



the fifth wheel

JULY 2022

[HTTP://WWW.CORVAIR.ORG/CHAPTERS/LVCC](http://www.corvair.org/chapters/lvcc)

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Next Meeting: 3rd Saturday of July!



Date: Saturday July 16 2022
 Time: 10 AM
 Place: America On Wheels
 5 North Front Street
 Allentown, PA 18102

We'll also be meeting on Sunday August 7 in Corvair Row at Das Awkscht Fescht. Look for the the LVCC EZ-Up!.

LVCC Dues are Due! If you haven't already done so, please pay up for August 2022 through July 2023. Price? Still only \$10 for CORSA Members. \$15 for all others. You can pay in person at our July meeting or at Das Awkscht Fescht or by mail to LVCC Secretary / Treasurer Dick Weidner, 2304 Main Street, Northampton, PA 18067. Please make your check payable to LVCC, Inc.

A 2004 Chrysler Sebring....

By Chris Tsui

Source: <https://www.thedrive.com/news/>. This article written by Chris Tsui was also published in the July 2022 Corvair Atlanta Newsletter.

2004 Chrysler Sebring With a Chevy Corvair Body and Airbrushed Patina Hurts the Soul. Pushing "respect all builds" to the limit.

We've seen a lot of questionable custom automobiles over the years. I'm sure there have been cars worse than a Chrysler Sebring with the body of a Chevy Corvair and airbrushed patina, but I can't seem to remember what they are at the moment. But there's gotta be, right?

If, however, the idea of an old American car wearing the grafted skin of another, even older, completely unrelated American car sounds appealing, you're in luck, because the aforementioned "Chrysler Corbring" actually exists and is for sale right now in Parkland County, Alberta. Listed on Facebook Marketplace for the Canadian equivalent of about \$4,500, this topless Detroit mutant is, at its core, a 2004 Sebring Convertible (the car of choice for one Michael Gary Scott).

On the surface, however, it's been modified to look like a 1962 Corvair Monza convertible with paint-based simulations of the kind of wear and tear a Chevy from the '60s would suffer if it was left out in the rain for the past six decades. Also, check out the creepy metal hands that hover in front of the door mirrors.

Don't get it? Yeah, neither do I.

"Is insured and registered," reads the listing. "Carfax included. No accidents. Runs and drives great and ready to enjoy. Was recently cruising down the highway at [75 mph] with the top down. Got tons of looks." I don't doubt that this thing would get tons of looks going down the highway. Not sure it's the sort of looks you really want, though.

Underneath the rubberneck-worthy styling is the Sebring's 2.7-liter V6 which has apparently been in service for over 175,000 miles. The seller also mentions that it's got a "fully functional power top with no rips or tears" along with a "custom tilt front end" as well as "recent tires."

As dubious as this car may be aesthetically speaking, it's nice to know it probably won't let you down mechanically anytime soon.

Got a tip or question for the author? You can reach them here: chris.tsui@thedrive.com

SURGEON GENERAL WARNING! **Submitted By Phil De Groot**

Editor's Note: This article appeared in the July 2022 issue of The Drip Line, the official newsletter of the Pikes Peak Corvair Club

The surgeon general warns that cigarette lighters may be harmful to your Corvair!



In the eight years that I have owned my 1962 Corvair it has been perfectly reliable. I have logged thousands of miles in several states attending numerous car shows including five Tri State meets.

While traveling to this year's Colorado Concours, I was dealt a small dose of humility about the reliability of an old car on a 500-mile trip. I was quickly reminded that despite the reliability of my Corvair, the majority of the parts are 60 years old and subject to the ravages of time.

I left for the Colorado concours shortly before 1 AM to take advantage of the cool weather and light traffic. The trip was pleasant and uneventful as the lights of Denver came into view.

As I exited I-70 for C-470, my car suddenly lost all power and both warning lights came on. As the car coasted to the shoulder, my mind raced with numerous possible scenarios including a clogged fuel line, dead battery, or the dreaded thrown fan belt.

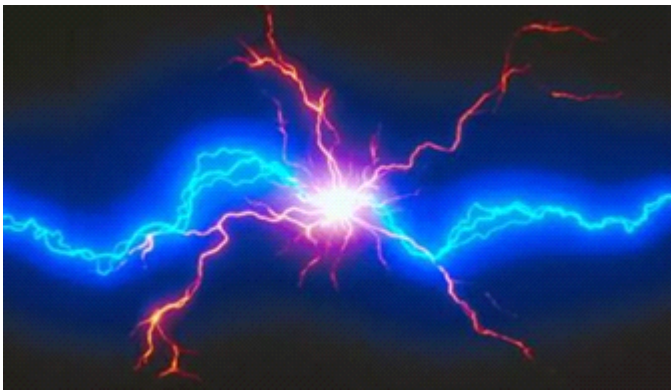


Yes, This Is a 2004 Chrysler Sebring!



Trying to diagnose a broken Corvair on the side of the free-way at 4 AM is a terrifying experience. Small dim tail lights, the absence of four-way flashers, and no ambient light seemed like a recipe for disaster and a target for a distracted motorist. As I opened the deck lid and surveyed the engine compartment I found the fan belt to be intact and no visible problems. So the immediate order of business became moving my car to the next available exit to further diagnose the problem.

As I got back in the car to attempt to restart it, I decided to unplug my GPS unit that was plugged into the cigarette lighter fearing an electrical drain on the battery. As I pulled the power adapter out of the cigarette lighter I was rewarded with a handful of bright orange sparks similar to a backyard



Independence Day celebration.

Now, with multiple problems developing, I ran back to the car and unplugged the battery. Thinking quickly with the battery disconnected, I reached blindly under the dash, felt for the wire behind the cigarette lighter and yanked it out. With the immediate danger of an electrical fire behind me I decided to attempt to start the car and move it to safety. To my surprise, the car started and ran perfectly.

After finally making it to the site of the car show, I attempted to go over the sequence of events in my mind to figure out what had happened. I came to the conclusion that the short circuit in the cigarette lighter was drawing power away from the ignition coil causing the car to stall out.

After speaking to Steve Goodman and William Pearce my conclusion was verified. It was brought to my attention by Steve and William that the cigarette lighter on the Corvair draws power directly from the battery without going through the fuse block. I am not sure if this was a design flaw, or a cost cutting measure by The GM bean counters to keep prices low on Chevrolet's most inexpensive car.

William shared a story about his Corvair suffering the same problem. When his cigarette lighter failed, it filled the cabin

of the car with smoke as the wiring harness slowly burned. Luckily, his quick thinking to disconnect the wire at the back of the lighter saved his beautiful wagon. Rick Beets also shared a story that, upon purchasing his Corvair, he found the wiring behind the lighter to be badly burned prior to his ownership from the same problem.

Upon returning home, I performed a thorough inspection of the electrical system on my car including checking the entire harness, coil, distributor, and generator. Luckily, I found no damage other than the melted remains of the cigarette lighter.

In the future, I plan to replace the entire cigarette lighter assembly and modify the wiring for safety. The plan is to splice an in-line fuse between the main harness and the lead that goes to the back of the lighter.

Many thanks to Steve and William for sharing their knowledge about Corvair electrics and to Rick Beets for offering his nearby garage in the event I needed to conduct further repairs. Additional thanks to William and his determination to see myself and my Corvair home safely at any cost- even if it meant retrieving his truck and trailer from home!

So learn from my ordeal, keep an eye on those cigarette lighters, even if you never use it. The heating element inside can corrode and short out with time. Consider either unplugging the wire on the back or wire in an inline fuse- an easy and inexpensive fix.

If three club members have experienced the same problem, it should definitely raise a red flag with others. I shudder at the thought of a burned up Corvair on the side of the road. My 62 Monza has given up cigarette (lighters) for good. The surgeon general would be proud!

Steering Wheel Return in Cars by Mike Dawson

Source: July 2022 issue of Vair Cor, the official newsletter of the Heart of America Corvair Owners Association. This article is one in The Preventive Maintenance Series authored by Mike Dawson.

One of the things that has always made Corvairs fun to drive is the quick and light steering. No power steering necessary, just drive and enjoy. However, there are a lot of issues that can detract from that enjoyment, including having the steering wheel making slow or no return to center at the completion of a turn. If you experience a slow or "dead" steering wheel once you complete a turn, the following may contain useful suggestions. In no particular order since you may find one or all to be issues.

- Underinflated tires. And the recommendation is a 10-12 psi difference from front to back (such as 25 front and 35 rear).
- An idler arm that is freezing up due to lack of lubricant. They sometimes start to creak.
- An aftermarket nylon pitman arm bushing that is galling in the sleeve (common issue). If you have a nylon bushing, they need to be taken apart and lubed as part of regular maintenance. The original rubber design is actually best since it helps the wheel return due to wind up and release, plus it absorbs road shock that otherwise would be transmitted into the steering box.
- Four tie rod ends along with four ball joints have to be free and lubricated.
- The steering box may need lubricant; there is a plug for doing that. The steering column has one or more bearings/joints and although rare, they can be dry and rusty causing hard turning.
- Misadjustment of the steering box. Remove the nut and washer holding the steering wheel on the shaft and check that the two alignment marks match. They must match before you adjust the sector/ball nut lash. Then check the box adjustment; the shop manual describes the adjustments and specs. When you make the steering box lash adjustment, it must only be finger tight and made with the road wheels straight ahead.
- Corvair's light front end is made more stable while driving by adding positive caster. Along with stability, another function of caster is to help with steering wheel return. Cars require between $1\frac{3}{4}$ and 3 degrees (the '60 was set at $3\frac{3}{4}$), check the manual for your specs. Caster is checked with a gauge and is adjustable using the struts that connect the bottom of the A arm to the suspension. Not easily done, since the procedure may require torch work and new parts, so plan ahead.

To initially determine if there is a mechanical issue or if caster adjustment is the problem, you could raise the front end, separate the pitman arm from the center link, and turn the steering wheel lock to lock with one finger. If that is successful, separate the idler arm from the center link and turn both of the joints by hand. Support the center link with wire or rope so it will not drop down and try turning the front wheels with two hands.

To further check just ball joints, remove the two outer tie rod ends from the steering arms and turn the wheels in and out. They should turn smoothly and equally. If there is no

evidence of binding and the steering wheel still does not return after turns, checking the caster would be next. The caster setting would also need to be the same from side to side to prevent drift or brake pulling.

LVCC Meeting Notes

As scheduled, we had our most recent club meeting on Saturday, June 18 at the America on Wheels Museum. We were hoping to see more of you, but attendance was limited to Bob King, Allan Lacki, Scott Oberholzer and Dick Weidner.

Dick reported that the club's bank account balance remains the same as before; no change at \$1,595. Topics of conversation included wind whistles, window adjustment, steering box adjustment, etc.

Bob talked about some of the work he completed on Bob Weideman's Forward Control Corvair. Dick described the proper sequence of operations for adjusting Corvair steering boxes. The big nut at the front of the box gets adjusted first; then trimmed out using the small screw on the top.

Al Lacki told a story about CORSA concours competitors putting socks on the foot pedals of their Corvairs to keep the pedals from getting dusty. No, not driving in your socks. Yes, putting socks on the pedals.



Bob King proposed that we could provide some variety to our meetings by holding some at local car shows or cruises.

The meeting ended with a discussion about installing above-ground pools(!) The meeting began around 10:15 AM and lasted about a half-hour.

CPF Raffle Car Winner Thrilled! **By Josh Deitcher**

Josh is one of the Corvair Preservation Foundation's Western Division Directors

Congratulations to Jeffrey Ross of San Mateo, California, the 1961 Corvair CPF Raffle winner!

Interesting fact; Jeffery joined the San Francisco Bay Area Corvair Club (SFBA) earlier this year and didn't own a Corvair.

Jeffrey absolutely loves it. He sends me at least five photos a week. Our chapter is having our annual picnic in Aug. It isn't too far from where he lives so I am hoping he takes the car across the bridge so we can see it in person.

I have attached a few photos for you guys.

1 is taken in Woodland. Woodland is home to Alice's Cafe. Some of you may know of that movie. Woodland/La Honda is also where the Merry Pranksters and Timothy Leary did a lot of *ahem* mind exploration in the 1960's.

2 is a recent one from Jeffrey's HS at a local 4th of July parade. So, the car is being driven and enjoyed.

3 is some Corvair print art he had framed. If you look closely at the bottom frame, you will see the winning raffle ticket.

He is officially a "Corvair Lifer" like us.



As you know, the CPF Raffle Cars are all donated and proceeds help fund the museum's operating expenses: rent, lights, maintenance, etc. So you know what it takes to keep your car on the road; imagine that times 10 as that is what the museum keeps operating.

All donations are tax-deductible and support a very worthy cause. We appreciate everyone's help, and if you have a car that you would like to donate to help the Museum stay open for all to enjoy, please contact the CPF President at mrhvair@aol.com. Thanks to all who donated!



Corvairs at July 4 Fleetwood Auto Show



Pristine '63 Monza entered by Howie Dunlap of Pottsville. We gave him a copy of our newsletter.



Allan Lacki's '66 Monza. By mid-afternoon, this shady spot was blazing in sunlight.



Keith Weller puts his '66 Corsa on display at many local shows. He's a member of the V8 Registry.



Not a Corvair, but at least one of us should be familiar with this Chevy BelAir.



Calendar of Events

Cruise Nights Go to <https://carmacruisefinder.com/> It's easy to use and lists more cruise events than we could possibly fit in this newsletter!

Day-Time Car Shows & Events:

Saturday July 9, 2022. 6th Annual Centerport Fire Company Car Show. Location: Central Berks Fire Company, 111 Callowhill Street, Centerport, PA 19516. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Day of show price: \$14 per show vehicle. Spectators free. Prize drawings all day. Live music. Food & refreshments on-site. Contact Kevin Miller (484) 955-5631. Email: kmiller-safety@yahoo.com

Tuesday through Saturday, July 12 to 16, 2022. CORSA International Convention. Location: Crowne Plaza Atlanta SW Peachtree City Hotel and Conference Center, 201 Aberdeen Parkway, Peachtree City, GA 30269. Price: Varies according to events selected. Concours, Autocross, Rally, Economy Run, Tech Sessions, All-Corvair Car Show and more. Registration opening soon. For further info, visit www.corvair.org and click on "CORSA News & Events".

Saturday July 16, 2022. 45th Annual Nazareth Days Car Show. Location: 475 Broad Street, Nazareth, PA 18064. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Rain Date: 7/17/2022. Price: \$15 per car if pre-registered. Day of show: \$20.00. To pre-register, go to Lehighvalleythunderbirdclub.com All cars welcome. No motorcycles. Phone: (601) 703-6315 Email: spokes5662@gmail.com Website: Lehighvalleythunderbirdclub.com

Saturday July 16, 2022. Skyline Drive Corvette's In-Vette-Tational. Location: Oley Fire Company Fairgrounds, 26 Jefferson Street, Oley, PA 19547. Time: 9 AM to 2 PM. Rain or shine. Day of show price: \$20 per car. Corvettes, along with all makes & models of cars & trucks - Antique, custom, classic & street rods welcome! 14 classes plus special awards. vendors, live music, tricky tray auction, door prizes, 50/50, dash plaques. Email: invette@skylinedrivecorvettes.org <https://skylinedrivecorvettes.org/in-vette-tational>

Sunday, July 17, 2022. Cars & Coffee Lehigh Valley with American Muscle Theme. Location: SteelStacks, 101 Founders Way Bethlehem, PA 18015. Time: 8 AM to 12 PM. This event will be focused toward American Muscle and America made vehicles. The main parking lot will be reserved for these types of vehicles and our specialty areas will have exotics and America muscle vehicle focus. Our other parking areas will be open to all makes and models. <https://tinyurl.com/3uteshyv>

Friday through Sunday, August 5 - 7, 2022 Das Awkscht Fescht. Location: Macungie Memorial Park, 50 S Poplar Street, Macungie, PA 18062. Price: \$15 per show car per day. Pre-Registration Required - July 1 is the due date! This three-day event includes Variety Show (Friday), Antique & Classic Car Show (Saturday), Antique & Special Interest Car Club Show (Sunday), Barbecue Cook-Off, Kids' Shows & Activities, and Picnic in the Park. LVCC will have it's own special Corvair show aisle there on Sunday. <https://awkscht.com>

Saturday August 13, 2022. First State Corvair Club Show. Location: Limestone Presbyterian Church, 3201 Limestone Rd, Wilmington, DE 19808. Time: 9 AM to 3 PM. Rain or shine. Price: \$20 per car, includes free lunch. This is an All-Corvair show with door prizes, hospitality tent, 50/50 raffles and trophies. Contact Michael Slotwinski, 302-377-5268

Sunday August 13, 2022. St. Paul's Annual UCC Car Show. Location: 301 West Penn Avenue, Robesonia, PA 19551. Time: 10 AM to 3 PM. Day of show price: \$10 per show car. Rain or shine. Antique, classic, modified, special interest. Show will be held behind the church in the grass lot. Fun, fellowship, homemade food. Five trophies to be presented. For info, call Robert Seifrit after 5 PM. (484) 256-8075.

Sunday August 28, 2022. 10th Annual Reinholds VFW Car, Truck and Bike Show. Location: 250 Brunners Grove Road, Reinholds, PA. Time: 9 AM to 2 PM. Day of show price: \$15 per show vehicle. Spectators free. Rain date: Sunday September 11. Trophies, music, food, BBQ chicken, vendors, door prizes. For info, call Ted (717) 342-6528. Email: tnlsauer@gmail.com

(Continued on page 9)



Calendar of Events (cont'd)

Saturday September 3, 2022. Calvary's Car Show. Location: Calvary Bible Fellowship Church, 4891 Penn Avenue, Sinking Spring, PA 19608. Time: 10 AM to 3 PM. Price: \$0 – that's \$0 – per show car. Even though the price is free, pre-registration is suggested to ensure your space. Free refreshments for car show participants and spectators (burgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, etc.) Free activities for children (inflatables, playground, etc.) Door prizes. 20+ trophies to be awarded (hoods must be open to compete). Contact: Becky at (610) 207-7353. Email bekythompson327@gmail.com

Saturday, September 10, 2022 Gasket Goons Hot Rod Bash Car Show. Location: Springtown Athletic Association Park, 2943 RT.212 Springtown Pa. 18081. Time: 8:30 AM to 6 PM. Trophies at 3 PM. Price: \$10 per person. 1000 show cars, 1969 and older cars and trucks. Vending, swap meet, bands, beer, pin up contest, bicycle show, valve cover racing, large swap meet, DJ, pin stripping, 50/50, food, show shirts, custom hand-made trophies. Silver Creek has plenty of shade and pavilions with loads of picnic tables. First 1,000 cars get dash plaques. This is a kid friendly show with a great playground for the kids. So come on out for a fun day. Shuttle bus service provided if spectator lot get full. Alternate parking at 1955 Leithsville Road, Helletown.

Saturday September 17, 2022. 43rd Annual Corvair Day by the CPCC. Location: Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR), 100 Baltimore Road, York Springs, PA 17372. Use GPS address for Latimore Valley Fairgrounds (which is part of EMMR) 314 Latimore Valley Road, York Springs, PA 17372. Join us for our 43rd Annual Corvair Day Car Show Event being held at Eastern Museum of Motor Racing (EMMR) on September 17, 2022 from 9 AM to 3 PM. Featuring Free Dash Plaques, Door Prizes, Silent Auction, Bake Sale, and much more. 20 Trophies Awarded with additional "Best of Show" and "Longest Distance" awards. Additional information on our website at <http://www.centralpacorvairclub.org/>

Sunday September 18, 2022. AACA 36th Annual See You in September Car Show. Location: Tri-County Little League Baseball Field, McAdoo, PA. Time: 8 AM to 2:30 PM. Day of Show Price: \$15 per show vehicle. Swap space and car corral available. Date is rain or shine. Food, beverages, live music, judging, trophies. Contact Joe Forish (570) 929-2017. Website: www.araaca.com

Classified Ads

For Sale: For Sale – Deande steel dual axle open car trailer. Tilt fender, concealed ramps, spare tire, sway control, weight distributing hitch, 10,000 lb., tie downs, New silver paint in 2021. Located in Stewartville, NJ (near Phillipsburg, NJ). \$3,500.00 Ron Peles, 908-479-1218. ronaldpeleslaw@gmail.com

For Sale: New Parts: Brakes hoses, air filters, oil filters, tune-up parts, brake shoes, shocks, tail light lenses, gaskets, plugs, cables, choke pull offs, electrical switches, gas filters, caps, backup switches, suspension parts, engine bearings, valves, emblems, exhaust, turbo parts, patch panels, early bezels, head studs, 140 exhaust extractors, Y pipes, mufflers, fuzzies, clutch cables, lower bracket, heim joints, models, magazines, CORSA magazines, Hot Wheels, Racing Champions cars and much, much more. Contact Larry for pricing. Used Parts: Too many to list. Larry Asheuer Call 267-994-1569 or email: a-lcorvair@msn.com

For Sale: Now offering Corvair head work. Valve-seat grinding, Pro Flow grinding/ polishing, cleaning-cutting head gasket surfaces, de-flashing, thread repair. (I have measurement equip to confirm correct gasket surface depths). HV carb rebuilding. Top engine cover modifications for one gasket, no more leaks! Sound proofing interiors, gas tank replacements, as well as rear and front axle bearing units. Late rears in stock! Bob King kcorvair@ptd.net or text/call to 610-442-2873.

Suspension Services: I have over 45 years of suspension experience and I'm extremely experienced with the Corvair suspension systems as well as all other makes of vintage cars. I also have a computerized alignment system here so all repairs can remain in house. Now that I'm retired, I have more available time to repair these great cars. I can be reached at 267-424-4911. Jeff Marvill, Perkasio, PA

We Meet Here!



Hub Cap Café, located inside the America On Wheels Museum. You do NOT need to pay the usual admission fee. Simply explain that you are with the Lehigh Valley Corvair Club, courtesy of Rich Greene.



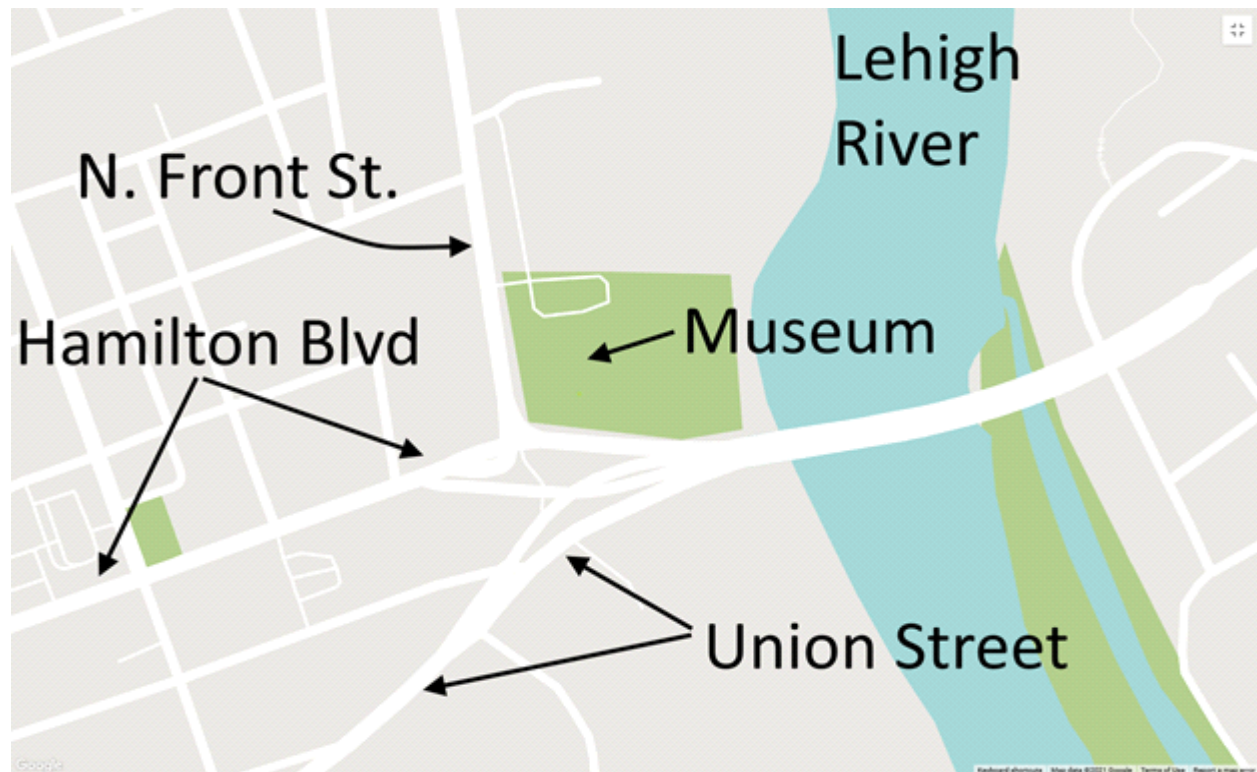
Date: Saturday July 16, 2022

Time: 10 AM

Place: America On Wheels Museum

5 North Front Street

Allentown, PA 18102



Located near the Lehigh River, where Hamilton Street meets Front Street, the museum is both easy to find and easy to get to. Spacious parking beside the building offers plenty of room for even large groups.

LVCC Officers

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