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Raised in Radnor, PA, Patricia Brennan has been providing Wealth Management advice right here in West Chester for over 25 years. She is a Georgetown University graduate and earned her CFP® designation in 1990. She is a recognized leader in her industry and serves as the first Chairwoman on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance. Patti has just been selected as one of 400 Top Advisors by The Financial Times, another leading global brand and highly respected worldwide. On a local level, Patti, her husband, Ed, and their four children reside in West Chester, where she is also active in her community. Patti currently serves as a board member for the Chester County Economic Development Council, Cuddle My Kids, and for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.

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HOTHEADS





HOTLIST



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From the Editor



From all saints to war veterans, election day to Thanksgiving—plus Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday— November is brimming with excitement. And so is this month's issue.

In November we give thanks to Local Heroes, the Community Volunteers in Medicine who provide aid to those in need, and for groups like Willistown Conservation Trust for their stewardship of open spaces, like Ashbridge Preserve.

We suggest you make plans to "Dream A Dream" with *Les Misérables* at Media Theatre and lose yourself in the "Magic of the Music" with the Baroque and Renaissance sounds of Vox Ama Deus. You can get a head start on holiday shopping with a preview in our Gift Guide. Remember Small Business Saturday, November 29, for the best in local shopping.

This is our month to revisit Phoenixville in "True as Steel" for a touch of history and a taste of its restaurants. We talk to Ryan Conroy, President of the historical society, to find out more. And we learn about Olde Bulltown Village near Elverson when we visit the Crockett House, our Home of the Month.

We check in on what's happening at senior communities and discover things are "Getting Better All the Time" with pools, bowling alleys, bocce ball courts and more.

For food fans, our dining reviewer reports on exciting changes at General Warren Inne, while Brandywine Table shares how to expand time with "Slow Cookers & Pressure Cookers."

And we're hosting another Facebook photo contest—"Capturing Chester County." Vote for your favorite from our semi-finalist photos on page 66-67.

Finally, we've got pages of Family Fun and other events of the season. There's so much to do! We hope you have time to enjoy this issue!

Thank you for reading.

Jo Anne Durako

Editor



COUNTY LINES

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VOLUME 38, NUMBER 3 November 2014



NOVEMBER 2014

32 **DREAM A DREAM: LES MISÉRABLES** Zoey Mills

34 MAGIC OF THE MUSIC: VOX AMA DEUS Christopher Wilwol

37 LOCAL HEROES **Community Volunteers in Medicine**

-38A WALK IN THE WOODS Rediscovering Chester County at Ashbridge Preserve William R. Hartman & Blake Goll

> 42 **PHOENIXVILLE: TRUE AS STEEL** Jaimielynn Cooper

> > 48 SENIOR COMMUNITIES Getting Better All the Time Ed Malet

DEPARTMENTS

14 BEING WELL 17 GOOD TO KNOW **19 OF SPECIAL NOTE 20 BEST LOCAL EVENTS 66 PHOTO CONTEST**

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Make a Statement



52 **GUIDE TO SENIOR COMMUNITIES**

62

HOME OF THE MONTH **Crockett House** in Olde Bulltown Village Laurel Anderson

68

HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE

71

DINING OUT General Warren Inne Lise Monty

11

BRANDYWINE TABLE Cook on Your Own Time **Slow Cookers & Pressure Cookers** Laura Muzzi Brennan

> 75 FOOD NEWS 81 TALKING WITH ... 82 INDEX

Cover photo of Downingtown area in autumn light by Andrew Seymour



What You Need to Know About **Prostate Cancer Screening**

Thomas F. Lanchoney, M.D.

For men, prostate cancer is the most common non-skin cancer and second leading cause of cancer death.

ver the past few years, prostate cancer screening has become a confusing topic for middle-aged men. Doctors have found an increasing number of patients with serious misinformation about prostate cancer screening and its implications. And, media coverage has prompted many men to forego most, if not all, testing for the disease.

Hopefully, this article will help clarify what prostate cancer screening involves and who should be tested.

How is prostate cancer screening done?

To begin, the prostate is a walnut-sized organ, deep in a man's pelvis, resting on top of the rectum and attached to the bladder and

urethra. Its simple function is to make semen, and, thus, it's a nonessential organ. Because of its location, the prostate can be examined by a routine rectal exam in a physician's office. A PSA blood test (prostate-specific antigen) may also be done as part of an exam.

If you've followed stories in the press, you know the PSA test is a useful, though not perfect, screening tool. Generally, the PSA test reading should be less than 4.0, but there are variations on how this result may be interpreted.

The difficulty with the PSA test relates to its lack of cancer specificity. While the reading may be elevated as a result of prostate cancer, it can also be abnormal because of other, non-cancerous reasons-such as prostate or urinary infection, benign prostate

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enlargement, or even recent ejaculation. It's often difficult for a urologist to determine the basis for an elevated reading, and so additional testing-often including a prostate biopsy-may be recommended.

Most doctors agree that there's been overdiagnosis and over-treatment of some clinically insignificant or non-life-threatening prostate cancers-small volumes of slow growing cancers, unlikely to shorten a man's lifespan. However, it's also noted that as a result of screening guidelines, prostate cancer deaths have declined in the U.S.

The National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) recently cited two important studies that looked at PSA screening over a 13-to-15-year period. The results showed not only significant reduction in mortality but also that only 98 patients need to be screened and five treated to save one life, paralleling breast cancer screening.

It's also been shown that 30 to 50 percent of men detected with prostate cancer don't require treatment, although a significant percentage harbor potentially aggressive disease. Because of this, an increasing number of patients elect active surveillance-continued close observation of their cancer-and understand that treatment could be recommended in the future.

What are screening guidelines?

To help clarify this issue, the American Urological Association (AUA) and National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) released guidelines citing the benefits of targeted PSA screening. All screening should be undertaken after thorough discussion with a physician.

The AUA recommends prostate cancer screening combining PSA blood test and prostate examination on a prescribed schedule. Men should not be screened until they are at least 40 years old, regardless of family history of prostate cancer or ethnicity. Men between 40-54 should be screened only if there's a family history of prostate cancer or if they're African-American. Between 55-69, screening is recommended every two years. Screening after 70 is currently not recommended. Again, these are general guidelines and a discussion with your physician is essential.

Is other testing recommended?

Research shows there are different genetic

markers in prostate tissue and urine that can help clarify PSA results and prostate cancer diagnoses. The FDA has approved several available tests, and specialists are using these cutting-edge tests to ensure that patients get individualized evaluation and treatment.

Prostate cancer screening remains a controversial topic for men as they approach middle age. The most important advice is that men have clear discussions with their physicians and not ignore this critical topic. The future is likely to show exciting improve-





ment in screening and treatment as new research on prostate cancer continues. ♦

Thomas F. Lanchoney, MD, FACS, is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, where he did his internship and residency. A member of Urology Health Specialists, he specializes in da Vinci robotic and minimally invasive surgery. Find out more at UHSurology.com.



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Grand Slam Stories. Love a good story? From adult

diaper sales to Queen Elizabeth's corgis, the stories captured by West Chester Story Slam Selected Stories 2010-2014 will have you spellbound with tall tales told by West Chester locals. Steve Clark, two-time "Best Storyteller in Philadelphia," says the book has "brilliant comedic awesomeness and Philly sport fan-style rowdiness"

selected from the best of recent West Chester Story Slams. Catch the season's final Slam live at the Chester County Historical Society on November 11th. WCStorySlam.com.



Cycling with Style. Fall weather beckons bicyclists to the leaf-strewn pavement, including the newly expanded Chester Valley Trail at Exton Park. And while wearing a helmet will keep you safe, more fashion-savvy folks may hesitate. What to do? Bandbox Bike Helmets to the rescue! With fashion choices from wool felt fedoras to cowboy hats and straw boaters, these clever, chapeau-like helmets give the appearance the wearer not only stays in shape, but stays in style. BandboxLLC.com.

Turkey Time. Cooking this year's Thanksgiving feast may keep you busy, but having the little birds hover around the oven might not fly. Keep kids occupied this year with a little help from Activity Village, featuring feasts of fun-from coloring pages

and crafts to online games and puzzles. And as the family gobbles up the goodies, let the kids crack a joke or two from the Thanksgiving Jokes page. ActivityVillage.co.uk/Thanksgiving.



Just a few things we thought vou'd like to know this month

Celebrating South. Did you know one of the pioneers of color photography lived right in Downingtown? In a recently published Wikipedia post by retired photo-finisher and local historian, Jim LaDrew, we learned how William South made his own process of developing beautifully colored photos. So be inspired as

the colors of the trees transform to keep South's vision alive and vote for your favorite shot in our Capturing Chester County Photo Contest this November. Facebook.com/County LinesMagazine.



Collectors Calendar Friends and families of local horse lovers may be wondering about gifts for the upcoming holidays. And while you may



love to surprise your equestrian friends with their very own horse, why not give them more to adore for less? The 2015 Horses of Chester County Calendar includes photos along with key events and show listings, plus it supports equestrian causes. Award-winning photographer Ginny Jenkins' photos will have you falling in love every month. Order yours at GinnyJenkins.com.



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Main Line Antiques Show November 14–16

Over 30 outstanding East Coast dealers representing a wide range of antiques participate in this show, benefitting Surrey Services for Seniors. Visit the only antiques show on

the Main Line and see a tempting selection of fine and decorative arts, jewelry, furniture and folk art for both seasoned and new collectors. At a new location. Cabrini College, 610 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor. Opening Night Party, Fri., 6 to 9 p.m., \$100; Sat., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$12. 610-647-6404; MainLine AntiquesShow.com.

80th Running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup November 2

Join the excitement in the country, with timber racing, food and holiday shopping in the equestrian boutiques at this major anniversary of the races. Benefits the Chester County Food Bank. North of Rt. 926 & Newark Rd., Unionville. Gates open 11 a.m., Pony Hunt Cup, 12:30, Hunt Cup at 3. \$50 per car. 484-888-6619; PaHuntCup.org.

A Brandywine Christmas

November 29–January 5

Come out for a month-long Christmas celebration this year, including a model railroad with five trains running simultaneously. A Brandywine Christmas would not be complete without the traditional critter ornaments that are on display and for sale at the Museum. Brandywine River Museum, 100 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. \$10 for adults; free for children. 610-388-2700. BrandywineRiverMusem.com.





Arthur and the Tale of the Red Dragon: A Musical Panto at People's Light November 19–January 11

The holiday panto tradition continues with this world premiere about the adventures of young Arthur, Merlin and the Dame of the Lake. Fun for all ages! People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Call for curtain times. \$45-\$50. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.





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6th Annual Notable Kitchen Tour & Chef Showcase November 6

The Main Line Committee, for the benefit of The Phidelphia

Orchestra is presenting a self-guided tour of six of the Main Line's newest, unique kitchens. Each stop will feature a cooking demonstration by a notable area chef with tastetesting samples available for all to savor. More fun at shopping boutiques and gourmet marketplaces. 10 to 3. \$40. For information and tickets, visit NotableKitchens.com.

best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

Pirate Adventure Day. A morning full of piratethemed crafts for all ages. Participate in activities ranging from rope-tying to hunting for treasure. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford, 10 to noon. Free. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

The Addams Family. Music and lyrics by Andrew Lippa and book by Marshall Brickman and Rick Elice. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

NOVEMBER 2

NOVEMBER 2, 9, 16, 21

West Chester Railroad Fall Foliage Express. Enjoy a brisk fall afternoon along the Chester Creek Valley on a 90-minute journey back in time to the village of Glen Mills and back. Trains depart Market Street Station, 230 E. Market St., West Chester. Noon and 2 pm. \$13-\$15; under 2, free. 610-416-1794; WestChesterRR.com.

NOVEMBER 12-JANUARY 14

Historic Odessa Foundation Presents "The Classic Fairytale: Little Snow White." The National Historic Landmark Corbit-Sharp House is transformed into a special holiday exhibit adapted from the classic children's tale. Candlelight Tours and the Storvbook Trees Exhibit, 201 Main St., Odessa, DE. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30, \$8-\$10. 302-378-4119; HistoricOdessa.com.

NOVEMBER 15

Kennett Symphony Annual Instrumental Competition for Young Artists. A competition limited to 16 gifted young musicians from grades 9 to 12, who will perform a classical composition for solo and orchestra. Auditions are free of charge. Three prizes will be awarded. See website for details. Kendal at Longwood Auditorium, Kennett Square. 1 pm. Free. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

NOVEMBER 15-16

Kennel Club of Philadelphia National Dog Show. Top breed dogs from around the country take to the ring and contend for Best In Show at this American Kennel Club event. See it live or broadcasted Thanksgiving Day. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave.,



Oaks. Sat, 8 to 6; Sun, 8 to 5. \$7-\$14. 610-397-0100; NDS.NationalDogShow.com.

NOVEMBER 19-JANUARY 11 Arthur and the Tale of the Red Dragon: A Musical Panto. See Of Special Note.

NOVEMBER 21-23

Festival of Trees. A family event that welcomes the holiday season by showcasing beautiful trees and wreaths decorated by local artisans. A variety of events and activities make the weekend truly a holiday treat. Cokesbury Village, 726 Loveville Rd, Hockessin, DE \$4-\$6, children free. 10 to 4. 1-855-DHI-GIVE; DelawareHospice.org.



NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 14

Scrooge. Start off the holidays with the musical adaptation of *A Christmas Carol*. Enjoy toe-tapping music and unforgettable characters. A holiday treat for your family! See website for times. Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave., Wilmington. 302-655-1014; DEChildrensTheatre.org.

NOVEMBER 29

Creative Castles. At the "Enchanted Castles and Noble Knights" exhibit at the Brandywine River Museum, discover who lives in a castle. Bring your little prince or princess out to decorate a castle fit for royalty. Rt 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$12. 11 am. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

DECEMBER 4

Polar Express Read-Aloud PJ Night. Bring your children in their pajamas to listen to the story of the Polar Express. Hot chocolate and cookies provided. Brandywine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$12.7 to 8. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

DECEMBER 5-6

Malvern's Victorian Christmas. Events begin in Burke Park for the lighting of the town tree. Then stroll King Street, stop at vendors and visit shops offering complimentary refreshments. Musical performances, children's shows, carriage rides, Santa and Mrs. Claus and more through Sat. Fri, 6 to 9; Sat, 11 to 3. 610-296-9096; MalvernsVictorian Christmas.org.

DECEMBER 5-6

Old-Fashioned Christmas in Wayne. On Fri., from 5:30, enjoy strolling carolers on N. Wayne Ave., face painting and ornament decorating at Radnor Fire House, horsedrawn carriage rides on S. Wayne Ave. and, at 7:30, the Christmas Tree Lighting at Wayne Train Station led by 6ABC reporter Vernon Odom. Parade on Sat. begins at 10 am, travelling along Lancaster Ave. to the Wayne Hotel where snacks, marching bands and Santa will greet you. WayneChristmas.com.



DECEMBER 5-7

MARS Drinks Old-Fashioned Christmas in West Chester Presented by QVC. Dec. 5, The 6th Annual "Jingle Elf 5K Run" at 6:30pm followed by the parade at 7:15pm. For a complete schedule of weekend events, visit GreaterWestChester.com.

DECEMBER 6

Jingle Fest. A fundraiser that invites family, friends and dogs out to visit with Santa and much more. Shopping, dining and activities included. Benefits Horse Power for Life, a theraputic horsemanship program. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 1601 Egypt Rd., Pheonixville. 10 to 3. Free. 484-228-8358; Horse-PowerForLife.org.

ANTIQUES SHOWS

NOVEMBER 6-9

51st Annual Delaware Antiques Show. The finest offerings from more than 60 distinguished dealers in art, antiques and design. Special loan exhibition: "Historic Odessa: A Past Preserved." Chase Center on the Riverfront, 800 S. Madison St., Wilmington. Thurs, Opening Night Party, 5 to 9, \$125-\$225. Show: Fri, 11 to 7; Sat, 11 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. \$15. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

NOVEMBER 8-9

The 2014 Annual Bucks Co. Antiques Dealers Association Show. High quality show with 30 exhibitors. Eagle Fire Hall, Rt. 202 & Sugan Rd., New Hope. Appraisers on hand Sun only, 12 to 3, \$10 per item. Show hours: Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$6. 215-290-3140; BCADAPA.org.

NOVEMBER 15-16

Antiques at Kimberton Show & Sale. Longrunning quality show featuring 70 dealers from several states. Kimberton Fire Company, 2276 Kimberton Rd., Kimberton. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$5. 717-431-7322; AntiquesAtKimberton.VPWeb.com.

ART & CRAFT SHOWS....

WEEKENDS OF NOVEMBER 1 & 8 Brandywine River Museum Harvest Market.



dywineRiverMuseum.org.

NOVEMBER 5-9

NOVEMBER 2-JANUARY 25 Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit & Sale. Artists from around the world with physical, cognitive, visual and hearing disabilities submit their work to this juried exhibition and sale, 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern, Daily 8:30 to 5. 484-596-5710; MainLine-Health.org/ArtAbility.



Regional artisans display and sell their fine handcrafted objects. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Sat-Sun, 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$12. 610-388-2700; Bran-

38th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Contemporary Craft Show. A premier show and sale of contemporary museum-quality crafts, includes 195 of the country's finest and most dynamic craft artists. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadelphia. Preview party Wed, 4 to 9 pm, tickets start at \$125.

Thurs-Fri, 11 to 9; Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$15. 215-684-7930; PMACraftShow.org.

NOVEMBER 7-9

Sugarloaf Crafts Festival. More than 250 fine artisans participate in this juried show. Live music, children's entertainment and great food. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks, Fri-Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$8-\$10. 800-210-9900; SugarloafCrafts.com.

NOVEMBER 7-16

Chester Springs Studio Fine Arts & Crafts Show. A showcase for regional artists who offer a beautiful selection of works just in time for holiday shopping. Chester Springs Studio, Lincoln Bldg. Galleries, Historic Yellow Springs. Fri, Nov. 8, 6 to 9; Mon-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.

NOVEMBER 14-16 Main Line Antiques show. See Of Special Note.

NOVEMBER 13-23

Main Line Art Center's Holiday Fine Craft Sale. A popular Main Line craft show featuring fine crafts for the holidays by professional artists from the region. Nov. 13, Opening Night, 5:30 to 7:30; Nov. 20, Bubbles & Brews, Signature cocktails, craft beers & artist demos, 5:30 to 7:30. 746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. Mon-Fri, 10 to 7:30: Sat. 10 to 5: Sun, noon to 5. Free. 610-525-0272; MainLineArt.org.



FROM HOUDINI TO HUGO THE ART OF BRIAN SELZNICK

OCTOBER 18. 2014 - JANUARY 11. 2015

This exciting exhibition presents over 100 paintings and drawings by award-winning children's author and illustrator Brian Selznick. His rich and imaginative illustrations were the inspiration for the film Hugo (2011).

.....

2301 Kentmere Pkwy Wilmington, DE 302.571.9590 delart.org

This exhibition was organized by the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Texas, From Houdin to Hugo: The Art of Brian Setenck is made possible by DuPont and the Emily du Pont Memorial Exhibiton Fund. Additional support is provided by grants from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency declicated to nurturing and supporting the arts in Delaware, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. *Cover at for Riding Freedom*, 1998. Brian Setznick (born 1966). Acrylic on watercolor paper, 19 x 15 inches, 60 1998 by Brian Setznick, Courtesy of the National Center for Children's Illustrated Literature, Abilene, Favor

NOVEMBER 28-29

44th Annual Belsnickel Craft Show. The show returns to the Boyertown Senior High School with traditional crafts on display and more. Benefits Boyertown Area Historical Society's programs. 43 South Chestnut St., Boyertown. Free-\$5. Sat, 11 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. 610-367-5255; BoyertownHistory.org.

DECEMBER 5-JANUARY 31 Wayne Art Center Presents the 20th Anniver-

sary of Craft Forms. Dedicated to enhancing contemporary craft while providing a venue for established and emerging artists alike to share their creative endeavors. Open to all professional

artists. 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Opening reception, Dec. 5, 6 to 10, call for tickets. Show hours: Mon-Sat, 9 to 5. \$5 contribution. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

DECEMBER 6-13

Community Arts Center's Holiday Sale. Featuring hand made work by members of the Potters Guild with over 20 vendors. Refreshments served. Preview party Friday, December 5th. \$5; free for CAC benefactors. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 610-566-1713; Community ArtsCenter.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER 31

A Curiosity of Cabinets. If you like to think



creatively, this is the place for you. Cabinets of all design are on display at the exhibit. Last year's winners were called Jellyfish Wall Cabinet. Through December. See website for details. 610-644-5822, WhartonEsherick Museum.org.

DESIGN, HOME SHOWS

NOVEMBER 6 Notable Kitchen Tour and Chef Showcase. See Of Special Note.

EQUESTRIAN.....

NOVEMBER 2

80th Running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. See Of Special Note.

NOVEMBER 8

Standing Hope Equine Therapy. You're invited to join them for their harvest festival and open house. Bring kids for games, coloring contests, crafts, food, raffle prizes and more. Dunmovin' Farm and Greenville Farm at Second Century, LLC. 812 Guthrie Rd., West Chester. 2 to 6. StandingHope.com.



NOVEMBER 16

Chase for Conservation. Radnor Hunt Pony Club. Benefits Willistown Trust. See website for details. 610-644-4439; RadnorHuntPC.org.

FILM.....

FIRST FRIDAYS, THROUGH NOV. 7

Uptown! Entertainment First Friday Film Series. Planned to coincide with First Friday in West Chester, the series features thoughtprovoking films for the community. Check website for future titles. Knights of Columbus Hall, 110 W. Market St., West Chester. 8:30 pm. \$7.50. 484-639-9004; Uptown-WestChester.org.

FOOD & DRINK

WEEKENDS IN NOVEMBER 1-30 Chaddsford Winery Fire and Spice Weekends. Enjoy the flavors of fall at the Chadds-

ford Winery. Sit around designated fire pits while enjoying treats from vendors and food trucks on site. See website for details. 632 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. 12 to 7 pm. Free. 610-388-6221; ChaddsFord.com.

Local Farm Markets

Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Through November. Sat, 9 to 1. 215-733-9599; BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com

Coatesville Farmers Mkt., Rts. 30 & 82. Sat, 9 to 1, 201-888-8260; Facebook.com/ CoatesvilleFarmersMarket.

Collegeville Farmers Mkt., 217 E. Main St. Sat, 9 to 1. Through Nov. 22. 610-454 1050; CollegevilleFarmers-Market.org.

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Kerr Park, 1 Park La. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Town Ctr., Wellington Sq. Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., downtown. Fri, 2 to 6. Through Nov. 27. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri, 8 to 6, Sat, 8 to 4. Year Round. 610-688-9856; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

Malvern Farmers Mkt., Burke Park, Roberts Rd. & S. Warren Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Media Farmers Mkt., State St. b/w Mon roe & Gayley. Thurs, 3 to 7. Through November. 610-566-5039; MediaFarmers-Market com

Newtown Square Farmers Mkt., Mostardi Nursery, 4033 West Chester Pk. Wed, 2 to 6. 610-353-1555; PRC.org.

Phoenixville Farmers Mkt., 200 Mill St. under Gay St. Bridge. Sat, 9 to 1. Through Nov. 22. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Swarthmore Farmers Mkt., 341 Dartmouth Ave., at Swarthmore Co-Op. Sat 10 to 2. FarmToCity.org.

Upper Merion Farmers Mkt., 175 W. Valley Forge Rd. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-265-1071; UpperMerionFarmersMarket.org.

West Chester – Artisan Exchange Indoor Artisan Foods & Farmers Mkt., 208 Carter Dr. Sat, 10 to 2. 610-719-0282; Artisan-ExchangeWCPA.com.

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. Through Nov., Sats. in Dec., First & Third Sat. Jan.-Apr. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowers Aarket.com.





Featuring famous labels such as Chanel, Armani, Ferragamo and Escada. Benefits Chester County Family Academy, Acting Without Boundaries, Baker Industries and Mighty Writers. Carriage Barn at Liseter, 1 Liseter Rd., Newtown Square. Sat, 10 to 1. CommunityClothesCharity.org.

NOVEMBER 6



FUNDRAISERS See also: Outdoor Activities

THROUGH NOVEMBER 1

Community Clothes Charity Annual Sale.

"Fashion to Fund the Future" for Home of the Sparrow. The evening features boutique shops, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, runway fashion show and dinner. Benefits Home of the Sparrow. Desmond Great Valley Hotel, 1 Liberty Blvd.,





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Malvern. Shopping & cocktails, 5 to 7; dinner & runway fashion show, 7 to 9. \$85. 610-647-4940; HomeOfTheSparrow.org.

NOVEMBER 6

Safe Harbor's 4th Annual Taste of Chester County Appreciation Event. This year's

offering will include delicious food from area restaurants plus beverages from local establishments. Honors 2014 Safe Harbor Humanitarian Award recipients. Milestone Events, 600 E. Market St., West Chester. 6:30 to 9. \$40. 610-701-5680; SafeHarborOfGWC.org.



NOVEMBER 8

SHINE Gala. A dinner dance to benefit The Cancer Program of Chester County Hospital. Enjoy an open bar and a silent auction. At the Iron Chef, Jose Garces' restaurant, JG Domestic. Cira Centre, 2929 Arch St. Philadelphia. 610-431-5329; CCHOSP.com.

NOVEMBER 8

Annual Craft Show and Artisan Fair. Come out to Devon Senior Living for multiple vendors, entertainment and food. Benefits the Alzheimer's Association. Devon Senior Living, 445 N. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. 11 to 4. 610-263-2300; TheDevonSeniorLiving.com.

NOVEMBER 12

Kennett Symphony League Fashion Show. A day filled with chic fashions, silent auction, gift baskets and a delicious luncheon. Benefits the Symphony's Family Concerts. Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Rt. 52, Mendenhall. 10:30 to 2. \$45. 610-388-2100; KennettSymphony.org.

NOVEMBER 14-15

Bootless 10th Anniversary Cabaret Gala.

An evening filled with scenes and songs from past shows such as Kiss Me Kate!, Jerry Springer: the Opera, Evil Dead: The Musical and more. Enjoy a birthday cake on Friday night or dinner and dancing on Saturday night. Benefits Bootless' Capital Campaign, a non-profit arts organization. \$15-\$30. 1301 N. Broom St., Wilmington. Bootless.org.

NOVEMBER 22

Paoli Hospital's Gala "Mistletoe & Magic."

The Paoli Hospital Auxiliary invites you to celebrate life's magical moments at their annual gala with dinner, cocktails and auction. Aronomink Golf Club, 3600 St. Davids

Rd., Newtown Square. 6:30 pm. Tickets start at \$175. 484-565-1335; MistletoeAnd Magic.org.

DECEMBER 4-5

Women's Committee of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Presents A Holiday Bou-

tique. The area's finest boutiques participate to benefit CHOP. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. Preview Thurs, 5 to 9. \$125-\$1,000 (includes Fri); Fri, 9 to 3, luncheon available, \$30. 267-426-6489; Giving.CHOP.edu.

DECEMBER 6

West Chester Charity Ball. This annual event features dinner, dancing and auction. Benefits The Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children, Emergency Family Shelter for homeless families and the Homeless Prevention Program. West Chester Golf and Country Club, 111 West Ashbridge St., West Chester. Cocktail chic or black tie. 6:30 to 11:30. \$175. 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org.

GARDENS & PLANT SALES.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 23

Longwood Gardens Presents Autumn's Colors. In November the Chrysanthemum Festival transforms the Conservatory into a vibrant feast of colorful chrysanthemum blooms. View the crown jewel of the display, the Thousand Bloom Mum. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 6. Free. 610-388-1000; Longwood-Gardens.org.



HOLIDAY EVENTS & TOURS..

NOVEMBER 8-9

PA Guild Annual Holiday Fine Craft Fair. A celebration of American creativity coming to Lancaster County. Features the work of 140 craftspeople with items for sale that include pottery, jewelry, designer clothing and more. See website for details. 25 S. Queen St. Lancaster. Sat, 10-6; Sun, 10-5. \$8. 717-431-8706; PACrafts.org.

NOVEMBER 8-DECEMBER 31

Nemours Mansion & Gardens Holiday Tours. A guided walking tour with a gingerbread house of the mansion along the way. Includes Christmas trees, paper filigree quilting, original toys, ornaments and more. Reservations required. Alapocas Dr., Wilmington. \$10-\$15. 302-651-6912; NemoursMansion.org.



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NOVEMBER 22-JANUARY 4

Yuletide at Winterthur. Experience the traditions of the past and entertaining displays in this wintertime tour. Recall the Staff Sitting Room where staff were able to relax and entertain. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$20. 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org.

NOVEMBER 28-JANUARY 6

Holidays at Hagley. Programs based on early du Pont family holiday and New Year's traditions including an exhibit inspired by the winter pasttimes of the property's former residents. Rt. 141, Wilmington. 9:30 to 4:30. \$10-\$14; under 14, free. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

DECEMBER 4-13

Holiday Highlights Tour. Enjoy local shopping, food and fun for the holidays. Features 15 festive shops with holiday decorations, unusual gift ideas, coupons and more! Enter to win one of two \$375 sprees. Mommy Forward, LLC, Honey Brook. Mon-Sat, 10 to 6; Fri, 10 to 7. \$8. 484-551-5180; ShopChesterCounty.com.

DECEMBER 5-7

Hay Creek Historical Assoc. Christmas at Joanna Furnace. Enjoy an evening in the parlors of Colonial and Victorian families as they celebrate Christmas. Horse-drawn carriage rides, a Christmas Market, food, a bonfire, live nativity

and walking tours. Rt. 10, 3 mi. N. of Morgantown. Daily, 5 to 9 pm. \$7; 12 and under, free. 610-286-0388; HavCreek.org.

DECEMBER 5-14

Gnome for the Holidays. Celebrate the holidays at Christmas at the Ironmasters. Come out and see the beautiful grounds and 18th-century mansion decorated for Christmas by local businesses and charities. Historic Poole Forge, 1940 Main St., Narvon. \$5, children free. Fri, 4 to 8; Sat, 12 to 8; Sun, 12 to 5. 717-445-0472; HistoricPooleForge.org.



DECEMBER 6-7, 13-14, 20-21, 27-28 Brandywine Valley Wine Trail Holiday Open House. The wineries will be decorated in their holiday finery and will be hosting carolers, holiday musicians and special holiday sale pricing. All wineries, weekends, noon to 5. Free. Wineries may be charging regular price for tastings. 866-390-4367; BVWineTrail.com.

DECEMBER 6

Coatesville Christmas. Lively with bands, floats, antique cars, cartoon characters and entertainment. Strode Ave. to 11th St., Coatesville, 10 am, CoatesvilleChristmasParade.com,

DECEMBER 6

Chadds Ford Historical Society's Candlelight Christmas Holiday House Tour. This self-guided tour includes over 15 beautiful homes and historic sites in Pennsbury and Kennett townships. 1 to 6. \$20 advance; \$25 day of tour at the Chadds Ford Historical Society. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

DECEMBER 6

Holiday Home Tour. West Chester Public Library presents walking tour of ten homes in the southwestern neighborhood of West Chester. Plus, Tanglewood, the home of West Chester University Presidents. 10 to 3. Tickets at the Library, 415 N. Church St. or online. \$30; \$40 day of tour at the library. 610-696-1721; WCPublicLibrary.org.

DECEMBER 7, 21

Horse-Drawn Carriage Rides in Kennett Square. Ride through town, from the corner of State & Union Sts. \$5. Noon to 3. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

DECEMBER 13

Member FDC

Colonial PA Plantation's Christmas on the Form. Get into the holiday spirit and visit the



CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY Season with two Special Townwide Events in Historic New Castle, Delaware

Spirit of Christmas & "A Dickens Experience"

Free public events feature holiday crafts and vendors, street theater, character appearances from Charles Dickens', A Christmas Carol, musical performances and tours of historic homes.

Saturday, December 13, 2014 9 AM to 5 PM

Rain or Shine ~ Admission: FREE to the public

Events will be held at the New Castle Presbyterian Church, and other locations throughout the city.

NewCastlePresChurch.org/spirit \star NewCastleHistory.org



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Plantation on its closing day for the year and enjoy the decorations, tea tasting, wassailing, textile, woodworking and long rifle demos. Ridley Creek State Park, Media. 11 to 6. \$8-\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.



DECEMBER 13 The Spirit of Christmas in New Castle, DE. A full day of concerts, house tours, crafts, shop-

ping, refreshments and sharing the Christmas Spirit. Brochures at New Castle Presb. Church, 25 E. Second St., New Castle. 9:30 to 5:30. Free. 302-328-3279; NewCastlePresChurch.org.

DECEMBER 14

Candlelight Holiday Home Tour in Kennett Square. Historic homes will be decked out for the holidays and open to visitors. 4 to 7. \$20. 610-444-8141; KennettSquareHistory.org/ CandlelightHomeTour.html.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH NOVEMBER 16

Brandywine River Museum Exhibit. "Exalted Nature: The Real and Fantastic World of Charles Burchfield" and "Matthew Jensen: Alongside Tall Grasses." Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. \$6-\$12. Free Sunday mornings. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 2015 Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library Presents "Costumes of Downton Abbey." Forty costumes and accessories, worn on the period drama TV series are on display. Highights: Lady Sybil's harem pants and Lady Edith's wedding dress. Rt. 52, Wilmington. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.



THROUGH MARCH 15 Delaware Art Museum Exhibits & Events.

Through Jan. 11, "From Houdini to Hugo: The Art of Brian Selznick." Through Mar. 15, "Portable Fire: A History of Match Safes." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. Free Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

MUSIC.....

THROUGH NOVEMBER 9

Pennsylvania's Philaharmonic's Inaugural Season. This season will kick off with world-class guest artists, including pianist Simone Dinnerstein and violinist Phillippe Quint. Nov. 7, Baker Hall, 7:30 pm, Nov. 9, Asplundh Concert Hall, 2 pm. 700 S High St, West Chester. See webstite for details. PA Philharmonic.org.

NOVEMBER 5, DECEMBER 3

Kennett Flash Presents "Sip and Savor with the Serofins" Concert Series. Nov. 5, Serafin

String Quartet presents "Nordic Journey," the music of Edvard Grieg. Dec. 3, "Viennese Classical Roots." 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. 7:30. \$18. BYO. 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

NOVEMBER 13

Music on the Brandywine at the Brandywine River Museum. Pianist Andrea Lam will perform. Guests enjoy a full bar and small plate offerings are available for purchase. Rt.



1, Chadds Ford. Galleries open at 6; concert, 7:30. \$10-\$25. 610-388-8326; Brandywine-Museum.org.

NOVEMBER 15

Jazz By Night in Media. Media is the backdrop for a diverse variety of acts performing genuine jazz-from Traditional and Classic to BeBop and Hard Swing and Avant-Garde to NuJazz. State St., Media. 6 pm to 1 am. \$10-\$15. 610-566-5039; StateStreetBlues.com.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 22

Longwood Gardens 2014-2015 Perform ance Series. Nov. 13, organist Peter Richard Conte; Nov. 16, organist Wesley Parrott, 1 pm; Nov. 21, flamenco-jazz with Magos & Limón; Nov. 22, classical pianist Valentina Lisitsa. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. All concerts at 8 pm unless otherwise noted. See website for ticket prices. LongwoodGardens.org.



Austrailia's Magician. James Galea, an award-winning magician, presents magic with a wicked sense of humor while disarming audiences with his charm. Breathes new life into magic. Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$37. 1-800-37GRAND; GrandWilmington.org. NOVEMBER 7-JANUARY 9 Animation Now! Featuring five animation studios, who've collaborated to create con-

ENTERTAINMENT.....

The Chadds Ford Historical Society CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS

This year's 29th annual holiday tour features 16 properties in and around the Chadds Ford and Fairville area



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Vox Ama Deus. The Ama Deus Ensenble presents "Vienna Magic-Mozart & Beethoven." Kimmel Center, 300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. \$20-\$70. 610-688-2800;

NOVEMBER 21

VoxAmaDeus.org.

NOVEMBER 23

NOVEMBER 30

NOVEMBER 7

Delaware County Symphony Jazz Series.

A company of 70 musicians, the symphony offers four full-orchestral concerts and four chamber music conerts. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, Aston. 3 pm. \$12.610-879-7059; DCSMusic.org.

Holiday Theatre Organ Concert at The Colonial Theatre. See Phoenixville Events.

tent for the web, TV and social media, showcasing diversity and the depth of animation. Come out with your family and enjoy this two-month event. Delaware College of Art and Design, 600 N. Market St., Wilmington. 302-622-8000; DCAD.edu.



NOVEMBER 8

Ballroom Dance Party. An upbeat evening of dancing and refreshments while learning to dance across the floor with a partner. Great for beginners and experienced dancers. Preregistration rqd. \$63. 7:30 to 9. 977 Shavertown Rd., Garnet Valley. 610-658-3632; DarlingtonArts.org.

NOVEMBER 11

West Chester Story Slam. A monthly event where anyone can take the stage and tell a five-minute true story based on the theme of the night. No notes, no props and no music allowed. Chester County Historical Society,



On With The Show ...

THROUGH NOVEMBER 9

Row After Row. Regional premiere by Jessica Dickey about two hard-core Civil War reenactors in a dark comedy about friendship and bravery. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Call for curtain times. \$27-\$47. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

NOVEMBER 19-JANUARY 11

Les Misérables. An unforgettable story of heartbreak, passion and resilience of the human spirit. Featuting timeless songs such as "I Dreamed A Dream", "Bring Him Home" and much more. Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

DECEMBER 5-7

Trial By Jury and Carol Sing, present-

ed by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County during West Chester's Old-Fashioned Christmas. Courtroom 1, Chester Co. Market & High St., West Chester. Fri, 6 pm; Sat, 2 and 8; Sun, 2 pm. \$5-\$12. 610-269-5499; GSSChesCo.org.

DECEMBER 9-14

Cirque Dreams Holidaze. An international cast of over 30 artists costumed as holiday ornaments come to life and perform astonishing feats of disbelief. DuPont Theatre, DuPont Bldg., 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Call for curtain times. \$55–\$79. 302-656-4401; DuPontTheatre.com.

225 N. High St., West Chester. 8 pm. \$8. 610-429-8297; WCStorySlam.com.



NOVEMBER 14

WCU Live! Presents ... Voca People perform a cappella and beat box versions of popular favorites. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, S. High St., West Chester. 7:30. \$15–\$25. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.Edu/VisitingArtists/ VAS.asp.

NOVEMBER 18

Cornucopia! Join Brenda Tunis' class on making this classic Thanksgiving tradition.

Make beautiful flower arrangements using the seasons autumnal materials. Delaware Center of Horticulture, 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 5:30 to 7. \$35-\$45. 302-658-6262. TheDCH.org.

NOVEMBER 19

Psychic Medium Lisa Williams at The DuPont Theatre. Lisa will be doing live audience readings at The DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$47.50-\$67.50. 302-656-4401; DuPontTheatre.com.

NOVEMBER 20 Hagley Author Talk: *The Politics of Busi*-

ness and the Business of Politics in America. Join the Hagley Museum in welcoming author Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, who wrote the book discussing how lobbyists got their way in Washington, D.C. in the mid-and late-20th century. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington. 7 pm. Free. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.



THROUGH DECEMBER 21 "Treasures and Tales of Italy's Guardia di

Finanza Art Recovery Team." For the first time in the U.S., these famous art pieces will make their debut in Wilmington. A groundbreaking exhibition of recovered works will be on display at this event. Grand Opera House, Wilmington. 12 to 5. \$15. TreasureandTales.com.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

NOVEMBER 21-23

Philadelphia Marathon. Runners can expect beautiful views through Fairmount Park and along the Schuylkill River. Fri-Sat, Health and Fitness Expo and Kids Fun Run. Race begins at 7 am on Sun., 22nd St. & Ben Franklin Pkwy., Philadelphia. PhiladelphiaMarathon.com.



DECEMBER 7

Brian's Run. This community event began as a fundraiser for Brian Bratcher, a 15-year-old football player who sustained a spinal cord injury on the field. This year, the beneficiary will be Homes for Our Troops. Races start at Henderson High School, 400 Montgomery Ave., West Chester. Kid's race, 12:40 pm, \$5. 5-Mile, 1 pm, \$25–\$30. Sign up at Brians Run.org.

TOWNS, BOROUGHS & SPECIAL EVENTS.....

NOVEMBER 7

First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. *Berwyn*, 610-203-4543; BerwynDevonBusiness.com. *Kennett Square*, 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. *Lancaster City*, 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. *A Main Line ARTitude*, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine. com. *Oxford*, 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. *Wayne*, 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. *West Chester*, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; *Wilmington*, 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

NOVEMBER 8

Media's Second Saturdays. Media's version of First Fridays. 610-566-5210; Media-ArtsCouncil.org.

NOVEMBER 9

Veterans Day Parade. Join West Chester in paying tribute to American veterans on the second Sunday of November. Parade starts at Henderson High School and proceeds to Gay St. 2 pm. 610- 738-3350; Downtown-WestChester.com.

NOVEMBER 11

55th Veterans Day Parade in Media. Veterans of all wars walk together on State St. 11 am. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

SUNDAYS THROUGH NOVEMBER 16

Kennett Taste Tours. A unique three-hour walking food tour through Kennett. Discover the town's diverse cuisine choices through sweet and savory food tastings at six restaurants and two winerys. 1 pm. \$45. Flickerwood Wine Cellar, 116 W. State St., Kennett Square. TasteKennett.com; 484-734-0740. ◆

Stay in the know with everything going on in *County Lines* country. Sign up for our monthly Events Newsletter at Newsletter@ValleyDel.com

Send a description of your activity to Info@ValleyDel.com by the first of the month preceding publication. *For more events visit:*

CountyLinesMagazine.com

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Dream

this holiday

season

The French Revolution comes to Media Theatre, November 19–January 11 are to dream a dream this holiday season at the Media Theatre for the Performing Arts as you enjoy this distinctive production of *Les Misérables*. Media Theatre will be our area's only professional theater producing the original version of the show, and doing so with unique flair. Be sure to buy your tickets soon—this is must-see musical theater!

An epic story of passion, sacrifice and the resilience of the human spirit, *Les Misérables* is one of the longest running musicals in the world, approaching its 30th anniversary in 2015. Join Jean Valjean in his harrowing journey through injustice, heartbreak, love and war. Based on Victor Hugo's 19th-century novel, *Les Misérables* stands the test of time as it lifts our spirits.

Media Theatre's live orchestra will add another dimension to your experience and enjoyment of the timeless score and beloved songs. Thrill again to such favorites as "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," and "One Day More." Artistic Director Jesse Cline, who is helming the show, said "This will be a refreshing and new approach to *Les Misérables*. The show will be designed specifically for The Media Theatre stage and is not a touring production."

The talented cast includes actors John D. Smitherman, Zach Monroe and Kelly Briggs, who've performed at regional theaters and on Broadway, as well as local talent. Phoenixville's Elisa Matthews portrays the beloved Fantine, Malvern's Lexi Gwynn is the young Cosette, with Philadelphia's Sean Thompson and Rose Valley's Susan Wefel in other roles.

Even those who haven't seen *Les Misérables* before may remember Susan Boyle wowing the audience of *Britain's Got Talent* with her ethereal performance of "I Dreamed a Dream," which generated over 200 million YouTube views.

This holiday season, witness a live performance of that same haunting song and much more during Media Theatre's thrilling production. You'll want to experience the phenomenon of *Les Misérables* live! - Zoey Mills



If You Go:

Where: The Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media When: Nov. 19 – Jan. 11 Box Office: 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org Next: The Miracle Worker, Jan. 28 – Feb. 18





CELEBRATE THE 28[™] SEASON OF VOX AMA DEUS

USIC

nvision yourself settling into your chair in the music hall of a High-Renaissance castle. You watch the performers enter, decked in velvet robes and cradling viols, lutes and gambas. They take their seats and await the cue of the maestro. Silence falls over the audience ... Then with a flick of a wrist, the maestro unleashes the rich harmonies and angelic voices of the consort as music fills the hall.

Now imagine attending such a performance right here in our area.

Recreating the authentic sounds of musical compositions from the Baroque, Renaissance and Classical periods is the mission of Vox Ama Deus. And in their 28th Season, Vox continues to perform at local churches, halls and abbeys, as well as the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia.



With three divisions of performers, the ensemble offers a variety of musical experiences to enjoy. The Vox Rencissance Consort features about 20 singers dressed in period attire, accompanied by a small instrumental ensemble, playing music from the High Renaissance. Perfect for more intimate venues, these performances feature ethereal vocal works both a cappella and accompanied by instruments.

Another division, the Ama Deus Ensemble, brings together both vocal and instrumental performers, fit for performing the larger orchestral and vocal-symphonic works. Often appearing in the Perelman Theater at the Kimmel Center, this ensemble presents Baroque masterworks like Bach's *Passions*, fully-staged classical operas like Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* and choral performances like Vivaldi's *Magnificat*.

The last division, Comercia Ama Deus, features a much smaller chamber orchestra of 15 to 25 musicians, including expert soloists. The Camerata is known for interaction with the audience, the conductor and the musicians. The conductor introduces each work, setting the music in its historic, social and musical contexts, while orchestra members are also invited to describe their unique instruments to the audience.

Many Vox musicians own instruments from the period when they were originally used. Other instruments are reproductions of the originals, which are presently showcased in museums. The rich, original sound of these period-appropriate instruments creates an authentic ambience in the venue.

The founder of Vox, Maestro Valentin Radu, sets the standard for these historically accurate pieces. The Romanian-born, Julliard School graduate began his musical career at the age of six and continues today as Vox's Artistic Director. During the performances, Radu conducts the musicians, provides historic commentaries and occasionally treats the audience to a solo piece on the grand piano.

Radu invites the Greater Philadelphia area to join Vox for its 28th season at a performance at the Kimmel Center, on November 21st, where the Ama Deus Ensemble will perform *Vienna Magic*, a collection of pieces from the enchanting compositions of Beethoven to scenes from the beloved operas of Mozart, including *Magic Flute* and *Cosi fan tutte*.

The Ensemble will then be touring in our area performing not just Handel's *Hallelujah* chorus, but the entire *Messiah* in churches in Chestnut Hill, Paoli and Wayne. The Vox Renaissance Consort will perform *Renaissance Noel* concerts in Chestnut Hill and Bryn Mawr College. These December performances continue Vox's tradition of celebrating Handel's story of the season with German-based soprano, Andrea Lauren Brown, who commutes from Germany to join in these dazzling performances.

Learn more about this exciting season at their website, *Vox-AmaDeus.org*, where you can also sample music selections, watch video interviews with Maestro Radu or other musicians. ~ Christopher Wilwol





lf You Go

Vienna Magic: Nov. 21 – Kimmel Center, Philadelphia Handel's Messiah: Dec. 7 - Daylesford Abbey, Paoli Dec. 21 - St. Katharine of Siena Church, Wayne Renaissance Noel: Dec. 12 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Chestnut Hill Dec. 14 - Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr College Tickets: \$10-\$25, up to \$70 at the Kimmel Center Information: 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org



LOCAL HEROES Community Voluntee

Community Volunteers in Medicine

Providing Care for Those Most in Need



enise Mahal calls it a "hidden treasure." She's the Vice President for Development of the Community Volunteers in Medicine (CVIM). Dr. Mary Wirship, its Vice President of Medical Affairs, calls it the place to "do the most good." And Maureen Tomoshuk, its President and CEO, laments the many "who cannot afford to be sick."

Based in West Chester, CVIM provides free medical and dental services to the poor and uninsured of Chester County—the lowincome workers who would otherwise "fall through the cracks" those who are below 300 percent of the federal poverty level. Funded entirely through philanthropy, CVIM served over 3,000 patients last year, conducted more than 30,000 patient visits, delivered over \$5 million in services, and distributed more than \$3 million in medications through its on-site dispensary. Volunteers led classes and workshops in diabetes management, smoking cessation, nutrition and other topics. And these volunteers facilitate access to food cupboards, shelters, financial assistance, domestic violence, substance abuse programs and the like, thus heading off potential medical problems.

Begun in 1996, CVIM is busy and getting busier. About 60 staff members are working on any given day. Not surpris-



ingly, demand for services grew greatly during the recession. It's not yet known whether the need for services will begin to abate this year. And with the reputation of the group's services growing, that may not happen anytime soon.

The staff consists of about 350 active volunteers, working along with about 15 full-time and 15 part-time paid staff. Staff includes clinical and professional support staff, nurses, doctors, hygienists, pharmacy workers, laboratory, clerical workers and translators (over half of their patients are Hispanic).

Medical specialties—24 in all—are covered by retired and parttime physicians. Interns from Temple University, University of Pennsylvania and Thomas Jefferson University, as well as nursing students from Villanova and Immaculata, also deliver services there. Local hospitals—particularly Chester County Hospital and Paoli Hospital—work closely with CVIM, referring patients who cannot be served, and furnishing the specialized care that can't be provided.

All this activity takes place in a modern building by the West Chester airport, near public transportation and with plenty of parking. Recently expanded to 10,000 square feet, the space houses ten medical and six dental exam rooms, a laboratory, a classroom, administrative offices and large waiting room. It's very clean and orderly, giving the impression of a well-run office.

CVIM serves a vital need in Chester County, providing medical and dental care to those who most need it, reducing the load on emergency rooms at the region's hospitals. For that reason, we have selected the group as our Local Hero. \blacklozenge



For more information or to volunteer, contact Denise D. Mahal, VP of Development. CVIM is always looking for volunteers especially: bilingual medical interpreters, dieticians, pharmacists, nurses, gastroenterologists, gynecologists, physical therapists, general dentists, dental hygienists and periodontists. Community Volunteers in Medicine, 300 B Lawrence Dr., West Chester. 610-836-599; CVIM.org.





Rediscovering Chester County at Ashbridge Preserve

> William R. Hartman, Director of Stewardship, & Blake H. Goll, Nature Education Coordinator, Willistown Conservation Trust

Sometimes you simply don't know when something spectacular lies just around the corner...

s Ridley Creek winds its way south from the northern reaches of East Goshen and Willistown Townships, it passes through a hidden gem of permanently preserved open space known as Ashbridge Preserve. With nearly a mile of the sparkling Ridley Creek as the preserve's unifying feature, Ashbridge is home to a wide array of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and insects that thrive among the preserve's abundant woodlands, wetlands and wildflower meadows.

If you're looking for a respite from your daily routine or a place to enjoy a day outdoors with family and friends, Ashbridge has all the ingredients you need—without the physical challenges of A Walk in the Woods that Bill Bryson took along the Appalachian Trail.

About the Preserve

Owned primarily by the Willistown Conservation Trust with a smaller ownership stake by East Goshen Township, Ashbridge Preserve's initial 55 acres were once part of one of the largest undeveloped tracts in East Goshen Township. This property was known as Ashbridge Farm, a 175-acre parcel that was home to an early 19th-century Colonial farmhouse and previously owned by the Grace family. The remaining 120 acres of the farm were divided into eight large parcels acquired by private buyers who each placed conservation easements on their land. Collectively, these easements restrict the future development of the adjacent 120 acres, permanently protecting the open space and natural features

surrounding Ashbridge Preserve. The preserve has parking, picnicking and public access along East Strasburg Road, west of Dutton Mill Road.

When Ashbridge Preserve was created in 2002, it was a wild place with very few trails-and even fewer visitors. Thanks to countless volunteer efforts-from local school students to long-time residents-Ashbridge has evolved into a place where visitors can explore and experience all the preserve has to offer, including ephemeral ponds of water supporting a variety of distinctive plants and animals (known as vernal pools), nearly 300 species of plants, and a rich diversity of migratory birds. Ashbridge is one of four preserves

actively managed by the Trust-Kirkwood, Rushton Woods and a small parcel within Willistown Township's Okehocking Preserve are the others (find out more at WCTrust.org). Collectively, these 232 acres represent an incredible cross-section of habitat types, providing our community with endless recreational opportunities for visitors of all ages.

Exploring the Preserve

Stepping-stone crossings and wooden "bog bridges" allow visitors to ford Ridley Creek and traverse the adjacent floodplains without getting their shoes wet as they explore the preserve. Over 125 native trees and shrubs have been planted along



Ridley's banks to help keep the creek cool, reduce erosion and provide habitat within the important riparian zone immediately adjacent to the stream. Volunteers have also installed bluebird boxes to provide these important "residents" with a place to nest and raise their young in the spring.

And in true pioneering spirit, over 1.5 miles of trails have been opened and blazed. Maps available at the information kiosk help visitors navigate the wellmarked nature trails, perfect for an afternoon stroll. All these improvements were designed to respect the preserve's sensitive natural features while allowing visitors the opportunity to enjoy and learn about them.

Birds, Birders and Junior Birders

Ashbridge is a bird's and birder's delight any time of year, and the Trust invites people of all ages to enjoy its peaceful splendor, particularly its rich population of birds and other wildlife. The healthy shrub and bramble habitat found here are essential to many species of birds during migration, breeding and especially during the first perilous year of a bird's life when the cover of shrubs can mean the difference between life and death.

Birders on a guided walk this past spring experienced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see a magnificent redphase Eastern Screech Owl happily roosting inside a Wood Duck nestbox!

These moments of magic and discovery epitomize the wealth of natural activity at Ashbridge, as the Trust's Junior Birders know well. The Junior Birding Club, which meets monthly throughout the year to help children ages 6-12 learn more about nature and our local birds, met at Ashbridge twice this year-and not just to birdwatch!

In early spring, the Junior Birders explored the amphibian life of the vernal pools with a professional biologist. Despite the chill and the rain, not a single child complained—all were too engaged by the beautiful long-tailed salamander and tiny wood frog tadpoles they discovered and by an enchanting chorus of spring peepers serenading them amidst the raindrops.

At the end of summer the Junior Birders met again to investigate insect life in the pristine streams, learn the names of the wildflowers in the meadow, and simply have some unstructured fun playing outside in nature. The sun-dappled forest floor beneath the towering beech and maple trees provided the perfect fresh-air playground for the children's imaginations to soar—whether running during a game of hide-n-seek among the tree trunks or carefully building miniature "fairy houses" and "toad abodes" from hickory nuts, moss, tree bark and sticks.

Beauty, surprises and a respite for the soul await all who visit Ashbridge Pre-

serve. Come explore this hidden gem in the heart of Chester County! ♦

Open to the public 365 days a year, Ashbridge Preserve is located on E. Strasburg Rd., west of Dutton Mill Rd. in East Goshen Township. Willistown Conservation Trust manages three other preserves in Willistown Township: Kirkwood Preserve is a 83-acre grassland habitat; Rushton Woods Preserve is the 86-acre home to the Trust's popular Community Farm and Bird Conservation Programs; and Okehocking Preserve's 4-acre parcel is home to an historic barn. Find out more at WCTrust.org.





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Phoenixville: TRUE AS

The Foundry



Jaimielynn Cooper Photos by Mike Irby

One former steel town is living proof that looking back at what you've done and where you come from are just as important as looking forward to where you're going.

Phoenixville was born in a fire.

hat sentence sticks out more than any other in the prologue of Robb Cadigan's 2013 debut novel, Phoenixville Rising. Striking in its simplicity, it speaks to the town's birth, its death and its resurrection.

Iron and Steel

Originally named Manavon, Phoenixville has a history interwoven with the literal infrastructure of America. Iron and steel from the town's mills were used in cannons for the Union Army during the American Civil War. Phoenixville created the nails that joined together America's railroads as well as the columns for some of its most famous bridgesincluding New York City's Manhattan Bridge-connecting the Manhattan and Brooklyn shores. The town's iron even helped cement America's alliances abroad-France used Phoenixville iron to build the Eiffel Tower.

While the late 19th and early 20th century saw a great demand for steel, the inevitable collapse of the American steel industry was looming. By 1987, Phoenix Iron Works shut down for the fifth and last time, and the town fell into an economic depression.

But, like its mythical namesake, the town proved that what was once, can be again. In the midst of a renaissance that began nearly a decade ago, the largest historic district in Chester County is proving why history repeating itself isn't always a bad thing.

Renaissance of the Arts

The difference between Phoenixville and other steel towns that haven't experienced the same regrowth? Simply putthe people. Those who call Phoenixville home are proof that with a little persistence-and a lot of perseverance-their hometown can be rebuilt into a vibrant and vital community.

Mainstays like the Colonial Theatre, which opened in 1903, maintain that "Phoenixville was, and still is, home to more than a few of these daring prospectors of uncharted waters, of big dreamers." With the possibility of expansion on the horizon-and a schedule that

boasts feature films and cult classics, along with historic tours and lectures every week-the theater isn't going anywhere anytime soon.

Which is good, because the Colonial is right at home with other art venues in this reborn town. Like Steel City Coffee, where you'll find art in the form of live music every weekend. Or if painting is more your taste, pop into the Phoenixville Village Art Center for its new shows every month. Or stop in Artisan's Gallery and Café, with walls of work by local artists. If you'd rather wear your art, visit Diving Cat Studio and Gallery for handmade jewelry or Romantic Jewelers for vintage pieces.

A blast from the past, Mod House Vintage is new on the shopping scene. Creating a unique shopping experience for vintage enthusiasts and those just discovering the charms of mid-century modern, they offer high-end furniture and decor by the likes of Herman Miller and Charles and Ray Eames, plus more attainable pieces from the 50s and 70s. Art for your home!





Range of Restaurants

While visiting Phoenixville can make you feel like you're at home, dining there will make you feel like you're worlds away.

A fusion of Italian, American and Creole, Fenice Creolo serves up diverse flavors that are market fresh and tasty, too. Don't be scared by the name— Creole doesn't always mean spicy. Open for lunch and dinner, they have enticing entrées, appetizers and sandwiches for all tastes.

For an exceptional dining experience, check out Majolica, where chef Andrew Deery is living up to his title of "Best Chef in Chester County," awarded in 2013 by the Culinary Cook Off at the Chester County Restaurant Festival. Deery has crafted Majolica's menu to reflect his love of local food and his passion for perfection.

Brand new neighbor, Sage Mediterranean, which celebrated its grand opening at the end of September, is dishing up great pasta dishes like Penne Asparagi in a cognac sauce and authentic appetizers like homemade hummus. Its comfortable ambiance will make you want to come back for more.

Mainstays like PJ Ryan's Irish Pub, Black Lab Bistro and Bistro on Bridge-which celebrated its five-year anniversary in September-are going strong. Their longevity has inspired more new additions—like the Great American Pub and Sips French Bistro-to make Phoenixville their home.

Just a short drive from Phoenixville, at the Providence Towne Center in Collegeville, is a fusion of fresh, local ingredients ... and pizza! RapiDOUGH is the brainchild of Nick and Tom Farrell, owners of Sovana Bistro in Kennett and The Classic Diner in Malvern. These brothers are looking to blow your mind and your taste buds-all in a timely fashion, of course.

Providence Towne Center is also home to Margaritas. A New England secret, this Mexican restaurant boasts both authentic cuisine and culture, complete with colorful terra-cotta pottery, handpainted tables and chairs and whimsical, homespun works of art.

In the mood for a little wine? Maybe just a taste? Which is exactly what you'll get at Sandcastle









Winery's Taste. Offering gourmet foods like Di Bruno Brothers cheeses, plus biscotti, oils, vinegars, locally made chocolates and, of course, wine, Taste gives you more than a shopping trip when you stop in—you'll get a full culinary experience. If you're in the mood to BYOF (Bring Your Own Food) stop by Black Walnut Winery's tasting room, and sip old favorites like their melon flavored Iridescence, or their new release, perfect for autumn and aptly named—Apple.

Want something stronger? Coming next year to Bridge Street, Bluebird Distilling will be creating a wide variety of bourbon, whiskey, vodka and other spirits made completely from scratch, and all with high-quality, local ingredients. In addition to a full distillery, Bluebird will offer a tasting bar and lounge where you can get their merchandise and correctly made cocktails.













You don't want to leave without having dessert-which, at Bridge Street Chocolate, is a necessary luxury.

On the Horizon

Over the next few years Phoenixville is planning to continue its rebirth and growth with the addition of the new Phoenix Village at the end of Bridge Street-a mixed-use complex that will add nearly 1,700 new residents to the town.

Combined with the relocation of the Renaissance Academy to their brand new space in the Franklin Commons, Phoenixville is gearing up for new residents to raise their families and join a community that has proven, more than once, that it is strong as steel.

For shopping and dining news, plus the latest event updates, visit Phoenixville.org.

EVENTS CALENDAR What's Happening in Phoenixville

Phoenixville Farmer's Market Through November 22

A producer/grower market committed to providing locally grown, fresh food, preserving the region's agricultural heritage and building community. Under the Gay St. Bridge, accessed by Taylor Alley (200 Mill St.). Sat., 9 to 1. Thanksgiving-Christmas 10 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Phoenixville Library Presents "Wine, Wit & Wisdom."

November 6

A benefit for library programs featuring a wine presentation, dinner and silent auction, plus guest speaker Eileen Spinelli, acclaimed children's author. RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Golf Club Dr. 5:45 to 9. Tickets start at \$125. 610-933-3013; PhoenixvilleLibrary.org/Wine-Wit-Wisdom.

Annual "Empty Bowls" Event November 7

Help fight hunger by purchasing a simple meal of soup and bread served in a bowl handcrafted by an area artist or student. Keep the bowl as a reminder. Benefits Phoenixville Area Community Services. Technical College High School, 1580 Charlestown Rd. 4:30 to 8:30. \$10-\$20. 610-933-1105; PACSPhx.org.

Events at The Colonial Theatre November-December

Nov. 30. The Theatre Organ Society of Delaware presents Holiday Organ Concert, 2 pm, \$5-\$10. Dec. 13, Firebird Theatre presents A FairtyTale Christmas Carol, 2

An Evening with the Eric Mintel Quartet. Fun for the entire family. 7:30 pm, \$15-\$20. 227 Bridge St. 610-917-1228; The ColonialTheatre.com.

32nd Annual Auction Party for French & Pickering Creek's **Conservation Trust** November 8

"Gone Fishin'." This evening promises adventure, food and great fun, enabling the Conservation Trust to strengthen its on-going activities. Stonewall Links, 375 Bulltown Rd., Elverson. 6 pm. Tickets start at \$125. 610-933-7577; FrenchAndPickering.org.

Phoenixville Chamber's Annual Charity Gala "A Season of Giving" November 22

The Gala benefits the nonprofit community. This year's beneficiaries: Mom's House and The Phoenixville Healthcare Access Foundation. The Good Samaritan Shelter will also be recognized. Phoenixville Country Club, 355 Country Club Rd. 5:30 to 10. \$80. 610-933-8960; PhoenixvilleChamber.org.

Phoenixville Christmas Parade December 5

The parade starts at 7, takes place between the 100 and 300 blocks of Bridge St.; tree lighting at 8 pm. 610-933-8801; Phoenixville.org.

Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour December 6

Beautifully decorated homes and churches,

pm, \$8-\$10. Dec. 18, Charlie Brown Jazz: crafts, music and refreshments. Benefits Children and the Arts Scholarship programs at Firebird Children's Theatre and Phoenix Village Art Center. Tickets and programs available after 1:30 at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 121 Church St. 2 to 6 pm. \$20-\$25. 610-933-9181; PhoenixvilleHistorical-Society.org.

Phoenixville's 10th Annual **Firebird Festival**

December 6

Burning of the Firebird (Phoenix) will be at Friendship Field (Franklin Ave & Fillmore St.). Transportation provided from downtown to and from the site. The fun begins at 3, burning of the Phoenix at 8:15. 610-933-9199; FirebirdFestival.com.

Holiday Craft Fair December 8

Crafts and collectibles for the holidays. Benefits the fire company. Kimberton Fire Company, 752 Pike Springs Rd. Kimberton. 9 to 2. Free. 484-645-9033 or 610-917-2270.

12th Annual "A Taste of Phoenixville" January 15, 2014

A premier food, wine, beer event featuring selections from some of Phoenixville's finest restaurants and caterers. Live music and dancing. Benefits the Good Samaritan Shelter. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St. \$95-\$100. 6 to 10. 610-933-9305; TasteOf Phoenixville.com.



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Senior Comminities GETTING BETTER ALL THE TIME





Ed Malet

Ever wondered how our seniors spend their retirement?

enior communities and facilities in the Brandywine Valley have grown dramatically in the last few years. But what are seniors doing there? We decided to look at some of the newest additions and developments.

It turns out, area seniors are luxuriating in pools, playing exotic sports and games, gardening, woodworking and soothing their muscles and bones.

Warm Waters

Pools and spas are a major focus of improvements and additions at area communities. Kendal-Crosslands in Kennett Square, for one, just finished its salt-water indoor pool. Salt

water has several advantages: it feels soft and soothing, it has no odor, and doesn't cause the itch, green hair and red eye of chlorinated pools.

Kendal's group exercise classes in the pool are probably the biggest draw, says Michele Berardi, Director of Community Outreach. Classes include water walking, aerobics and balance, plus one-on-one exercise sessions and swimming lessons. For the more active, there's a water volleyball team that plays once a week.

A warm water therapy pool is the highlight of Brandywine Senior Living at Longwood in Kennett Square. Residents there use it for exercise, according to Executive Director Paola

Fusaro. The pool provides relaxation, arthritis relief, and help with weight loss, blood pressure and muscle toning. Therapeutic pools are especially effective in rehabilitation when people suffer injuries or require post-surgical healing. And the warm water is a great help with aching, aging joints. Brandywine's "Escapades Producer"—that's how they refer to their activities director-is a Certified Lifeguard and Aquatics Therapies Instructor for as many as three residents per session.

There's a 30,000-square-foot clubhouse that's just opened in Lancaster for Willow Valley Communities. Outside, they built a zero-entry pool, meaning no steps: the entry is gradual, like your favorite beach. They also have outdoor tennis courts.

Inside, a six-lane bowling alley, pickleball courts (a cross between badminton, tennis and ping pong), a golf simulator and more are available to keep residents moving and happy. Needless to say, the facilities are in demand. Plus friends and family are welcome to use all of the amenities, too. Kim Daly Nobbs, the Chief Marketing Officer, notes that Willow Valley is constantly finding ways

to inspire "intergenerational engagement." The aim of the community, says Nobbs, is to "nurture vibrancy."

The warm water feature at Barclay Friends in West Chester is a bit different, where for nearly two years, they've been engaged in an ongoing renovation. Open, airy European showers have been added in each apartment, and warm, bubbling spas have also been installed on each floor, improving the lifestyle of more than 90 residents and guests. In addition, the redesign of the common dining area provides an intimate setting for sharing meals. Faith Woodward, the Marketing Director, says that it's a plus that each dining room overlooks a garden, one of which continues to produce potatoes, radishes and other crops for the Chester County Food Bank.

Gardens Green

Not every improvement that adds to the quality of life is a multi-million dollar project. Riddle Village, for example, has been cultivating its gardens on a shoestring. Nearly 20 years ago, it built twelve 4'x8' raised plots in what resident Anita Hudson refers to as "a little dimple." This year, residents have grown tomatoes, peppers, squash, zucchini and a variety of herbs, mainly to give away to family and friends, and to use themselves. "Who doesn't want a

fresh tomato?" Around the perimeter of

the vegetable garden, Ms. Hudson has

planted ferns; on the hill, daffodils. The

area is serene with a stream gurgling in

"Live the life you have imagined." – Henry David Thoreau

Making plans for the future means thinking through the "what ifs". What if you had the luxury of free time? How would you spend it? Any chance mowing, shoveling and repairing are not on that list? What if the need for long-term care services should arise?

For Boomers and beyond, Warwick Woodlands will soon be bustling on seventy-two acres of a former landscape nursery. With maintenance-free living and priority access to quality long-term care, it means less time spent managing life and more freedom

to just live it. Warwick Woodlands. It's the ideal place for living a good life.



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the background and birdhouses dotting the landscape.

Day trips to the restaurants, parks and orchards in North Wilmington are what's in store for residents, family and friends at Foulk Manor South. It has a vegetable garden, too, says Melissa Casperson, Community Relations Director. Not to mention walking paths around the community. Just what the doctor ordered!

And the vegetable gardens at Harrison House in Coatesville provide a bounty of fresh produce, reports Chief Operating Officer Harrison Saunders. Tomatoes, squash, peppers, cucumbers: they go straight to the kitchen! Harrison House is also considering repurposing a former mechanical space to add a new amenity. Once the site of the boiler, generator and pumping systems for the Coatesville Hospital, the space is now on the drawing board as a pool and spa. Maybe it will be finished next year!

On the Move

New sports facilities are an attractive investment of time and effort for seniors. Dottie Mallon, the Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at White Horse Village in Newtown Square, says bocce ball-think a cross between bowling and shuffleboard-is the newest sport to gain a following. Just ask the members of its Bocce Brigade! Located by a meadow, the bocce ball court is by the horseshoe pit and playground. The next phase is education-teaching the uninitiated how to play the game. Members of the Norristown Bocce League have been invited to give demonstrations.

To keep fit at Exton Senior Living, there's new exercise equipment, including a treadmill and stationary bicycle. Residents there can choose the indoor equipment to keep moving, or they may prefer one of the lovely walking paths through the grounds. Afterward, perhaps a peaceful nap on the updated porch?

You'll find a new game room and two

large dining rooms at Jenner's Pond in West Grove. And, as a resident, you get a lifetime membership at the local YMCA—right across the street. Treadmills, free-weights, ellipticals, oh my! About 85 residents have taken advantage of this perk.

The Devon Senior Living recently renovated an underused storage area into a state-of-the-art physical and occupational therapy center. And, adjacent to this area, still under construction, is a new entertainment space specifically designed for singers and entertainers. Even more features are in the planning stages, including a county store, offering greeting cards, hygiene products, magazines and the like.



There's always a lively group at Tel Hai Retirement's Wood Craft Shop. The Tel Hai community has been awed by the Shop's work—whether carving birds, creating art pieces or making furniture and wooden toys. The Shop's 30 members also do a variety of repairs and refinishing for their neighbors. One member completed a beautiful large dollhouse.

Rod Muthard, five-year resident and foreman of the shop, says his favorite project has been refinishing the chapel chairs. But creativity is his trademark. He's also worked with Amish children on simple wooden crafts and creates pens of common and exotic woods.

Relaxation ... with Rhythm

One of the best additions at the Friends Home in Kennett may be the wrap-around porch, a multi-purpose, multi-season room. Portions of the porch date to the original structure (circa 1840), and it's been repurposed several times. Rocking chairs still offer comfort, while sunsets are not the only entertainment. Residents, families and friends enjoy everything from big band to patriotic music provided by guest musicians with modern sound systems. Glenn Miller anyone?













Guide to Senior Communities

Our region has many communities for active seniors and those requiring some assistance. Here is a guide to a few in the area.

COMMUNITIES FOR THE FIT. **ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT**

Our area has a variety of communities built and managed for active seniors. They're essentially planned neighborhoods-townhouses, condos, apartments-catering to older adults who still feel young. Some are called "55+" communities, others "active adult," "retirement" or "independent living" communities. Generally, many feel like resorts. Here are a few.

Pennsylvania LITITZ

Warwick Woodlands a Moravian Manor Community 717-625-6000

WarwickWoodlands.org

Looking at 55+ communities but want to position yourself for future care needs with minimal disruption to your life? Consider Warwick Woodlands, a "traditional neighborhood design" up-and-coming community within easy walking distance of downtown Lititz. Phase I will include apartments, carriage homes, and townhomes featuring 17 different floor plans. Attend a Dine & Discover event to review the many living options available to Baby Boomers today.

WEST CHESTER

Hershey's Mill 610-436-8900 HersheysMill55Plus.com Hershey's Mill, one of the premier 55+ active adult communities in Pennsylvania,

is nestled in historic Chester County's lush and picturesque countryside. Situated on 800 acres of natural beauty with awardwinning landscaping and a championship 18-hole golf course on-site, "The Mill" is an exciting active adult community that anyone would be pleased to call home. Isn't it time to learn more about Hershey's Mill? Visit them at 1500 Greenhill Rd., West Chester, or call for a brochure.

Westtown Reserve an Active Adult Community 215-910-3064

WesttownReserve.com

Located in West Chester, Westtown Reserve offers home ownership with none of the homeowner maintenance. All units have two bedrooms, two full bathrooms, spacious living area and underground parking. Situated close to all that West Chester has to offer including restaurants, golf courses and more! Retire the lawn mower, snow shovel and rakes—you will not need them at your new home at Westtown Reserve.

COMMUNITIES FOR THE INDEPENDENT, WITH **CONTINUING CARE**

Many seniors are currently independent, but want or need, for themselves or their spouse, to live with support, moving from independent living, then assisted living, followed by skilled nursing and several kinds of specialized facilities. When the sequence is combined on a single campus, it's called a continuing care com-

munity. Those listed have strong "independent living" programs.

Pennsylvania DEVON

The Devon Senior Living

610-263-2300 TheDevonSeniorLiving.com

The Devon Senior Living is located in a beautiful, peaceful, rustic country setting, only minutes from area hospitals, restaurants and shopping centers. The Devon Senior Living offers award-winning living assistance, Alzheimer's/Memory Support and short-term stays and features distinct services and amenities offered in a comfortable, home-like setting. Visit them at 445 N. Valley Forge Rd.

EXTON

Exton Senior Living 610-263-2300, 610-594-0200

ExtonSeniorLiving.com Convenient to great shopping and restaurants, Exton Senior Living is an active personal care and memory care community. Diverse activities and outings fill every day with opportunities to live well. A caring staff and 24-hour nursing provide residents personalized assistance and peace of mind. They offer a variety of floor plans perfect for seniors looking for a supportive environment. Visit today!

HONEY BROOK Tel Hai Retirement 610-273-9333

TelHai.org

Come to Tel Hai and redefine retirement your way. Their nationally accredited community offers rolling hills and easy access to major highways and favorite destinations. Cottage and apartment homes enjoy green vistas. Amenities and services abound. If needs change, they also offer personal care, in- and out-patient rehabilitation services and adult day and health care services on their 149-acre campus.

KENNETT SQUARE

Friends Home in Kennett 610-444-8784

FriendsHomeInKennett.org

Offering a wide range of options for seniors including Independent Living in one of seven apartments with kitchen or kitchenette. They offer Supportive Independent Living in a studio, one-bedroom apartment or couples suite with expansive rooms and $1^{1/2}$ baths. Services are available when needed right in your own apartment. All meals, housekeeping and laundry included. Immediate availability. Friends Home in Kennett-where friends become family.

Kendal-Crosslands 610-388-1441

KCC.Kendal.org

Customizable cottages and apartments adjacent to Longwood Gardens on a gorgeous, over 500-acre, accredited arboretum campus. Amenities include several pools, cultural art studios, gardens, hiking trails, tennis court, therapy and fitness, multiple dining venues, library, putting greens, computer labs and much more. Member of Leading Age, FSA. Accredited by CARF-CCAC.

LANCASTER

Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community 717-786-7321 Quarryville.com Retire the Ordinary-things like the lawn-









Located in scenic Lancaster County, Quarryville Presbyterian Retirement Community is a continuing care retirement community with all levels of care on the same campus. Choose from our wide selection of spacious apartments or awardwinning cottages. Our countless activities and amenities and delightful customer service will make your retirement extraordinary. Quarryville's affordable senior living, great location and beautiful setting will leave you asking the question, "Why didn't I move here sooner?"





You can retire the ordinary things in life—like the lawnmower and snow shovel—but you never retire from pursuing your goals and building relationships. Quarryville's maintenance-free living frees you to engage in what matters most to you.



625 Robert Fulton Highway, Quarryville, PA 17566 quarryville.com 888-786-7331

The Next Step

The Entry Fee Life Care Retirement Community is a concept that is rapidly growing in popularity throughout the nation. Life Care communities charge an upfront payment, or Entrance Fee, in exchange for long-term accommodations as well as household and healthrelated services. And as a Brookdale® Life Care resident, you receive a guarantee that we will not terminate your residency contract if your financial resources are exhausted through no fault of your own. This guarantee is subject to the terms of your residency contract and applies only if your community provides accommodations and health related services applicable to the level of care you may require.

In addition, our community provides:

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- Housekeeping & maintenance

• Gourmet dining in 5 dining rooms

- Indoor walking path
- Nine hole putting green

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mower and snow shovel. Live the Extraordinary-by pursuing your interests, building relationships and relishing time with family and friends. Spacious apartments and award-winning cottages along with an abundance of activities and amenities will make your retirement an extraordinary one at all levels of care for people over 62. Come to Quarryville to Retire the Ordinary. Live the Extraordinary!

MANHEIM

Pleasant View Retirement Community 717-664-6207

PleasantViewRC.org Nestled in the rolling hills of Northern Lancaster County, Pleasant View blends a relaxing and care-free lifestyle with opportunities to explore passions and interests. With a variety of living accommodations to choose from, plus a multitude of oncampus conveniences, maintaining your active lifestyle is easier than ever. Plan your visit to see why over 400 residents call

MEDIA

Riddle Village 610-891-3700 RiddleVillage.org

Pleasant View home.

Located on 40 acres in Delaware County, this community's services include an indoor pool, fitness center, putting green, beauty salon, personal trainer, bank and much more. Accommodates residents in independent living units with a variety of floor plans. Quality First Participant.

NEWTOWN SQUARE **Dunwoody Village** 610-359-4400







hen you close your eyes and imagine how your retirement years look, what do you see? Are you on the go, visiting often with friends? Are you travelling to places you've always dreamed of seeing? Are you relaxing in your garden amidst your favorite flowers? Whatever you see, it's a retirement lifestyle within reach at White Horse Village.

We offer a warm sense of community where new friends are waiting to meet you. We provide a calendar of events and excursions that change regularly to expand your mind, preserve wellness and nourish your spirit. We feature exquisite views on almost 100 acres of beautiful countryside in Delaware County. Best of all, we deliver a comprehensive range of care and service that comes automatically with residency. Call or visit us today ... and leave your cares behind.





Are you seeking a carefree retirement with a lifetime of security?

Becoming a **Resident** at White Horse Village

- A non-profit, CCAC accredited, full-service, lifecare community for people 62 and over
- 80% refundable or standard declining balance entrance plan options
- Modified health plan for those with LTC insurance
- Accommodations ranging from 510 square feet studios to 3,200 square feet carriage homes
- On-site healthcare center featuring lona-term nursing care or personal care, included in all fees







Dunwoody.org

What's on your horizon? Tel Hai...your choice for today and tomorrow.





Great friendships. Active living. Affordability. Peace of mind. A move to Tel Hai now means that all of your wants and future needs can be met on the picturesque campus

of our full-service continuing care retirement community, established in 1956. Nationally accredited since 1993, we offer residential living, personal care, health care, full-service rehab and adult day services. Now, you have a unique opportunity to join our newest neighborhood. StoneCroft, opening in 2015, offers spacious, well-appointed apartments with a host of amenities, all under one roof. To learn more, please call us

at (610) 273-9333, extension 2144.



1200 Tel Hai Circle P.O. Box 190 Honey Brook, PA 19344 telhai.org

Since 1974, Dunwoody Village has set the standard in comfortable retirement living. With a convenient location in Newtown Square, residents enjoy a variety of amenities, including fine dining, fitness services and superb cultural offerings, as well as the peace of mind that Five-Star Healthcare offers. Dunwoody is now taking reservations for the new 2,100 to 4,000-square-foot Penrose Carriage Homes to be built in 2015. Phase one is almost sold out.

White Horse VIllage

610-558-5000 WhiteHorseVillage.org

A warm and welcoming retirement community on 96 picturesque acres by a state park. Accommodations are offered in a wide variety of styles. No effort is spared when it comes to service: Wellness Center with indoor pool and spa, dance/aerobics studio, strength training, putting green, library, dining options, performing arts, enrichment programs, transportation and more. Onsite Healthcare Center. Member of Leading Age and Leading Age PA. Accredited by CARF-CCAC. Quality First Participant.

WEST BRANDYWINE

Freedom Village at Brandywine

484-288-2200 Brookedale.com

Freedom Village at Brandywine is a Continuing Care Retirement Community. You'll find Independent Living, Assistive Senior Living, Alzheimer's & Dementia Care and Skilled Nursing Care options for seniors. Conveniently located in his-

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"Living here gives you exciting, new goals." - Jen Kimball

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toric Chester County, adjacent to the Brandywine Hospital. Museums, golf courses and country clubs, shopping, theaters, churches, synagogues, sports complexes and fine restaurants. You're invited to come visit today.

WYOMISSING

The Highlands at Wyomissing 610-775-2300

TheHighlands.org The Highlands at Wyomissing is a lifecare Continuing Care Retirement Community situated on 113 acres next to the beautiful Wyomissing Park. They offer 246 residential apartments of various sizes, 40 spacious two- and three-bedroom villas, 66 Personal Care and 80 Skilled Nursing. The Highlands is a nonprofit entity of Reading Health System.



NEWARK

Millcroft Senior Living 302-366-0160

MillcroftSeniorLiving.com Established for more than 32 years in Newark, DE, Millcroft is truly the cornerstone of senior living. With independent living, assisted living and skilled and intermediate nursing rehabilitation, Millcroft is set apart from others by its in-house therapy service, full service rental retirement community, and wonderful location near downtown Newark and Christiana Healthcare system.

WILMINGTON

Foulk Manor South 302-655-6249

FoulkManorSouth.com

A charming retirement community located in Historic North Wilmington. The area's picturesque scenery makes day trips enjoyable for residents, friends and family. The community offers assisted living, intermediate care and Alzheimer's/memory care as well as respite/short-term stays and on-site rehabilitation services. One of New Castle County's most affordable senior living communities with a small, family-like atmosphere where residents





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gain friendships and enjoy an enhanced quality of life as they enjoy the amenities of retirement living.

IN-HOME CARE & OTHER SERVICES

Bayada Home Health Care King of Prussia, 610-992-9200 Main Line, 610-658-7150 Media, 610-891-9400 Newtown Square, 610-353-5000 Bayada.com

Home health aides provide personal care and companion services. Skilled nurses provide care and manage chronic conditions working in consultation with the client's physician to develop an individualized plan of care.

Surrey Services for Seniors

Berwyn, Broomall, Havertown, Media 610-647-6404 SurreyServices.org

Surrey is a nonprofit organization that

helps older adults live at home with independence and dignity and continue as active members of the community. Surrey offers a wide variety of programs, from transportation to in-home services such as home health care, personal assistance, house cleaning and home maintenance. Surrey also offers a full range of activities and lifelong learning opportunities from their four locations and numerous volunteer opportunities for people of all ages.

TLC Moving Services 610-268-3243

TLCMovingServicesllc.com

TLC provides a personalized and friendly service specializing in house and retirement home moves. They offer you a personalized, economical and worry free service that specializes in Planning, Packaging, Unpacking, Sale of Personal Property, Handyman Services, Appraisals and Donations. ♦

This Senior Guide is also available online at CountyLinesMagazine.com.



For more than 100 years, Friends Home in Kennett has been a special part of historic Kennett Square. Here, we've created

a community that's ideal for both our family of friends and the families who love them. Our guiding philosophy is to practice supportive care, giving residents the assistance they need while honoring their independence.



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their vitality and spirit that make this a very special place, indeed





Call (610) 444-2577 for more information or to schedule a personal tour.

Friends Home in Kennett | 147 West State Street | Kennett Square, PA 19348 Phone: (610) 444-2577 | Fax: (610) 444-9129 | www.friendshomeinkennett.org



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Once out of your old home, they can clean-up and make repairs so the house is ready for the new owners, or to be PUT ON THE MARKET.

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The Crockett House in Olde Bulltown Village

f your dream home tends toward images of simplicity, serenity and ease, the homes of Olde Bulltown Village—nestled in a quiet corner of northern Chester County just outside Elverson—may just fulfill that dream. And a prime example of the charm of this community is the Crockett House, which captures the feel of indigenous 18th-century Pennsylvania architecture, yet offers a full range of 21st-century amenities, including views of the championship 18-hole French Creek golf course.

Both a step back in time and step forward in green design, this newly constructed period home mixes traditional charm with modern conveniences. It actually delivers on the promise of the best of old and new. The Crockett House is the embodiment of simple, low-maintenance living, in a small community that's pastoral yet convenient to the Main Line, Philadelphia and Chester County. For stress-free, turn-key living—where the homeowner's association takes care of lawn-mowing, snow-plowing and other maintenance-the community of Olde Bulltown Village offers more than peace of mind and sweet dreams.

About Olde Bulltown

Yes, there really was a Bulltownfounded in 1780 by Thomas Bull after his retirement from nearby Warwick Furnace on land purchased from his employers, Samuel Potts and Thomas Rutter. Another part of the Bull family's legacy was Thomas serving as Lieutenant Colonel under General George

Laurel Anderson

'Tis a gift to be simple ...

Washington and grandson Thomas also serving, much later, in the Civil War.

The early commercial center of Bulltown was an 18th-century village-with a blacksmith/carriage house, grist mill, country store and other buildings. Residential adaptations of these buildings form the core and create the atmosphere of today's Olde Bulltown community.

Bull Mansion, or Mount Pleasant, was the Bull family home for many generations. The home boasted 18th-century appointments-paneled and wainscoted interior walls, window seats, built-in cupboards—as well as features unique in the country at the time: a Dutch door and open beamed ceiling in the kitchen. Restoration of the home and adjacent barn returned them to their former beauty, and the mansion serves as inspiration for the design of Olde Bulltown homes.

The Crockett House

Capturing the timeless 18th-century design of all the homes in Olde Bulltown, the Crockett House displays



classic proportions and harmony with the landscape—its site-specific location maximizes both country views and privacy. Constructed of brick and clapboard, consistent with other homes, this threebedroom, three-plus bath, two-car-garage home is an accurate reproduction design, showing varied rooflines and what looks like additions that were typically added to a home over time.

The home's centerpiece is the spacious great room, with exposed, rough-hewn hemlock beams and high, planked wood ceiling. The kitchen offers modern conveniences yet hides them within customdistressed cherry cabinets and includes accents like soapstone sink and counters and a centuries-old oak bar top radiating historic patina.

An adjacent dining area, with a Rumsford fireplace, has French doors to the covered porch, where a complete outdoor kitchen with built-in grill awaits for cookouts overlooking the golf course and views of French Creek State Park in the distance. The main level also includes a foyer with powder room, plus mudroom and convenient laundry room.

With the second of three fireplaces, a bright living room is right-sized, as are the other rooms of this energy efficient, comfortable home where "smaller can be better" is evident. Quarter-sawn oak wood floors that run throughout the first floor seamlessly connect the living room to the master suite, with its walk-in closet and built-ins, plus a gracious master bath with marble vanity and copper-tiled shower. One-floor living at its best.

Angles, chamfered corners, bead-board cabinets and similar details reflect the craftsmanship that gives the home's interior its timeless, traditional feel, and come together to create a second-floor guest room that is as unique as it is inviting.

A large family room, home office or third bedroom and third fireplace are just part of what the lower level, with its walk-out to a patio, can hold. Storage, the mechanicals and a substantial unfinished space—for a home gym, media room, au pair bedroom—are tucked into this level.

Sustainable by Design

For Olde Bulltown, green means more than the pastoral location, lush fairways and country views. For example, the geothermal heating and cooling systems are designed to be green, comfortable and efficient. Waste water is treated and used to irrigate French Creek Golf Club, also keeping it green and "green." Building materials used to create the historical details of the homes are recycled from original 18th- and 19th-century buildings, along with authentic Chester County fieldstone from local farmlands gathered by farmers centuries ago.

This vision helps make life at Olde Bulltown Village naturally green, serene and as it should be. •

The three-bedroom, three+-bathroom, brick and cedar siding Crockett House overlooking the 11th fairway of the French Creek Golf Club is offered at \$1,190,000. Other models of single homes are available to be customized to the owners' personal specifications. For more information, contact Merle Stoltzfus, Stoltzfus Enterprises, 610-656-6923, or learn more at OldeBulltown.com.



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Chester County PHOTO CONTEST

We asked our readers for their most stunning images of Chester County, and they did not disappoint! These beautiful photos-our 14 semifinalists-capture the essence of County Lines Country. Follow us on Facebook and visit our page in November to vote for your favorite. The photographer with the most likes* will win a \$100 gift certificate from Chester County Book Company! Our winner will be announced on Facebook at the end for November.

*Check our rules on our website for limitations on voting.



'Arden Moonlight Theatre'



Michael Redmond "Snowy Home"









Nancy Propper "Oakbourne Park Trail"



Chester County Facebook "Early October Snowfall"









Merchant of Menace 1351 W. Strasburg Rd., West Chester 610-344-7774; TheMerchantOfMenace.net



Eden Day Spa 378 W. Main St., Collegeville 610-489-0800; EdenDaySpaAndSalon.com



Walter J. Cook Jeweler 36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com





Polka Dots 29 Leopard Rd., Paoli 610-640-2714; ShopAtPolkaDots.com



Decorator Distributors 200 Happy Ln., Newark, DE 302-366-1722; NationalDec.com



Eleanor Russell, Ltd 2948 Conestoga Rd., Glenmoore 610-321-2777; Visit Facebook





Romantic Jeweler's 241 Bridge St., Phoenixville 610-933-3833; RomanticJewelers.com



Mostardi's Nursery 4033 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square 610-356-8035: Mostardi.com



Surrey Consignment Shop 810 E. Lancaster Ave., Berwyn 610-647-8632; SurreyServices.org



Christopher's Chocolates/Fine Foods

3519 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square

610-359-1669; Christopher-Chocolates.com

Community Art Center 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org



Wayne Art Center 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org



Dining

Facebook





Lise Monty

here's a new glow at this elegant 18th-century inn, an enduring Main Line favorite known for its consistently excellent cuisine. Appealing updates to the décor and tweaks to the menu welcome the fall season with panache. The much-loved classic American favorites remain, with more smallplate choices, lighter dishes, vegetarian options and gluten-free designations.

And there's good news for outdoor-dining fans. You can now dine year-round on the handsome, all-glass front porch.

In the main dining room, there's a lighter and brighter vibe now that the heavy draperies are gone and the dropped ceiling removed. The paned-glass windows stand tall and handsome while letting in natural light. The exposed beams that the dropped ceiling concealed are now, well, exposed as they should be. New lighting throughout the inn's various rooms enhances all its historic assets.

In the always-buzzing Warren Tavern, Edison-style pendant lights and sconces that look like they've been there since the original restaurant opened in 1875 brighten the scene, while the new acoustical tin ceiling controls noise levels. The newly installed bar top is a beauty-custom-made, Brazilian soapstone incorporating

GENERAL WARREN INNE

9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern 610-296-3637 • GeneralWarren.com

the updated graceful logo-GW-1745-etched and brass-filled in the surface at each corner. In the Admiral Vernon room, the largest private dining room, there are new chandeliers made with the wine staves of Sonoma County wine barrels.

Proprietor Patrick J. Byrne, who joined General Warren Inne in 1987 as the chef/proprietor and took over as proprietor in 1992, surveyed almost 3000 people before formulating plans to update. "I definitely wanted ownership with my regulars," he says.

For Starters

From our comfortable banquette seats-newly upholstered in handsome, copper-colored distressed leather-we watched as a service cart rolled across the main dining room to a table where the much-loved Classic Caesar Salad was prepared tableside. As the salad-making progressed, I was impressed, but my companion reserved final judgment. "I hope she does the egg right, because so many don't," she said, referring to separating the yolk from the white. The server did, and my friend cheered.

After watching three more Caesar Salads created, we asked our server if this was normal. Absolutely, she said. "At times, the guéridon [table-side cart] traffic gets kind of heavy, but we've





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figured out how to keep it flowing." I suspect there'd be a rebellion if the salad were ever taken off the menu.

Our Ricotta & Fig Flatbread (\$13) delighted with its blend of house-made, lemon/basil-flavored ricotta, diced crisp bacon and truffle-cashew butter topped with lots of flavorful figs, cut in half. We applauded the Pan-Roasted Octopus Salad (\$16) for its tasty play of flavors and textures: tender fish tossed with charred fennel, segmented grapefruit, Kalamata olives, candied grapefruit morsels, chorizo and grapefruit oil.

Other starter choices included the everpopular snapper turtle soup and panseared scallops, plus short-rib flatbread, duck confit, arugula salad, baked goat cheese and vegan spring rolls.

Choice Entrées

Small plates rock when you want a light meal or feel like sampling a few dishes. So do innovative interpretations of popular ethnic dishes, like Wild Mushroom Tacos (\$13). Two soft tortillas, sitting upright in a holder, held a satisfying mix of ethnic favorites, beginning with the rich avocado spread that coated the inside surfaces. A variety of mushrooms, sliced and sautéed, were tossed with roasted corn and topped with green chile salsa and alfalfa sprouts. Yum!

Pan-Seared Sea Scallops (\$30), plump and tender, were perfectly done. Lentils, basil, endive, feta and watermelon syrup added pizzazz.

We were happy with our by-the-glass wine choices: a smooth pinot noir from Lost Angel in Sonoma and a bright sauvignon blanc from New Zealand's Acona winery. Each was \$9.50. The wine list's extensive and varied selection offers "Old World" reds and whites and "New World" reds and whites.

Other entrée options included longtime favorites like beef Wellington, steak au poivre, sautéed crab cake and Lancaster County strip steak, plus pan-seared grouper, grilled salmon, seared duck breast and a vegetarian "fall harvest basket" that includes smoked walnuts and orange-sage oil.

Kudos to Jonathan Fahey, executive chef since 2010, who trained at Le Cordon Bleu in Miami. He applauds the menu classics that have "survived the test of time," but also enjoys the opportunity to add new and fresh contemporary choices for diners to enjoy.

How Sweet It Is

Pastry Chef Missy King wowed us with her delectable Chocolate Sea Salt Layer Cake, a sinfully delectable creation of dark chocolate airy cake and rich icing embellished with smooth marshmallow cream, buttery caramel sauce and salted peanut crunch. The tangy/smooth Lemon Sorbet, citrusy bright, was just sweet enough. All desserts are \$8. Other temptations: coconut-almond cheesecake, chocolate stout brownie, blueberry almond crème tart, chai rice pudding, crème brûlée, and, if you're disciplined, fresh seasonal mixed fruit. The Bananas Foster for Two (\$18)

is prepared tableside. \blacklozenge

Owner: Patrick J. Byrne Dinner: Monday-Saturday, 5 to 10 p.m. Lunch: Monday-Friday, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.





And Much More

- The commitment to working with local suppliers and artisans continues. So do the kitchen's own vegetable and herb gardens.
- Among several private-party choices: The somewhat secluded Spring House Terrace, a beautiful outdoor area that's heated year round. It's also inviting for a casual lunch or dinner.
- Private parties are super popular here, so book early.
- There's live music on Tuesday and Thursday nights in the Warren Tavern.
- Historic lectures are offered throughout the year.
- Eight elegant guest suites restored to 18th-century charm are available at the adjacent inn.

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A Little South Street in West Chester.

Enjoy Philly's iconic pizzeria, Lorenzo and Sons, coming to downtown West Chester. Giuseppe "Joe" Pulizzi took over the former Sprazzo site and plans to open the pizzeria before Thanksgiving. Personalize your pizzas, sandwiches and calzones—options not available even at the Philly location. We

recommend working up a healthy appetite before diving into the "Philly Taco," an entire cheesesteak wrapped in a massive Lorenzo and Sons pizza slice, or ordering their classic 28-inch pizza—which serves over 16 pizza-lovers! *27 N. High St., West Chester. 215-800-1942; LorenzoAndSons.com.*

Taste of Asia. Catch the last few months of Asian pear season and liven up a salad with the crispy, juicy fruit. Cochranville's North Star Orchard offers a variety of Asian



pears, ranging in flavor from walnut-like to mildly sweet. Asian pears are relatively high in price, but large enough to impress guests at your Thanksgiving table. They even come individually wrapped perfect for giving to friends! Pick a peck at the Phoenixville Farmer's Market. *610-593-0314; NorthStarOrchard.com.*

Gilmore Returns. Miss the refined tastes of Zagat's top-rated Gilmore's Restaurant of West Chester since its 2012 closing? Well, Chef Peter Gilmore is back and ready to transport your taste buds once again with his world-class cuisine. Teaming up with Chef Cindy McClure, Gilmore is proud to introduce a new catering business headquartered at Casa di Tutto Sorrisi, a European-style mansion perfect for intimate gatherings or special events, like weddings. *610-291-0599; cmcclure49@verizon.net.*

A few of our favorite things to share this month about local food and drink



Time to Get Nutty. November is Peanut Butter Lover's Month, a great excuse to indulge in this sweet, salty and relatively healthy treat. The celebration

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started on the anniversary of the first peanut butter patent, applied for by Dr. John Harvey Kellogg, on November 4, 1885. And you guessed it! That's the Kellogg of Kellogg's Corn Flakes. Mark this November with Nutty Novelties, a local natural peanut butter producer, offering flavors from cappuccino to chocolate—available at the Phoenixville Farmer's Market. 267-614-9786; NuttyNovelties.com.

The Goose Flies High. Back in August we caught brewer Daryl Hoedtke during Goose Island Brewery's Migration Week as the brewers from Chicago toasted from coast to coast, meeting beer lovers and celebrating a shared passion for great beer.



With his degree from the Siebel Institute (the country's oldest brewing school), Daryl was the perfect front man for Goose Island's latest creations, including Bourbon County Brand Stout—with hints of coffee, chocolate, oak, and a 15% ABV. Wanna taste? Find where at *GooseIsland.com*.



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Cook On Your Own Time

Laura Muzzi Brennan

Slow Cookers and Pressure Cookers—culinary time machines.

Superior to the store of the st

Since the 1950s, the electric slow cooker (a.k.a. a Crock Pot) has enjoyed a consistent level of popularity with home cooks. Judy Roud Lubking, food blogger and assistant manager at **Kitchen Kapers**, lists the slow cooker's positive attributes: it transforms tough, inexpensive cuts of meat into tender morsels, requires little electricity, and allows the cook to spend a day at the office while it slaves away. Also, because its heating element is located in the sides, not the bottom of the pot, heat is distributed evenly and dishes won't burn on the bottom.

For successful slow cooking, Lubking suggests these guidelines. First, avoid tender vegetables and lean cuts of meat. Opt instead for dense vegetables like carrots, dark meat poultry, beef, lamb and pork cuts with some fat. Just don't put frozen meat in the slow cooker, as it takes too long to come to a safe temperature. Second, brown meat and vegetables before placing them into the cooker; this caramelization step brings out flavor. Third, remember that slow cookers allow little evaporation, so when converting recipes

from stovetop or oven, cut back on the liquid.

Unlike the slow cooker, the pressure cooker's popularity has been spotty over the past





COOKING

few decades—probably because yesteryear's models lacked many safety controls. One cook I know still recalls the day the lid flew off,

redecorating his kitchen in a corned beef-and-cabbage motif. Now that today's versions boast excellent safety features, this once-maligned appliance is making a comeback.

Pressure cookers work in this way: steam trapped inside a sealed pot builds up high pressure, reducing cooking time

by two-thirds. Other bonuses: food

Pressure Cooker

retains nutrients, flavor and moisture, and like the slow cooker, it works well for tough cuts of meat. Kitchen Kapers carries both electric and stovetop models online and at its ten locations including Wayne, Paoli and Wilmington, DE. No matter which model you choose, Lubking is emphatic on this point: follow the manufacturer's instructions to the letter! And if you need advice about cooking times, she recommends a visit to HipPressureCooking.com. Or for more on food fun check her blog at LifeontheFoodChain.com.

Whether you cook it fast and eat it slow or vice versa, today's pressure and slow cookers give you more time to seize the day.



Speedy 3-Cheese Herbed Risotto

If ever there was a reason to use a pressure cooker, this recipe from Judy Roud Lubking of Kitchen Kapers is it! As Judy explains, "Creamy, delicious risotto usually takes at least 45 minutes or longer, with constant attention and stirring in order to produce a perfect result. With a pressure cooker, your family and friends will be sitting at the table enjoying this classic dish in half the time. It's a lovely dish to have with simple grilled meat, fish, or as a vegetarian meal with a leafy green salad."

- 2 Tb. olive oil
- 1 Tb. unsalted butter
- 3 shallots, minced
- 2 C. carnaroli or arborio rice
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- $\frac{1}{2}$ C. dry white wine

4 C. (and possibly 1 cup more as needed) unsalted chicken stock or vegetable stock, heated and kept warm

- ³/₄ C. grated Parmesan cheese plus more to pass at the table
- 1 C. shredded Fontina cheese
- 2 oz. Gorgonzola Dolce cheese
- ¹/₄ C. finely chopped parsley
- 1/4 C. finely sliced basil leaves
- Sea salt and fresh around black pepper to taste

Notes: Use a 5- or 6-quart (stovetop) pressure cooker. This recipe goes quickly, so be sure to have everything prepped and ready to use before turning the heat under the pressure cooker. Please follow the instructions that came with your pressure cooker to the letter.

Place the uncovered pressure cooker over medium heat, and add the olive oil and the butter. When the butter has melted, add the shallots, and sauté in the oil mixture until the shallots begin to look translucent, about 2-3 minutes.

Add the rice and garlic, and stir with the shallots and oil mixture for another 2-3 minutes until the rice begins to look coated and slightly toasted. Add the wine, and stir until it's completely absorbed, about another minute. Add 4 C. of warm stock.

Put the lid on pressure cooker, lock, and bring to high pressure over high heat. Reduce heat to low, and maintain high pressure for 6 to 7 minutes. Remove the pressure cooker from the heat and release the pressure using the quick release valve according to your manufacturer's instructions, or with the cold water method, per your manufacturer's instructions. Then, open the pot, carefully, away from your face, just in case there's still some steam.

The cooked risotto should look like creamy cooked oatmeal. If the grains look dry and separate, add the reserved hot cup of stock, put the open pot on medium heat and stir for a minute or so until the rice looks creamy.

Add all the cheeses and the herbs, stirring over low heat just until cheeses have melted. Check for seasoning and add pepper and salt to taste. Serve immediately.

Makes 4 main dish or 6 side dish servings.

Two-Bean Two-Alarm Vegetarian Chili

Here's what Judy Roud Lubking of Kitchen Kapers says about her pressure cooker chili: "Cool weather means warming food, no matter if you're watching a football game or raking leaves. Even meat eaters will love this rich, flavorful chili! As written, it's vegan, but you can serve with as many add-ons-vegan or not--as you like. It's delicious topped with shredded cheese, avocado chunks, diced raw red onion and tortilla chips ... or just spooned over rice."



 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. dried pinto beans ¹/₂ lb. dried black beans

- 3 Tb. olive oil
- 3 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 large onions, cut into medium dice 2 red bell peppers, cut into medium dice 1 green bell pepper, cut into
- medium dice
- 2 jalapeño peppers, seeded and minced

On the Bookshelf ..

Want to learn more about slow and pressure cookers? Check out these popular cookbooks mentioned by Cindy Theobald. buyer and salesperson at Chester County Book Company and Judy Roud Lubking of Kitchen Kapers. Whether you're a vegan, an omnivore or a first-time traveler on the Paleo train, you'll find a book to suit your diet, budget and lifestyle.

Make it Fast, Cook it Slow: The Big Book of Everyday Slow Cooking. Stephanie O'Dea. Blogger O'Dea used a slow cooker every day for an entire year, and here's the record of her sweet and savory adventures. Recipes are easy to follow and budget-friendly. For more about O'Dea, visit CrockPot365.blogspot.com.

The Art of the Slow Cooker, Andrew Schloss. "RQ" (restaurant quality) is the phrase Judy Lubking used to describe these 80 recipes. Other good news: most ingredients are available in ordinary grocery stores.

The Everything Healthy Slow Cooker Cookbook, Rachel Rappaport, Rappaport creates recipes that are good2 (taste good and good for you). Every dish from dips to main meals to desserts comes with a nutritional analysis.

The Paleo Slow Cooker Bible: Healthy and Delicious Family Gluten-Free Recipes, Amelia Simons. The 40 recipes in this gluten-free soup and stew cookbook prove that low carb eating can be high in flavor. A bonus: tips on adapting your favorite soup and stew recipes for the slow cooker.

Cooking Under Pressure, Lorna Sass. A James Beard Award-winning cookbook author and food writer, Sass originally published this book in 1989. The 2009 updated and revised version is the go-to for cooks discovering the newly trendy pressure cooker.

The Big Book of Pressure Cooker Recipes: More than 500 Pressure Cooker Recipes for Fast and Flavorful Meals, Pamela Rice Hahn. These innovative recipes range from a smoked portabello burger to molten fudge pudding cake.

Rather take a hands-on class than read a book? Sign up for "Pressure's On!" at The Kitchen Workshop in Paoli. It's being offered November 3rd and again in early 2015.

3 Tb. chili powder

- 1 Tb. unsweetened cocoa powder
- 1, 14.5-oz. can diced tomatoes
- 1, 12-oz. bottle beer
- 1 C. water
- 1 Tb. kosher salt
- 2 C. frozen corn, thawed
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup chopped cilantro, to serve

Note: Please follow the instructions that came with your pressure cooker to the letter. Use a 6-quart or larger cooker.

Place the beans in a large bowl and cover with water. Soak the beans for at least 8 hours or overnight. Drain.

Heat the oil in the uncovered bottom of the pressure cooker, and over medium heat, sauté the garlic, onions and all the peppers until they begin to soften, about 5 minutes. Stir in chili powder and cocoa powder. Then add tomatoes and their liquid, beer, water and salt. Bring to a boil. Add the drained, soaked beans. Cover the pressure cooker and lock, and bring to high pressure over high heat.

Lower the heat and continue to cook at high pressure for 30 minutes. Remove the pot from the heat and let cool naturally for 15 minutes. Remove the lid carefully to keep any escaping steam away from your face. Stir in the corn and the cilantro and let stand for 5 minutes before serving.

Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Weeknight Italian Pot Roast in a Flash

Basing it on her mother's pot roast recipe, Judy Roud Lubking developed this "very slightly Italian American" version for the pressure cooker, says Judy, "The ultimate comfort food for many of us has always been a pot roast dinner. The problem with that dinner is the cook has to hang around the kitchen for hours because any meat worth pot roasting takes a good three hours of slow braising. But with busy mornings and weeknights, long commutes, and so many after school activities to attend, the classic pot roast dinner is fast becoming a distant memory-especially if you didn't get it started in the slow cooker early in the morning. Using your trusty pressure cooker, you can have it on the table in just over an hour. It's wonderful served over noodles. Leftovers are even better!"

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4-5 lb. first cut beef brisket, fat trimmed

2 large onions, cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ " dice 2 large carrots, cut into $\frac{1}{4}$ coins 2 garlic cloves, minced 1 packet onion soup mix

to $\frac{1}{4''}$ or less

Salt and pepper

 $\frac{1}{2}$ C. white wine

the letter.

set aside.

3 Tb. olive oil

1 small 8-oz. can plain tomato sauce 2 Tb. Worcestershire sauce

3 Tb. Italian seasoning or 1 Tb. each of dried oregano, thyme and marjoram

Note: Use a 5-quart or larger pressure cooker. Please follow the instructions that came with your pressure cooker to

If your piece of brisket is too large to fit into your pressure cooker in one piece, cut it into 2 or 3 pieces. Season on both sides with salt and pepper.

Heat the oil in the bottom of the uncovered pressure cooker, and brown the brisket fat side down first for about 4 minutes per side over medium heat. If you have multiple pieces, you may have to do it in batches. Remove the meat and

Skim all but about 3 Tb. of fat from the cooker and discard. Place the onions, carrots and garlic into the remaining fat and stir over medium heat until well-coated. Place the meat back into the pot, on top of the onion mixture, and put in onion soup mix, wine, tomato sauce, Worcestershire and spices evenly over the top of the meat. Put the pressure cooker lid in place, lock and bring to high pressure over medium high heat. Reduce the heat and cook at high pressure for 45 minutes.

Remove from the heat and let the pressure drop naturally for 10 minutes. Then, quickly release any remaining pressure according to your manufacturer's instructions. Open carefully, away from your face, in case there's remaining steam.

Remove the meat to a serving platter. Spoon the chunky vegetables around the meat and serve the remaining sauce separately or over the top.

Makes approximately 8 servings.

Lamb Stew with Spinach

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This stew can be served over rice, polenta or wide noodles such as pappardelle. I adapted the recipe from The Gourmet Slow Cooker by Lynn Alley.

- 21/2 lbs. lamb shoulder
- 3 Tb. olive oil
- 2 large yellow onions, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 Tb. minced fresh ginger
- 3 Tb. ground coriander
- 2 Tb. ground cumin
- 1¹/₂ tsp. sweet paprika
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. cayenne pepper or more to taste
- 1, 28-oz. can crushed tomatoes
- 1 C. plain Greek yogurt
- 10 oz. baby spinach





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1 Tb. salt or more to taste Sour cream or yogurt for serving, optional

Trim the fat from the lamb. Do not worry about getting every little piece of fat or you will be left with almost nothing! Just make sure to get the big streaks, especially the layer that covers the shoulder. Cut into 1-2" cubes.

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium high heat and brown lamb pieces on all sides. Do not overcrowd the pan or the lamb will steam rather than brown. You may have to work in batches. Remove lamb from skillet, drain on paper towels and place into slow cooker.

Add onions to skillet and cook for 5 minutes or until they begin to soften. Add garlic, ginger, coriander, cumin, paprika and cayenne and cook for 1-2 minutes to release spices' fragrance. Stir in the tomatoes and cook for another 5 minutes to reduce some of the liquid.

Add the onion mixture and yogurt to the lamb and stir to combine. Cover and cook on low for 6 hours.

Right before serving, stir in spinach and salt. Top each serving with a dollop of yogurt or sour cream if desired

Makes 6-8 servings.

Curried Carrot Soup

Adapted from Fix-It and Forget-It Recipes for Entertaining by Phyllis Pellman Good and Dawn J. Ranck.

1 Tb. olive oil 1 Tb. butter 1 C. chopped onions, about 1 medium 1 clove garlic, minced 1 tsp. sweet curry powder 1 Tb. flour 4 C. chicken broth

6-8 carrots, peeled and cut into $\frac{1}{2}$ pieces Salt and pepper to taste Sour cream for serving, optional

Heat olive oil and butter in a skillet over medium high heat. Add onion. Stirring frequently, cook for 5 minutes or until onions begin to soften. Add garlic and cook for 1 minute. Mix in curry and flour and cook for 30 seconds. Put into slow cooker. Add chicken broth and carrots. Cover and cook on high for 2 hours until carrots are tender.

Purée in a blender or food processor. (If you have a stick blender, you can purée right in the slow cooker as long as the blades do not scratch the pot.) Season with salt and pepper. Serve with sour cream. Makes 6 servings.

Kitchen Sink Boston Baked Beans

A teaspoon of this and a pinch of that give these beans layer after layer of flavor.



3-4, 15-oz. cans Great Northern beans, drained and rinsed

- 3 Tb. olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, chopped ³/₄ C. ketchup
- 1 Tb. maple syrup
- 2 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 2 tsp. Tabasco or other hot pepper sauce
- 1 tsp. garlic salt
- 2 Tb. molasses
- 1/4 C. brown sugar
- 2 Tb. apple cider vinegar
- 2 Tb. Dijon mustard
- Pinch of ground ginger

Place beans in slow cooker. Heat the olive oil over medium-high heat. Add onion and stirring frequently, cook for 5 minutes or until it begins to soften.

While onion cooks, stir remaining ingredients together in a mixing bowl to make the sauce. Add onions and sauce to the slow cooker. Stir well and cook on low for 6 hours. If you want a crust on the top, leave lid slightly ajar

during the last hour of cooking time. Makes 8-12 servings.

Baked Apples

There's nothing like the scent of cinnamon wafting through the kitchen! Serve with vanilla or dulce de leche ice cream. I adapted this recipe from Fix-It and Forget-It Recipes for Entertaining by Phyllis Pellman Good and Dawn J. Ranck.



4 baking apples 1 tsp. cinnamon 1/4 C. brown sugar 2 Tb. raisins 4 Tb. butter

Remove cores from apples but leave peel on. Place in slow cooker, stem side up. In a small bowl, combine cinnamon, brown sugar and raisins. Stuff each apple with sugar mixture and place 1 Tb. butter on top. Cover and cook on low for 4-5 hours. Makes 4 servings. \blacklozenge

Laura traces her love of all things culinary to the first time she leafed through her mother's Betty Crocker's Cooky Book-which still occupies a place of honor among her 600+ cookbooks. A passionate supporter of local food, she co-founded a farmers market, judges area food contests, and anticipates restaurant openings with the excitement most people reserve for winning a Mega Millions jackpot.

To contact Laura, please e-mail her at LauraBrennan@ValleyDel.com.



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talking with

Ryan Conroy

 $\sqrt{}$ ou'll get a taste of history in this month's feature article, "Phoenixville: True As Steel." Enough, we hope, to pique your interest to discover more about this place that's much more than a steel town. And so we talked with the President of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area, Ryan Conroy, to find out more.

Before we start, you're not the average historical society president. How did you come to head this group?

I've been interested in history since I was a child because of my parents' and grandparents' love of history. As I got older, my interests expanded and at about 17, I started giving lectures and writing about military and local history. I also volunteered at the Historical Society when I was 15, joined the board as a 19-yearold director, and worked my way up to my current position as President. And I continue today blogging about history on my blog "Capture of Time" on Wordpress and interviewing World War II, Korean and Vietnam War veterans.

Tell us a little about the mission of the Historical Society.

We strive to preserve history and educate the public in understanding and appreciating our local heritage and how it relates to their lives. In addition to the Borough of Phoenixville, we also cover East Pikeland, Schuylkill and Charlestown Townships, and Mont Clare, as they relate to Phoenixville's history.

Phoenixville's history involves more than just steel. What are some highlights?

Well, Majolica pottery is strongly associated with the town and many folks know Andrew Deery's restaurant in town by that name. The pottery was popular during Victorian times and is still highly collectible. For those who don't know, Majolica is raised-pattern, soft-clay pottery that depicts natural elementsleaves, flowers, birds, fish, vegetables-and is covered with a bright-colored or opaque white glaze. [See photo on right.] Our museum has 300 pieces.

Another highlight: The North Side of Phoenixville or Tunnel Hill has a proud history of early immigrant settlements such as Scalpe Level, plus the large camps of the earliest occupants, the Lenni-Lenape Indians. We still have a strong sense of community on the "Hill".

We also have one of the largest groupings of pre-Civil War dwellings in the country and the third oldest tunnel in the U.S.-Black Rock Tunnel was built in 1837 by Irish immigrants. Irish, Polish, Italian, African and Ukrainian immigrants are part of the melting pot that is the North Side of Phoenixville.

What are some new initiatives for the Historical Society?

Recently we worked with the Chester County Historical Society to present a "History on Tap" talk about the Irish on Phoenixville's North Side, showcasing local legends such as boxer Joe Rowan and Hugh Bradley (hero at Gettysburg). The talk was at Molly Maguire's and was a great success. I want to work with

more organizations in the area to co-host events and expand our work into historic preservation. Our museum exhibits are another attraction-we're working on an artistic twist while staying loyal to the Phoenixville history. Our current exhibit features the history of the Phoenix Iron Company with iron sculptures by local artists.

What are you doing to get young people involved?

It's an important initiative of mine to appeal to young people in our community. As Phoenixville changes and brings in new residents, I want them to know about the history of their new hometown and what they can do to be involved. Facebook and other social media have helped with this. And, I like to get out, talk with people and share the fantastic history of Phoenixville so folks know what's around them.

How can history buffs get more involved?

We're always looking for volunteers for projects such as our archives, museum exhibits, computer design work and public events. Anyone interested can contact me through our website and Facebook. We're located at 204 Church Street in Phoenixville, where our museum and archives are open to public. I invite everyone to find out more at 610-935-7646; HSPA-pa.org. ♦



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Community Arts Center	The Lincoln Room
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Delaware Art Museum21	Malvern Business As
The Devon Senior Living8	Malvern Federal Sav
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Foulk Manor South	Nittany Valley Offset

Friends Home in Kennett	.60
Gateway Medical Associates	5
General Warren Inne	
Giuseppe Kitchens & Baths	.72
Heritage Design Interiors, Inc	.24
Herr's Snack Food Tour	.70
Hershey's Mill	. 57
The Highlands at Wyomissing	. 57
Historic New Castle Spirit of Christmas	.27
Historic Poole Forge	.28
Hoover Financial	.18
The Inn & Spa at Intercourse	.76
Kendal-Crosslands	
Key Financial, Inc	4
The Lincoln Room	
Main Line Antiques Show	.31
Malvern Business Association	.27
Malvern Federal Savings Bank	.26
Malvern Preparatory School	.36
Matlack Florist	
The Merchant of Menace	.23
Millcroft Senior Living	.54
Mindful Body & Soul	.41
Montgomery School	.36
Moravian Manor	.50
Mostardi Nursery	
National Decorative Distributors	.83
Nittany Valley Offset	.73

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Penn Liberty Bank70 Penn Medicine of Chester County Hospital2
PA Cyber Charter School
People's Light
Phoenixville Federal Bank41
Pleasant View Retirement Community58
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