

Today, Trolley Car Café Owner Ken Weinstein released the following statement announcing the closing of Trolley Car Café in East Falls:

Today, I am sharing with mixed emotions that Trolley Car Café will cease operations on Wednesday, June 30, 2021. This is especially bittersweet given the Café recently celebrated its 10-year anniversary and I just reached 25 years in the restaurant business since I first opened Mt. Airy's Cresheim Cottage Café in 1996.

I am extremely proud of my hardworking employees and appreciate the leadership of Trolley Car Café General Manager Jasmine Fields. I am especially proud that the Café continued to serve our community, with takeout and outdoor dining, during the challenging pandemic.

However, the Café was not immune to the economic pressures caused by the COVID-19 shutdown. These measures were necessary to protect public health but had a devastating impact on restaurants and many other small businesses throughout our city and region. I hope government at all levels will continue to step up and make sure that resources and incentives are available for a speedy recovery for all impacted businesses.

We are grateful to our many customers who supported us throughout the past decade. We know that our regulars will be especially concerned about what will happen to our hard-working employees when the Café closes. We understand and share those concerns.

As a result, here are a few steps we are taking to treat our staff with the respect they deserve:

- We are providing employees with more than four weeks' notice prior to closure.
- Every staff member who stays through the June 30th closure will receive a bonus payment.
- We will connect Café staff with other restaurants and coffee shops seeking quality employees.
- We will assist employees with resume writing and interview preparation. We will also provide letters of recommendation for all employees who request one.

I am very hopeful for the future of the restaurant industry in Philadelphia, but the pandemic helped me realize it was time to transition out of hospitality and put my focus entirely on reinvesting in our communities through our popular Jumpstart Philly Training and Loan Program and improving our neighborhoods via Philly Office Retail's blight removal activities.

To that end, we are actively seeking a new quality restaurant tenant for the Bathey House that currently houses the Café. It is a wonderful location and I know it will be the future home of a thriving food business that continues to serve our East Falls community! Interested restaurant operators should contact JeJuan Ford at JeJuan@PhillyOfficeRetail.com.

The restoration of the Bathey House, and the opening of Trolley Car Café 10 years ago, resulted in the revitalization of the East Falls commercial corridor. While I am sad about the closing of the Café, I am confident that a new quality restaurant at the Bathey House location will continue our mission of connecting the Fairmount Park Recreation Path to area businesses. We

enjoyed working with the East Falls Development Corporation over the years to host and sponsor many community events and activities that added to the vitality of the East Falls community.

Thank you again to our loyal customers for their support and patronage, not only throughout the pandemic, but over the entire decade that the Trolley Car Café served great food with friendly service. You will be missed!