT HAS JOINED A GROUP OF WRITERS FOR AN ANTHOLOGY THAT RESONATES WITH WISDOM



PHOTO BY KARINE SIMON

Hattie Winston, Charles Floyd Johnson, Denise Billings, Denise Nicholas, Otto E. Stallworth, Jr., MD and GW Williams.



By Debra Wallace

Author and television producer Charles “Chas” Floyd Johnson has led a life steeped in his roots of faith, tenacity and a strong work ethic.

One of six seasoned authors who make up the Longwood Writers Workshop, the Camden native and his fellow members are promoting their anthology, *A Gathering of Voices*, a collection of essays written by Johnson and five of his notable friends.

Those friends include novelist and actress Denise Nicholas (*In the Heat of the Night* and *Room 222*), anesthesiologist Otto E. Stallworth Jr., businesswoman and novelist GW Williams, author Denise Bill-

ings and TV and Broadway veteran Hattie Winston (*Becker* and *The Electric Company*).

Four of the six workshop writers were interested in writing their memoirs. The group initially came together around Nicholas’ dining room table and turned to Zoom during COVID.

They then re-grouped in person afterward to soldier on.

With a foreword from Tony-winning Broadway veteran Phylicia Rashad, whose TV credits include *The Cosby Show* and *The Gilded Age*, *A Gathering of Voices* is a varied collection of personal, introspective

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VOICES 08033

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and even lyrical stories.

“With a mind to make the ‘good stuff’ even better, they joined the Longwood Writers Workshop, a small, select group of people with diverse backgrounds, extensive life experiences and like minds,” Rashad wrote.

“Shared enthusiasm and commitment to purpose defined this circle of support as they gathered to read, listen to and offer critical analysis of their own and each other’s work.”

The anthology’s stories resonate with memories of struggles waged, battles won and lost and experiences that illuminate the writers’ mature wisdom and resilience. According to Johnson, the workshop members pored over essays they had each written over the years outside of their memoirs.

“We knew nothing about publishing an anthology,” he acknowledges, “but we looked at all of our pieces, spread out and asked, ‘Now, how do we connect these?’ “They were different pieces from different cycles in (the writers’ lives), and we felt like putting them together.

“You have to focus them in some way for readers to pick it up and enjoy the book,” Johnson added of the anthology, which was published in February.

A noted TV producer born in Camden, Johnson spent a great deal of his childhood in South Jersey towns - including Haddonfield and Magnolia - as well as Philadelphia and Delaware. He says his roots were steeped in an East Coast mentality.

“I was an only child with a lovely and loving family,” he recalls, “who helped me to understand how to get through life, with faith and with belief in myself. My parents were wonderful at that.

“That was my foundation.”

After a rich and diverse career as a television producer for shows that included *NCIS*, *Quantum Leap* and *The Rockford Files*, Johnson is a veteran of more than 1,000 hours on the small screen.

He believes people have to be ready to make their marks in whatever creative, educational or business endeavors they pursue.

“My theory is that opportunity has to meet preparation,” Johnson observes.



PHOTO BY LILIANE LATHAN

“A Gathering of Voices” book signing event at the Nate Holden Performing Arts Center on April 19, 2025.



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BUILDING AND LIVING THE LIFE YOU WANT

A MODEST RANCHER BECAME A RETREAT FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND EVERYDAY JOY: HERE'S HOW YOU CAN DO IT TOO

The first time I sat down with Daniel and Julie, Daniel made me a coffee. Not just any coffee, but the perfect cortado, my favorite drink. Admiring the latte art design, I thought, How can design support the way people really want to live?

For me, buildings are not static nouns. Building is a verb, a process, a service. A home should grow out of and give shape to the family's aspirations.

Turning challenges into opportunities

Daniel and Julie found a 1950 rancher with low ceilings and disjointed rooms, but have two active girls, need a private wing

for Julie's parents, and plan to host large, frequent gatherings. Committed to giving this multigenerational family the dream life they deserve, we carved out 200% more usable space, and raised ceilings 150% higher. Seeing the dramatic transformation, people were knocking on the door with offers mid-construction!

Creating more by building less

Renovation is harder than new construction because you are wrestling with existing conditions. Expanding usable space without expanding the footprint makes it even harder. But sometimes the right choice is the hardest one. Rather than building up



By Benita Cooper
Benita Cooper Design
Expert Contributor

or out, we built down, grounding the home into the earth, preserving the beautiful landscape and lowering construction costs. Doing the most with what you have is good design, good stewardship, and good budget management.

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Designing for light and life

Raising the ceilings was essential, because Julie and Daniel have a huge extended family who are very tall! To accentuate the soaring cathedral ceiling, we added skylights to frame the sky; expanded windows to frame the trees. Sunlight now comes in from every direction, dancing from wall to wall through the day.

Shaping connection

Space planning, for me, is about listening deeply to how a family wants to move through every moment of the day, and understanding it so well that you can give the perfect shape to the entire imagined experience. It's so much more than a floor plan. It's experiential. Here, the entry flows into the living room (which visually rolls right out into the wide open landscape), living glides into the dining and kitchen, kitchen into family room, family into the stair. Private bedrooms extend down the hall.

Arriving at the lower level (which we refused to call a "basement" from day one!) you are greeted by a generous view to the backyard. We tucked a bar under the stair, and a banquette under mechanical systems, turning every piece of building infrastructure into aesthetic exploration. An in-law suite for Julie's parents, office, guest room, laundry, storage, mechanical room and multiple new bathrooms are woven into the space, like pieces in a puzzle. Not one inch is wasted.

Telling a story through custom details

Intentional details are what make a home personal. Here, we drew inspiration from the ash trees outside, and fabricated a collection of unique ash features. We wrapped two massive structural beams in hardwood casings to run an elegant horizontal line through the whole home. Also in ash, the custom kitchen island extension is both a show stopper and a multi-purpose surface: homework, casual meals, big celebrations, late-night conversations. Subtler touches: ash shelving transforms into a fireplace mantel and frames an intricately designed fireplace surround below. For me,



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Before



After

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custom does not mean indulgent. It is the opposite: humble in intention, an expression of care.

Much like a small yet perfect cup of cortado.

Tips You Can Use

Doubling the square footage instantly raised the home's market value. But the even greater value of this forever home is in how Julie, Daniel, their girls, and her parents can live now: connected with family, friends, light and nature. Here's how you can do it too!

1. See challenges as inspiration.
2. Invite sunlight wherever you can.
3. Layer views to create flow inside and out.
4. Use custom details to tell your story.
5. Get professional help to make the most of what you already have.



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"This means that when the door opens, you'll be ready. I have been in the entertainment business since 1971, starting in the mailroom at Universal Studios.

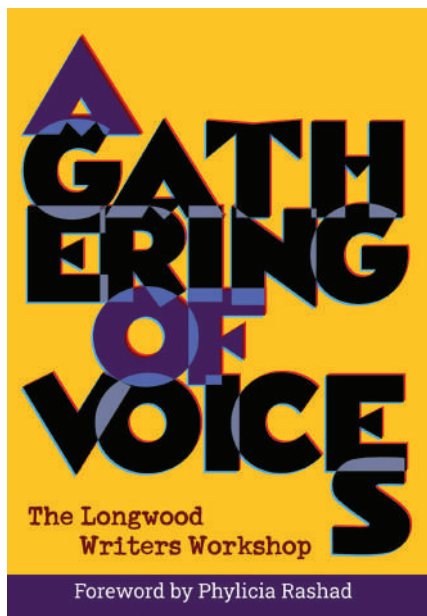
"My career has been a series of serendipitous kinds of things," he continues. "There's so much in life that happens with networking and connections. People have to know you to want to work with you."

When asked why he believes *NCIS* is still thriving as it starts its 23rd season, Johnson credited the cast, top-notch actors who kept interest alive.

"I met one viewer who had seen 400-plus episodes, watching them during the marathons, and she said it felt like a warm blanket," he remembers.

The big names

One of Johnson's essays in *A Gathering of Voices* tells the story of his personal and welcoming interactions with three famous people: former First Lady Michele Obama; O.J. Simpson defense attorney Johnny Cochran; and talk show host Oprah Winfrey.



Johnson was invited by Reuben Cannon, one of his mailroom buddies, to Oprah's TV studio. Cannon was one of her producers and was honored for his work casting the hit film she starred in with Whoopi Goldberg, *The Color Purple*.

"As I described in the book, I changed

my plane tickets to stop in Chicago and meet her," Johnson explains. "The reason that this chapter came to mind is that she openly supported me when I got there, despite not knowing me before that.

"She came out of the studio to the front, took me around, and the director of the show that day, Ivan Dixon, was someone I knew from my days of *The Rockford Files*."

Winfrey also told Johnson he had to meet a guy who was on set that day, *Roots* creator Alex Haley, who took time with Johnson and rode with him to the airport.

"So, this is an interesting story about three celebrities, who are also interesting human beings that I have had different encounters with in my life," Johnson notes. "No matter what their success and what they've accomplished, they have that incredible ability to meet people and make them feel important."

Sage career advice

After a rich personal life and varied career, Johnson advises anyone who wants to pursue a career in acting and screenwriting

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CROWS WOODS GARDENS OFFERS A BLANK SLATE EACH PLANTING SEASON

By Kathy Chang

The beauty of Crows Woods Gardens is breathtaking.

Fresh flowers meet you as you walk in, thanks to volunteer Cheryl Miller, who maintains the space in memory of long-time member Mary Previte.

Tucked behind the Crows Woods sporting fields, garden enthusiasts start with a blank slate in a planting season that begins on April 15 and ends on Nov. 15. No interested gardener is turned away, according to Paul Schmeck, president and membership coordinator of the Crows Woods Gardeners.

"I love new members and their energy and creativity," he says.

When Schmeck first got involved, there was a waiting list for plots. He was instrumental in working with borough officials - including Letitia "Tish" Colombi, Haddonfield's former mayor, and Business Administrator Sharon McCullough - to expand the gardens.

"I just can't see turning anyone away," Schmeck explains. "We ended up bringing in truckloads of organic soil to fill in the low back area as demand grew. Over the past 10 years or so, the amount of people that have left has kind of equaled the plots of new members.

"This year," he adds, "we had to squeeze a plot on the side, but we have not had to extend or expand (since then)."

Over the years, Schmeck has seen generations of families - including his own - whose traditions play out in the gardens with varied produce, flowers, greens and even fruit trees.

"We had an Indian couple who grew the most interesting vegetables that I never heard of," he recalls. "I thought it was so cool."

The 1.7-acre Crows Woods Gardens was a landfill back in the 1950s and '60s, according to Schmeck, and the land is owned by the borough.

Mary's garden

Photos by **Doug McConnell of McCo Media** - The Crows Woods Gardens sit along the Cooper River, with plenty of wildlife and bird migration coming through the area every season.



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In 1983, long-time resident and community activist Walt Saladik's dream of transforming the whole space for gardening and recreation was realized. Kathi Stokes started the all-volunteer organization of gardeners and managed them and the plots from 1982 until about 15 years ago.

"I was a pretty active volunteer at the time, and she had asked if I wanted to take over," Schmeck recounts, "so I took over as president. Jim O'Brien was vice president with her and he continues and still is vice president. He is one of the longest members of the gardens."

Rows of plots are managed by six captains who serve as a board of advisors for the gardeners.

"We have other volunteers who run different aspects of the garden," Schmeck points out. "We have a program where we donate produce to the Cherry Hill food pantry on Tuesdays (and) Thursdays. We set up deliveries to the food bank and encourage gardeners to donate their excess produce."

The garden plot where the program volunteers grow donated produce once belonged to Previte, who had two spaces at Crows Woods. Born in China, she spent three years in a Japanese concentration camp during World War II and served as a state legislator and Haddonfield board of education member.

Her 2019 obituary described the 87-year-old Previte as "an avid" Haddonfield Crows Wood gardener. She put together the gardeners' newsletter and delivered copies during her early-morning walks through town.

The Crows Woods Gardens sit along the Cooper River, with plenty of wildlife and bird migration coming through the area every season. Some gardeners put fences and gates around their plots and have built birdhouses and even hawk perches.

The gardens are open to the public, but members have to be borough residents.

"The gardens have not (only) been a place to come in and garden," Schmeck notes. "It's also been a refuge for people. It's kind of a sacred place, in a way, to a lot of people."

"Over time, I just got to experience some

stories and what the gardens have meant to residents in town."

As you walk around the 88-plot gardens this season, you will see that one of the gardeners planted flowers all around their plot and placed lawn chairs inside. Another gardener planted Mexican sunflowers.

There is a common area for gardeners to sit and relax under a pergola built by Sch-

meck, his father, son and nephew. There are composts; wheelbarrows; a tool area; and a washing station, the latter two completed through Eagle Scout projects.

During the season, students from the National Honor Society at the borough high school volunteer their time to clean up the garden and clear out plots.

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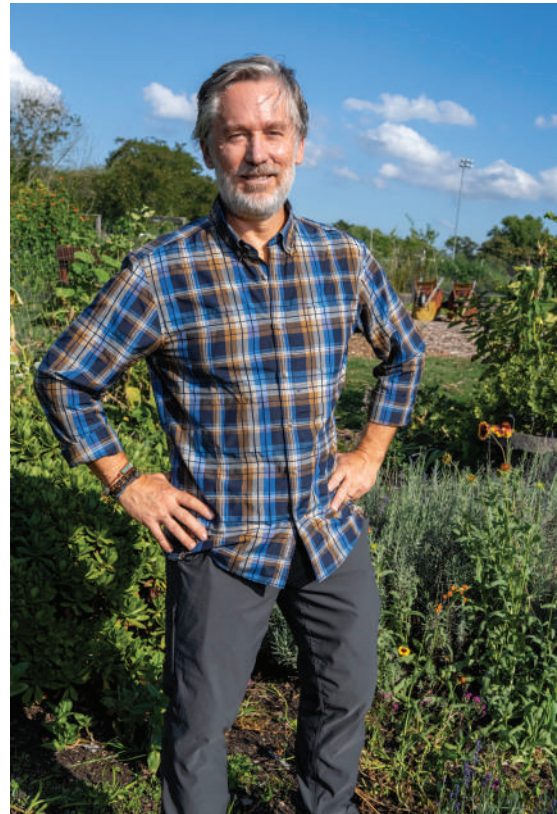
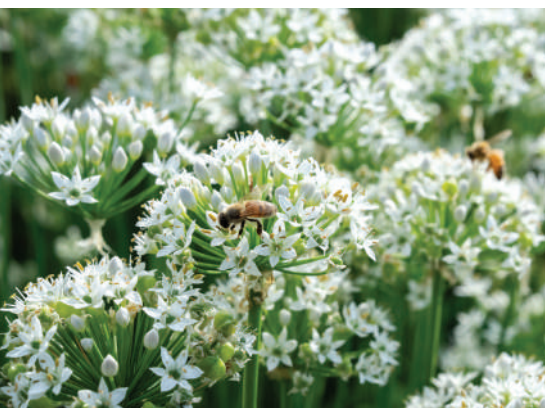
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Schmeck has lived in Haddonfield for 30 years and grew up gardening with his grandparents.

"My great grandfather's whole yard was a garden," he remembers. "I got out of it for a bit when I lived in Philadelphia. Then when I moved here, my backyard was shady. I had young kids (at the time), my career and everything."

It was not until his son started playing soccer that Schmeck discovered gardening again. He was at the sports field when he happened upon an Earth Day event.

"The gardeners were planting sunflowers at the community garden," Schmeck says, adding that his son's soccer schedule started to coincide with his gardening schedule.

"I would drop him off and come over here and garden until he showed up. I was regularly here, twice a week for a couple of hours."

Schmeck is a big proponent of growing his own food.

"I always fell in love with gardens," he asserts. "I dedicated a lot of my life with this place and have had my family involved. My mother always said, 'Find your mission,' and in a way, this is kind of a mission for me to keep and make it the best place it could be and make as many people happy as possible.

"It's a rewarding experience."

New gardeners are assigned a 10-by-20-foot plot, and after a year, they can expand to one that is 20 by 20 feet upon request. All Crows Woods Gardeners have access to water; tools; and aged compost, among other materials.

Maintaining a plot requires five or six hours a week, so it is strongly recommended that those with limited time maintain a small space.

In March and April, Schmeck holds a welcome for the gardeners and their families, and at the end of September, there is a gathering where gardeners are encouraged to bring a dish using produce from their gardens.

In the near future, the Crows Woods Gardeners will be made more inclusive with a section for raised beds.

For more information, visit www.crows-woodsgardeners.com.



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HADDONFIELD, NJ: A GLIMPSE INTO THE FALL 2025 REAL ESTATE MARKET

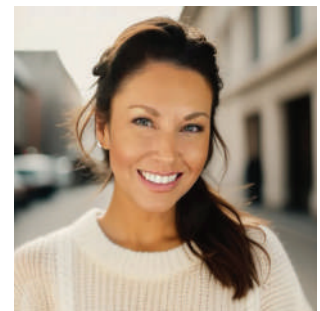
As we enter the crisp fall months of 2025, Haddonfield, New Jersey—known for its charming tree-lined streets, historic homes, and vibrant downtown—continues to be one of the most sought-after suburban locales in the Greater Philadelphia area. With an ever-changing real estate landscape, prospective buyers and sellers alike are curious about the market's trajectory in this beloved town. Let's break down the current trends, challenges, and opportunities that define the Fall 2025 real estate market in Haddonfield.

A Hot Market, But with New Nuances

Haddonfield's real estate market has remained robust throughout 2025, but it's important to note that the pace of activity

has shifted slightly. The extreme seller's market we saw in 2021 and 2022 has tempered, giving buyers more room to negotiate. However, demand still significantly outstrips supply, creating a market where well-priced, well-maintained homes still garner attention quickly.

Homes in the \$600,000 to \$1.2 million price range have been especially competitive, particularly in neighborhoods close to the downtown area and top-rated schools. This is a key factor for buyers with school-age children, as Haddonfield's public schools remain among the best in New Jersey. The added bonus of being just 10 miles from Philadelphia also keeps the town on the radar for city commuters seeking more space and a suburban lifestyle.



By Christy Oberg, Realtor®
Weichert Premier
Haddonfield
Expert Contributor

Shift Towards Larger Homes and Outdoor Spaces

A noticeable trend in Fall 2025 is the increased demand for larger homes with out-

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door spaces. After several years of living in tight quarters during the pandemic, many buyers are looking for homes with more square footage, including spacious yards for family gatherings and home offices. This is particularly true for young families and professionals looking to create a home base in a more relaxed environment without sacrificing proximity to the city.

Additionally, there's been a significant uptick in interest in properties with modern amenities such as home gyms, chef's kitchens, and even wellness-oriented spaces like yoga studios or meditation rooms. It's clear that post-pandemic living has reshaped the way people view their home environments, with a focus on comfort, utility, and lifestyle-enhancing features.

General Consensus

Downward Trend: Most forecasts and recent data suggest that mortgage interest rates will continue a gradual downward

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REAL ESTATE 08033

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trend throughout the fall of 2025.

Fed's Influence: The key driver for this trend is the expectation that the Federal Reserve will continue to cut its benchmark interest rate. While the Fed's rate doesn't

directly set mortgage rates, it influences the bond market, particularly the 10-year Treasury yield, which is a key benchmark for long-term home loans.

see REAL ESTATE page 19

Modest Declines: The anticipated decline is expected to be gradual and moderate, not a drastic drop to the historically low rates seen in 2020 and 2021. Experts do not expect a return to pre-pandemic levels of affordability.

Housing Market: Lowering rates could attract more homebuyers who have been on the sidelines, potentially increasing competition and putting upward pressure on home prices. This can be a "double-edged sword" for buyers who might benefit from lower rates but face a more competitive market.

Haddonfield's Historic Charm: A Draw for Buyers

Despite the challenges presented by interest rates and limited inventory, Haddonfield's historic charm remains a significant draw for prospective buyers. The town's beautifully preserved Colonial and Victorian homes, along with its walkable downtown area, continue to captivate those seeking both character and convenience.

The borough's commitment to maintaining its quaint, small-town feel while offering modern amenities has made it a prime location for both local and out-of-town buyers. Many are drawn to the easy access to shopping, dining, and entertainment options, including the popular Haddonfield Farmers Market and the nearby Cooper River Park, which offer plenty of recreational opportunities. For many, this balance of historic elegance with modern suburban life is exactly what they're looking for in a community.

Looking Ahead: What's Next for Haddonfield Real Estate?

As we head into winter, it's likely that the market will remain steady, albeit with more cautious optimism. Home buyers may be more deliberate in their decision-making, but Haddonfield's strong reputation as a family-friendly town with excellent schools and easy access to Philadelphia will continue to fuel demand.

For sellers, it's important to price homes

competitively and be prepared for negotiations. While homes in prime locations will still see multiple offers, pricing strategies may need to be more flexible to adjust to the evolving market.

Ultimately, while the real estate market in Haddonfield has evolved over the past few years, it remains a desirable destination for those seeking a high quality of life in a historic, vibrant community. As Fall 2025 unfolds, those who are in the market—whether buying or selling—can expect a steady but slightly more balanced environment. With the right preparation and guidance, both buyers and sellers can navigate this market and find success.

Contact Information

For more insights or personalized real estate advice in Haddonfield or the surrounding areas, feel free to reach out.

Call: 856-655-0789

Email - christyobergrealtor@gmail.com

Website: www.haddonfieldhomesales.com

Fall Home Maintenance

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Checklist

Roof Maintenance

- Inspect your gutters and clean them
- Inspect your roof for missing shingles or damage.
- Have your chimney swept
- Check your roof for moss and treat if needed
- Check eaves and gables for missing soffit or holes and repair if needed

Lawn & Garden

- Fall is a great time to aerate/fertilize your lawn for the spring
- Remove any spent annuals and apply mulch to perennials
- Don't forget to plant spring bulbs
- Clean your garden tools before storing them
- Trim shrubs and trees to prevent damage and maintain visibility

Home Exterior

- Check doors and windows for gaps and apply caulking or weather strips
- Check walls and foundation for cracks and make repairs
- Check attic and crawlspace for any signs of moisture
- Check outdoor lighting and replace bulbs while it's warm
- Remove any hoses and insulate any exposed pipes or faucets

Inside the Home

- Have your Fall Furnace/Heating system checked up
- Change the furnace filter for great air quality and safety
- Check your basement for any crack and fill those with mortar
- Test all your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms/change batteries
- Make sure your fire extinguisher is fully functional

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Photos by **Doug McConnell of McCo Media** – A twisted and bent piece of steel from the North Tower of the World Trade Center is mounted onto a pillar at the borough's 9/11 memorial at Haddon Fire Company No. 1.

Twisted steel, iron will

Recounting how a piece of 9/11 made it to the borough and its memorial

By Abigail Twiford

It has been 24 years since 9/11, and in honor of the 2,977 lives lost that day, memorials have since been erected across the nation, most notably at the site in Manhattan where the World Trade Center's two towers once stood.

There are thousands of monuments to the courage displayed on that day. New Jersey has more than 150 in towns across the state that incorporate pieces of the tower wreckage.

Haddonfield is one of them.

The borough's memorial stands at the Plaza of Haddon Fire Company No. 1 on

North Haddon Avenue, a fitting location given the number of first responders who sacrificed their lives that day.

Its centerpiece is a twisted and bent piece of steel from the North Tower, mounted on a pillar with a plaque explaining its origin and inscribed with the words "In Honor of the Lives Lost. Never Forget."

The piece was dedicated on Sept. 11 in 2013, when Butch Brees was president of the fire company. He was the driving force behind the idea, inspired by another company.

"Audubon Fire Company had gotten a

piece of steel from 9/11," he recalls. "They have a beautiful tribute right outside of their station. It's a very large piece," he adds of that town's 7,000-pound artifact.

Then-fire chief John Carpenter explained to Brees that Ground Zero remains were in the possession of the New Jersey and New York port authorities, and acquiring a 9/11 relic would require an application to reassign ownership of the piece to the Haddon Fire Company.

The artifact was picked up at JFK Airport in New York. Brees and the fire com-

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pany were responsible for transporting it to Haddonfield, so Brees built a box with carpet lining to protect his precious cargo.

The object that now sits at the 9/11 memorial was smaller than some others to accommodate its perch outside Haddon Fire Company.

"We said, 'That's perfect,'" Brees recalls.

But the steel artifact was misshapen and could not be easily mounted. To help respectfully display the borough's piece of 9/11 history, Brees turned to John Giannotti, known of course as the man behind the borough's historic dinosaur sculpture.

"He came over, took a look at the piece, meeting with us, and he said, 'It's like a broken wing of a bird,'" Brees recalls of the sculptor's reaction. "It's kind of like a victory celebration with a broken wing."

Giannotti - known for his use of bronze - brought Brees - and the artifact to the foundry he uses for his own sculptures, where employees demonstrated how the mounting could be done.

"That's kind of how that piece got to that shape, and how it was mounted," Brees recounts.

The flagstone and brick base the artifact sits on was made by a friend of Brees' who works in construction. The memorial plaque was then attached to its front. Four pins at the bottom of the mount ensure the steel remains securely in place.

Haddon Fire Company's 2013 dedication of the memorial included Battalion Chief Martin Ford, captain of Ladder

see STEEL page 27



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Good Design Is More Than Just Good Looks



By **Jay Cipriani**,
Cipriani Remodeling Solutions
Expert Contributor

When most people think about remodeling, they picture the finished product: a beautiful kitchen with gleaming countertops, a spa-like bathroom with elegant tile, or an

open-concept living space filled with natural light. While aesthetics are a key part of any successful remodel, good design is about much more than creating a visually appealing space. It's about how your home works for you, how it supports your lifestyle, solves daily frustrations, and makes everyday life easier and more enjoyable.

At its core, good design is functional. It considers how you live in your space today and anticipates how your needs might change in the future. A well-designed home should feel intuitive. You shouldn't have to walk across the kitchen to get to the trash can, dig through deep shelves to find what you need, or work around an awkward layout that no longer fits your life. These are the details that often go unnoticed in a photograph, but they make all the difference when you're living in the space every



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day.

This is why the design process should never be rushed. At Cipriani Remodeling Solutions, we start by getting to know our

homeowners. We want to understand how they use their space, what frustrates them, what they value most, and how they envision living in their home 5, 10, even 20 years from now. These conversations shape every design decision we make, from layout and materials to storage solutions and

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Haddonfield Happenings



IT'S ALL IN THE DETAILS.

When it comes to your social calendar change is ... not always good. But sometimes it's inevitable. Check each organization's website for updated event information.

HADDONFIELD PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library is located at 60 N Haddon Ave. For more information on events visit www.haddonfieldlibrary.org.

Oct. 3 – 10-10:30 a.m. - Movie Munchkins *Creepy Carrots* Edition. Join Ms. Jordan Bilodeau and Ms. Katrina Price to watch an animated version of the book *Creepy Carrots* and do a carrot craft. Recommended for ages 2 and up.

Oct. 9 – 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. – Hocus Pocus Wall Hanging – Create a wall hanging inspired by the witch sisters.

Oct. 10 – 10-10:30 a.m. – Once Upon a Craft – Halloween House – Join Ms. Katrina Price for a story and a Halloween House craft. Ages 3 to 6.

Oct. 12 – 1:30-1:45 p.m. – Storytime: Happy Birthday Haddy! Weather permitting. Join Ms. Katrina Price at Haddy's Birthday Party for a short and sweet version of the library's weekly storytimes. We will sing songs, read a story, and dance with bubbles at the Haddy Statue on Lantern Lane.

Oct. 15 – 3:30-4:15 p.m. – Spooky Cute: Paint Your Own Ghost Ear-

rings. For grades 6 to 12.

Oct. 17 – 3:45-4:15 p.m. – Halloween Bingo for ages between 7 and 12.

Oct. 19 – 10-11 a.m. – The Preserving Black Haddonfield History Project's Service at Mt. Olivet Church followed by a walking tour and historical marker installation ceremony from noon to 1 p.m.

Oct. 20 – 6:30-7 p.m. – Halloween PJ Story and Craft before bed.

Oct. 20 – 6:45-7:45 p.m. – Diamond "paint" a coaster to add some sparkle for your autumnal beverages. This is a small diamond art project, perfect for beginners.

Oct. 21 – 1-2 p.m. – Craft at the library and make an autumn decoupage pumpkin.

Oct. 24 – 4-4:30 p.m. – Halloween Rockin' Out with Mr. Bobby on the front lawn. The kids can dress up in costumes or their favorite Halloween outfit. Weather permitting.

Oct. 26 – 12:30-1:30 p.m. – Join Culture 4 Kids for a story and sugar skull craft in celebration of Día de los Muertos.

Oct. 28 – 10-10:30 a.m. or 1:30-2 p.m. – Trick-or-Treating Storytime will be held outside.

Oct. 30 – 9:45-10:15 a.m. – Come in costume or your favorite Halloween clothes and dance the morning away with props and fun songs during the Halloween Dance Party.

IN THE COMMUNITY

Sept. 25-27 – Autumn Sounds Concert Series is a vibrant new fall music event debuting downtown Haddonfield. The series will begin at 3 p.m. on Sept. 25 and end around 10 p.m. on Sept. 27.

Oct. 1 – 8-10 a.m. - Starting in October, Police Chief Jason Cutler invites residents to a monthly **"Coffee & Chat with the Chief"** series. First chat will be held at Jersey Java.

Oct. 4 – Haddonfield's Fall Festival – 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - A juried crafts show on Tanner Street with more



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GOOD DESIGN 08033

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lighting placement.

For example, a kitchen island might look great in a photo, but if it disrupts the workflow of someone who loves to cook, it's not the right solution. On the other hand, a kitchen with clear zones for prep, cooking, and cleanup, all tailored to how that family uses the space, will feel effortless and enjoyable to use day in and day out.

Lighting is another example of design that goes beyond looks. The right lighting plan doesn't just highlight finishes. It improves safety, functionality, and mood. Layering ambient, task, and accent lighting ensures that a space can adapt to different times of day and activities. Whether you're cooking dinner, reading a book, or entertaining guests, your lighting should support what you're doing.

Good design also takes the emotional experience into account. A well-designed space can make you feel calm, energized, focused, or relaxed, depending on how it's composed. Color, layout, sound, and texture all influence how a space makes you feel. These elements are subtle, but when done thoughtfully, they create a lasting impact.

We often hear from homeowners who feel stuck between wanting a beautiful home and needing a functional one. The good news is, you don't have to choose. When design is approached the right way, beauty and function work together. Thoughtful design doesn't compromise one for the other. It integrates both in a way that feels seamless and deeply personal.

Ultimately, good design supports your life. It's not just about what you see when you walk into a room. It's about how that room makes you feel and how well it works when you're living in it. That's why our process puts so much emphasis on understanding the people behind the project. Every family is different, and every home should be a reflection of the people who live there.

So, the next time you see a beautifully remodeled space, look a little closer. Ask how it works, not just how it looks. Because true design success isn't measured by style alone. It's measured by how well a space serves the people who call it home.



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than 50 vendors and a big book sale at the Masonic Temple are expected to be popular features of a Fall Festival in Haddonfield on Saturday, October 4. (If rain: Saturday, Oct. 11.) Fall Festival is organized by the Haddonfield Lions Club. Subaru is the major sponsor, and community financial support has been provided by The Haddonfield Foundation. The book sale is sponsored by the Friends of the Haddonfield Library.

Oct. 6-10 – Join Haddon Fire Company No. 1 as they host Fire Prevention Week events. Don't miss Fire Prevention Night at the Fire House on Oct. 9 starting at 6 p.m.

Oct. 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25 – Historical Society of Haddonfield's Witchy Walk will held at dusk. For over 20 years, the Historical Society of Haddonfield has led historic haunted walking tours through Haddonfield in October. These very popular walking tours are based on the books Haunted Haddonfield I & II, written by the late Bill Meehan. They start on Oct. 10.

Oct. 11 – 8 a.m. to noon – Shredding event will be held in the parking lot behind Borough Hall.

Saturdays through Oct. 12 – 8:30 a.m. - Haddonfield Farmers' Market on Kings Court.

Oct. 12 – starts at noon - Downtown Haddonfield is hosting a birthday party for Haddonfield's favorite dinosaur. He is turning 22.

Oct. 18 – 9 a.m. – The Haddon Fort-



nightly will hold its **annual flea market**. Antiques, collectibles, plants, baked goods, holiday items, electronics, and more, all flea market treasures at modest prices.

Oct. 18 – 6 p.m. – Rotary Club of Haddonfield presents Haddonfield Day at the Dinosaur Park, Edleman Fossil Park in Mantua.

Oct. 18-19 - Downtown Haddonfield celebrates Diwali. The weekend will be full of lights, dancing, food and culture on King's Court. Festivities begin at 3 p.m. on Oct. 18 with a Diwali Flashmob with free samosas and dancing. From 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Oct. 19, a Diwali Fair will include crafts, henna artists, chai makers, food and drinks from Cross Culture.

Oct. 30 – Haddonfield Celebrations Association will hold its **Halloween Costume Parade** on Kings Highway starting at 6 p.m. on Chest-

nut St. All children will receive a Halloween trinket at the end of the parade.

Indian King Tavern Museum is located at 233 E. Kings Highway. Days and hours open: Wednesday to Saturday – 10 a.m. to noon and 1-4 p.m.; Sunday, 1-4 p.m. For more information visit www.indiankingfriends.org.

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VOICES 08033

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to always be prepared.

"You have to study; you have to be in the thick of it," he points out. "Do plays, see plays and work hard whenever you can."

And when a chance comes along?

"Be ready when the opportunities come," he says. "Look for opportunities; meet people; and, if someone likes your work, take it to the next level. I've been lucky to be able to keep reinventing myself."

"I don't think you ever stop learning."



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Company 131 in Brooklyn on 9/11.

Off duty that day, Ford arrived at the site of the wreckage after both towers had collapsed, with five of his fire brethren inside. At the borough memorial dedication, he spoke of what it meant to him that memorials were still being erected more than 12 years after the tragedy.

"It's an honor to come to dedicate this piece of steel in the memory of everybody that was lost," he told the Courier Post newspaper. "It's 12 years later, and it's nice to see the memory is being kept alive."



PHOTO BY LILIANE LATHAN

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