

# BRISTOL FALL CLASSIC



## BUILDING PLATFORMS TO ENVIRONMENTAL WELLNESS

PERSON OF THE YEAR  
**PATRICK W. MULHERN**

Saturday, November 18, 2023  
Bristol Borough Public Works Building

~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~



*102 Radcliffe Street, Bristol, PA 19007*

*Robert Strasser • Bruce Lowe • Chef Fabian Quiros*

*Dining on the Delaware*

*The only thing we overlook is the water!*

*Affordable Casual Fine Dining*

*Open Wednesday - Sunday, 11:30 am to 9 pm*

*Happy Hour Wednesday - Friday 4 pm to 6 pm*

*Daily Dinner Specials*

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*Private Parties and Event Services*

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*~ Building Platforms to Environmental Wellness ~*

## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

### WELCOME TO THE 2023 BRISTOL FALL CLASSIC!

The ACADEMIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (AOC) was created in 2010 by the GRUNDY FOUNDATION, which serves as its fiscal advisor. Residents, parents, students and community stakeholders make up the AOC's volunteer membership. Receipt of public grant dollars to supplement educational programs requires there be a fully involved and functioning community component such as the AOC. Public grant dollars received by the BRISTOL BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT are used to enrich academic services and the learning experience to help improve student performance results on mandatory state tests.

The purpose of the AOC is to provide year-round programs and services at LEARNING CENTERS established in BRISTOL for youth in grades K through 12 attending BOROUGH public and parochial schools. Today, there are three (3) LEARNING CENTERS operating out of the following locations: ST. MARK SCHOOL, SNYDER-GIROTTI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, AND BRISTOL MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL.

Your presence tonight means a lot because we know you have choices, and you chose to be here to acknowledge the importance of a good education, delivered by great educators, who help mold the talent of students, who grow up to become a Person of the Year.

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING.**



**Bristol Borough Learning Centers**

*Helping Borough Students Learn to Live and Lead*

#### ***THE MISSION OF THE ACADEMIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (AOC):***

*To serve and support the educational community to enable each student to grow into an inspired, productive, fulfilled lifelong learner;*

#### ***GOALS:***

- ◇ Maintain awareness to residents and supporters of free, year-round programs aimed at Bristol Borough School District exceeding state curricula standards and promoting the academic success and growth and development achievable to youth attending Bristol Borough public and parochial schools through program participation;*
- ◇ Raise funds for programs not provided by grants and supplement grant-funded programs as needed; and*
- ◇ Instill in youth Borough history and pride and foster a spirit of community volunteerism;*

~ Building Platforms to Environmental Wellness ~

~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

**AOC COMMUNITY BOARD MEMBERS**

Alison Angelaccio  
Stephanie Croquez  
Karen E. Dopson  
Mary Gesualdi  
Michael Girard  
Jeff Manto  
Amy McIlvaine  
Mary Louise McIlvaine  
Arnold Porter  
James Sell  
Joseph J. Stallone, Jr.  
Rose Marie Strippoli



**STAFF**

Executive Administrator: Shea Cialella  
Secretary & Advisor: Eugene J. Williams  
Executive Director, Grundy Foundation

**“EDUCATION IS THE PASSPORT TO THE FUTURE, FOR TOMORROW  
TO THOSE WHO PREPARE FOR IT TODAY” ~MALCOLM X**

THANKYOU



**Bristol Borough Learning Centers**

*Helping Borough Students Learn to Live and Lead*

THE BOARD WISHES TO THANK **ANNE CASMIRRI, DEB FINE,** AND **JENNIFER RENSHAW** FOR THEIR COMMITMENT OF TIME AND ABUNDANT TALENT OVER THE MANY YEARS THEY SERVED ON THE AOC BOARD. ALL THREE OF THESE TALENTED WOMEN RESIGNED LAST MONTH TO PURSUE NEW ADVENTURES IN NEW GEOGRAPHIES.

**RON SHERRAT** ALSO RETIRED FROM THE AOC BOARD THIS YEAR TO SPEND MORE TIME WITH HIS FAMILY, ESPECIALLY HIS BUSY GRANDCHILDREN. RON'S ENTHUSIASM AND ADVOCACY FOR VIBRANT EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENTS WILL BE MISSED.

~ **Building Platforms to Environmental Wellness** ~

~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

**EVENING PROGRAM**

**WELCOME, MASTER OF CEREMONIES**

James Sell, AOC Board Member & Executive Director, Bucks County Community College

**INVOCATION**

Reverend Katherine Brooks, Pastor, Bethel A.M.E. Church

**MILL STREET RUN CHECK PRESENTATION TO BUCKS COUNTY RESCUE SQUAD**

Mike Girard, AOC Board Member

**STUDENT OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION**

Alison Angelaccio, AOC Board Member & Associate Professor, Bucks County Community College

**2022 AWARD RECIPIENT:**

**JACOB WALKER, BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2023**

**2023 AWARD RECIPIENT:**

**HALEY VELASQUEZ, BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2024**

**JOSEPH A. SAXTON COMMUNITY SERVICE ENDOWMENT FUND**

Amy McIlvaine, AOC Board Member

**TEACHERS OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION**

Alison Angelaccio, AOC Board Member & Associate Professor, Bucks County Community College

**AWARD RECIPIENTS:**

**ASHLEY O'NEIL, ST. MARK SCHOOL**

**YVONNE GATTELLI, SNYDER-GIROTTI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

**LIZ MCANDREW, BRISTOL MIDDLE SCHOOL**

**RON MCGINN, BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL**

**PERSON OF THE YEAR PRESENTATION**

Amy McIlvaine, AOC Board Member

**AWARD RECIPIENT:**

**PATRICK W. MULHERN, ENVIRONMENTALIST, BUSINESS OWNER & ENTREPRENEUR**

**CLOSING REMARKS**

Mary Gesualdi, AOC Board Member & President

**Buffet Dinner catered by  
King George II Inn, Executive Chef Fabian Quiros**

**Photography Services provided by  
Tim Huffnel**

**Music & Audio Services provided by  
Jammin Jeff Weiman**



## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

Bristol Borough resident Patrick W. Mulhern has been chosen for this year's "Person of the Year" Award. Patrick is a remarkable person who has distinguished himself through service in various fields that involved empowerment and motivation for those whose lives he touches.

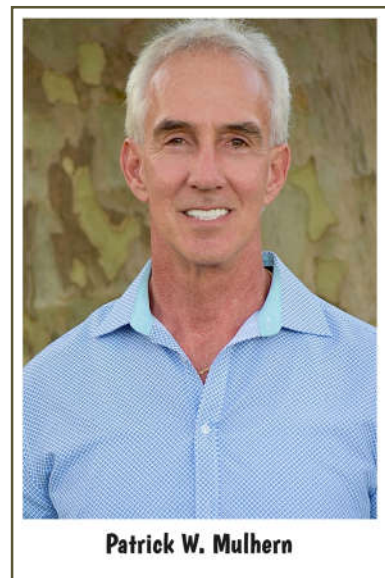
Growing up on Radcliffe Street just across from the banks of the Delaware River, the young Patrick showed a streak of the daredevil in him by swimming across from Bristol to Burlington Island. Looking back, those adventures set the stage for just one of the many careers that he would embrace.

Patrick studied Business Administration at Bucks County Community College while working for the United States Postal Service, where he served as an Advocate for Letter Carriers. He was a Legislative Ambassador for the AFL-CIO and later worked as a United Way Counselor for 17 years.

While studying at McGonigle's Mixed Martial Arts with his family, Patrick came to admire the steady transformation of fellow students toward better health, confidence, and discipline. This eventually led to an unexpected career change.

Even as he began his practice as a Clinical Exercise Specialist, his then-teen-age daughter Caitlin's diabetes diagnosis opened another door of service for Patrick. He was appointed to the board of the American Diabetes Association of the Philadelphia region and helped develop programs and lectures stressing the importance of exercise as part of treatment protocols for diabetes and other diseases. Patrick received several recognitions from leading medical facilities including the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania.

Patrick continues to give his time and talents to various local, civic organizations. Most recently he has devoted himself to a special project that is close to his heart—protecting and preserving Bristol Borough's biggest natural assets, the Delaware River and Burlington Island. The 300-plus acre natural site, known as Burlington Island, sits between Bristol Borough, PA and the City of Burlington, NJ.



## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~



As president of the Friends of Burlington Island (FOBI), Patrick can often be seen boating or kayaking across the water to oversee the creation of walking trails, educational programs for youth groups and adults alike, and a twice-a-year cleanup he and FOBI conduct. Patrick's focus is one of the reasons why the river and the island's appeal increases annually, having a direct impact on Bristol Borough's Day wharf and commercial corridor along Mill and Market Streets.

Patrick is co-owner of Driftwood Water Adventures (DWA) with Bristol Borough Middle School teacher, Robert Moyer. Established in 2012, DWA offers kayak, paddleboard, and canoe rentals, lessons, and sales at two locations—Falls Township Community Park and Tyler State Park. In addition, Patrick provides personal training services to a select group of private clients.



**DRIFTWOOD**  
WATER ADVENTURES

Patrick is married to fellow Bristolian, Dawn Rumovitz, a registered nurse, and is the father of three children, Patrick Sean, Caitlin, and Shannon. Patrick still lives on Radcliffe Street, next door to his boyhood home, where his 92-year old mother still lives.

Patrick is a man of many talents, unique leadership abilities, and a willingness to pass his enthusiasm on to others. Please join the AOC is saluting Patrick W. Mulhern as the 2023 Bristol Fall Classic Person of the Year.

**NO MAN EVER STEPS IN THE SAME RIVER TWICE. FOR IT'S NOT THE SAME RIVER AND HE'S NOT THE SAME MAN. ~HERACLITUS**



~ Building Platforms to Environmental Wellness ~

## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

### TEACHERS OF THE YEAR

#### SNYDER-GIROTTI ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**YVONNE GATTELLI** has been teaching in the Bristol Borough School District for the past 27 years. During this time, she has taught many grade levels, including grades 1, 4, and 5. Most recently she has taught 6th grade science. Yvonne's love for teaching and her students goes beyond the walls of her classroom. She can always be found supporting her students by attending many of their activities beyond the school day.

Yvonne was born and raised in Bristol Borough and is a graduate of Bristol High School. Yvonne obtained her undergraduate degree from Temple University. She worked in the private sector as a scientist prior to her calling to become a teacher. Yvonne returned to college while working full-time and received a Master's Degree in Education from Holy Family University.

Yvonne is married to her high school sweetheart, Michael. Together they have two children, Michael and Brandon. She also has one daughter-in-law Bridgette. Family is everything to Yvonne. Most recently she became a grandmom to her grandson Ben.



Yvonne Gattelli  
Snyder-Girotti Elementary School

**“EDUCATING ALL OF OUR CHILDREN MUST BE ONE OF OUR MOST URGENT PRIORITIES. WE ALL KNOW THAT EDUCATION, MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE, IMPROVES OUR CHANCES OF BUILDING BETTER LIVES.” ~NELSON MANDELA**

#### BRISTOL MIDDLE SCHOOL

**LIZ MCANDREW** has worked in the Bristol Borough School District for the past 29 years. She began teaching special education students at the high school and 14 years later moved to her new home in the 7th grade as the team's Learning Support teacher.



Elizabeth McAndrew  
Bristol Middle School

Liz graduated from Cheltenham High School then pursued her bachelor's degree in Special Education at West Chester University. She then went on to attend Arcadia University where she earned a master's degree in Elementary Education and became certified as a Reading Specialist.

Learning of this award, Liz said, “I can honestly say that I have never been happier working with such impressionable young minds. I am proud to be part of an amazing team of teachers and I look forward to each new and exciting day with all the students.”





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**TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

**BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL**

**RON MCGINN** began his career as a Social Studies teacher at Little Flower High School in Philadelphia from 1993 to 1997. For the past 27 years, he has taught American History, Economics and World Cultures to Bristol High School students. Ron also coaches the BHS Cross Country team.

Ron applies a basic philosophy to his profession, *“It’s not what I can do to teach, it’s what my students can do to learn.”* This guidance informs the embraces of his family: wife, Harumi, and daughters, Kai and Koh. Ron states, *“the elevating of student esteem, the welcoming of student opinion, the encouraging of student creativity, has nourished and challenged me to improve my art, my craft, my teaching.”*



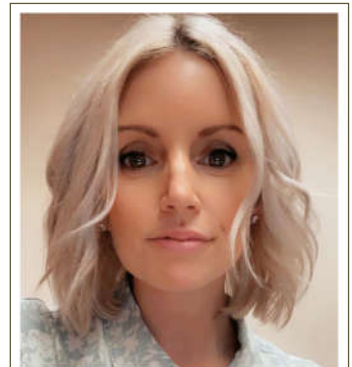
Ron McGinn  
Bristol High School



**ST. MARK PAROCHIAL SCHOOL**

**ASHLEY O’NEIL** graduated from Temple University in 2007 and began her teaching career as a substitute in the Bensalem School District. She then taught 8th grade at St. Thomas Aquinas until the school closed in 2011. After taking a two-year hiatus to stay home with her daughters, Ashley resumed teaching full time and has been at St. Mark’s for 10 years.

Ashley and her husband, Frank, have been married for 13 years. They reside in Bensalem with their three daughters—Rowan, Quinn and Elliette. While Ashley ‘absolutely loved’ being home with her daughters, she also enjoys her job. She states, *“I am a true teacher at heart and couldn’t imagine doing anything else in life.”*



Ashley O’Neil  
St. Mark Parochial School



Bristol Borough Learning Centers

*Helping Borough Students Learn to Live and Lead*



**BRISTOLBOROLEARNCTRS**



**BRISTOLBOROCTRS**



**BBLEARNINGCENTERS**

**BBLEARNINGCENTERS.COM**

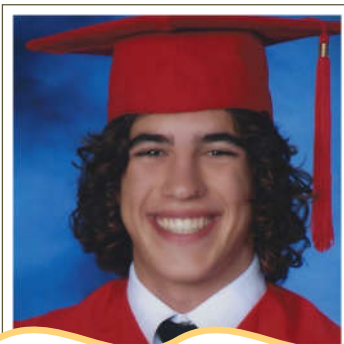
~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

STUDENTS OF THE YEAR

**HALEY VELASQUEZ** is a Distinguished Honor Roll Senior at Bristol High School and a member of the National Honors Society. Haley has a current GPA of 108 (for the first quarter of the 2023-24 school year) and was recently crowned Homecoming Queen. Haley is involved in many extracurricular activities including Student Council, Class Office and Girls Flag Football. She is captain of the Varsity Field Hockey Team and one of the four state qualifiers for the Varsity Cross Country Team. After graduation, Haley plans on pursuing her bachelor's degree and becoming a Radiological Technician.



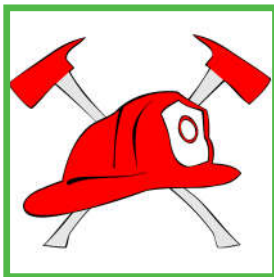
CLASS OF 2024  
HALEY VELASQUEZ



CLASS OF 2023  
JACOB WALKER

As Class Valedictorian, **JACOB WALKER** made the most of his time at Bristol High School as a Distinguished Honor Roll student and member of the National Honor Society. Jacob also participated in Reading Olympics, Chem Club, Service Learning Club, Garden Club, and Writer's Voice. Jacob was a three-time State qualifier and Senior Caption for the Varsity Cross Country Team and two-time District and one-time State qualifier for the Track Team. Jacob was also on the Varsity Basketball Team and worked part-time at Rite Aid during his senior year. Although history is his favorite subject, Jacob's major is yet undecided as he currently attends Kutztown University.

In response to Bristol Borough's aging firefighting volunteer force, the AOC is working with several partners to find options to encourage local firefighting volunteerism. Part of this exploration includes piloting a fire science program at Bristol High School to introduce, educate, and encourage young people to consider volunteering at 1 of 4 firehouses across town.



The decline of volunteer firefighters is not unique to Bristol Borough. Since the 1970s, the ranks of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania have dropped from 360,000 to fewer than 37,000. The impact of this phenomenon is clear. Local firefighter volunteerism needs to increase, or this public service could become a full-time force paid for by taxpayers.

## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

**The AOC was awarded an \$8,000 grant from Dow Corporation in September 2023. This grant is dedicated to school staff receiving Out-of-School Time (OST)-focused STEM professional development and providing student field trips to The Franklin Institute for Bristol Borough School District students. Professional development training is happening this month. The student field trips to The Franklin Institute will happen during the second half of the academic school year in 2024.**



Reverend Katherine P. Brooks  
Bethel A.M.E. Church

### REVEREND KATHERINE P. BROOKS

The Reverend Katherine P. Brooks is the pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol, PA. Prior to her appointment in June 2018, she served as pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Far Rockaway, Union A.M.E. Church in Warwick, and Emanuel A.M.E. Church in New Rochelle—all in the New York Conference. Rev. Brooks answered the call to preach under the pastorate of Reverend Dr. Alvan N. Johnson, Jr. at Bethel A.M.E. Church in Bloomfield, Connecticut.

Rev. Brooks was born and raised in New York City. She is a graduate of Harvard University with a B.A. cum laude in History and of Union Theological Seminary in New York. She was a founding member and officer of the Greater Hartford Interfaith Coalition for Equity & Justice and was active in Congregations United for Racial Equality & Justice, a collaboration between Bethel A.M.E. Church and several Unitarian Universalist congregations in Connecticut. She is an active member of the Concerned Pastors of Bristol and Vicinity, a gathering of Black clergy with a heart for social justice. Rev. Brooks has a deep commitment to the development of ministry to children within the church and beyond the walls. She holds a weekly chapel service for Children of God Educational, LLC in Bristol.

Rev. Brooks is the proud mama of five and grandmama of nine more, two of whom she adopted after the loss of their mother. Emanuel, age ten, and Malia, age six, are the joy of her life at home while Jesus Christ remains the center of her joy in the Lord!

### BETHEL A.M.E. CHURCH HISTORY

The African Methodist Episcopal Church was born in 1787 in Philadelphia in protest against social injustice in the house of God. Incorporated in 1816 as a denomination where persons of African descent could worship “under their own vine and fig tree,” the African Methodist Episcopal Church has a proud and illustrious history that spans the globe and impacts the lives of millions in the struggle for freedom and justice for all of God’s children. Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Bristol, Pennsylvania, was founded in 1843 and has faithfully served the community of Bristol and surrounding towns for almost two hundred years. Twenty-five pastors have served the congregation during its history.

## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

### JOHN MUNDY & THE MILL STREET RUN

**JOHN V. MUNDY** is a legendary track and field coach whose passion for running began in his youth. Taking shape at Holy Ghost Prep, Mundy initiated the school's first competitive track & field team as a student. Following college, he shifted gears to coaching and established a pedigree for consistently producing some of the area's top track & field champions. His contribution to the sport of track & field is forever celebrated by the dedication of the John Mundy Track at Holy Ghost Prep.



**John Mundy**  
**Mill Street Run**



Mundy solidified his role in the sport of track and field by establishing the **MILL STREET RUN**, which will celebrate its 57<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Saturday, September 7, 2024. The Mill Street run is recognized as one of the top competitive high-school track & field events on both sides of the Delaware River attracting most of the areas' top high-school track and field competitors.

Mundy has recently become a key volunteer in Bristol Borough's summer camp program, offering a track & field clinic to interested Bristol Borough youth. His delivery of personalized coaching and invaluable experience is inspiring a new generation of runners. Students attending this mini-clinic are able to participate in the youth category of the annual Mill Street Run, called the Open Race, for free.

Mundy is recognized for his unique talent to build dynamic team atmospheres with winning results. He innately understands the capabilities of each athlete and believes in them. Because he clearly loves what he is doing and is excited about getting to know his athletes, he inspires them to get the most out of their abilities. Now, that's a WINNER!

**The AOC, Bristol Riverside Theatre, and Snyder-Girotti Elementary School partnered to provide ArtRageous, a unique performing arts program, for all students in grades 1 through 3, during the 2021 - 2022 and 2022 - 2023 school years.**

**ArtRageous' focus is on hip-hop dance introducing students to a range of street dance styles primarily performed to hip-hop music central to hip-hop culture.**

**Hip-hop dance was determined to be the right antidote to the pandemic's impact on students' well-being and an undeniable tool for healing and wellness.**

~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

**THE ACADEMIC OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (AOC)**

recognizes & congratulates

**PATRICK W. MULHERN  
PERSON OF THE YEAR**

**YVONNE GATTELLI, LIZ MCANDREW, RON MCGINN & ASHLEY O'NEIL  
TEACHERS OF THE YEAR**

**JACOB WALKER (2022) & HALEY VELASQUEZ (2023)  
STUDENTS OF THE YEAR**

The AOC Wishes to Acknowledge and Thank the following individuals and staff of several businesses around town.

Jim Dillon, Borough Manager

Bristol Borough Council

Kevin Everett, Director, Bristol Borough Public Works Department

Bristol Borough Public Works Department

Jim Sell, Executive Director, Bucks County Community College

Reverend Katherine Brooks, Bethel A.M.E. Church

Anna Larrisey and her team at the Bristol Borough Tax Collector's Office

Anne Walp & Philomena Quattrocchi, Great ID's by Anne

Carol Mignoni Ferguson & Rose Marie Mignoni Szczucki, Mignoni Jewelers

Erin Renard, Bristol High School

Dana Barber, Library Director, The Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library

Tim Hufnell

Bristol Borough Firefighter Volunteers

Nick Nastasi, Principal, Bristol High School

Roberta Cimochofski, Acting Principal, Snyder-Girotti Elementary School

Maria Sanson, Principal, St. Mark School

Dottie Saxton

And Every Individual, Volunteer, and Student Who Came Together to Help and Support this Event to Make it a Success! Thank You.

~ **Building Platforms to Environmental Wellness** ~

**The AOC has awarded \$155,000 in grants to Bristol Borough public and parochial schools since 2006.**

**AOC HIGHLIGHTS: 2020 TO 2023 YEARS IN REVIEW**

**Covid-19's Impact on Education and Learning in Bristol Borough 2020-2021**

It has been three years since the last Bristol Fall Classic because of Covid-19. The AOC's work and activities supporting Bristol Borough's public and parochial schools came to a screeching halt when the country was forced to stay home because of the pandemic.

Within weeks of the pandemic's arrival and at the direction of Dr. Rose Minniti, former Bristol Borough School District Superintendent, the AOC arranged and paid for wireless access points providing students and faculty connectivity to maintain learning. As the pandemic evolved, being wirelessly connected to the school's network allowed students to learn synchronously and asynchronously accommodating the shifts in education and enabling new learning environments.

The indirect effects of the pandemic, such as the degradation of socialization and behavior, were equally noticeable and disruptive. In response, the AOC initiated virtual workshops for parents on a variety of topics including practical steps to support children at home and how to help students learn to develop healthy friendships.

The AOC also knows with certainty that student test scores were negatively impacted, sliding further away from minimum test standards published by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Education. Knowing the lingering effects of disrupted learning, this circumstance further exacerbates opportunities for our students to embrace the fundamentals of life-long learning and to position them for success across all sectors of life, now and in the future.

The devastating impact on education and learning across the globe triggered by the pandemic still lingers. Bristol Borough schools have not been exempt from this phenomenon. In fact, we may have experienced an unequal impact on how the pandemic affected learning given the region's socio and economic realities. Moreover, the AOC has also become aware of higher stress levels and larger class sizes that have become a new norm since Covid-19.

For all these reasons and more, THANK YOU for your continued support. Without your commitment to local public and parochial education, the AOC would not have been able to pivot when Covid-19 arrived and adjust to new and unfamiliar circumstances.

## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

**The following grants were provided by the AOC since the last time we saw each other.**

**2020** (Most of the 2020 programs were disrupted and adjusted because of Covid-19.)

- ◇ Poetry Café: 4th grade, Snyder-Girotti Elementary School
- ◇ D.A.R.E. Program: 5th grade, Snyder-Girotti Elementary School
- ◇ Nutrition Program: Snyder-Girotti Elementary School & Bristol High School
- ◇ Writer's Voice: Bristol High School
- ◇ Microsoft Certification Program: Bristol High School in partnership with Bucks County Community College
- ◇ Open Gym (\$300 + \$62 + \$1,400)
- ◇ MLK Day & Super Bowl Day of Caring Food Collection and Distribution

### **2021**

- ◇ Cooking Club: Bristol Borough School District
- ◇ Makers Space (one-time gift): Bristol Middle & High School
- ◇ Leapfrog Curriculum (one-time gift): Pre-K, St. Mark School

### **2022**

- ◇ Writer's Voice: Bristol High School
- ◇ Cooking Club: Bristol Middle School
- ◇ 2021 Student of the Year—Delaney Slate, Kutztown University
- ◇ Public Safety, Jyeer Newkirk, Alvernia University: Bristol Borough School District
- ◇ ArtRageous Program: Snyder-Girotti Elementary School in partnership with Bristol Riverside Theatre

### **2023**

- ◇ Strawbees, STEAM: Snyder-Girotti Elementary School
- ◇ Dinner: 8th grade, Bristol Middle School
- ◇ Summer Garden Club: Bristol Borough School District

**The Bristol Fall Classic is an annual fundraiser hosted by the AOC (Academic Oversight Committee) with proceeds benefitting after-school and summer programs for Bristol Borough youth. This event is part of the effort to remain compliant with the guidelines of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Center grants awarded to Bristol Borough School District by the PA Department of Education.**

## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

### 2023 SPECIAL PROJECT

### PILOTING FIREFIGHTING FUNDAMENTALS AT BRISTOL HIGH SCHOOL

In pilot mode now at Bristol High School is a Firefighting Fundamentals course. This program will orient students about firefighting science and what it takes to become a volunteer firefighting for their community.

Since the 1970s, the ranks of volunteer firefighters in Pennsylvania have dropped from 360,000 to fewer than 37,000. The AOC is working with the Bristol Borough School District and School Board, Bristol High School administrators, Bristol Borough Fire Department, and Bucks County Community College on this pilot aided by Tom Shaffer, a former Bristol Borough School District Superintendent and multi-decade Pottsville, PA volunteer firefighter with relationships at the state's Office of the State Fire Commissioner.

There is a critical need for volunteer firefighters in Bristol Borough as many of our volunteers are aging out.



**The AOC has supported the Writers' Voice program, part of BHS' interdisciplinary program, to spur creative thinking, presentation and performance skills, and the full spectrum of publishing.**

**Established in 1997 by Mike Girard and Deb Fine, students experience in-class instruction, a guest lecturer from the University of Pennsylvania, and a retreat at Silver Bay YMCA – Conference and Family Retreat Center. Other mandatory requirements include a public parent presentation of students' poetry and writing at the Margaret R. Grundy Memorial Library.**

**The value and benefits students derive from this program are many such as enriched written and verbal communication skills, enhanced confidence, and self-image, boosted critical thinking, problem-solving capabilities, and motivational techniques, and increased leadership skills all essential abilities necessary to succeed in today's complex environments encountered after graduation.**



## ~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

### **Joseph A. Saxton Community Service Endowment Fund**

The AOC established the Joseph A. Saxton Community Service Endowment Fund (the “Fund”) in 2022 to honor its former board member, to preserve his memory and impact of community service. The Fund seeks to leverage and reinforce community service, inhabited, and exhibited by Joseph A. Saxton during his lifetime lived entirely in Bristol Borough, PA.

The Joseph A. Saxton Community Service Endowment Fund will award grants, based on the discretion of the Fund’s Trustees, to a non-profit organization presented on behalf of a current or former Bristolian, focused on the greater good of the community, that imbues, embodies, and exhibits the same kind of commitment to community service --- to make Bristol Borough a better place for all its citizens --- as “Joe” or “Sax” or “the Mayor” did every day throughout his 72 years.



#### **Purpose, Goal, and Objective:**

- Identify an organization that promotes and elevates volunteerism and community service across Bristol Borough’s diverse population and neighborhoods in the manner and spirit displayed by Joseph A. Saxton.

#### **Eligibility & Award:**

To be eligible for a Joseph A. Saxton Community Service Endowment Fund grant award these minimum standards are applicable:

- Organizations must be a registered and certified 501 c-3 non-profit, doing good works in Bristol Borough, Pennsylvania, and recognized in good standing by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of State, Bureau of Corporations and Charitable Organizations, Charities Section.
- Grant awards are non-restrictive meaning there are no restrictions or limitations on how the grant award is to be invested or to be used.
- Awarding a grant on an annual basis is desirable, but not required.

#### **Trustees:**

- Five Bristolians are to be appointed as Trustees of the Fund, serving concurrent two and three-year terms.
- The Board of Trustees shall invest and manage the Fund, with and in coordination with Penn Community Bank, as a prudent investor would, by considering the purpose, terms, distribution requirements, and other circumstances of the Fund.
- The Board of Trustees shall select an individual associated with an organization (NPO) that mirrors Joseph A. Saxton’s commitment to community service by awarding a non-restrictive \$1,000 grant.

~ 2023 Bristol Fall Classic ~

# BRISTOL FALL CLASSIC PERSON(S) OF THE YEAR

HISTORY  
OF  
HONOREES

**ALL IN, 2019**

Ron Walker, Allied Electronics

**CELEBRATING SMALL BUSINESS, 2018**

Dave Harris, Harris Comfort

**REVOLUTIONIZING THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERISM, 2017**

Bill Pezza, Raising the Bar

**ONE OF US FOR ALL OF US, 2016**

Congressman Michael Fitzpatrick

**BUILDING A BETTER BRISTOL, 2015**

Louis Quattrocchi, CBM/Bristol Fuel

**LEADERSHIP THROUGH SERVICE, 2014**

John Cordisco, Jeane Coyle, Anna Bono Larissey & Merle Winslow

**BRISTOL, BROADWAY & BEYOND, 2013**

Dolores Ferraro, Christopher Gattelli, Fred Knecht,  
Ryan J. O'Gara, Charlie Saxton & Rose Marie Strippoli

**IMPACTING EDUCATION, 2012**

Ken Bachman, Carol Mignoni Ferguson,  
Joseph Franceschini, Mary Gesualdi & Karen Pezza

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Since 2019, these recent AOC Grants have been awarded to Bristol Borough public and parochial schools

- \$5,000 for **Microsoft Certification Training** provided to Bristol High students in partnership with *Bucks County Community College*.
- \$10,000, a 1x grant, to create a **Makers Space** for Bristol High and Middle Schools.
- \$5,000, a 1x grant, for **LeapFrog**, a technology-based learning product for the education of pre-K children at St. Mark School.
- \$17,000, for two grants for the **ArtRageous** program, delivered to Snyder-Girotti Elementary School students in grades 1 through 3, in partnership with the *Bristol Riverside Theatre* to improve health literacy, behavior, and mental health concerns.
- \$2,157 was provided to Snyder-Girotti Elementary School for **Strawbees**, a STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics) digital robotics kit providing coding education for the 725 students attending this elementary school.



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**Joseph A. Saxton Community Service Endowment Trust Fund**

**Established by the Academic Oversight Committee 2022**

Future annual \$1,000 grant award to a local non profit organization presented on behalf of a current or former Bristolian who selflessly serves or has served the Borough community—to make Bristol Borough a better place for all residents—as “Joe,” “Sax,” or “the Mayor” did tirelessly every day throughout his 72 years of private and public service to the hometown that he loved.

To find out more about the Trust Fund go to:

**[BBLearningCenters.com/Joseph-Saxton-Memoriam-Fund](https://BBLearningCenters.com/Joseph-Saxton-Memoriam-Fund)**.

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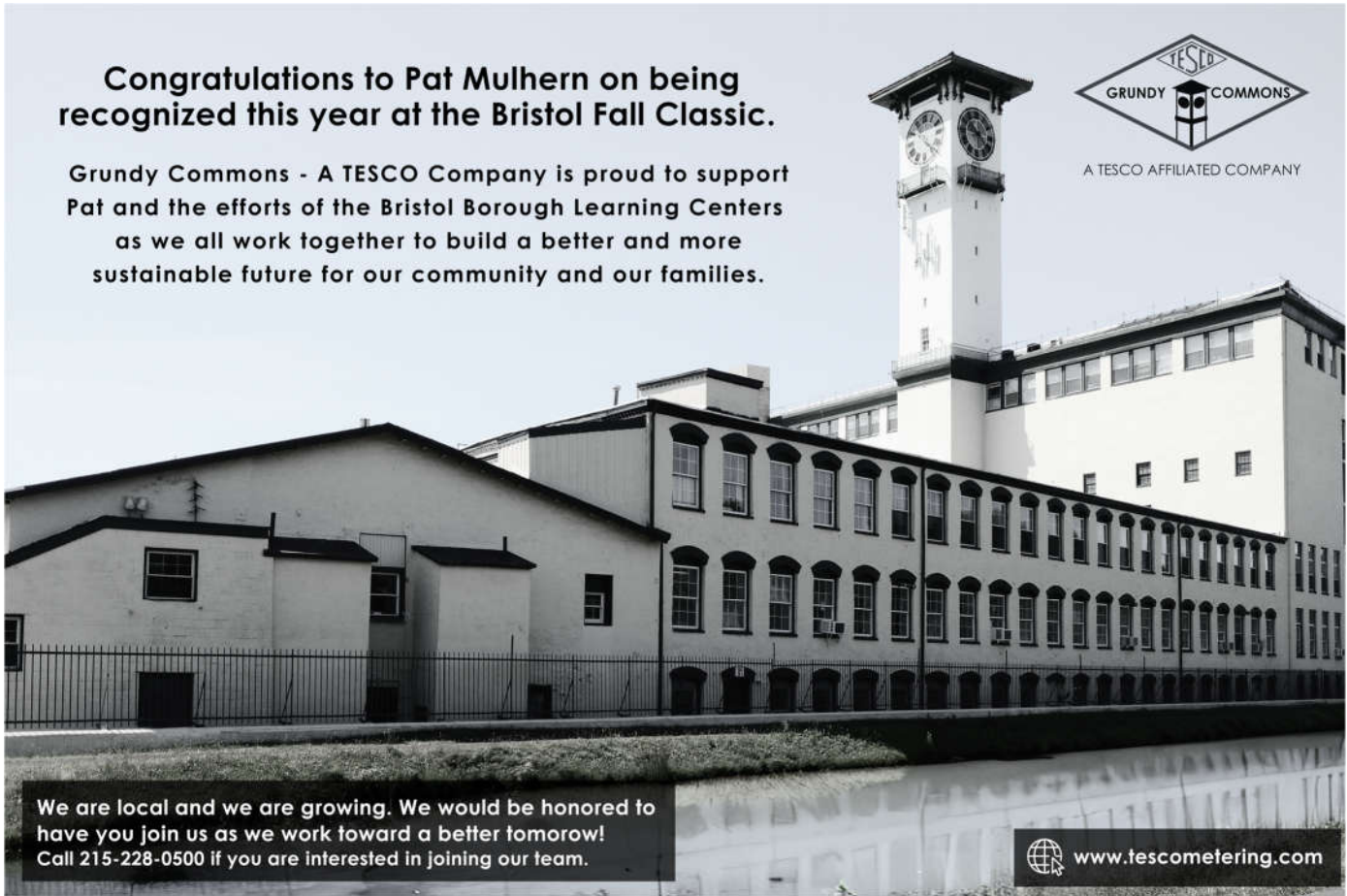
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**Congratulations to Pat Mulhern on being recognized this year at the Bristol Fall Classic.**

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ST. MARK SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

*Ashley O'Neil*

FOR BEING AWARDED **TEACHER OF THE YEAR FOR 2023!**

WE THANK MRS. O'NEIL FOR HER DEDICATION TO ST. MARK SCHOOL

*"As you teach, don't become weary in doing good, for at the proper time you will  
reap a harvest." ~Galatians 6:9*



ST. MARK PARISH WOULD ALSO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE

*Pat Mulhern*

FOR BEING AWARDED THE **AOC'S PERSON OF THE YEAR**

WE THANK MR. MULHERN AND HIS FAMILY FOR SUPPORTING ST. MARK SCHOOL & PARISH

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# **Congratulations, Patrick!**

Your selfless commitment to others is an  
inspiration to us all.

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Patrick, your dreams have lead you where to go. You have enriched lives. You care for so many. I am so proud of the man you are.

 I love you dearly.



Love your wife,  
Dawn Marie

# Galzerano

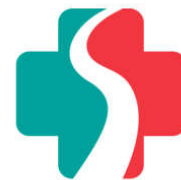
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Your leadership excellence is unmatched. Congratulations from the team at Mill Street Pharmacy, Bristol Borough's local provider of personalized care of everyone's health.



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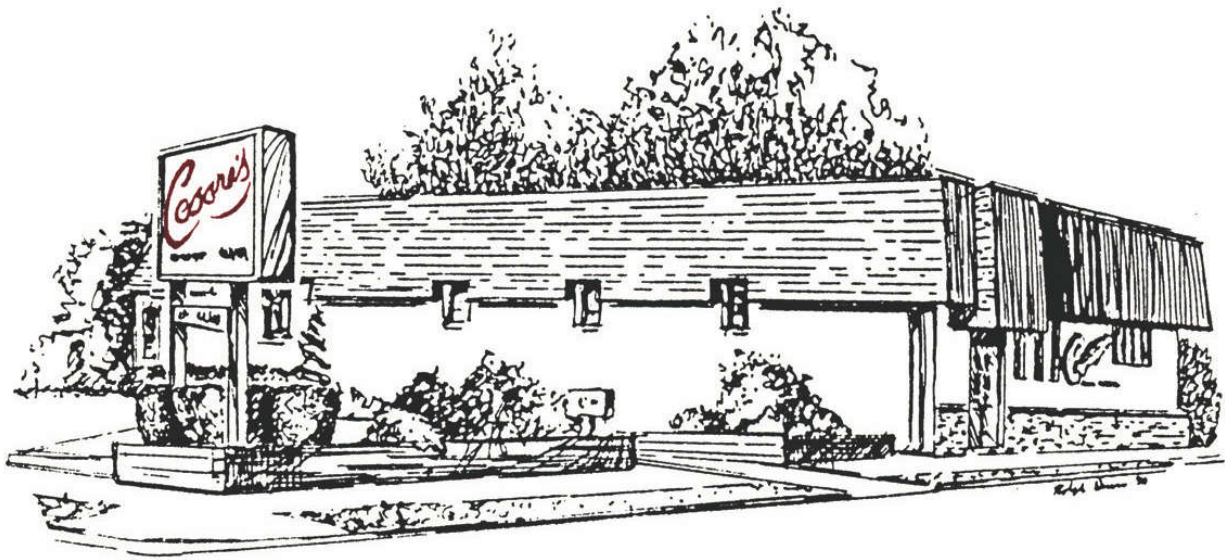
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# Bristol Borough



## Education Association

is thankful for the great work done by the AOC.  
Congratulations to all of the 2023 honorees.

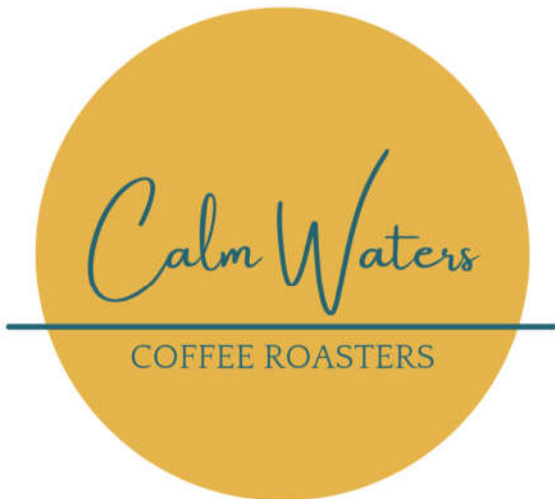
Person of the Year, Patrick Mulhern

Student of the Year, Haley Velasquez

Teachers of the Year:

◆ Yvonne Gattelli ◆

◆ Ron McGinn ◆ Liz McAndrew ◆



*Patrick,  
your effort and commitment  
to our environment  
is exceptional.*

Congratulations Patrick on your  
well-deserved selection  
as the AOC's Person of the Year.  
All of us at FOBI  
acknowledge and appreciate  
your leadership.

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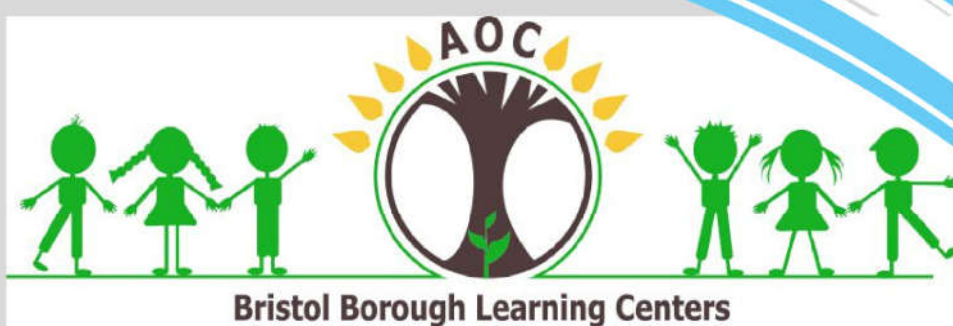
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*Congratulations to our  
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~ Bobby, Nick & the DWA gang ~*



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**Patrick W. Mulhern**

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