

Newsradio



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Group Shines Spotlight on "Small Town" Areas In and Around Philadelphia

by KYW's Steve Tawa

Lots of towns around the Delaware Valley, and neighborhoods in Philadelphia, think they've got an ideal mix of attractions that make them a nice place to live, work, and play.

Now, a local organization is giving them a marketing boost, naming those smaller communities "classic towns."

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission executive director Barry Seymour says the Philadelphia region as a whole gets plenty of attention, but many suburban towns and urban neighborhoods in Philadelphia lack the resources for marketing:

"We were looking for a mix of communities across the region, both inner ring and farther out suburbs. But they all share the characteristic of a unique, authentic community: small towns, walkable main streets, good transportation, and transit access."

Mayor Jayne Young of Lansdowne, Pa. says her town can ill afford to advertise its many attributes, which include the arts community there:

"It's not always your number one issue, because you're worried about sewers, roads, and nuts and bolts."

Collingswood mayor Jim Maley touts the resurgence there in housing, retail, and restaurants:

"What all of these towns represent is a quality of life, a strong sense of community."

Also making the initial list are Ambler (above), Bristol, Doylestown, Media and West Chester in Pennsylvania; the Philadelphia neighborhoods of Manayunk and Overbrook Farms; and Haddon Heights and Riverton in New Jersey.