



The Borough of CARNEGIE

Perhaps one of the strongest characteristics of Carnegie is summed up in the words on a banner that hung from a Carnegie building during the aftermath of the 2004 flood: "Hey Ivan! We are Carnegie. We never quit! Never! Never! Never!"

Resilience. From the rise and fall of the steel era to historic floods — including the 2004 flood when Hurricane Ivan's heavy rains brought devastation — Carnegie comes back with strength, enthusiasm and creativity. The evidence is everywhere.

A stroll through downtown Carnegie reveals a diverse array of palate pleasing eateries. Whether it's sushi at Kasai, Italian food at PaPa J's Ristorante, Indian cuisine at Cafe Delhi, Irish eats (and live music) at Riley's Public Pour House, diner delicacies at Bob's Diner or a pizza fix at Slice On Broadway ... this quaint town packs big flavor.

Imaginative reuses of historic buildings are also part of Carnegie's flavor. The Carnegie Coffee Company, a European style coffee house, makes its home in the newly renovated 100-year-old former Carnegie Post Office where you can order Illy espresso from a counter made of old post office boxes. The spacious upstairs provides expanded seating, complimentary community conference space and art space.

What was once the Christ United Presbyterian Church is now the stunning and sophisticated Cefalo's Banquet and Event Center. The former Holy Souls Catholic Church is now the vibrant home of the Indian Community Center. Innovative design-build specialty geotechnical contractor, Menard USA, chose Carnegie's old Masonic building for its United States corporate office. And it's fun to consider that in the early 1900s, beer was being brewed in the building where Standard Ceramic Supply Company now manufactures moist clay for artists all over the eastern United States.

Creative innovation is also seen in the community's flood control efforts. In addition to the Chartiers Valley Flood Control Authority widening the Chartiers creek, lowering the channel, and repairing the overflow channel, the Carnegie Shade Tree Commission called upon TreeVitalize — a program of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy — to begin a community tree planting program for storm water absorption and beautification. More than 100 trees have been planted and plans are also being made for the implementation of rooftop gardens, green parking lots and rain barrels...all of which will help make the town safer, more sustainable and more attractive.

In line with its history and dynamic spirit, Carnegie continues to cultivate an artistic environment. It's Andrew Carnegie Free Library and Music Hall is an extraordinary historic landmark offering a fine regional library, an acoustically excellent music hall, studios, a reception hall, and its Civil War Room. With superb music programming and resident performance art companies, Stage 62 and The Carnegie Performing Arts Center, world-class performances are available throughout the year at accessible prices ranging from \$15 - \$20 per ticket.

Carnegie's Off The Wall Theater has received well-deserved, international praise and has served as home base for the

Pittsburgh New Works Festival (PNWF) for two years. Claire DeMarco of PNWF says they were drawn to the quality, charm and intimate nature of the theater and to the cultural, welcoming, supportive nature of the community and its leaders ... not to mention the growing restaurant scene and free parking.

Among Carnegie gems is the 3rd Street Gallery, owned and operated by Philip Salvato, an internationally recognized painter and talented jazz bassist who contributes greatly to the town's artistic tapestry and serves as the Artistic Director of the Carnegie Arts Initiative. The gallery hosts art shows, classes, live music, theatrical readings, philosophical discussions, book releases and other events.

From a business perspective, the value of fostering the arts is clear. Cultural events draw visitors who dine, shop and explore, contributing to healthy commerce. Add affordability and incredible accessibility, and you've got a great place to hang your hat as a resident, business owner or both — Carnegie.

The Carnegie Community Development Corporation's (CCDC) Executive Director, Joanne Letcher, says they have supported current and incoming business owners through façade grants and Business Attraction and Retention grants.

The Borough of Carnegie is working on several projects that enhance Carnegie's appeal, aesthetically and recreationally, while providing additional safety and maintaining integrity.

Thanks to a grant from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resource, two-thirds of the Carnegie Park Master Plan are now a reality. Phase one is complete and included shelter restorations and the creation of a new and improved ADA playground, dog park and loop road. Phase two will include revitalized basketball, tennis and hockey courts; ADA sidewalks; disc golf course; and new parking facilities. Also, a privately funded Pitcher Park Memorial Skatepark opens this fall.

Allegheny County is rehabilitating the bridge that crosses Chartiers Creek from 3rd Street in Carnegie Borough to Carothers Avenue in Scott Township. The scope of this work includes installation of lighting facilities, sandblasting and painting, and structure restoration.

Through the federally funded Streetscape Project, new sidewalks, landscaping and street lights have been added to 3rd Street to appropriately showcase the growing Carnegie Business District. A wayfinding program is also underway.

Borough Manager, Stephen Beuter, says "A goal of Carnegie at this point would be to sustain the great momentum that has been happening in the neighborhoods and business district over the past few years. **As an attractive location, due to the proximity to the City of Pittsburgh and the airport area, Carnegie has seen a surge in business development, business inquiries and revitalization of current businesses.** As the Borough and its offerings continue to grow, new individuals will be attracted to our town. By maintaining its natural character and adding more modern amenities, we will help to develop the next generation of Carnegie residents."

It is our pleasure to bring you the third installment of FlightLine's "Community Profile" series, an ongoing series that explores each of the PAACC's 34 vibrant, historic communities.

Carnegie Borough Quick Facts

- **Year of Incorporation:** 1894
- **Size:** 1.6 square miles
- **Location:** 5 miles southwest of Pittsburgh
- **Population:** 7,972 (per 2010 census)
- **# of Businesses:** Approx. 400
- **Website:** carnegieborough.com



Main feature photo: Historical Society of Carnegie sign. Overlay photos top left to bottom right: Dan McGrogan, Joanne Letcher and Bob Podurgiel in front of Honus Wagner Museum; East Main Street sign; Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall stage; E. Main Street's innovative "Sunflowers In The City" mural by Harry "Hawkeye" Demel; Miniature Main Street exhibit. All photos by Kelly Burgos except stage photo by Bernadette Kazmarski provided by Maggie Forbes, Executive Director of the Andrew Carnegie Free Library & Music Hall.



Article written by Kelly Burgos with special thanks to the following for providing valuable information and insight for the preparation of this article: Stephen Beuter, Claire DeMarco, Maggie Forbes, Joanne Letcher, Dan McGrogan and Bob Podurgiel.

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF CARNEGIE

HISTORY CENTER
&
HONUS WAGNER MUSEUM

Carnegie's forward motion is certainly exciting and perhaps even more impressive when you look at the borough's past. This is fairly easy to do thanks to the **Historical Society of Carnegie** and its president Dan McGrogan. Located on the first floor of the Husler Building, the society's History Center boasts a fine collection of the borough's historical documentation and memorabilia including a mesmerizing miniature model of Main Street handmade by Walter Stasik, historic military uniforms, and an Honors Wall. New to the center is a dedicated Honus Wagner Museum paying tribute to the famed Pittsburgh Pirates baseball player who called Carnegie home.

To learn more, call **412.276.7447** or visit the Historical Society of Carnegie's History Center and Honus Wagner Museum at **1 West Main Street** on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturdays from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.