

# PRESS RELEASE

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## A Great American Institution Enters Its Third Century

### Philomont General Marks the Nation's 250th Anniversary and Announces a New Chapter

**PHILOMONT, VIRGINIA** — On the 250th Anniversary of the founding of the United States of America, Philomont General – one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the nation – marks the occasion with a milestone of its own: the cusp of its 200th year of continuous operation, and the announcement of new stewardship to carry it forward.

The story of Philomont General is, in many ways, one which follows the arc of American history itself. The crossroads at the intersection of Snickersville Turnpike (VA734) and Philomont Road (VA630) traces its origins to a footpath traveled by indigenous peoples long before European settlement, and noted in the personal diary of a sixteen-year-old George Washington in 1748. In March of 1825, the name Philomont – meaning ‘*beloved mount*’ – first appeared in official records with the establishment of a U.S. Post Office. By 1827, Joseph P. Megeath, aged 27, had partnered with a member of the Gregg family to establish a mercantile store at the newly formed crossroads. His great-grandfather had arrived in the Virginia Colony in 1747 – he would build a business in a Republic.

The store has endured everything the nation has asked of its communities. The Civil War brought contested territory and burned barns to the doorstep of the village. The original store was struck by lightning and burned to the ground in 1908 – and kept serving from a vacant storefront less than 200 yards away. By 1913, the Milhollen and Pearson families had built the current structure – charred stone from the original visible in its foundation. The building weathered the First World War, the Spanish Flu of 1918, the Great Depression, and the Second World War – during which a local Red Cross chapter gathered upstairs, in the same hall which had hosted community dances, to prepare bandages for the war effort.

The Pearson family carried the store through the mid-20th century – with Laura Pearson serving as Philomont's Postmaster for 50 years. Stewardship passed through the hands of Jean Bell and Garnett Ryan, a member of the Walsh family, and ultimately to a 25-year partnership between Dr. Stephen Granger and Stanley Lickey Sr. – Fire Chief of the

Philomont Volunteer Fire Company for 32 years – who sustained the business from 1978 to 2003. Mark and Madeline Skinner carried it through the fifteen years which followed.

In 2018, Drew and Brandi Bishop – along with their children, Grayson and Evelyn – assumed responsibility for Philomont General as both stewards of its property and operators of its business. Through a global pandemic, supply chain disruptions, and the steady pressures facing small community businesses across the country, the store kept its place at the center of life in Philomont, and western Loudoun County.

Philomont General is the first stop on a Saturday morning and the last errand of a long afternoon. It is where news travels the old way – person to person, unhurried, with context and care. Where a familiar face behind the counter knows your name, your order, and, on the harder days, when to simply listen. Where the names of neighbors are still tucked neatly into a drawer of local credit ‘*tabs*’ – a quiet trust, extended and honored across generations. It is where the community of western Loudoun has come, for nearly two hundred years, to be together – because it is theirs, and they choose to sustain it.

What the Bishops did not fully anticipate – when they assumed responsibility of this remarkable institution – was the extraordinary family they would gain. The customers, neighbors, and deeply caring and committed staff who became friends. The children who grew up coming through the front door, and the older hands and hearts who have become extended family. The stories shared across a worn counter have been among the great gifts of their lives. The friendships are ones they will carry and cherish always.

It is with this same spirit the Bishops are so pleased to announce that the Carr family – a multi-generational Philomont family, with an abiding appreciation for everything this place represents – will soon assume stewardship of Philomont General as it enters its 200th year of continuous operation. The Carrs bring to this role not only the capability to carry it forward, but the character to do so with the care and commitment this institution deserves.

The Bishops will be present and engaged in the weeks and months ahead, working closely with the Carr family to ensure a strong transition – and will remain in Philomont, looking forward to supporting Philomont General as loyal customers, for many years to come.

As Philomont General enters this new chapter, the Carr family looks forward to honoring, and building thoughtfully upon, the values which have defined this place for two centuries – community, commitment, and care. Those with a genuine interest in being part of something historic, and deeply meaningful, are always welcome to send a brief message of introduction to... [hiring@philomontgeneral.com](mailto:hiring@philomontgeneral.com)

*Happy 250th, America.*

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**About Philomont General:**

Established in 1827 at the crossroads of Snickersville Turnpike (VA734) and Philomont Road (VA630), Philomont General has operated continuously for nearly 200 years — surviving war, fire, and the passage of generations to remain one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the United States. Through the stewardship of many dedicated families, it has served as the heart of the Philomont community and a quiet witness to the broader arc of American history. The store has been written about in numerous local, national, and international outlets, including the Washington Post, Food & Wine, Southern Living, and The Sunday Times of London. Philomont General offers an extensive selection of local and international wines, gourmet goods, and made-to-order sandwiches, alongside the warmth and character of a true community general store. A United States Post Office operates from within the store — a tradition of service stretching back to Philomont's earliest days. Philomont General is located at 36550 Philomont Road, Philomont, Virginia 20131 – in the heart of western Loudoun County. For more information, visit [philomontgeneral.com](http://philomontgeneral.com).

#PhilomontGeneral | #Philomont | #Loudoun | #SnickersvilleTurnpike | #America250