



Colonial staff photo by REGINA RAHILL

Angela Hendrick sits with her son Gavin, 6, inside their Conshohocken home. Hendrick played a major role in organizing Conshohocken borough's upcoming FunFest.

Putting the 'Fun' in FunFest

By M. English
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Colonial Profile

Veteran Conshohocken civic leader Vince Flocco can't say enough about Angela Hendrick's role in organizing the borough's Oct. 7 FunFest.

"She's been involved for the past couple of years, but this year, she basically took over, and she's been fantastic," said Flocco, who coordinates the event. "She's also been one of the main people behind the resurrection of the Greater Conshohocken

Merchants and Professional Association, which started the FunFest 14 years ago."

Hendrick, president of the revived GCMPA, insists she's happy to do just about anything that promotes her hometown.

"Vince is too kind," said the local woman, owner of Beanie Bounce Party Rentals. "He's definitely a force to be reckoned with ... a major behind-the-scenes

presence for the FunFest, which raises money for the Fellowship House, the Mayor's Special Events Committee and Special Olympics. As far as the merchants association goes, he's the one who said to me in January, 'Let's resurrect this thing ... get it back on its feet.'

"The way I feel about it ... I was born and raised in Conshohocken. This is my home, so anything I can do to make Conshohocken a better place, I do."

Hendrick points to the "incredible

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growth" that's occurred in the small borough during her 36 years.

"There are probably over 2,000 businesses within that one-square-mile ... everything from American Express and the affiliates of other large firms to 'Mom and Pop' businesses — like Flocco's — that have been here forever," she said. "I think the merchants association became inactive because people got so busy running their own businesses. What we've done now is resurrect the organization with new members, a new board and lots of great ideas. Right now we have 25 members, but my goal is 50 by the end of the year."

"What's happening, you have the second and third generations of some of the town's oldest businesses and families getting involved now. And we need everybody — the older people for their perspective and maturity and wisdom and the younger people for their fresh views and new ideas."

Bottom line? Everybody wins, Hendrick said.

"Our obvious No. 1 goal is improving business for everyone and tapping into the poten-

down town, have a beer with your friends and walk home."

The 1988 Plymouth Whitmarsh High School grad "always dreamed of owning my own business" and gained plenty of informal training on jobs with a variety of local retailers during and immediately after high school. In the early 1990s, she decided to enroll at Main Line Paralegal School and spent 12 years working for Center City and suburban law firms.

Along the way, Hendrick completed a bachelor's degree in business management at Cabrini College and married husband Peter, a native of Liverpool, England. The couple's 6-year-old son, Gavin, is a first-grader at Conshohocken Elementary School.

She purchased Beanie Bounce Party Rentals from a friend two years ago.

"The opportunity was there, and I thought if I don't do it now, I never will," said Hendrick, whose firm rents entertainment gear like moon bounces and machines "for making fun foods like cotton candy and snow cones." "I also do party planning ... mostly for kids and young teens. Sweet sixteens, bar mitzvahs,

kinds of stuff. For example, I handled one moon bounce rental for a wedding."

In her "spare" time, Hendrick is an active volunteer at Sts. Cosmas & Damian Church and serves as secretary of Conshohocken Elementary's PTO. She enjoys reading — she just finished "Gone," a murder mystery by Lisa Gardner — and keeps a notepad and pencil by her bed for middle-of-the-night addi-

tions to her "to do" list.

"I probably spend 90 per cent of my day in the car, but I have a great life," she said.

Hendrick credits much of her motivation to achieve and succeed to mom Debby Davis and grandparents Evelyn and [the late] Richard Vagnoni.

"As a young person, I felt I was just a small-town girl with limited prospects," she said. "But my mother, who raised me and my sister as a single parent was always an inspiration. We didn't have a lot, but she took me to lots of different places and exposed me to lots of life lessons. So did my grandparents. They were always there for us. Now that I have a child of my own, I want him to have that, too. I also want him to know how capable women are ... and respect women. And I want him to know that the sky's the limit."

"There's just so much need out there. I have strong faith in God, and I truly feel that I was put here to serve ... to help others. So, if somebody says, 'Age, we need you,' I'm there for them."

Saturday's FunFest will take place on Fayette street between First and Third avenues from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

and 1K fun walk, sanctioned by Special Olympics. Both are set to start at 10:30 a.m. (registration at 9:30 a.m.). Additional activities, including food, arts and crafts, vendors, music and a special Kid's Korner headed by Hendrick will be available all day.

More information is available at 610-828-5544, 610-585-2827 or www.conshyfunfest.com.



FUN AT THE WHITEMARSH COMMUNITY ART CENTER — Sharyn Stem and son, Noah, work together to create an original work of art at the WCAC. Five-week sessions start Oct. 25 for parents and their two-year-olds and parents and their three-year-olds. Explore a variety of mediums including drawing, painting, printmaking and clay. Classes are held in the farmhouse in Cedar Grove Park, Conshohocken. Call 610-825-0917 to register. For a full listing of adult and children's classes check out the new Web site at www.whitemarsharts.org.