



For an insider's look at Philadelphia history, we have an in-house expert

When she was 17, Cathy Siegl took a trip that would spark a lifelong interest in the American Colonial era. As her family traveled to Florida, they passed billboard after billboard for the newly established Colonial Williamsburg, and Cathy begged her father to let them stop and check it out. Later, Cathy's interests in the Colonial and Federal periods found their focus in the Philadelphia's Independence National Historical Park.



Today, Cathy, now a resident at White Horse Village, introduces others to fascinating stories from the founding of our nation by volunteering to lead walking tours in Philadelphia with the Independence Historical Trust, which supports the park. In June, she led a special tour for some of her fellow residents.

Philadelphia was at the epicenter of the Revolutionary War and the creation of our government, from the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to the creation of landmark institutions like the first Bank of the United States. (The bank is one of Cathy's favorite spots, and thanks to the Broadway musical *Hamilton*, she says, it has received a boost in popularity.) This is a big year for the national park and its friends as the nation celebrates its 250th anniversary, and the first national bank building reopens in July after restoration.

Cathy has earned her certification as a guide and has been leading tours for more than 20 years now. In the summertime, she leads free Twilight Tours, which are aimed at people visiting the city who may not have time to see the sites during the day when the park is open. Sometimes

one or two people show up, and sometimes 30 or so. Visitors come from all over the world and across the U.S., and the tours vary based on what people are interested in seeing.

"I have a lot of fun," Cathy says. "I love it." She's drawn in by the way there's always something new to learn about history. "I love reading, and belong to a history reading group. I read as much as I can about the period."