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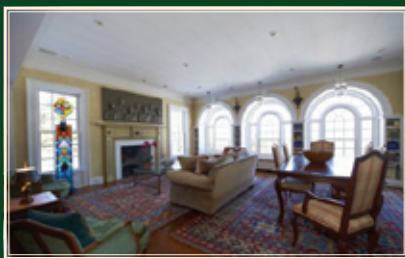
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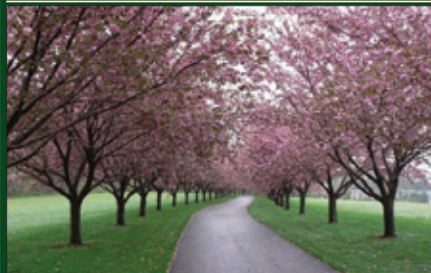
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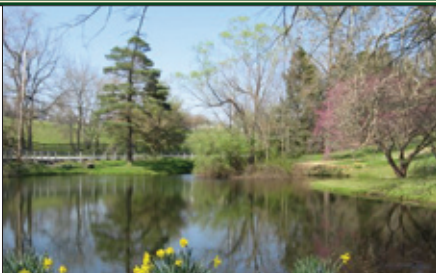
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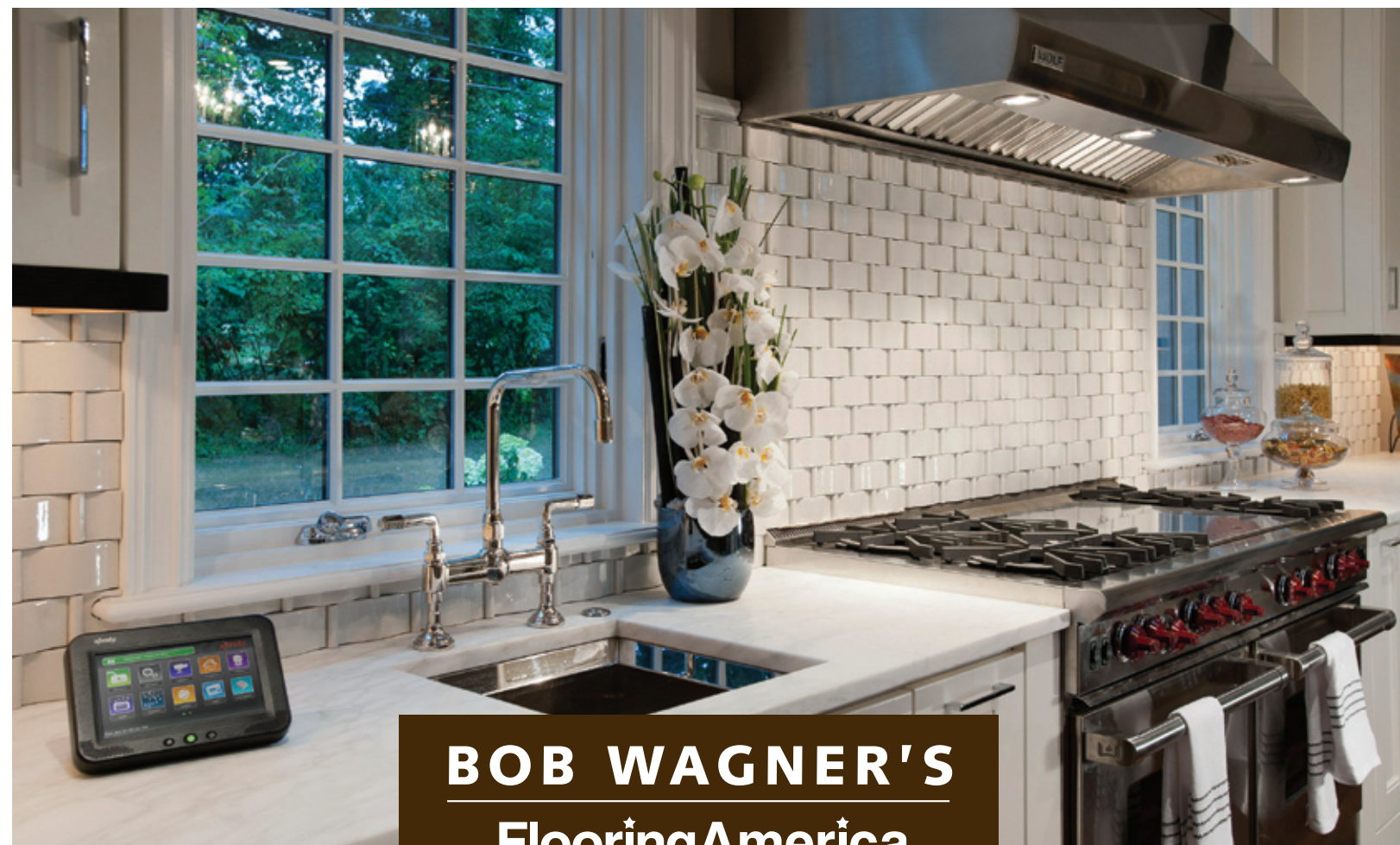
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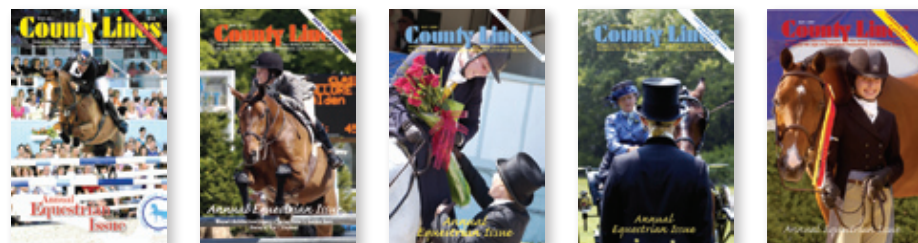
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From the Editor

Saddle up. In May, we celebrate all things equine. Our cover feature is a tour of the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. Art. Rides. Food. Hats. Dogs on parade. And *lots* of horses. New this year, Olympic hopefuls trying to qualify at two Devon events. Find out why Devon draws in crowds generation after generation. And, tear out the daily schedule to take with you. May also means steeplechases: four events on four weekends: Winterthur, Willowdale, Radnor Hunt (*County Lines* will host a tent there), and Fair Hill. Try a Pimm's Cup to get in the spirit (recipes are online).

Just a few miles east of Devon, Wayne will wow you. On a sunny day, the best eating is outdoors, but look indoors, too, for great shopping and much more. For garden fans, we've got a directory of Home & Garden Tours to enjoy. It's a blooming beautiful season!

Does a high-tech treasure hunt sound like fun? Then geocaching is for you. X Marks the Spot to get your family outdoors. And, outdoors is a good place to get some Vitamin D. Read how many folks are discovering their D deficiencies in our new Being Well column.

May is also when we fire up the grill for Brandywine Table. Grilled steak, smoked chicken, seared tuna. Food News offers faster ways to treat yourself—from tailgate treats to lemon sticks.

We shine the Theatre Spotlight on *Spring Awakening* at the Media Theatre through May 20. Eight Tony Awards. It's sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll in a tale for the ages. For mature audiences. Interested now?

As always, we've got the Best Events Coverage anywhere. Visit *County Lines*' Facebook page for updates and giveaways. "Like" us and tell your friends! Sign up for our Events Newsletter.

Thanks for reading *County Lines*. We hope you enjoy this issue.

Jo Anne

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

County Lines Magazine

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

MAY 2012
Volume XXXV, Number 9

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New Listing

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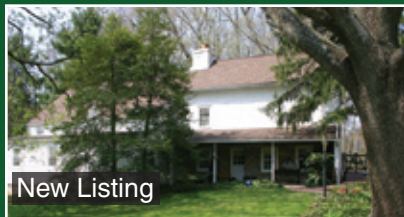
This "traditional home with a creative flair" is absolutely stunning! Brilliant floor plan, stellar gardens, exceedingly private view, first floor Master Suite & convenient location! \$794,900



New Listing

COVENTRYVILLE

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New Listing

CHESTER SPRINGS

This c. 1780, 3BR, 2BA home sits on 4.8 acres overlooking a pond and exquisite specimen plantings. Well maintained, the home has a new septic, well & Kitchen upgrades. \$549,900



New Listing

BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP

This very historic Brinton family 4BR, 2BA home is beautifully set on 6 acres in a great location. Needs some updating but well worth the investment! Unionville Schools. \$499,900



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Patti Brennan CFP®

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 on the National Advisory Board for Royal Alliance. 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 was recently appointed to the Board of Trustees for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.



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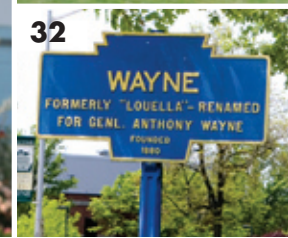
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Cover photo of the Devon Horse Show Lead Line by Alix Coleman



Being Well

The New Problem of Vitamin D Deficiency

Dr. Mark Gottlieb

A surprising number of people are discovering they lack this essential and plentiful nutrient.

When it comes to vitamin D, taking your vitamins is as easy as stepping outside. Sunshine is the primary source of this vitamin, which plays an important role in bone health and preventing chronic diseases. However, a surprising number of Americans aren't getting enough of this important nutrient, due in large part to lifestyle and environmental factors.

As a result, some people have begun to turn to vitamin D supplements, an alternative to the half hour of natural sunshine each day that is typically recommended. While some might argue that there's no alternative to the feel-good benefits that comes from time spent outdoors, supplements have recently become an often-recommended option.

Vitamin D Deficiency

Vitamin D has a number of health benefits, including an important role in helping the body use calcium for bone strength. Vitamin D increases calcium absorption and increases calcium metabolism. The vitamin has also been shown to protect against a number of health problems, including increased risk of heart attack, stroke, high blood pressure, diabetes and obesity. With risks like that, it's easy to see why doctors recommend getting your daily dose.

Still, a great number of people are suffering from vitamin D deficiency. Obesity, limited exposure to sunlight, and certain medical problems like Crohn's disease, cystic fibrosis or celiac disease can result in vitamin D deficiency. In cases like these, a supplement is often discussed as a solution to the deficiency.

Supplements vs. Sunshine

Supplements are a viable option for vitamin D when sunshine alone isn't enough. Certain foods like milk, fish, cereals, eggs and some orange juices are

all sources of vitamin D, but most people aren't eating enough of these foods to satisfy the daily recommended amount and to serve as a substitute for sunshine. In situations like this, supplements may be the answer.

Vitamin D supplements come in two forms: vitamin D2 and vitamin D3. Although both are beneficial to muscular and immune health, D3 is the vitamin to choose, since it can be manufactured naturally by the human body when exposed to sunlight. Vitamin D2 is found only in plants and is not as effective in maintaining vitamin D levels.

There are varying recommendations regarding what dosage of vitamin D supplements is appropriate, but anywhere from 200 to 600 International Units (IUs) is acceptable, depending on your age. Since bone health is a concern for older adults, the recommended daily allowance often increases around age 50 to 800 to 1,000 IUs.

If you are lucky enough to be able to enjoy the sunshine, it's best to limit your exposure to a half hour per day. If you'll

be out longer than that, especially when the sun is at its highest between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m., make sure you're wearing adequate sunscreen.

Talk to Your Doctor

Your method of vitamin D intake is unique to your health. There is not a one-size-fits-all approach to making sure you're getting enough, so be sure to talk to your doctor about what's best for you. If you're not sure if you're getting enough, schedule a visit to have your levels of vitamin D tested. ♦

Dr. Gottlieb is board certified in Family Medicine and has over 17 years of experience in that field with a special interest in preventative medicine, hypertension, asthma/COPD, diabetes and obesity. He is a member of the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians and the American Osteopathic Association and is on staff at Paoli, Bryn Mawr and Riddle Hospitals, and Lankenau Medical Center.





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Good ^{to} Know

*Just a few things we thought
you'd like to know for May*



Mother of All Days. Ever wonder which mother, hoping for a day of recognition and pampering, invented her own national holiday? Well, it was Philadelphian Anna Jarvis, the founder of **Mother's Day**, who was not a mother herself. Her nine-year campaign (1905-1914) for a mother's memorial day was inspired by her own mother, who declared the need to celebrate "the matchless service [a mother] renders to humanity in every field of life." After Jarvis' hundreds of letters to legislators, executives and businessmen, plus countless speeches to the public, President Woodrow Wilson finally approved Mother's Day as a national holiday in 1914. A matriarchal miracle! More at WVGenWeb.org.

A Bridge Not Too Far. Chester County's 15 remaining covered bridges attract visitors who admire their beauty, craftsmanship and scenic setting. Spanning 60 miles through the entire county, from Glen Hope to French Creek, the bridges can all be visited in one day! Pine Grove Bridge, the largest, connects Chester and Lancaster Counties. Bartram's Bridge joins Chester and Delaware Counties. You can drive through seven bridges, including the oldest, Sheeder Hall Bridge, built in 1850. Whether you prefer a relaxing drive through Chester County's rolling hills or an energizing hike through its countless trails, the **Covered Bridges** are a must see. (See "X Marks the Spot" in this issue for more.) Visit PaCoveredBridges.com/Chester_County.htm.



Out To Golden Pastures. Help aged equines by volunteering at **Ryerss Farm**, the country's oldest nonprofit organization of its kind (founded in 1888), dedicated to providing a comfortable retirement for horses that faithfully served their former owners or were rescued from abusive situations. Ryerss invites the public to help by feeding or grooming the resident horses or sponsoring a horse for \$30 a month. Help these horses enjoy a happy, healthy retirement grazing and rollicking in golden pastures. 610-469-0533; Ryerss.com.



Cash Mob? Unlike typical mobs that make the news, **Cash Mobs** are a positive movement meant to support local businesses. Spawned as a reaction to Grouponing, where shoppers seek the lowest prices from local stores even if it's a bad deal for businesses, cash mobs pick a store, agree to spend about \$20 and unite on a given day to take the business by storm. Berks and Wayne Counties have experienced the cash mob craze—is Chester County next? For more, check CashMobs.WordPress.com.



Share This Secret. Step off the beaten path and discover special dining and shopping destinations in Chester County during this year's **Best Kept Secrets Tour**, May 4-19. A 16-day adventure, the tour takes you to unique food and shopping spots. Explore gifts in historic barns, find farms that produce hand-crafted items, dine at distinctive restaurants and more—from Honey Brook, Morgantown and Kimberton to Kennett Square and beyond. Tickets are \$7; first 2,000 to purchase get free goodie bags. Want more? Check out Berks and Lancaster Counties' Best Kept Secrets Tours, too. BestKeptSecretsTour.Blogspot.com.



Fancy a Pimm's Cup? Join the 20,000 spectators at the 82nd Annual **Radnor Hunt Races** in Malvern, Saturday, May 19, a perfect venue for a Pimm's Cup (recipes at CountyLinesMagazine.com). With over 77 acres

of events, tailgates and party tents, race day is one of the most anticipated spring traditions in the county. Be part of the excitement as the best steeplechase horses race to the finish line—which is where *County Lines'* hospitality tent will give you a front-row glimpse of more than one photo finish. We hope to see you there! RadnorHuntRaces.org.



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Of Special Note



39th Annual Yellow Springs Art Show & Sale

Through May 13

With over 180 juried artists, and nearly 3,000 pieces of original artwork to view—including works by this year's featured artist Vaughan Stadtmiller—this show is not to be missed! And

the charming village is also worth a visit. Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Show hours: 11 to 5; Fri., until 8 p.m. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.



Malvern Blooms Spring Family Festival

May 6

Fun for the entire family with vendors, children's activities, antique and hot rod car shows, batting cage and more. New this year—a Beer Garden, a Mid-

Atlantic BBQ Association-sanctioned Grilling Contest, three music stages and headline performer. King St. and Burke Park, Malvern. 10 to 4 p.m. Benefits Teach Anti-Bullying, Inc. MalvernBusiness.com.



West Chester Restaurant Week

May 12–20

Come to West Chester to celebrate the growing culinary scene here. Participating restaurants offer multi-course, fixed-price menus for lunch and dinner. Discover what's new or get reacquainted with an old favorite. Either way, this is a great value. For details, visit DowntownWestChester.com.



Brandywine River Museum 41st Annual Antiques Show

May 25–28

Outstanding antiques dealers from across the nation present a variety of American and English furniture, glass, folk

art, quilts, rugs and fine collectibles. Benefits the Museum Volunteers' Art Purchase Fund. Special exhibition: "Pierced, Punched, Painted: Decorated Tinware from Winterthur." Rt. 1 at the Museum, Chadds Ford. Preview Fri., 6 to 9 p.m. featuring cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music. \$125; reservations required. Show: Sat.-Mon., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$15. 610-388-8318 (preview); 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.



37th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

May 6–June 3

Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Spring Valley Farm in Bucks County. See website for special events. 3864 Spring Valley Rd., Doylestown. Mon.-Wed., 10 to 4; Thurs.-Fri., 10 to 7; Sat., 10 to 6; Sun., 12 to 6. \$25. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and Village Improvement Assoc. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

Upcoming Events

Noteworthy in May . . .



May 2-27
Community Arts Center, Wallingford, Designer Show House. The rooms of a beautiful old farmhouse in historic Rose Valley will be transformed by 14 interior designers and open for view through the month. \$25. For tickets and information, 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

May 19, 20
Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation Hosts "Camp In For Kids' Cancer." Spend the night at the home field of the Philadelphia Eagles, meet members of the team, enjoy a behind the scenes tour of the stadium and play catch on the field. Lincoln Financial Field, 1020 Pattison Ave., Philadelphia. \$75-\$150. 610-649-3034; AlexsLemonade.org.



May 18-20
29th Annual Chester County Hospital May Festival. Food, fun, friends and entertainment for the whole family with amusements, children's activities, shopping, games, Battle of the Bands, a wellness tent and more. Chester County Hospital Grounds, 701 E. Marshall St., West Chester. Fri, 4 to 9:30; Sat, 10 to 9:30; Sun, 11 to 5. Free. 610-431-5329; CCHosp.com/MayFest.

May 26-27
5th Annual Great PA FlavorFest. Start your summer off with flavor. This is a tasty feast with some of the region's finest wineries, cooking demonstrations, specialty foods for taste and sale, artisans, live music and children's activities. Mt. Hope Estate & Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Daily 11 to 6. Free. 717-665-7021; PaRenFaire.com.



Antiques

May 1
The Philadelphia Antiques Show. Fifty-seven of the nation's leading antiques dealers and galleries bring together their finest pieces. Benefits Penn Lung Transplant Program. PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Phila. 11 to 4. \$12-\$20. 610-902-2109; PhilaAntiques.com.

May 4-6
Eastern National Antiques Show & Sale. This is a general show, featuring fine jewelry,

furniture, clocks and watches, art and selected collectibles. Carlisle Expo Ctr., Carlisle. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$7-8. 610-437-5534; EasternNationalShows.com.

May 17-19
Historic East Berlin Antiques Show. The "Great Country Show" featuring Americana dealers. Community Center, 401 North Ave., E. Berlin. Preview Thurs, 5 to 8:30, \$12. Fri, 1 to 7; Sat, 9 to 3. \$6. 717-259-9866.

May 18-19
The Greater York Antique Show & Sale.

Quality dealers featuring 18th- and 19th-century American and English furniture and accessories. Benefits the Y's Men's Club of York. Memorial Hall East, York Expo Center, 334 Carlisle Ave., York. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 11 to 5. \$8-\$10, good for both days. 717-872-2778; JimBurkAntiqueShows.net.

Art & Craft Shows

May 4-6
Art on the Avenue of the States Plein Air Competition. On the Chester Waterfront. For details contact lbrace@comcast.net.

May 11-13
PA Guild of Craftsmen Fine Craft Fair. The Guild's signature premier fine craft fair, featuring 140 of its very finest artists. Rittenhouse Square, corner of 19th & Walnut Sts., Philadelphia. Fri-Sat, 11 to 7; Sun, 11 to 5. Free. 717-431-8706; PACrafts.org.



May 14-June 23
Wayne Art Center's 6th Annual Plein Air Festival. Over 30 of the country's finest plein air artists gathered to paint the inspiring landscapes of the Delaware Valley. Their work is now on view at the Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 10 to 4. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

June 1
West Chester Gallery Walk. Presented by the West Chester Chamber of Commerce, this semi-annual event is a delight for art lovers of all tastes. There will be special showings and refreshments at hosting shops. 5 to 9. 610-696-4046; GWCC.org.

June 3
47th Media Art Exhibition & Craft Fair. Juried artists and craftspeople line State Street in downtown Media from 9 to 5. Rain date June 12. 610-583-4432; VisitMedia-PA.com.

Equestrian

Be sure to see the "Race to the Steeple—Chase for the Prize" and Devon articles in this issue.

June-September
Fridays and Sundays
Brandywine Polo. Spectators can picnic and tailgate at the grounds. Toughkenamon Exit, Rt. 1 S. Fri, 5:30; Sun, at 3. \$10. Cancelled for rain or extreme heat. Phone, 610-268-8692; BrandywinePoloClub.com.

May 24-June 3
Devon 2012 — The 116th Annual Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. This great

outdoor horse show includes hunter, jumper, saddlebred horses, harness, coaching, junior and lead line classes. The Devon Country Fair offers family fun with rides, games, great food and over 40 shops. Benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital. See "Devon Horse Show Advance Schedule" in this issue for day-by-day events and visit their website for more special happenings. 610-688-2554; TheDevonHorseShow.org.

Eat, Drink & Be Merry

May 2-September 26
Stroll, Shop, Dine — Dining Under the Stars in Media. Wednesday is the night to dine out in Media. Restaurants offer outdoor dining along State Street, from Jackson to Orange Sts. Plus entertainment and children's activities on each block. 5 to 11 pm. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.



May 5
Philadelphia Wine Festival. Fine wineries offer hard-to-find vintages and rare blends and a silent auction, benefitting The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. Lincoln Financial Field, SCA Club, One Lincoln Financial Field Way, Philadelphia. VIP Tasting, 5 to 6:30, \$225; Grand Tasting, 6:30 to 9, \$125. 800-595-4TIX; PhiladelphiaWineFestival.com.

May 12
4th Annual BrewFest at Mount Hope. Music, food and all that is ale. Two sessions: 11 am to 3 pm and 4:30 to 8:30 pm. Benefits Central PA Food Bank. Mt. Hope Estate & Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. \$40 in advance; \$45 at the gate. 717-665-7021; PaRenFaire.com.

June 1-10
Philly Beer Week. More than 500 events at over 100 venues throughout the city and suburbs, highlighting the region's diverse beer scene, its world-class breweries, neighborhood taverns, restaurants and rich beer culture. For venue information visit PhillyBeerWeek.org.

June 2
West Chester's "Up On the Roof." Live entertainment sets the mood for an evening of delicious appetizers, light dining and desserts. Open bar offers beer, wine and the famous Rooftop Martini. Chestnut Street Garage, West Chester. Benefits the beautification of the downtown area. For reservations, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com.

June 2
Longwood's Wine & Jazz Festival. Live jazz, fine regional wines and local fresh fare. Longwood's glorious outdoor stage overlooking the picturesque meadow comes alive at this annual event. 1001 Longwood Rd. \$25-\$40. 12 to 5:30. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

Family Fun

Through May
Hands-On House, Children's Museum of Lancaster. This museum creates interactive

learning opportunities for children through exhibits that stimulate curiosity. Visit their website for a complete list of programs. 721 Landis Valley Rd., Lancaster. Tues-Thurs, 11 to 4; Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 5. \$8.50. 717-569-KIDS; HandsOnHouse.org.

May 12-13, 26-27
The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. A living history site about the world of a farm family living in 18th-century Pennsylvania. **May 12-13,** Revolutionary War Skirmish and Camp; **May 26-27,** 17th-Century Timeline and Skirmish. Ridley Creek State Park, Rt. 3,

t: 610-353-4569

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Edgemont. Sat, 11 to 5; Sun, 11 to 3. \$6-\$8. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

May 19

Community Day at Valley Forge Educational Services. Festivities include interactive theater activities, carnival-style games, music, photos with your favorite Star Wars characters, bounce house, a raffle and more. 1777 N. Valley Rd., Malvern. 10 to 2. Free. 610-296-6724; VFES.net.

May 19, 21

Family Fun at the DCH. *May 19*, Grow Your Own Pizza; *May 21*, Nature Nights: Monarchs

and Marigolds. Best for ages 4-10. 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 10 to 11:30 am. \$30-\$40. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

May 22

Children's Series at the DuPont Theatre — *Are You My Mother?* A musical based on P.D. Eastman's picture book. Gr. PreK-2. DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 9:30 and noon. \$6. 800-338-0881; DuPontTheatre.com.

May 31–August 30

Swingin' Summer Thursdays in West Chester. Great food, live music, clowns and



more. Gay St., the first Thurs. of the month. 6:30 to 9:30. 610-436-9010; Downtown-WestChester.com.

Festivals & Fairs

May 6

Cinco de Mayo Fiesta in Kennett Square. Celebration of Mexican culture including food, music, entertainment and children's activities. Noon to 5. Downtown Kennett. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

May 6

Highlands Mansion & Gardens Community Day. Tours, refreshments and activities for the whole family. 7001 Sheaff La., Ft. Washington. 2 to 4. Free. 215-641-2687; HighlandsHistorical.org.

May 6

West Chester May Day Festival of the Arts. A festival of the arts with arts and crafts vendors, strolling musicians, mimes, jugglers, children's crafts and much more. Everhart Park, W. Union St. & S. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 11 to 4. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

May 11–12

Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta. Thousands of student athletes visit the city of Philadelphia for the largest collegiate rowing competition in the U.S. Held on the Schuylkill River, parking along Kelly Drive and in remote parking areas with shuttle service to the grandstand. For information, 215-542-1443; DadVail.org.

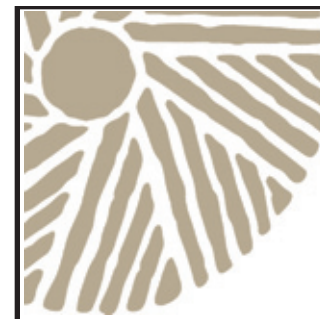
May 28

Kennett Square Memorial Day Parade. The parade honors local veterans and includes antique military vehicles, bag pipers, fife and drums. Cypress St. and Mill Rd. 10 am. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.



May 28

Media's Memorial Day Parade. The parade will travel State Street beginning at 10 am. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.



BRANDYWINE RIVER MUSEUM 41ST ANTIQUES SHOW May 26 - 28

Preview Reception
Friday, May 25, 6 to 9 p.m.

Breakfast and Tour
*Pierced, Punched, Painted:
Decorated Tinware from Winterthur*
Saturday, May 26, 9 a.m.

Booth Talks by Dealers
Sunday, May 27 & Monday, May 28,
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.


Show Hours: 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Admission is \$15 per person.



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Local Farm Markets

Anselma Farmers & Artisans Market, 1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs. Wed, 2 to 6. 610-827-1906; AnselmaMill.org.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. Beginning May 12, Sat, 9 to 1. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

East Goshen Farmers Market, E. Goshen Park, Paoli Pk., East Goshen. Every other Thurs, 3 to 7. EastGoshenFarmersMarket.blogspot.com.

Kennett Square Farmers Market, downtown. Opening May 4. Fri, 2 to 6. 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster Central Market, 23 N. Market St. Year-round, Tues, Fri, 6 to 4; Sat, 6 to 2. 717-735-6890; CentralMarket-Lancaster.com.

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

Lititz Farmers Market, Water St. Beginning May 19. Sat, 8 to noon. 717-626-6332; LititzFarmersMarket.com.

Media Farmers Market, State St. between Monroe & Gayley Sts. Beginning May 10, Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-566-5039; MediaFarmersMarket.com.

Oxford Village Market, 3rd & Locust Sts. Tues, 12:30 to 6. 610-998-9494; OxfordMainStreet.org.

Parkesburg Farm Community Market, 315 W. First Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-857-2616; Parkesburg.org.

Phoenixville Farmers Market, under Gay St. Bridge accessed by Taylor Alley. Sat, 9 to 1. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

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

West Chester Growers Market, Chestnut and Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

West Grove Farmers Market, Harmony Park, Harmony Rd. Thurs, 2 to 6. 610-932-5468; WestGroveFarmersMarket.com.

Wilmington's Urban Farm Market, 12th & Brandywine Sts. May 7-Oct. Mon, 4 to 7 pm. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

May 31-June 3

Brandywine Hospital's 40th Annual Strawberry Festival. Rides, entertainment, children's games and activities, craft fair and fireworks display on Friday night. Brandywine Hospital, at the Rt. 30 Bypass, Coatesville. Thurs, 5 to 10; Fri, 5 to 11; Sat, 11 to 11; Sun, noon to 6. Benefits the Coatesville Youth Initiative. 610-380-9080; BrandywineStrawberryFestival.com.

June 2

Historic Newtown Square Day. A community celebration with vendors, games,



an outdoor market, tours of historic sites and private properties. Square Tavern Rt. 252 & Goshen Rd., Newtown Square. 10 to 4. \$6. 610.975.0290; HistoricNewtownSquare.org.

June 3

144th Annual Malvern Memorial Day



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Parade and Family Fun Day. Activities begin at Monument Park, Warren Ave., at 8:45 am with a kids fun run. Parade starts at 1:30. MalvernMemorialParade.com.

June 3

Super Sunday in Downtown West Chester. A huge street festival with children's crafts, games, rides, food vendors, live bands and artisans. Gay St., from Matlack to Darlington St., and High St., from Chestnut to Market Sts. 11 to 5. 610-692-7574; West-Chester.com.

June 5-9

Annual Greek Festival at Holy Trinity

Greek Orthodox Church. Experience a bit of Greece and enjoy the wonderful food, dancing, musical entertainment and culture at this popular festival. 808 N. Broom St., Wilmington. Daily 11 to 11. 302-654-4446; GreekFestDE.com.

First Friday, Second Saturday

May 4, June 1

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,** with free trolley from Bryn Mawr to Ardmore, 610-642-4040; FirstFridayMainLine.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **Wayne,** 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com. **Wilmington,** 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

May 12

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

Fundraising & Benefits

May 4

"Sunny Days" Benefit for the Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. Enjoy dinner from area restaurants and caterers, live entertainment, dancing and live and silent auction. Brandywine Manor House, 120 Germany Hollow Rd., Honey Brook. 6 to 10 pm. \$125. 610-431-3546; DVCCC.com.

May 6

Recipe For Success Kitchen Tour in Radnor. The first annual tour of ten stunning kitchens in Wayne and Villanova to benefit Radnor A Better Chance and Radnor High School Scholarship Fund. 1 to 5 pm. For information visit RadnorABC.org.

May 17

2nd Annual "Hearts For Mommy" Benefit. A tapas tasting event to benefit the Mommy's Light Lives On Fund. Also featuring live music and a silent auction. Riverstone Café, 143 W. Lincoln Ave., Exton. 7 to 10 pm. \$45-\$50. 610-594-2233; HeartsForMommy.com.

Gardens

See "Home & Garden Tours" article in this issue for garden tours and plant sales.

May 26-October 28

Tyler Arboretum Presents "Sit A Spell: Seats That Tell a Tale." Talented artisans bring their imaginations to life in the form of outdoor seating. Chairs, benches, rockers and hammocks encourage visitors of all ages to sit, relax and enjoy nature all around them. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat-Sun, 9 to 7. \$5-\$9. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

Museums

Ongoing

Chester County Historical Society Exhibits. **Now open,** "If Walls Could Talk"—built in

1848, Horticultural Hall, the main museum building, was the epicenter for current issues, politics and civil rights in Chester County during the Civil War. **Open Now,** "Bayard Rustin's Local Roots." **Through Sept. 7,** "In Stitches: Unraveling Their Stories." 225 North High St., West Chester. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

Through July 29

Delaware Art Museum – "Beyond Words: The Symbolic Language of Plants." An exhibition of works in various media that emphasize the historic and symbolic meanings of plants in art. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$6-\$12. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

Through June 24

Wharton Esherick Museum. **Through June 24,** Fischer Corner Desk, considered one of Esherick's masterpieces on view at the museum, 1520 Horse Shoe Trail, Malvern. **May 20-June 19,** "Poplar Culture: A Celebration of a Tree," an exhibition of over 40 artists and their work created from one of Esherick's poplar trees. Preview, **May 20,** Lincoln Building, Yellow Springs Rd., Chester Springs. 2 to 5. \$55-\$75. Show: Mon-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.



Through January 6, 2013

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library's "Uncorked! Wine, Objects & Tradition." A new exhibition that explores the stunning range of objects associated with the history of wine drinking, especially in Britain and America. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$5-\$18. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

Music & Entertainment

May 6

Delaware County Symphony Concert. "French Connection," the music of Fauré, Debussy and more. Neumann Univ., Life Center, Meagher Theater, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$12-\$15. 610-356-5673; DCSCMusic.org.

May 6

Berks Classical Children's Chorus. The Reading Symphony Orchestra and the Berks Opera Workshop collaborate in the one-act opera for children, *Brundibar*. Sovereign Per-

forming Arts Center, 136 N. 6th St., Reading. 3 pm. Free. 610-898-7664; BCCCSings.org.

May 10, 11

The Colonial Theatre. **May 10,** An Evening With Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra, \$25-\$39.50; **May 11,** The Rolling Stones and The Beatles feat: Satisfaction & The British Invasion Tribute, \$15-\$25. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

May 11

Vox Ama Deus – "Beethoven's 9th." The Ama Deus Ensemble performs at the Kimmel

Center, Perelman Theater, Broad & Spruce St., Phila. 8 pm. \$60. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

May 12

Chester County Choral Society Concert. Selections from Cole Porter, vocal competition winners and *Cinemagic* by Mac Huff. Fuggett Middle School, 500 Ellis La., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$15. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

May 12

The Brandywine Singers Present "An Evening with Leonard Bernstein." Experience

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the choral music of this beloved American composer. Church of the Holy Trinity, High & Union Sts., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$5-\$10. 610-470-0870; TheBrandywineSingers.org.

May 12
West Chester Area Community Chorus Annual Spring Concert. The chorus will be performing a medley of songs from Johnny Mercer, from *South Pacific* and more. West Chester East High School, 450 Ellis La., West Chester. 7 pm. \$5. 610-357-1617; WestChesterChorus.com.

May 19
TurtleDove Folk Club Presents Cheryl Wheeler. American singer-songwriter of contemporary folk music. West Grove Friends Meeting House, 153 E. Harmony Rd., West Grove. 8 pm. \$16-\$18. 802-431-3433; TurtleDove.org.

June 3
Vox Ama Deus — “Vivaldissimo.” Camarata Ama Deus, baroque instrument orchestra, performs at Bryn Mawr College, Thomas Great Hall, Bryn Mawr. 4 pm. \$25. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.

Outdoor Activities

Through May 19
Local Relay for Life Events. Relay-style event where teams camp out overnight and members of each team take turns walking around the track, keeping one member on the track for up to 24 hours. **May 11,** Great Valley High School, Malvern; **May 19,** Downingtown West High School and Garnet Valley High School, Glen Mills. RelayForLife.org.

Through May 31
Schuylkill Scrub. The goal is to clean as many miles of road, stream and parkland, which will help prevent trash from making its way into our drinking water sources and keep our land clean, litter-free and beautiful. To sign up, 484-288-0536; SchuylkillScrub.org.

May 5
17th Annual Trout Rodeo. Ponds will be stocked with 12-24-inch trout. Tagged fish, bait and fishing supplies, a raffle, prizes and more. Benefits Anson B. Nixon Park, N. Walnut St. 8 to 4. Tickets at Buck's Hunting, 809 Gap-Newport Pk., Avondale. 610-444-0792. AnsonBNixonPark.org.

May 5-6
25th Annual MDA Ride For Life. Motorcycles roar through SE Pennsylvania to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Assoc. SteelStacks/Arts Quest Campus, 101 Founders Way, Bethlehem. Sat, 1 pm; Sun, 10 am. 610-557-4403; MDARideForLife.org.

May 6
33rd Annual Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A 10-mile, point-to-point course that starts at Central High School Athletic Field at Broad St. and Somerville Ave. and finishes inside the Philadelphia Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. 215-683-3594; BroadStreetRun.com.

May 12
Kids Fishing Rodeo at Warwick County Park. Spend a beautiful spring day at the park fishing for trout. Co-sponsored by the Coventryville Trout Club. 191 County Park Rd., Pottstown. 10 am. \$5. 610-344-6414. Chesco.org/CCParks.



May 12
West Chester Area Sr. Center “Great Race.” A family 5K run/walk and 1 mile fun

run/walk will take place along with a community fair highlighting the center's activities and sponsors products and services. 530 E. Union St., West Chester. Registration, 7:30 am; race at 9. 610-431-4242; WCSeniors.org.

May 12
The Land Conservancy for So. Chester County 9K/5K Trail Race. The course involves two loops, moderately hilly with one major climb and minor stream crossings. A family-friendly event with kids activity corner. 814 Merrybell La., Kennett Square. Registration 7:30 am; race at 9. \$25. 610-347-0347; TLCForSCC.org.

May 19
23rd Annual Kennett Run. A 1-Mile Fun Walk, 1-Mile Kids Run, 5K Race Walk, 10K and 5K Runs and a PoweRun biathlon. Race at 9, post-race party on N. Walnut St. with refreshments, music and awards. Benefits local charities. 610-388-1556; KennettRun.net.

May 19
11th Annual Malvern Federal Savings Bank Berwyn Victory Run. Sponsored by the Veterans Assoc. of Easttown & Tredyffrin Twps. Race begins and ends at Johnson Park, Bridge & First Ave., Berwyn. Registration 7:30 am. Race 8:30, Kids Fun Run, 9:15. Berwyn-VeteransMemorial.com.

June 3
28th Running of the Philadelphia International Cycling Championship. Cyclists complete 10 laps of a 14.5-mile course. The Liberty Classic features professional, international women cyclists competing in a 57.6-mile race. Weekend warriors and casual cyclists have the chance to ride up to three timed laps of the Championship Road Course. ProCyclingTour.com.

Theater

Through May 20
A Wrinkle In Time. A Family Discovery Series presentation of the Newbery Medal-winning book by Madeleine L'Engle. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Thurs-Sun, 7; Sat, Sun, 2. \$25-\$45. 610- 644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



May 30-June 24
Shakespeare's Will. Anne Hathaway's re-

flection on her life and marriage to the famous poet. People's Light & Theatre, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Tues-Thurs, 7:30; Fri-Sat, 8; Sun, 7; Wed, Sat, Sun, 2. \$25-\$45. 610- 644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

June 1-2, 29-30
The Savoy Company Performs “The Mikado.” **June 1-2,** DuPont Theatre, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. **June 29-30,** Longwood Gardens, Rt. 1, Kennett Square. For performance times and ticket prices phone 215-735-7161; Savoy.org. ♦

Stay in the know with everything going on in *County Lines* country. Sign up for our 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

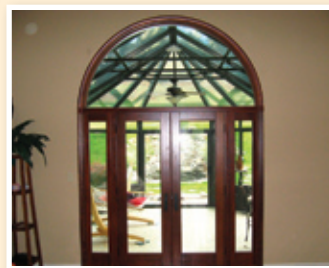
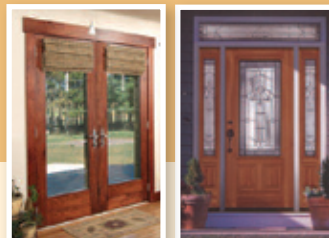
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THEATRE
SPOTLIGHT

SPRING AWAKENING

Sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll
explode this spring on the
Media Theatre stage.

A Timeless Story

Winner of eight Tony Awards, *Spring Awakening* takes viewers on a journey from adolescence to adulthood with an unparalleled passion.

Admittedly, a tale about German students in the late 19th century may initially sound a bit dull, but the storyline is anything but. Based on Frank Wedekind's 1892 play, *The Awakening of Spring*, the plot focuses on a group of teenagers as they come of age, explore their sexuality, morality and desire to be heard in a world of unresponsive adults.

What begins with an argument about the length of a skirt soon becomes an often erotic and enlightening tale that has captivated viewers for over a hundred years with its eternal and seductive exploration of the timeless trials and tears of the teenage years.

Captivating Controversy

No stranger to controversy, Wedekind examined bold topics others were not keen on tackling. The play, which provides the story for the musical, was considered daring in its time, a characteristic preserved in Duncan Sheik's and Steven Sater's adaptation.

With music by Grammy award winning singer-songwriter Duncan Sheik and lyrics by Steven Sater, *Spring Awakening* is not only a tantalizing tale of angst and romance, but a musical masterpiece. The juxtaposition of Wedekind's narrative with the contemporary alternative pop/rock sounds of Sheik's music creates a unique musical that places provocative issues in the spotlight: adolescence, burgeoning libidos, generation gaps, and personal journeys are all integral to the power of the piece.

The *New York Times* praised not only the rock score, but also the controversial storyline: "Broadway, with its often puerile sophistication and its sterile romanticism, may never be the same." Appearing around the globe for over a century, on and off Broadway, the play continues to be called "revolutionary" and "simply ravishing" by critics.

Moving Forward

Contrasting the individual's natural and instinctive emotional needs with principles and traditional values of the era, *Spring Awakening* represents not just a bridge to adulthood but a new approach to those portions of our lives

The Media Theatre



that we may, as we grow, continue to repress.

Media Theatre's Artistic Director Jesse Cline, who directs the production, believes the show is important for young people and their parents. "It really touches upon issues facing the younger generation," he said. "We believe that we have come so far, but in so many aspects of our lives—including a strong and open dialogue between parents and teens—we still need to find a way to move forward."

Keeping it Local

Media Theatre's cast is impressive, with one local actor getting his moment in the spotlight. Delaware County's own Jack Raymond will star in the leading role. A past "Delco Idol" winner, Raymond has also portrayed Barnaby in *Heaven Can Wait*, and was seen recently in The Media Theatre's *The Sound of Music*.

Discover this timeless celebration of youth and rebellion, through May 20. ♦

~ Jaimielynn Cooper

If You Go

What: Spring Awakening
Where: The Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media
When: Through May 20
Who: Mature audiences
Box Office: 610.891.0100; MediaTheatre.org



The intersection of Lancaster and Wayne Avenues is a hub of activity, with sidewalks in all directions for window shopping and outdoor dining.

Walk About Wayne

Carol Metzker

Whether you want a casual stroll or a destination in itself, you're in for a treat in Wayne.

Welcome to Wayne," a sign greets visitors. Flowers poke their heads over a stone wall at the Wayne Presbyterian Church and nod as vehicles and pedestrians pass by. On bustling corners, charming lampposts keep a friendly lookout for visitors and residents alike.

This delightful community along the Main Line offers history, entertainment, great food, shopping and services. It's the perfect place for a casual stroll or spontaneous shopping spree, whether you're a first-time or returning visitor or nearby resident.

Setting Out

Park near the intersection of Wayne and Lancaster Avenues, where landmark Wayne Jewelers is known for helping families celebrate special occasions for more than half a century. Survey the scene—shops, eateries, sidewalks that take you straight to your goal or that let you meander. Set out on foot in any direction; you can't go wrong whichever way you choose.



Eagle Village Shops offer ample parking, brick sidewalks and charming shops and distinctive restaurants. Pictured here: newly renovated The Little House Shop, George Perrier's Georges' restaurant, and two views of expanded Valley Forge Flowers.

If fashion is your fling, the heart of Wayne has plenty to offer. At *Finer Things*, ooh and aah over an adorable selection of boots, and irresistible dresses that will send you into a fitting room that holds a captivating little chandelier. The splash of color in the window of *Fiore Moda Italiano* (or simply *Fiore*) entices visitors into the shop where funky dresses and sparkly necklaces might make you want to change clothes and accessories right then ... just for fun.

New home fashions, accessories and gifts are a step away, too—turn your breakfast nook into a café in Provence with *Le Cadeaux* dishes or your tub into a spa with bubble bath from *Beethoven Wraps*. If vintage or recycled miscellany strikes your fancy, cross Lancaster Avenue and head down the block.

Explore the Neighborhood League Shops, where decades ago in its basement I discovered a \$25 antique chandelier that, with some elbow grease and brass polish, became a restored treasure.

A Village in Wayne

Just a hop, skip and jump down Lancaster Avenue, Eagle Village Shops await you with more fabulous venues. With ample parking and pristine brick sidewalks for wandering, it's easy to spend a leisurely day shopping and dining in this charming retail center.

Drop into *Menagerie*, a new store where the feel of luxurious silk dresses and fine and fancy leather handbags are one touch away. Shoe aficionados won't be able to resist *ViVi G. Shoes*, where footwear, accessories and fashion advice are all part of the experience.

Thinking about updating your home accessories, too? Renovated last fall, *The Little House Shop* beckons you into every nook and cranny with bright, colorful spaces filled with items sure to delight: gifts, fine stationery and home furnishings. There are even some horse-themed items to purchase, in case you didn't get your fill at the *Devon Horse Show*.

Create an enchanted garden indoors or out with exotic plants and ornaments from *Valley Forge Flowers*. Or enjoy their café, DIY workshops, or selection of must-have gifts at their newly expanded eco-friendly shop—a bit of a *Terrain-at-Styers* feeling on the western Main Line.

Need a breather before heading to another shop? You can take an espresso break at *Valley Forge Flowers' café* or relax with a cuppa from *A Taste of Britain*, where tea is the beverage of choice and shelves are well-stocked with *Barry's*, *Lyons*, *Ribena* and more.

Take a Taste

For just a sip or a taste, Wayne's menu of cafés and eateries is a smorgasbord. Enjoy a cup of Fair Trade La Colombe coffee over conversation at *Fabio & Danny's Station Café* before hopping an R5 train or walking down North Wayne or Waynewood Avenues. Stop in at *Tredici Italian Market* for pasta, cherry peppers,

Welcome to Wayne signs greet visitors to the historic village, founded in 1880.



Anthony Wayne Theater, opened in 1928, boasts Art Deco style and colorful terra cotta details.



WAYNE
FORMERLY "LOUELLA"-RENAMED
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olive oil or ready-made suppers to take home. If you're lucky enough to be in Wayne on a Saturday night, add live music to your main course at the Gryphon Café.

If you're a believer in dessert first, Aux Petits Delices could be your heaven on earth. Ogle an assortment of tempting pastries, chocolates and cakes. Then try a delicie with hazelnut crunch and chocolate.

For more than a snack or casual meal, discerning diners also have choices. Make reservations for the chic Paramour restaurant at the Wayne Hotel, or upscale yet casual Ella's American Bistro on Sugartown Road (read delectable descriptions in *County Lines*, Jan. 2012 issue).

Enter Margaret Kuo's restaurants, where the first floor restaurant serving Chinese cuisine was a veritable party, and the elegant, peaceful upstairs serving Japanese cuisine soothed our senses visually and through the palate, last time we visited.

Though Chef Georges Perrier tossed in his toque and closed Philly's Le Bec Fin after 42 years, Georges' in the Eagle Village Shops continues his legacy with global cuisine and impeccable flair. Under the talented hands of Executive Chef Chris Siropaides, who once worked under Chef Perrier, Georges' is still a destination at which to relish an intimate meal or join friends at the inviting bar.

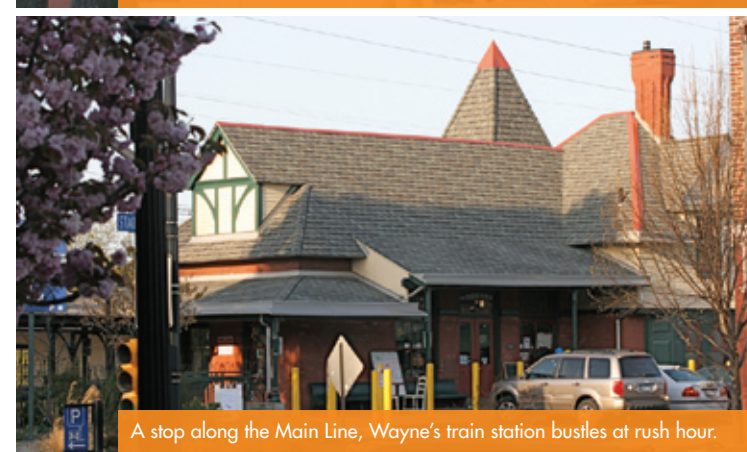
For something different, try The Hana Restaurant near Wayne's Lancaster County Farmer's Market. The small, unpretentious looking eating establishment—tucked into a line of shops—has served Japanese sushi and tempura as long as I can remember.

Shopping for Him

If shopping for fashions isn't his thing, Wayne has that covered, too. A sound check at Main Line Sound and Video in



Wayne's sidewalks welcome diners and strolling families.



A stop along the Main Line, Wayne's train station bustles at rush hour.

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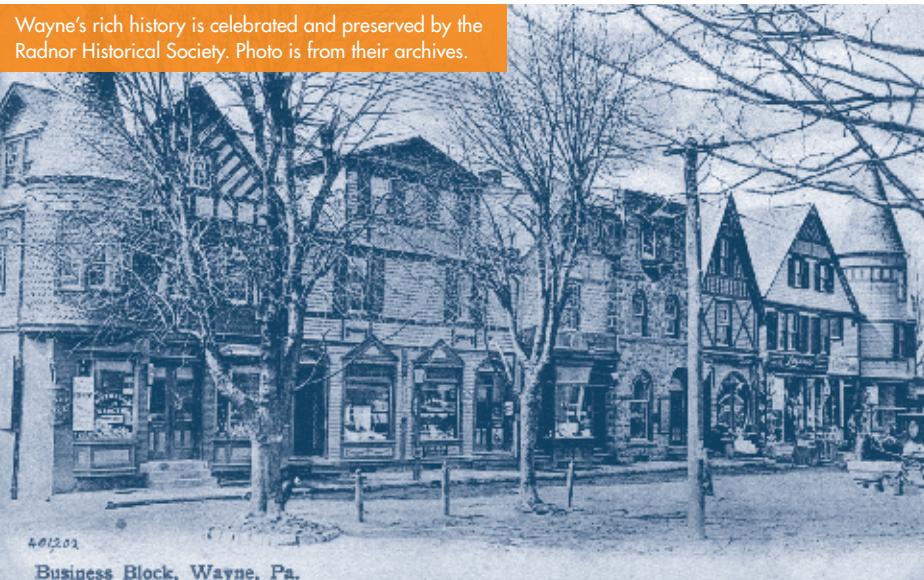
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Wayne's rich history is celebrated and preserved by the Radnor Historical Society. Photo is from their archives.



Business Block, Wayne, Pa.

Eagle Village, or a haircut without muss or fuss at Par's Barber Shop might be the preferred afternoon retreat.

For men's "shoes and the best dirt in town, go to D'amicantonio Shoe Store," recommends Diane Jiorle, Wayne Business Association President.

Treats for the Tiny

Pick the perfect dragon costume or choose battery-powered robotic bugs at

Lucky Duck, Wayne's darling toy store. Dash down to Gumdrops & Sprinkles, where kids of all ages will love the door handle filled with jelly beans, and sundaes at ice-cream cone-styled chairs and purple tables.

Take teens to Gabby's Jar to check out the pop art and novelties. Or take the whole family to the movies at Clearview's Anthony Wayne cinema, a long-standing local favorite.

More Fun

WANT MORE TO DO IN WAYNE?

Visit Verge Yoga or a salon or spa. Get a makeover at bluemercury or schedule a manicure and pedicure at Blooming Nails and Spa. Ask about the organic products at the Cole Wellness Spa.

Luxuriate in upscale boutique shopping and couture paradise at Christa's in Eagle Village. Just steps away, browse at Silver Moon Antiques.

An intriguing Lancaster Avenue storefront "Painting with a Twist" taps window-shoppers' curiosity. At the new BYOB studio, local artists help students recreate a specific work of art, while quenching a thirst for creativity and fun. Bring your favorite drink; painting supplies are provided by the studio.

If you're like I am, you'll find that in a weekend's worth of time, you'll barely scratch the surface of what to do in Wayne. No worries—all the signs welcoming you back will be there. ♦



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Devon Horse Show Daily Schedule

— MAY 24 TO JUNE 3 —

THURSDAY – May 24

Family Day – 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Country Fair Family Day offers specials at the Midway on souvenirs and food.

Dixon Oval

- ★ USEF Talent Search
- ★ WIHS Equitation Jumper

Gold Ring

- ★ Pony Hunter Breeding
- ★ Pessoa/USEF Medal

FRIDAY – May 25

Daytime – 7 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

The best Junior Riders in the country.

Dixon Oval

- ★ ASPCA Maclay
- ★ R.W. "Ronnie" Mutch Equitation Ch.
- ★ Junior Jumpers
- ★ Large and Small Junior Hunters

Gold Ring

- ★ Small, Medium and Large Pony Hunters

Evening – 8 to 9:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval – 8 p.m.

- ★ Junior Jumper - Gambler's Choice
- ★ Demonstration by inspirational young performer, Lizzy Traband

SATURDAY – May 26

Daytime – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Junior Weekend's final day featuring Lead Line, Junior and Pony Hunters and the costumed Pony Hunt Teams. Top Junior riders compete for the Show Jumping Hall of Fame Junior Jumper Classic.

Dixon Oval – 8 a.m.

- ★ Small and Large Junior Hunters
- ★ Pony Jumper
- ★ Lead Line

Gold Ring

- ★ Small, Medium and Large Pony Hunters
- ★ Pony Hunt Teams

Evening – 7 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ SJHOF Junior Jumper Classic
- ★ Radnor Fox Hounds
- ★ Horse Hunt Teams
- ★ Parent and Child
- ★ Family Class
- ★ Demonstration by inspirational young performer, Lizzy Traband

SUNDAY – May 27

Daytime – 1 to 5:15 p.m.

The Carriage Pleasure Drive is the highlight of the day's events, followed by Pony Jumpers. Open Tandem Driving Class competes in the evening.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Handicapped Riders' Division
- ★ Carriage Pleasure Drive
- ★ Pony Jumpers
- ★ Demonstration by inspirational young performer, Lizzy Traband

Evening – 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval – 6:30 p.m.

- ★ Pony Jumpers & Adult Amateur Jumpers
- ★ Open Tandems
- ★ Demonstration by inspirational young performer, Lizzy Traband

MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY – May 28

Daytime – 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Don't miss the Devon Dog Fashion Contest, 1 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Hunter Classes
- ★ Scurry Driving
- ★ Adult Amateur Jumpers

Dixon Oval

Evening – 7 to 9:30 p.m.

- ★ NAL Adult Amateur Jumper Classic
- ★ Coaching
- ★ Pair Pony Driving

TUESDAY – May 29

Family Day – 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Specials on the Midway & guided back-barn tours.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Hunter Classes
- ★ Open Unicorns
- ★ 7 & 8 Year-Old Young Jumpers

Gold Ring (morning only)

- ★ 5 & 6 Year-Old Young Jumpers

Dixon Oval – 7 to 10 p.m.

- ★ Open Jumpers
- ★ Single Horse Driving
- ★ Coaching
- ★ Coach Horn

WEDNESDAY – May 30

Ladies Day

Daytime – 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Ladies Day at Devon! Ladies Side Saddle Classes and the Ladies Hat Contest.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Hunter Classes
- ★ Ladies Side Saddle
- ★ 7-8 Year-Old Hunters
- ★ Open Jumpers

Gold Ring (morning only)

- ★ 5 & 6 Year-Old Jumpers

Evening – 7 to 10:15 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Open Jumper
- ★ Ladies Side Saddle
- ★ Hackneys, Friesians and Coaching
- ★ American Saddlebreds

THURSDAY – May 31

Daytime – 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Grand Prix is part of the qualifying process for the U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team. Top horse and rider combinations compete in this first of two Observation Events in the Dixon Oval.

Dixon Oval

- ★ PA Breeding Classes
- ★ Thoroughbred & Non-Thoroughbred
- ★ Young Hunter Under Saddle
- ★ Hackneys
- ★ Friesians and Coaching
- ★ American Saddlebreds

Dixon Oval

Evening – 7:15 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ *The Grand Prix of Devon, part of the qualifying process for the U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team*
- ★ Philadelphia Mounted Police Exhibition

FRIDAY – June 1

Daytime – 7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Amateur Owner Hunters & Jumpers, Local Hunters, American Saddlebreds, Hackneys & Friesians.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Amateur Owner Jumpers
- ★ American Saddlebreds and Hackneys
- ★ Open Jumpers

Gold Ring

- ★ Local Hunters
- ★ A/O 3'3" Hunters

Evening – 7 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Open Jumper - Gambler's Choice
- ★ Coaching and Coach Horn Competition
- ★ American Saddlebreds
- ★ Hackneys
- ★ Friesians

SATURDAY – June 2

Daytime – 8 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Second U.S. Show Jumping Team Observation Event for the 2012 Olympics is this afternoon. Evening events include the Devon Derby Drawing.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Amateur Owner Hunters
- ★ American Saddlebreds and Hackneys

Gold Ring

- ★ Local Hunters and A/O 3'3" Hunters

Afternoon/Evening – 4 to 10:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Open Jumper Stake – Second Observation Event at Devon for the U.S. Olympic Show Jumping Team
- ★ A/O Jumper SJHOF Classic
- ★ American Saddlebreds, Hackneys and Roadsters

SUNDAY – June 3

Daytime – 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pony rides for the children today and a Plant Sale at the conclusion of the show.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Working Fox Hunter
- ★ Hunter Derby ♦





Elegant tailgating at the Carriage Marathon is a time-honored Devon tradition.



Top left: Over 2500 volunteers make the 11 days of Devon a smooth operation.

Left: Don't miss the drama of the Dixon Oval at night.

Above: Thursday night's Grand Prix brings top caliber horses and riders, this year including Olympic hopefuls.

DEVON HORSE SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR 2012 IS A VERY BIG YEAR

Story by Mimi Killian, Photos by Alix Coleman

For many in our area, attending the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair is a family tradition that dates back generations. The uninitiated may wonder what all the fuss is about. Well, what indeed? Just what makes Devon so special, year after year?

The Best Around

For starters Devon is the largest and oldest multi-breed horse show in the country—right here in our backyard! Quite a distinction. Add to that the fact that the Devon Country Fair is managed and staffed exclusively by volunteers, over 2500 of them each

year. You'd be hard pressed to find another volunteer effort of that size anywhere.

All those volunteers are working with a common goal of supporting Bryn Mawr Hospital. The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair has been making annual contributions to the Hospital since 1919. And the donations since just 1972 exceed \$14 million. In today's dollars, that would be over \$50 million!

But what lures the estimated 100 thousand folks through the gates each year? It's the elite equestrian competition, the traditions, the shopping, the rides, the food, and, of course, the fun!

Olympic Hopefuls

This year is particularly exciting because Devon will host a U.S. Show Jumping Team Observation Event. In March, Olympic hopefuls competed in Selection Trials in Wellington, Florida. Those trials resulted in a "long list" of horse/rider combinations eligible to vie for a shot at the 2012 Olympic team that will travel to London this summer. The next step in the qualifying process is to compete at two of four Observation Events.

The Observation Events take place in May and early June in California, Calgary, Kentucky and, lucky for us, at Devon. Based on the results of these events, the U.S. Equestrian Federation will recommend four team members and alternates to the U.S. Olympic Committee.

The two contests at Devon that will serve as the Observation Events, are the Grand Prix of Devon, held Thursday evening, May 31, and the Open Jumper Stake, which takes place late Saturday afternoon, June 2. Both events are already among the most popular and well-attended of the entire eleven days of Devon. With the added cache of the Olympic connection, you can bet that atmosphere at Devon will be electric.

And seats will sell out fast, so get your tickets early!

Junior Weekend

But hold on, there's much to see at Devon before these Observation Events. The eleven-day whirlwind kicks

off with what the rest of the world might call Memorial Day Weekend, but around Devon it's known as Junior Weekend. Some of the best under-18 talent in the country arrives to test their mettle in the show ring. With important awards on the line, the competition is every bit as fierce as for their adult counterparts.

The Juniors also add levity to the weekend. What's not fun about Pony Hunt Teams? Where else are will you see riders and horses competing in costume and in groups? And offer up "bribes" to the judges.

Plus, there's nothing cuter than the Lead Line tots who make their appearance, decked out like the future champions they



Pony Hunt Teams participate in costume and in groups, a Junior Weekend highlight.

are, in the Dixon Oval on Saturday, May 26. Proud parents, like the one on this issue's cover, add to the fun and high fashion.

Carriage Parade

Celebrating its 115th anniversary last year, Devon is well known for its long and storied history and if there is a single event that gives a nod to that treasured past, it's the Carriage Pleasure Drive.

Sunday morning, May 27, dozens of beautifully appointed antique carriages, handsome teams of horses, costumed

drivers, passengers and footmen, plus hundreds of spectators gather in the fields of St. David's church.

As the well-dressed ladies and gentlemen prepare for judging, one of the most elegant tailgate competitions anywhere ensues. Silver, crystal, champagne and flowers are de rigueur. At noon, the carriages take to the streets of Devon as they parade along a two-mile route that ultimately leads to the Dixon Oval at the show grounds. Many homeowners along the route make an event of the parade

with lawn parties of their own, toasting the carriages as they sound their horns and roll through the neighborhood.

A Week of Fun

Monday, Devon goes to the dogs, literally. The Devon Doggie Parade has become one of Devon's most anticipated and entertaining events. A crowd gathers around the Dixon Oval to see what creative and inspired ideas the lucky dogs' humans have come up with to put them in contention for the title of Most Devon Dog. Participi-

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Quiet moments make memories at the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair.

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pants are all ages, sizes and breeds—both dogs and people.

Wednesday brings another big day filled with Devon traditions, Ladies' Day. The morning starts with the Ladies' Day Hat Contest. From the comical to couture, the chapeaux dazzle in variety, color and design. As the sea of millinery marvels pass by, celebrity judge Carson Kressley and fellow judges will narrow the field to one lucky lady to be crowned "Best Hat."

The day continues with the Ladies' Day Tea. This new event will offer a chance to socialize while enjoying a traditional tea service and the first Plein Air painting exhibit of art works created at Devon. To complete the day, the Ladies' Side Saddle classes will be featured in the Dixon Oval.

Final Weekend

Devon doesn't wind down because the final weekend is as exciting as the first. Prior to the Open Jumper Stake on Saturday, June 2, Devon will be visited by author Elizabeth Letts and Harry de Leyer, the subject of Letts' *New York Times* best-seller, *The Eighty Dollar Champion: Snowman, the Horse That Inspired a Nation*.

On Sunday, while the action in the ring concludes with the Hunter Derby

(2011's Hunter Derby of the Year), it also brings loads of specials, children's activities (including pony rides) and the much-anticipated plant sale, where plants and flowers used to decorate Devon are offered for sale at great prices.

Why Go?

What is it that makes Devon so special? You can be 8 or 80, a savvy equestrian or total tenderfoot who's never set foot in a barn, yet Devon promises something just for you.

Go to Devon for one of the best equestrian competitions in the country. Go to Devon for the shopping at over 60 wonderful boutiques, where vendors offer an amazing array of merchandise, including an art gallery (see the article in this issue).

Go to dine. There are options for every palate, so grab a burger on-the-go with the kids, or bring your honey down for a date-night meal in the Garden Café Pavilion.

Go for the fun. The festive atmosphere, a ride on the Ferris wheel, go behind the scenes with a Back Barn tour or check out the live music in Clydesdale Corner.

What makes Devon so special? Whether Devon is already in your DNA, or you're visiting for the first time, GO, and you'll see!



If You Go

WHAT: The Devon Horse Show features hunters, jumpers and more.

WHERE: Devon Horse Show Grounds, Lancaster Ave., Devon

WHEN: May 24 through June 3, gates open at 8 a.m. and close at 10 p.m.

TICKETS: \$5-\$50.

INFORMATION: DevonHorseShow.org.

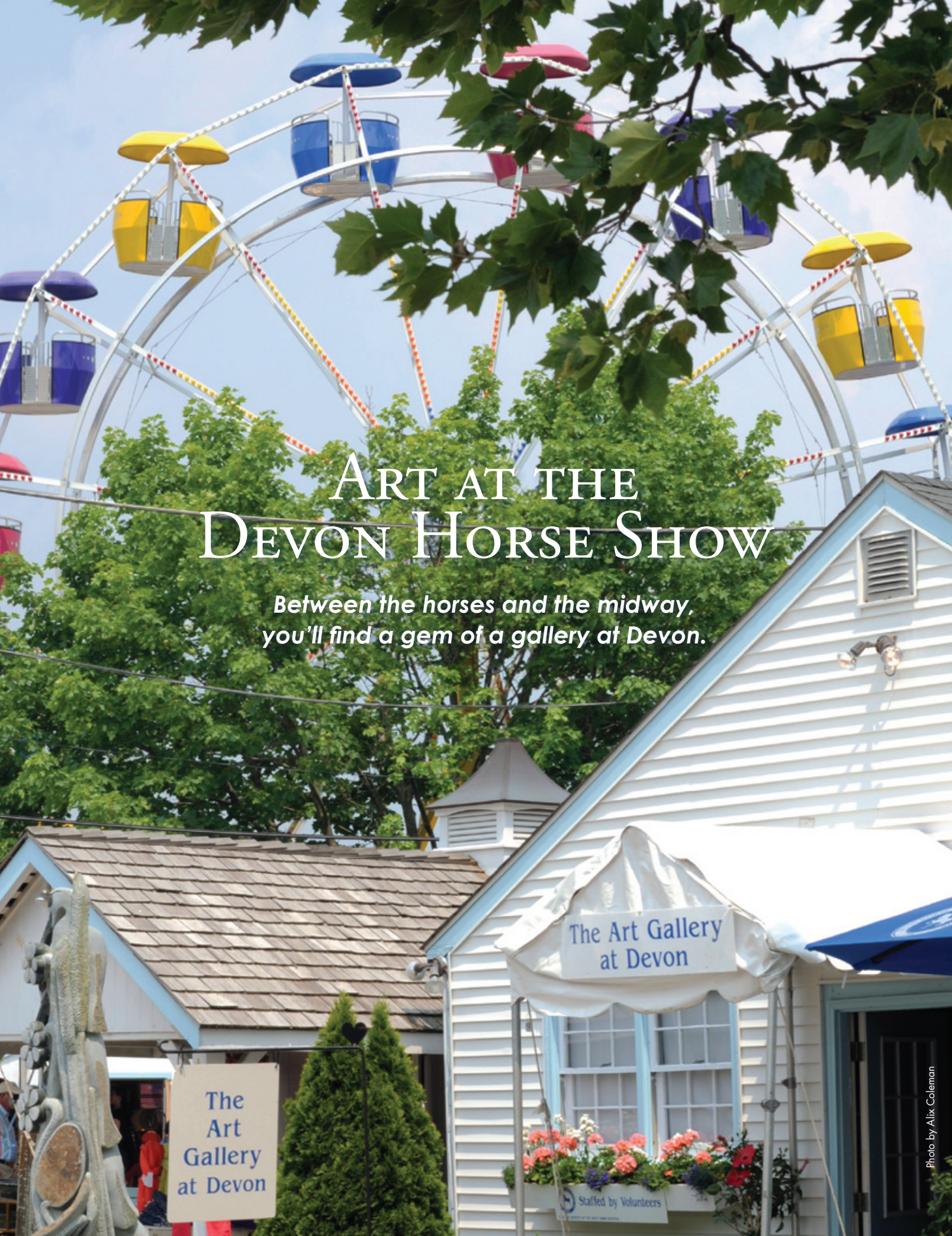


Photo by Alix Coleman

ART AT THE DEVON HORSE SHOW

*Between the horses and the midway,
you'll find a gem of a gallery at Devon.*

Some head for Devon in late May for the world-class equestrian events, this year including Olympic qualifying events. Others are lured by shopping in the Country Fair's charming clapboard cottages, which offer clothing, plants and gifts galore plus, of course, there are lemon sticks and Devon fudge to sample!

But savvy Devon devotees have discovered the Art Gallery at Devon, halfway between the Midway and the Dixon Oval.

Visiting the Gallery

Since its start in 1999, the Gallery has become a magnet for artists, art lovers, collectors and browsers alike who enjoy equestrian pieces, landscapes and fabulous art for all tastes and all budgets.

Featuring almost 500 pieces of art, all for sale, from 75 regional and national artists, the 2012 Gallery showcases works by Kathleen Aceto, Jamie Cummins, Shawn Faust, Robert Stack, and Paul Scarborough, among others.

The Gallery's increasing popularity makes it one of the top grossing contributors (with over \$200,000 in sales) to Bryn Mawr Hospital, the beneficiary of the Country Fair.

Painting En Plein Air

New this year, the Gallery, along with The Wayne Art Center, has invited several artists to use Devon's grounds for *plein air* painting. Popularized in the 1800s when artists left their studios to work outdoors creating works influenced by natural light (think Monet and Renoir), painting *en plein air* continues to attract followers, both artists and observers.

Artists will be painting on the grounds May 24th and May 29th. What will they choose to paint? You'll have to visit on May 30th to see the finished works.

Enjoying First Night's Preview

Held May 23rd, the night before the official opening of the Horse Show, First Night at Devon allows guests to enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, while being treated to a special preview of the art, including the first look at the Devon Poster. This year's poster artist is Peter Sculthorpe, who is well known for his iconic and haunting images of the Chester County countryside. ♦

The Art Gallery is open May 24th to June 3rd, 10 a.m. until closing of the show, around 10 p.m. For information, call 610-525-2533.



Photo by Brenda Carpenter



Photo by Alix Coleman



Photo by Brenda Carpenter

GALLERY ROUND UP

The Art Gallery at Devon's County Fair isn't the only venue for art this spring. We've got individual galleries galore, art studio tours to enjoy, and gallery walks coming up to satisfy art lovers. Here's just a sample.

Beauty—Art and More

Our area has enough galleries to support Gallery Walks in West Chester and Art Strolls in Kennett Square. Yet it's still great news when a new gallery opens. And so it was when Beauty arrived in Newtown Square just a few months ago, offering an evolving array of original artwork, antiques and artful gifts and décor.

You'll find everything from abstracts to still lifes by both new and emerging artists, and always portraits by their resident gallery portrait artists. Through June 10, the gallery features work by local artist Chris Niedland, whose



Time Out, Jeff Schaller, Chester Cty. Studio Tour

style is marked by exuberant colors and energetic patterns.

Beyond painting, you'll also find functional art glass, pottery, sculpture, fabric art and enough more to bring you back for repeat visits. *Beauty—Art, Antiques & Rugs*, 3857 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. 610-353-4569; BeautyArtGallery.net.



Walking In the Rain, Chris Niedland, Beauty—Art, Antiques & Rugs



Gay Street Blossoms, Timlyn Vaughan, at Fulton Bank

Chester County Studio Tour

At this year's Chester County Studio Tour, you'll meet 25 distinctly different artists and experience their work at ten studios, while enjoying a scenic drive through the woods and rolling hills of Chester County. The featured artists in this invitational event—Jeff Schaller (tour organizer), Erica Brown, Adrian Martinez, among others—stand out as award-winning artists recognized by local and international galleries.

If you like to see where artists create and talk with them about their work, mark May 19 and 20 on your calendar. For more info, check ChesterCountyStudioTour.com.

West Chester's First Friday Gallery Walk

First Friday in West Chester is extra special in June when venues throughout the Borough display art for Gallery Walk. Shops, galleries and even banks feature music, refreshments and art on the walls.

If you appreciate the distinctive architecture and lush scenery of West Chester and the Brandywine Valley, make sure to visit artist Timlyn Vaughan at Fulton Bank (116 W. Market St.), where he'll sign, discuss and sell images from his extensive portfolio.

Nicknamed "the borough's resident chronicler," Timlyn is known for his unique perspective on the historic, livable spaces in West Chester and its picturesque streetscapes. For a preview, go to TimlynVaughanPhotos.com. Gallery Walk, Friday, June 1, 5 to 9 p.m. WestChesterGalleryWalk.com. ♦

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Lori N. Brooks

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The month of May has arrived, so let's race to the steeplechase!

Willowdale Steeplechase celebrates its 20th anniversary and hosts Olympians, past and future. Photo: Jim Graham

Jump Racing History 101

Although the steeplechase began in 18th-century Ireland when two foxhunters determined whose horse was superior by racing from one church steeple to another, the sport did not become popular in the U.S. until the late 1800s when Thomas Hitchcock, known as the father of American steeplechasing, constructed a steeplechase training center in Aiken, South Carolina.

Now practiced in 11 states, American steeplechasing has evolved into an occasion for good times and intense competition. Attend the races to experience all that steeplechase now offers, including top-quality tailgating, canine contests, carriage parades and of course, jump racing. No need to travel far for your steeplechase adventure—we've got four premier events in May!

20th Willowdale Steeplechase

On May 13, Mother's Day, gather with family and friends to celebrate a day of country life and a showcase of equestrian talent with some of the nation's finest steeplechase horses and jockeys. This year, Willowdale Steeplechase brings extra excitement with special guests, such as former

Olympians Bruce Davidson, Michael Matz, Donnan Sharp Jones and Jessica Ranshousen, plus future Olympic hopefuls, who will all parade on horseback before the first race and join spectators for autographs.

Good company is not all the Willowdale Steeplechase has to offer. Styled after a combination of European and American race courses, the venue's broad turf course features an impressive water jump that challenges jockeys to ride "California Surfing" style—referring to the method of sitting on the horse, not plowing through the water.

The pristine 193-acre property acts as a natural amphitheater ideal not only for six NSA-sanctioned races but also for the antique car display, upscale shopping, themed tailgate competition, Jack Russell Terrier races and stick pony races.

An event of this caliber takes place only with the help of many race enthusiasts' hard work, and as Willowdale celebrates its 20th anniversary, Race Director Laurie Prysock wishes to highlight contributions of the volunteers. "We can't overstate their importance to Willowdale; from managing parking to directing safety and security, they're our heroes." Each year, over 150

volunteers return to support Willowdale Steeplechase, for the festivities are an equestrian spectacle nobody wants to miss.

When: Sunday, May 13; gates open 10 a.m., first race 1:30 p.m.

Where: Rts., 82 & 926, Kennett Square

Info: 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org

Tickets: \$25 in advance, \$30 at the gate; under 12 free; Tailgate \$175-\$450

Benefits: Quest Therapeutic Services, Univ. of Penn School of Veterinary Medicine New Bolton Center, Stroud Water Research Center

Tip: Reserve parking soon

34th Winterthur Point-to-Point

At this year's Winterthur Point-to-Point, the culinary arts will come hoof to hoof with elite horse racing as two celebrity chefs from Delaware—TLC's *Next Great Baker* winner Dana Herbert and Fox's *MasterChef* winner Jennifer Behm—whip up cooking demonstrations, tastings, kids activities and a coveted grand prize opportunity from their Top Tailgate Tent.

The culinary delights continue from under the Hunt Brunch Tent, where you can watch the races at the finish line, enjoy an elegant lunch and celebrate Winterthur's



Culinary arts are front and center at Winterthur's Point-to-Point. From the tops in tailgating to celebrity chefs from *Next Great Baker* and *Master Chefs*. Photo: Chip Riegel



Mary Lou A. with Peggy Peck, her BAYADA Home Health Aide

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Photos courtesy of Martino Photo, Andrea Shives, and Stringer Photography



The 82nd Radnor Hunt Races will draw 20,000 spectators to this “race for open space” benefiting the Brandywine Conservancy. Photo: Zach Brown

new exhibition “Uncorked! Wine, Objects & Tradition” (see March *County Lines Magazine*). The delicious brunch will feature sparkling wines from around the world, an unforgettable catered menu, gracious table settings and VIP parking.

The fun doesn't stop there for two- or four-legged race spectators. Bring your well-behaved dog to romp and play with other pups on the agility and obstacle courses, compete in contests and have a ball!

Once your furry friend needs a rest, take time to shop for equine-inspired apparel, marvel at antique autos, witness the much-anticipated Parade of Carriages and cheer on the competitors during the pony and foxhound races.

With the endless activities Winterthur has to offer, this is sure to be one extraordinary event!

When: Sunday, May 6; gates open 10:30 a.m., first race 2 p.m.

Where: Winterthur Museum, 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Wilmington

Info: 302-888-4994; Winterthur.org

Tickets: \$50, free under 12. Tailgate \$250+

Benefits: Preservation of Winterthur

Tip: To avoid traffic, arrive before 11:30

82nd Radnor Hunt Races

Become part of the spring tradition of steeplechasing at the Radnor Hunt Races, an event that attracts 20,000 viewers annually. Six exciting races feature horses galloping over hurdles and timber fences for purses totaling \$180,000.

Enjoy a tailgate picnic with friends and family while watching the majestic carriage parade. The parade starts after the first race when carriage owners turn out in their finery, driving their antique vehicles to the crowd's delight. Make sure to bring your camera and visit with the carriage owners in the infield after the procession.

Celebrating 82 years of steeplechase racing at its best, Radnor Hunt Races prides itself on supporting the Brandywine Conservancy's award-winning programs to preserve natural and cultural resources in Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware. Take part in the unforgettable entertainment of Radnor Hunt while supporting the “race for open space.”

When: Saturday, May 19; grounds open 10 a.m., first race 1:30 p.m.

Where: Radnor Hunt Grounds, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern

Info: 610-388-8383; RadnorHuntRaces.org

Tickets: Field parking \$50/car includes passengers. \$125-500 tailgate

Benefits: Brandywine Conservancy's Environmental Management Center

Tip: Advance ticket sales only

78th Fair Hill Races

Wrap up May's Steeplechase season with 15,000 fellow racing enthusiasts at the Fair Hill Races. Drop off your young ones at the Kids Korner and make your way to the Jack Russell Terrier Races, dog agility demonstrations and the Tribute to our Veterans. Fair Hill is also the only steeplechase race in America that offers pari-mutuel wagering, so get ready to pick your lucky horse and place your bets. Finally, be sure to bring your tailgate best, as judges will be scouting out this year's tailgate frontrunner.

When: Saturday, May 26; gates open 10 a.m., post time 1 p.m.

Where: Rts., 213 & 263, Cecil County, MD

Info: 410-398-6565; FairHillRaces.org

Tickets: \$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate, 5 and under free

Benefits: Union Hospital

Tip: Steeplechase is rain or shine. ♦



JaimieLynn Cooper

“Cache” in this spring on a high-tech treasure hunt.

Geo-caching. If you’re looking for fun family-friendly outdoor activities, look no further than your smartphone. Geocaching (“jee-oh-cash-ing”) is a tech-savvy treasure hunting game—but instead of maps of old, adventurers use Global Positioning Systems (GPS) and navigational coordinates on their quests.

If You Hide It, They Will Come

The adventure starts by logging on to a geocaching website, like *Geocaching.com* or *Navicache.com*, and choosing a destination. Once you pick your mark, grab a friend and head outside. Navigational coordinates can be entered into your GPS—on your smartphone or in your car. From there, the hunt is on to locate hidden treasures!

What began in 2000 with just 75 hidden stashes has grown rapidly over the past 12 years. The concept is simple—using GPS coordinates, adventurers track

down hidden containers, called caches. Each cache is filled with a waterproof logbook that cachers sign to mark their find and then report their discovery online.

Caches, marked with an X of course, may also contain small trinkets. Explorers are encouraged to collect a souvenir and leave one of equal value in its place for the next person to discover.

Combining the great outdoors, human curiosity and technology, geocaching websites at last count logged over 1,657,806 active caches and 5 million geocachers worldwide.

Cache in Chester County

Geocaching is perfect for families, couples and groups. And while there are caches all over the world—even Antarctica—you don’t have to go far to have an adventure.



Adventurers can choose from any number of routes, each rated on a five-star scale according to level of difficulty and terrain—some take you underwater and to the edge of cliffs. Routes are also categorized depending on their urban or rural locations.

Caches are located all around Chester County and beyond. Specific locations and coordinates are kept top secret (to deter pirates, of course), but a popular geocaching spot takes adventure seekers on a tour of Chester County’s covered bridges.

Tracking the Treasure

Explorers can experience over 25 miles of picturesque back roads, hidden hiking trails and of course, all the wonderful sights that Chester County has to offer during their quests for the local caches.

Starting with the Bartram Covered Bridge, spanning the county line between Chester and Delaware Counties, adventures stop at four other covered bridges at Valley Forge, Rapp, Kennedy and Sheeder Hall.

What better way to explore our captivating countryside *and* learn a bit of history?

Browse. Discover. Share.

With over one million caches worldwide, there’s an adventure waiting for everyone. And yes, there’s an app for that. Downloadable applications for your iPhone or Android smartphone allow users to search for caches based on their location. The app also accesses geocache details, including description of the cache site, photo galleries, hints and information about what you’ll find in the cache box to make your quest as easy as possible.

Tracking down your cache is just one part of having a complete geocaching experience.

Geocachers are encouraged to share their quest afterwards by posting online. This not only lets explorers share travel stories but it also encourages fellow treasure seekers to try different geocaching routes. Sharing your experience also lets you uncover secret caching challenges, like geodashing—a race against other cachers to see who can find hidden treasure first.

Geocaching adventures offer new ways to enjoy the great outdoors. So put down your laptop, pick up your smartphone and head outside to find the treasure! ♦

Terms to Know:

Cache—A container, usually waterproof, containing a logbook to sign.

Muggle—A non-geocacher.

BYOP—Bring your own pen (to sign the logbook.)

FTF / FTL—First to find or first to log.

GZ—Ground Zero, or where the cache is hidden.

Things to Remember:

- Caches are normally hidden from plain view in unnatural formations, such as a pile of sticks that seems odd and out of place.
- If a cache contains small trinkets with a logbook, feel free to collect one as a souvenir. But remember—if you take one, you should leave one for the next cacher.
- Cachers are often stopped by curious pedestrians. Take this opportunity to explain what you’re doing and maybe enlist a new recruit.
- Geocaching is a workout for the mind and the body, so be sure to bring along proper gear, like a water bottle and umbrella.



Photography by Faith West



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Home Garden Tours

At some of the country's most glorious public and private gardens dotting our local landscape, you can celebrate spring awash in flowers, foliage, blooming trees and more at this season's enviable schedule of garden tours and festivals. See the following pages for details.

For number one on your list, we recommend Chanticleer, A Pleasure Garden, on Church Road in Wayne. Over 35 acres are open to the public, offering a bounty of beauty to explore and discover. Called the most romantic, imaginative, and exciting public garden in America, Chanticleer is a study of textures and forms, where foliage trumps flowers, the gardeners lead the design, and even drinking fountains are sculptural.

Marvel at the entrance courtyard, the Teacup Garden, a seemingly chaotic opera of scents and sounds, colors and bold textures of tropical plants. The Tennis Court builds on the idea of foliar dis-

play, while The Ruin is a folly, built on the foundation of Adolph Rosengarten, Jr.'s home and designed to look as if the house fell into disrepair. Move on to the Gravel Garden, hot and dry for a touch of the Mediterranean in Pennsylvania. And then to the herbaceous thicket that is The Pond, where green herons fish for frogs. Discover other intriguing sections, each offering distinctive delights.

Chanticleer is a garden of pleasure and learning—with classes, workshops and conferences. So go, sit on the quirky chairs, unique benches or stone sofas and enjoy the views. Take in the feeling of the grass, the sounds of the birds, and the scents of the garden. And when you get home, you can check this must-see garden off your life list.

Open Wed.-Sun., 9 to 5; until 8 p.m. on Fridays, May-Labor Day, with picnics encouraged. Open to painters, Wed.-Fri. 610-687-4163; ChanticleerGardens.org.



Philadelphia Herb Society of America Herb Sale



Bayard Taylor Home & Garden Tour



Rock Hall Garden Club Garden Tour



Welkinweir's Azalea Bloom

Ongoing

Greater Philadelphia Gardens. This area is rich in public gardens, arboreta and historic houses with gardens. Check the website as your resource for learning about the gardens, events or for planning a weekend getaway, from the city to the suburbs and beyond. GreaterPhiladelphiaGardens.org.

Through October

Gardens of the Susquehanna Tour. Experience the natural beauty of over 50 private gardens in Lancaster, York and Dauphin counties. Sponsored by Wheatland Garden Club and benefits President James Buchanan's Wheatland. The \$20 Rose Book booklet is your ticket to visit gardens open specified weekends during spring, summer and fall. 717-392-4633; Lancasterhistory.org.

May 4-5

Arasapha Garden Club's Annual May Market in Historic New Castle. Garden sale featuring unusual plants, shrubs and herbs. Benefits the Garden Club. Market Square and at the Presbyterian Church, Christian Ed. Bldg., 2nd St., New Castle. Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 9 to 4. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org.

May 5

65th Annual Wilmington Garden Day. A self-guided tour of the Brandywine Valley's most glorious gardens and gracious home interiors. Rain or shine. Benefits children in need, specifically Friendship House, Inc. and St. Michael's School & Nursery. 10 to 4. \$30-\$35. WilmingtonGardenDay.org.

May 5

Annual Plant Sale at Tyler Arboretum. If you're looking for hard-to-find trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals or herbs, this is the place! This year features butterfly attracting and deer-resistant plants. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9 to 3. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

May 5-6

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Plant Sale. One of the largest area plant sales, the arboretum has perennials, wildflowers, ferns, azaleas and more. Sponsored by the Valley Forge Chapter of the American Rhododendron Society. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 11 to 3. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.

May 6

Malvern Blooms. Fun for the entire family with vendors of home and garden items, farmer's markets, antiques, children's activities and food court. New this year: Beer Garden and Mid-Atlantic BBQ Assoc.-sanctioned Grilling Contest, music stages and a headline performer. King St. & Burke Park, Malvern. 10 to 4. MalvernBusiness.com.

May 6

16th Annual Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival. Vendors showcasing home and garden merchandise, food courts, live entertainment, children's events, carousel, rock wall climbing, al fresco dining and more. Germantown Ave. will be closed to traffic. 11 to 5. Rain date, May 20. 215-247-6696; ChestnutHillPA.com.

May 6-June 3

Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. Designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Old Glory Farm, 3719 Indian Spring Rd., Buckingham Twp. Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 12 to 6. \$25. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and the Village Impr. Assoc. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

May 10

73rd Annual Herb Sale of Phila. Herb Society of America. Thousands of herbs, roses, herbal gifts, garden items and native plants from Yellow Springs Farm. Benefits the Medicinal Garden at Historic Yellow Springs, Fragrant Garden at Tyler Arboretum and Natl. Herb Garden in Washington, DC. Historic Yellow Springs, Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Luncheon, \$15, res only. 10 to 1:30. 610-827-1576; HSAPhiladelphia.org.

May 10-12

92nd Annual Wilmington Flower Market. Benefits nonprofit children's agencies in Delaware. Carnival rides, art, plants, gifts, live entertainment. Rockford Park in Wilmington. Daily, 10 to 7. Rain or shine. 302-995-5699; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

May 11


4th Annual National Public Gardens Day. A nationwide effort to raise awareness of our public gardens and the value they add to their communities. Many area gardens participate with events and activities, including Tyler Arboretum, Welkinweir, Chanticleer, Scott Arboretum and more. For a complete list, visit NationalPublicGardensDay.org.

May 11-12

26th Annual Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire. Stands of over 70 vendors of heirloom plants, roses, native plants, annuals, perennials and art for the garden. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. \$12. 717-569-0401; LandisValleyMuseum.org.

May 12-13


31st Annual Brandywine Museum Wildflower, Native Plant & Seed Sale. Hundreds of varieties for sale to benefit the Brandywine Conservancy's native plant gardens. Conservancy staff answer questions. Brandy-




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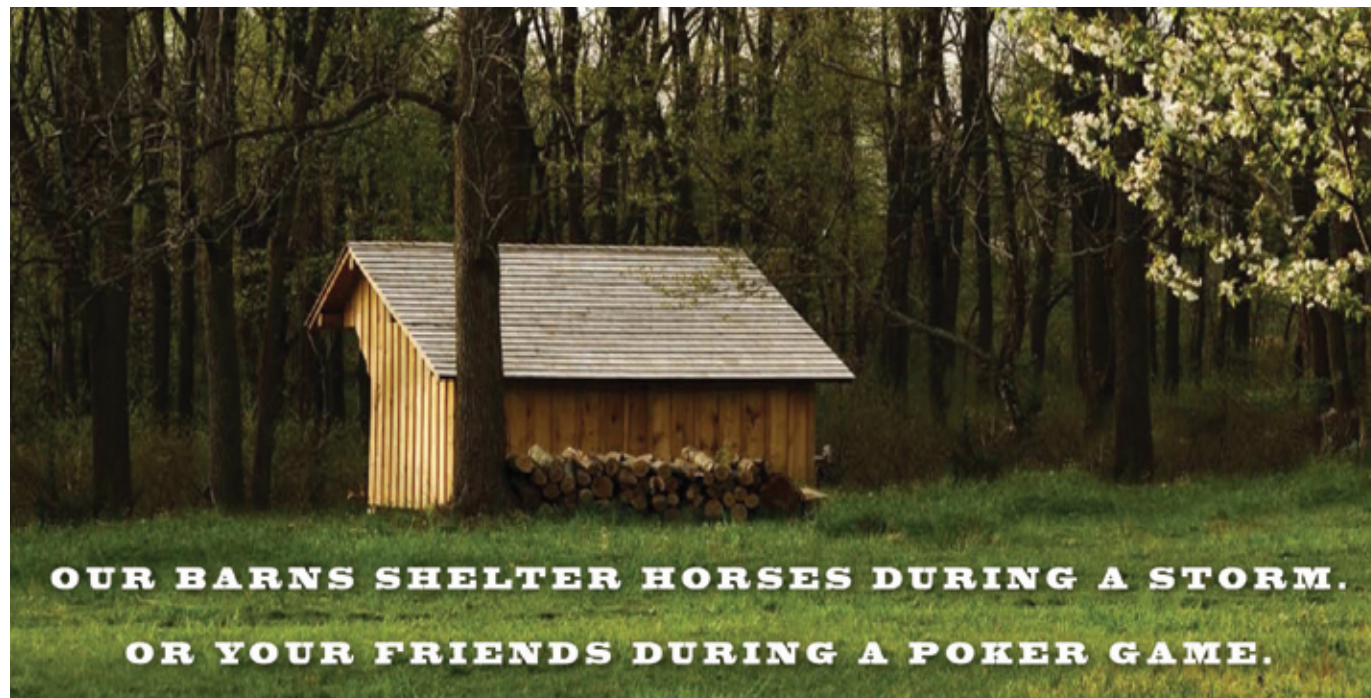
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Demuth Garden Tour



Tyler Arboretum Plant Sale



Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Plant Sale

wine River Museum, Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 4:30. 610-388-2700; www.BrandywineMuseum.org.

May 13
Welkinweir's Mother's Day Tea & Azalea Bloom. Grab your camera and stroll through the colorful flowering gardens, incredible azalea collection, and historic estate house at Welkinweir. Enjoy tea on the terrace while taking in the dramatic view. 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown. Adv. res. req. Seatings: 1 to 3; 3 to 5. \$20; 6-12 years, \$5; under 6, free. 610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org.

May 16
38th Shipley School Secret Gardens Tour. Tour gardens and enjoy a catered lunch, boutique shopping and *plein air* art. Boutique and Art Gallery at lunch site, with buffet lunch, \$25 (res. req.). Hilltop House. Box lunch, \$15. Tour, \$45. 9 to 3. 610-525-4544; ShipleySchool.org/SecretGardens.

May 19
Rock Hall Garden Club's Garden Tour. Gardens, designed with sensitivity to the environment, include bayshore, creekside and wooded sites. Garden-related art show and sale at The Mainstay, 5753 Main St., Rock Hall. 10 to 4. \$15. Tickets at Rock Hall's new pavilion, Rt. 20 & Main St. RockHallWave.com.

May 19
Women's Civic League of North East, MD Secret Garden Tour. Enjoy a self-driving tour of 8 private gardens in town and along

the waterfront. 9 to 4. \$15-\$20. For tickets: 410-398-0895; abpugh@comcast.net.

May 19
A Day In Old New Castle. The oldest home and garden tour in the country featuring strolls through carefully tended gardens, historic homes and public buildings, antique cars, period music and dance and choral music. Delaware Routes 141 & 273/9. 10 to 5. \$5-\$20. 877-496-9498; DIONC.ImmanuelEpiscopal.com.

May 19-20
Scott Arboretum's Unusual Tropicals & Annuals Sale. Create a tropical paradise in your backyard with plants from this sale. Experts on hand to answer questions and give demonstrations. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. Sat, noon to 3; Sun, 10 to 2. 610-328-8023; ScottArboretum.org.

June 7
DE Center for Horticulture Progressive Dinner & Private Gardens Tour. Visit some of the best gardens in the city while enjoying a delicious meal. The DCH, 1810 N. DuPont St., Wilmington. 5:30 to 10. Tickets \$75-\$100. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

June 16
DE Center for Horticulture: Wilmington City Gardens People's Choice Tour. Self-guided tour of more than 50 gardens in the city, some of which are past winners in the City Gardens Contest. 1810 N. Dupont St., 10 to 3. \$10. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org.

June 2
Gardens of Octorara 8th Annual Garden

Tour. A self-drive tour of private gardens in the Octorara region (western Chester Cty). Benefits Atglen Public Library, Moores Memorial Library, Parkesburg Library. 10 to 4. \$10-\$15. 610-716-3404; GardensofOctorara.com.

June 2
Annual Bayard Taylor Home & Garden Day. This year's tour focuses on Chester County history (and some Delaware County), including homes c. 1704 to 1800s, some of which have been in the family for generations. Food for tasting, artists painting, beautiful gardens and flower arrangements. Lunch available to order. Benefits the Bayard Taylor Memorial Library. 10 to 4. \$35. 610-444-2702; BayardTaylor.org.

June 2
New Hope Historical Society 19th Annual Garden Tour. Six private Bucks County gardens are on this self-guided tour. Benefits the Parry Mansion Museum in New Hope. Map, directions and description of gardens with ticket. 10 to 4. \$30. 215-862-5652; NewHopeHS.org.

June 8-10
29th Annual Demuth Garden Tour & Party. This year's tour features several exclusive Lancaster locations, offering a variety of creative urban gardens and unique home interiors. The tour kicks off with the Demuth Garden Party on June 8, featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres and an art sale at The Conestoga House Gardens, 1608 Marietta Ave., Lancaster. Res. req. Tour, Sat-Sun. \$15-\$18. 717-299-9940; Demuth.org. ♦

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HOME OF THE MONTH

AULDRIDGE

Laurel Anderson

A converted 1890s barn has been transformed into the perfect weekend retreat.

Set atop a verdant hill on 62 rolling acres of a former cattle farm in the quaint village of Birchrunville—close enough to famed Birchrunville Store Café to walk home from a stellar meal—this completely renovated barn has been transformed into a carefree vacation getaway.

Part large-scale poolhouse, part clubhouse overlooking a par-3 golf hole and one-acre pond, this residence's open interior makes for a perfect country

retreat. The home's simplicity creates an easy lifestyle and plenty of time to enjoy the countryside.

Auldridge is comprised of three parcels—13 acres surrounding the residence, 9 wooded acres, and 40 acres approved for a 12-lot subdivision—making this a property ripe for a variety of opportunities, from future development to building a family compound with guest cottages.

New owners have room to build their dreams.

The Property

Approached on a private, quarter-mile drive through a protected buffer of woods and across a meandering tributary of Birchrun Creek, the property is far from the noise of highways and intrusions of modern life. Small working farms and large equestrian estates dot the neighboring acres, where seasonal foxhunts can be observed in the distance. Old farm trails provide paths for hiking, cross-country skiing, or potential bridal paths if new owners wish to add stables and horses to this large property, an easy adaptive use of the land.

Although surrounded by mature wooded acreage, including a well-established apple orchard, there's ample open space with spectacular views of the countryside in all directions. Broad lawns by the front entrance provide a gallery for large sculptures, while back porches offer a vantage point for commanding views of the pool, pond and valley beyond.

The Residence—Main Level

Designed for easy living, the open space interior maximizes the details of the original c. 1800 barn in the two-story Great Room that forms the heart of the home on the main level. Towering, local fieldstone walls and an open beamed ceiling of warm chestnut are a reminder of the former structure. More wood from additional beams and the fir floors warms the large space and define the living areas. A raised, built-in fireplace is accented by a huge original beam mantle and creates a focal point.

Multiple panels of glass doors from the front entrance are balanced by a two-story wall of windows and French doors that open to the stunning view from the rear of the home. The extensive use of glass on front and back gives the interior ample natural light, while soaring white walls magnify the bright feeling of this main space.



The Great Room makes the most of the stone wall and other features of the original barn.



An Office, on the upper level, overlooks the Great Room.

A convenient Bar Area on this level features granite countertops, copper sink, ample oak cabinets with icemaker, wine refrigerator and microwave. Seating at the bar and a deep-set window in an original stone wall make this a popular gathering spot.

A Den, with a lower, beamed ceiling and smaller scale, provides a cozy retreat for watching television or reading, plus privacy from activity in the Great Room. A Powder Room rounds out the interior space on this level.

Large second-story, covered decks, of low-maintenance ipe wood, span the entire width of the structure and offer space for outdoor entertaining overlooking the prized view. Elevated decks at tree level allow for an unparalleled vantage point.

Upper Level

The single Bedroom in this home continues the simple-living design, with special architectural features such as built-in pecan furniture, storage and large walk-in closet. An open beamed ceiling, red fir

floors and shutters that open to allow a view through the two-story windows at the rear of the house provide a mountain retreat feeling.

A luxurious Master Bath, with marble counters, double sink and glass and tile shower, and a large Office, with hardwood floors and fabulous custom shelving and built-ins, complete this level.

Lower Level

The enormous space on the lower level repeats the attention to detail in design and construction in a Family Room, Billiards Room, Kitchenette and two full Bathrooms. Here you'll find beamed ceilings, tile floors with radiant heat, custom built-in seating and an entertainment unit, plus tons of storage. A propane fireplace is a perfect way to take the chill off in the evenings. French doors at back provide yet another amazing view and lead directly to the pool.

The Kitchenette's granite counters, Gaggenau stove and oven, and Sub-Zero refrigerator make cooking a pleasure.

Two full Baths—think his and hers—with convenient outside access, have showers, water closets, oversized vanities and storage.

Outside Features

The well-manicured yard makes the most of the natural setting, to which beautiful landscaping, perennial gardens and an in-ground pool with built-in Jacuzzi have been added. The wide-open grounds are perfect for a stroll past the apple orchard, remains of old stone walls, active springhouse, on past the par-3 golf hole, and down to the one-acre pond full of bass and home to local waterfowl.

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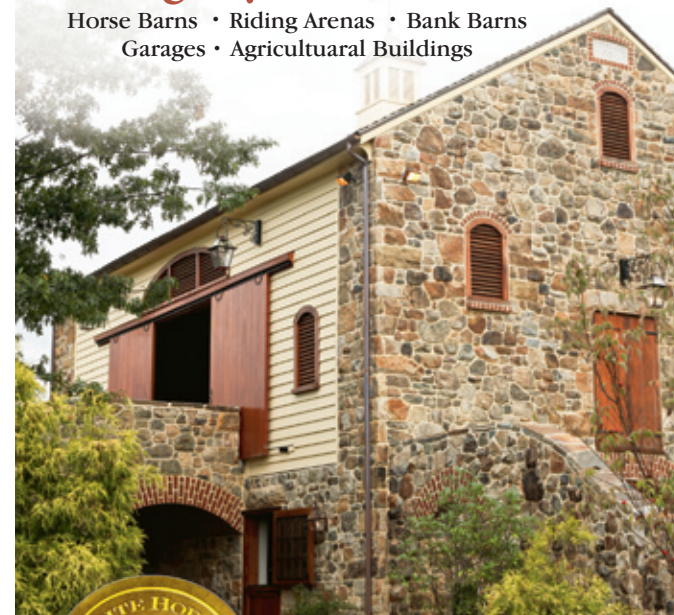
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Food News

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

Merry Month of May. From my local (Swarthmore) college days forward, May here has been the uplifting month of anticipation: say goodbye to early spring chill and exams and hello to a season of fun. If only the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair didn't schedule events to coincide with my daughter's finals, life in May would be perfect. So, in the spirit of May, it's time for a closer examination of our local equestrian (and accompanying culinary) events, Mother's Day (ignored at some peril), wedding anniversary (ditto), painting the background and sketching in the details. May is the month of May Day, when life renews.

Can't Beat 'Em With a ... Living five minutes from the Devon Horse Show is a great privilege. Nominal admission buys perfect views of extraordinary horses, Olympic-caliber equestrians and colorfully dressed spectators. It also confers access to the justly fabled **Devon Lemon Sticks**. For the uninitiated, these are candied lemon-flavored straws inserted into cut lemons, creating a uniquely sweet-and-tart confection that must be experienced to be believed. Mmm marvelous May treats! DIY from GiambrisCandy.com.



Crustless Wonders. Another feature of the Devon's Country Fair I never miss is the Tea Sandwiches, recalling boarding school teas that first acquainted me with these elegantly carved pastry wedges embracing cream cheese or butter-bound vegetable, meat and seafood fillings. Daughter Jane and friends love these delicacies and after moving to Berwyn, we wanted to create a summer garden tea party for her birthday. **A Taste of Britain**, EasyElegance.net, in Eagle Village Shops in Wayne, prepared exquisite tea sandwiches, scones, cookies, cake, lemon curd and jams for the occasion. All were perfection.



Tasty Tailgating. My late mother-in-law introduced me to Chester County equestrian events at a Radnor Hunt Cup race when Caroline and I were still dating. The majesty of that event lingers in memory and, fortunately, can be revisited annually. Although we've never had the pleasure of picnicking on a tailgate of a splendid carriage, we've assembled some memorable meals. An ideal tailgate picnic can be obtained by selecting superb charcuterie, cheeses, breads, pastries and cookies from Kennett Square's **Country Butcher**, CountryButcherMarket.com. Since 1982 it's been one of the most elegant shops for prepared and made-to-order food this side of Paris's Fauchon.

Out to Brunch. Mother's Day celebrants preferring to revel in restaurants have excellent choices on May 13th, which can be followed by restorative garden walks at Chanticleer in Wayne, Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, or a visit to Chadd Ford's Brandywine River Museum. There's a brunch choice for every mother's taste, including New American cuisine at Radnor's **333 Belrose**, 333Belrose.com, modern Mexican fare a Wayne's **Xilantro**, Xilantro.com, (boasting a tequila list to rival Mexico City restaurants), and Asian-Fusion adventure at Berwyn's wonderful **Nectar**, TasteNectar.com. Or opt for a classic Champagne Brunch at the **Radnor Hotel**, RadnorHotel.com. Cheers to the mothers.



About Curtis Roberts. I'm a lawyer who also does other things, including appreciate regional food. My family returned to the area to reclaim my wife's deep Chester County roots, educate our daughter in the right Philadelphia way, and enjoy the food. For more of my gastro-adventures, check my blog, [ACravan](http://ACravan.blogspot.com), acavan.blogspot.com, which is so varied, there may just be something you'll find interesting.

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Fire up the Grill

Laura Muzzi Brennan

In the parlance of my teenage daughter, grill equals frenemy. One minute, it attracts you with promises of smoky flavor and cross-hatch marks; the next, it chars and dries your food, leaving you with teary eyes and an ashy aftertaste. Take heart: your relationship with your grill needn't be fraught with ambivalence. Simply heed the advice of people who play with fire on a daily basis.

Chef Sean Weinberg, who co-owns Malvern's **Restaurant Alba** with wife Kelly, uses a state-of-the-art wood burning grill to bring out the best in the seasonal, locally produced ingredients that comprise his contemporary cuisine. Offering dishes from octopus to hanger steak, from flatbread to pound cake and on to beets cooked in the embers, Weinberg's menu pays homage to the grill's versatility.



At **Firebirds Wood Fired Grill**, with recently opened locations in Chadds Ford and Collegeville, dishes with a Southwest twist come hot off the hickory and oak-fired grill. "There's something primal about cooking over a wood-fired grill," says Steven Sturm, Firebirds' executive chef. He recommends grilling to home cooks because it's a quick, healthy way to prepare foods with big flavor.

At Firebirds, where 7-ounce filets, shrimp and strawberry salad, and grilled salmon enjoy great popularity, Sturm begins by searing foods over high heat to "lock juices into their own little cocoon," and then he finishes cooking over lower temperatures. Indeed, cooking food at the right temperature can be the tipping point between roaring success and simpering mess.

Despite television commercials touting the merits of flame-licked burgers, no one should cook directly over a flame, advises Alba's Sean Weinberg. Just as important, Weinberg says, is understanding that, on the grill as in the oven, different foods require different temperatures to cook properly. A beef filet, for example, thrives on high heat, but ribeyes, New York strips and salmon require a lower heat, allowing fat to render out slowly, while keeping moisture in.

But, I ask, if you don't have professional experience or a perfectly calibrated grill, how do you get the "right" temperature? Most grills are naturally hotter in the center and cooler at the edges, explains Sturm. However, you can guarantee hot and cool spots by moving coals or wood to one side. If using a gas grill, set some burners on high and others on medium or low.

One last piece of advice from the chefs: allow meats to come to room temperature before grilling and by all means, marinate to assure even distribution of seasoning. See "Why wait? Marinate!" sidebar.

As summer begins, renew your relationship with your grill. Once you learn how to handle it, it might just become your BFF.



Smoked Chicken Wings

A popular appetizer at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, wings are smoked, then fried and served with the classic accompaniments: bleu cheese dressing and celery sticks. Montreal steak seasoning is a blend of spices including salt, black and red pepper, dill seed, coriander, garlic and paprika.

20 chicken wings

Montreal steak seasoning or seasoning salt, to taste

Canola oil, enough to fill Dutch oven or deep fryer 1/3 of the way up

10 Tb. hot sauce

4 Tb. melted butter

1 Tb. chopped fresh cilantro

Bleu cheese dressing

Celery sticks

If you have a smoker or a smoking tray on your grill to smoke the wings, use that, following the smoker's instructions. If not, place wood chips into a large piece of aluminum foil. Make a packet out of the foil, and using a fork, poke a few holes in the top. Place packet directly on the hot coals.

Coat the wings generously with steak seasoning. Place on grill rack and cover. (Covering the grill keeps in smoke and prevents oxygen from igniting the smoking wood.)

Grill for 1 hour 20 minutes, flipping chicken once after 30 minutes. Wings are cooked when juices near the bone run clear. Cool completely.

Fill Dutch oven or deep fryer with oil and bring temperature to 350°. Carefully add the wings to the hot oil, cooking in batches if needed. Cook wings until desired temperature and crispiness. Remove wings from hot oil and let rest on paper towels.

While wings rest, combine hot sauce and melted butter. Add wings to a large mixing bowl and toss with the hot butter sauce.

Place on a plate. Garnish with cilantro. Serve with generous helpings of bleu cheese dressing and celery sticks.

Makes 3-4 appetizer servings.

Tandoori Chicken Breasts

Tandoori seasoning, used in Indian cooking, combines ground spices including coriander, sweet paprika and cumin. I serve the chicken on a bed of buttered basmati rice.

1 C. plain yogurt

2 Tb. tandoori seasoning

Juice of 1 lemon

1 tsp. salt

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5 cloves garlic, minced
3-4 boneless skinless chicken breasts,
cut in half horizontally and pounded
to ½" thickness

Mix yogurt, tandoori, lemon, salt and garlic in a large bowl. Add chicken to marinade and toss to coat. Cover and marinate 2-3 hours in refrigerator or 1 hour at room temperature. (If you marinate in the refrigerator, allow chicken to sit at room temperature for 20 minutes before grilling.)

Grill chicken breasts on medium heat until cooked through, 4-5 minutes per side.
Makes 6-8 servings.

Cilantro-Grilled Chicken Breast

Butterflied, grilled chicken breasts get a punch of spicy, bold flavor from smoked tomato jack cheese sauce. Firebirds' Sturm suggests serving this entrée with a side of onion rings to add a little crunch.

To marinate chicken breasts:
4, 6-oz. chicken breasts

Montreal steak seasoning or your
favorite seasoning salt, to taste
2 C. buttermilk

Butterfly each chicken breast by cutting through it horizontally, stopping just before that edge. When you open the breast, it should resemble a butterfly: two wings joined by a thin strip.

Generously coat each chicken breast with the Montreal steak seasoning. Pour the buttermilk into a bowl and place the chicken into the buttermilk. Cover and refrigerate for at least 6 hours.

To make cheese sauce:

3 Tb. canola oil

Why wait? Marinate!

Don't dither around until the coals burn down! You've got seasoning to do! To Chefs Sean Weinberg and Steven Sturm, marinating is a pre-grilling step that pays off big, so read on for answers to basic marinating questions.

What is marinating and why do it? Marinating refers to the technique of rubbing or submerging foods in seasonings. It helps maintain a food's moisture in the face of fire. Salt, a common ingredient in marinades, tenderizes and draws seasonings throughout the food, flavoring it outside and inside.

How much salt do I need? Generally, the longer you marinate, the less salt you need.

How long should I marinate? That completely depends on the type and size of food. The more delicate (e.g., vegetables, shrimp) require much less time than the hardy (e.g., ribs). At Restaurant Alba, Weinberg salts and peppers some meats a day in advance, and his pork shoulder basks in its marinade for 3-5 days. A good rule of thumb: marinate at room temperature for up to an hour. For longer, use the refrigerator.

What purpose does olive oil serve in a marinade? Olive oil keeps air from the food, thereby helping food retain its color. However, you usually don't need as much oil as you think.

What are some quick ways to make a marinade? Doctor store-bought dressing with fresh herbs, cumin or other spices, suggests Firebirds' Steven Sturm.

Plating Tips from Majolica's Chef Andrew Deery

Although I'd be willing to eat Chef Andrew Deery's fresh, imaginative cuisine while perched over a pan in Majolica's kitchen, his thoughtful presentations add another layer of pleasure to the dining experience. Recently, I attended a plating demonstration at Majolica. While I can't fit all of Deery's advice into this sidebar, here are a few tips to call on when arranging your gorgeous grilled dishes.

1. Handle ingredients properly and let them "speak." Presentation begins in the pot, so use the right technique for bringing out an ingredient's flavor and color. For example, to retain a heat-sensitive vegetable's vibrant hue, blanch it in a large pot of heavily salted boiling water. Then, cool in an ice bath and drain on paper towels.

2. Give your protein a rest. By not cutting into meat or poultry immediately after cooking, you'll retain its moisture and prevent juices from running all over the plate.

3. Dress at the last minute. Your salad, that is! Toss salads gently with your hands. You'll distribute the dressing evenly without bruising the leaves as tongs sometimes do.



4. Sauce judiciously but with style. Sauce all over the plate looks just plain messy, so for thick sauces, use a flat spatula or a pastry brush to make a dramatic smear. Squeezing sauce through a squirt bottle, even dripping it from the tip of a spoon, can add panache to plates.

5. Say it with white. White plates make food pop, and a small amount of food arranged on a large plate heightens the "wow" factor.

6. Make your garnish earn its keep. A rosemary sprig might look pretty but who wants to eat it? Try micro greens or another attractive and functional alternative.

7. Think beyond the plate. Serve food on slates, wooden paddles, spoons, in glasses. Use your imagination!

For more information on Majolica and its cooking demonstrations, visit Majolica Restaurant.com or call 610-917-0962.

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1 yellow onion, chopped
 1 poblano pepper chopped
 1-2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
 1½ C. smoked tomato puree (made from 1, 8-oz. can of fire roasted tomatoes blended until smooth)
 ½ C. fresh cilantro leaves, chopped, plus extra sprigs for garnish
 1 C. chicken stock
 1 tsp. salt
 ½ tsp. pepper
 1 C. heavy cream
 2 Tb. butter
 2 Tb. flour
 2 C. pepper jack cheese, grated

Heat the oil in a stock pot on medium high heat. Add the onion, poblano pepper and garlic and cook until lightly browned. Add the smoked tomato purée, cilantro, chicken stock, salt and pepper. Bring to simmer and cook for 10 minutes. Add the heavy cream and continue to simmer for 3 more minutes.

Meanwhile, in a small saucepan, make a roux by melting butter and stirring in flour to form a paste, about 2-3 minutes.

Add roux to cream mixture to thicken. Add pepper jack cheese and stir. Set aside.

To grill chicken breasts and serve:

Remove the chicken breasts from refrigerator and remove any excess buttermilk. Sear chicken breasts on high heat and then cook on medium high heat for about 4-5 minutes on each side. When thoroughly cooked, meat should be solid white with an internal temperature of 165°.

Spoon some smoked tomato jack cheese sauce on each plate. Top with chicken breasts. Garnish with a fresh sprig of cilantro.

Makes 4 servings.

Bleu Cheese Filet

The height of luxury! At Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, port mushrooms accompany the dish.

For the filets:

4, 7-oz. beef filets

Montreal Steak Seasoning or your favorite seasoning salt, to taste

Season steaks generously on both sides. Sear over high heat. Then, grill over

medium high heat until desired temperature is reached.

For the bleu cheese sauce:

¾ C. heavy cream

½ C. bleu cheese crumbles

Place the cream in a pot and bring to a simmer. Reduce the cream by half and turn heat to low. Add the bleu cheese crumbles and allow to soften.

To serve:

After steaks have rested, top with ¼ C. each of bleu cheese sauce and mushrooms.

Makes 4 servings.

Port Mushrooms

At Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, where these mushrooms accompany the bleu cheese filet, you can also order them as a side dish. They're versatile, complementing steak, chicken and pork.

2 Tb. vegetable oil

1½ C. button mushrooms

Salt and pepper, to taste

4 Tb. port wine

2 Tb. beef stock or au jus

1 Tb. butter

1 Tb. fresh julienned basil

In a sauté pan, heat the oil on medium high heat. Add the mushrooms. Sauté until slightly browned. Season with salt and pepper. Add port wine and au jus or beef stock.

Reduce liquid until most of it is absorbed by the mushrooms. Add butter and stir until melted and creamy. Top with fresh julienned basil.

Makes 2-4 servings.

Grilled Shrimp & Strawberry Salad

"21/25 count shrimp" refers to the number of shrimp per pound. Chefs refer to counts because it's a more accurate way to describe shrimp size than terms like "jumbo" or "medium." Recipe courtesy of Firebirds Wood Fired Grill.

28, 21/25 count shrimp

4 skewers

Salt and pepper, to taste

16 C. mixed greens

2 C. jicama, julienned

2 C. spiced pecans

4 C. sliced strawberries

1 C. goat cheese crumbles

8 oz. balsamic vinaigrette

Clean, devein and remove tails from shrimp. Thread each skewer with 7 shrimp. (If using wooden skewers, soak in water for 10 minutes prior to using to prevent sticking and burning.)

Sprinkle shrimp with salt and pepper on both sides. Place shrimp skewers on grill and cook until pink and cooked through, approximately 3 minutes on each side.

While shrimp is grilling, toss all salad ingredients together in a large bowl and divide among 4 chilled plates.

Remove shrimp from grill and skewers and divide evenly among plates, placing on top of salad.

Makes 4 servings.

Seared Ahi Tuna

Firebirds' Chef Steven Sturm adapted this recipe so that the tuna could be made on top of the stove. Wherever it's cooked, the variety of tastes and textures in this dish makes it a real palate-pleaser. If you can't find jicama, use

julienned cucumber or for an extra kick, radishes. The spicy pecans are flavored with butter, brown sugar, ancho chile and cayenne.

For the herb rub and tuna:

1 tsp. fresh thyme leaves

1 tsp. fresh sage leaves, chopped

1 tsp. fresh rosemary leaves, chopped

1 tsp. minced garlic

Salt and pepper to taste

1 Tb. butter

1, 5-oz. piece ahi tuna

Mix herbs together, and rub over all sides of tuna. Melt butter in a saucepan over medium high heat. Adjust heat to high, add tuna to the pan, and sear on all sides, roughly 30 seconds per side.

Remove from heat and allow to rest. You can serve the tuna warm or refrigerate and serve cold.

For hot mustard sauce:

⅛ C. water

½ C. dry mustard

¼ C. garlic chili sauce

¼ C. soy sauce

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Place all ingredients in a blender and puree. Strain into a bowl to remove chile seeds from the mixture. Refrigerate 1 hour before serving.

Makes 2 cups, so you will have extra.

To assemble:

¼ C. mixed greens
⅛ C. jicama, julienned
⅛ C. diced tomatoes
⅛ C. spiced pecans
2 Tb. store-bought
cilantro-lime vinaigrette

In a large bowl, toss greens, jicama, tomatoes, pecans and vinaigrette. Place salad on a large oval plate.

Slice tuna into 11-12 bite size pieces and fan in front of salad. Drizzle with as much hot mustard sauce as you can handle.

Makes 1 entrée or 2-4 appetizer servings.

Parmesan Mashed Potatoes

A popular side dish at Firebirds Wood Fired Grill, these flavor-packed potatoes get along well with all types of grilled entrées.

6¼ lbs. Yukon Gold potatoes,

unpeeled and cubed

1½ C. milk
½ lb. butter
¾ C. sour cream
1½ C. freshly grated parmesan cheese
¼ C. asiago cheese
1½ Tb. salt
½ Tb. white pepper

Boil the potatoes in a large pot of salted water until fork tender. Drain and transfer to a large mixing bowl.

In a small sauce pan, gently heat the milk and butter. Mash potatoes by hand, electric mixer, or even a food mill; just make sure the potatoes are mashed as evenly as possible. Slowly add the warm milk and butter while you are mixing and mashing. Gently fold in the sour cream, cheeses, salt and pepper. Taste for seasoning and adjust accordingly.

Makes 8-10 servings.

Grilled Asian Pears

You can substitute apples for the pears, but don't cook them as long or they'll become mushy. For a quick dessert, put 2-3 pear

slices in a bowl and top with caramel or vanilla ice cream and your choice of chopped, toasted nuts.

2 Asian pears, peeled
4 Tb. butter
3 Tb. brown sugar
½ tsp. cinnamon


Slice pears horizontally into ½" thick rings. With a melon baller or a paring knife, cut the core out of each slice. Set aside.

Over medium heat, melt butter in a small saucepan. Add brown sugar and cinnamon, stirring until sugar dissolves. Coat each pear slice generously with butter-sugar mixture. Grill over high heat for 2-3 minutes per side, until sugar caramelizes. While grilling, brush with extra mixture.

Makes 4-6 servings. ♦

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

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