

# Stotesbury Cup Regatta Reaches Finish Line In Face of Flooding

By Bonnie Eisenfeld

Saturday, May 17, was the second day of the Stotesbury Cup, a two-day regatta on the Schuylkill River, in which more than 5,000 rowers on 950 boats from 186 high schools all over the U.S. and Canada competed. But at 7 a.m., according to Margaret Meigs, Commodore of the Schuylkill Navy, “the Schuylkill River was unrowable.”

Because of heavy rain the day before, the river was too high, the current was too fast, and the river was filled with debris. Responsible for safety and fairness, regatta referees monitor conditions, check U.S. Geological Survey gauges along the river, and decide whether the river is safe enough for the event to proceed.

The regatta was supposed to start at 8, but Ms. Meigs had to make the disappointing announcement that morning semifinals

would be canceled because of dangerous river conditions. Luckily, conditions improved, and afternoon finals could proceed at 3, starting with the larger boats first (quads, fours, and eights), followed by the smaller boats (singles and doubles).

Normally, the top 18 boats from Friday’s time trials advance to Saturday’s semifinals. Instead, the top six finishers from Friday moved directly to the finals. “We were able to complete the regatta successfully and safely despite very challenging conditions,” reported Ms. Meigs. Philadelphia’s Mount Saint Joseph Academy won the girls’ Varsity 8 title, and the Gonzaga team from Washington, D.C., won their third straight boys’ Varsity 8 title.

The Stotesbury Cup Regatta, named for investment banker and philanthropist



Excessive spring rains, like those that caused this flood on the Schuylkill April 30, two weeks later played havoc with the world’s largest high-school regatta.

Edward T. Stotesbury, has been held every year since 1927, and is the largest high-school regatta in the world. Thousands of supporters and spectators attend. Ms. Meigs calls it “a marquee event of rowing.”

## Town Square

# Penn’s Village Launches Member Healthcare Support Program

By Pat Harner, Penn’s Village board member

Do you know about Penn’s Village? It is a neighbor-to-neighbor non-profit organization founded to help people remain independent and in their own homes as they age or develop special needs. It brings together neighbors of all ages through participation in social/educational programs and shared projects. The service area extends from river to river and from Washington Avenue to Spring Garden Street.

In addition to its bimonthly programs and volunteer-support services – such as rides to doctors’ offices, errands, friendly visits, and tech support – Penn’s Village is developing a member healthcare-support program. Its purpose is to help us navigate the healthcare system. An example of this type of support might be working with you to sort out medications that may be prescribed by multiple physicians. Do they make sense to take together? Will I remember to take them at the right time and with the right foods?

Penn’s Village is also partnering with Centennial Health Services, independent pharmacy specialists in medication management and counseling, and a bright, enthusiastic group of graduate nursing students from Penn. Their role is to help define the scope of services and design the implementation of this new program, which will be “staffed” with trained volunteers and informed by focus groups of neighborhood residents. We hope to launch this program in September. Penn’s Village will continue to provide educational programs and workshops on healthy lifestyles and personal safety to support this new initiative. If you are interested in learning more about this program, call 215-732-8782.

Everyone within our Penn’s Village community, men and women, find they play multiple and changing roles. Many of our contributing members are also volunteers; volunteers eventually may find they can use the same kind of help they once provided –



Penn’s Village member Liz Martin, left, and Penn Nursing Graduate student Anne Feczko, at a focus group on Member Healthcare Support.

rides to appointments or help with grocery shopping – and rejoin as Villagers.

If you like the concept; if you are looking for services now or a place to volunteer a few hours of your time; or if you hope that Penn’s Village will be there when you, a family member or a friend needs it, we invite your inquiries. You may contact us with questions, join, or learn about upcoming events at 215-925-7333, <http://www.pennsvillage.org>, or [info@pennsvillage.org](mailto:info@pennsvillage.org).