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On a local level, Patti, her husband, Ed, and their four children reside in West Chester, where she is also active in her community. Patti currently serves as a board member for the Chester County Economic Development Council, Cuddle My Kids, and for The Chester County Hospital and Health System.

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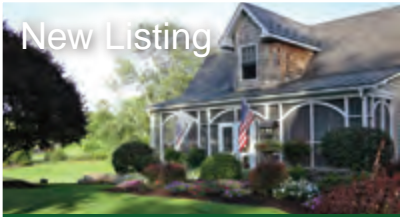
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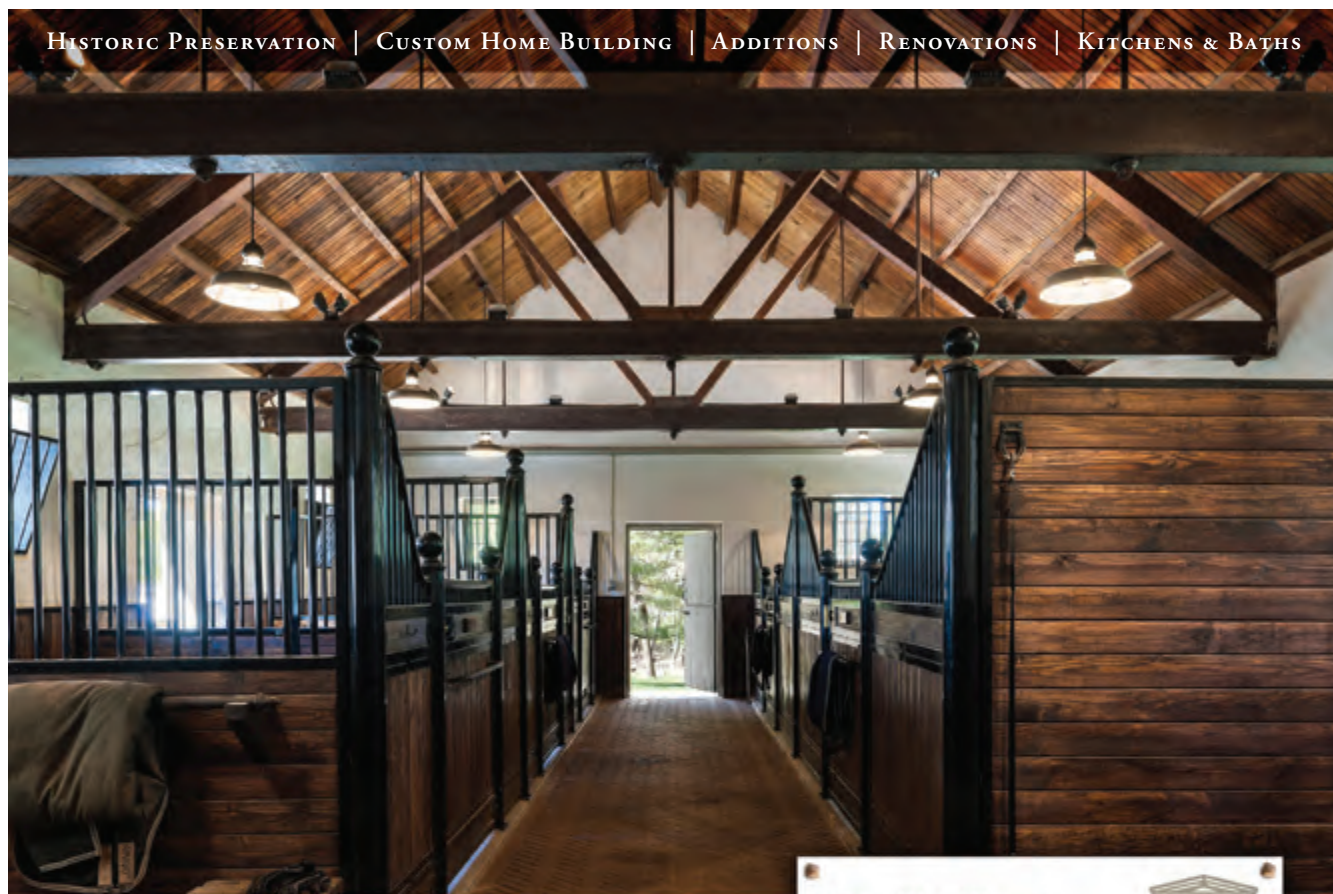
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From *the*
Editor



May is for horses!

Steeplechase races at Winterthur, Willowdale and Radnor Hunt. Followed by 11 days of the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair. Stephanie Loeh tells us about this year's steeplechases; Laurel Anderson covers the horse show and fair. Elizabeth Thomas tours the Devon Art Gallery and other art shows. And Mary Dolan mixes drinks for tailgating! Don't you love May?

Ever had equestrian fever? Or has your child? Check out our Worth Knowing column with its "Budget for a Devon Horse Show Dream."

In Brandywine Table, Laura Muzzi Brennan declares "Picnic Season is Here." She offers upcakes, tea sandwiches and treats that will kick your tailgate spread up to the next level.

Carol Metzker is in Wayne this month stopping by the Barn at Valley Forge Flowers, Furniture and Feathers, Lace Silhouettes Lingerie, SewRob and more shops around town. She also checks out great pizzas and other eateries in Wayne's bustling downtown.

"Who's Your Farmer?" asks Fred DeLong of Rushton Farm. He's already counting his bounty from the CSAs in *County Lines* country.

If you prefer gardening to farming, Marci Tommasone offers over 20 plant sales and garden tours to visit in May. And for those whose seasonal allergies create additional problems, read Dr. Sandra Gawchik's "Understanding Childhood Asthma" in the Being Well column.

Our Local Hero for May is the staff at the Maternal & Child Health Consortium for being mothers' helpers all year long.

Mark Fields, the new Executive Director at the Playhouse on Rodney Square, talks with us about the recent change when The Grand Opera House took over the former DuPont Theatre—and his vision for the upcoming season.

May is a marvel of great events, so check out Family Fun and our Best Local Event section in print and online.

I hope you enjoy this issue and the merry month of May.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

May 2015

Volume XXXVIII, Number 9

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Cover photo and photo top left, both from the Devon Horse Show, by Alix Coleman

Worth Knowing

What's the Budget for a Devon Horse Show Dream?

Laurel Anderson

Can you put a dollar figure on your child's dream?

SEEING YOUR TINY TYKE LOOK UP IN AWE at her first pony will fill any parent's heart. Helping a young rider live her dream of riding at the Devon Horse Show may empty that same parent's wallet.

Most parents have no idea of the costs for the care and feeding of a horse and rider, plus the surcharge for reaching a competitive level. Certainly, costs are not the first thoughts that proud parents have when their child (here's hoping it's only one) shares her Devon dream. Floods of emotions and thoughts of trophies should supplant budgets.

The good news first: Your child can qualify for Devon on a \$10k horse whose mane you've learned to braid and you've driven there in a used trailer. Upsets can happen, and you, too, can have a dream ... of making the movie, *The Miracle in the Dixon Oval*.

But at some point, a parent starts a mental list—or several spread-

sheets—with some of the known costs—not to be confused with the unknown, unusual and unexpected. We talked with several parents about their experiences and wanted to share what we learned.

The Horse

You need at least one, and the purchase price can range from about \$10k (the cost to breed Derby winner California Chrome was \$10k, after all) up to seven figures (what do you think Jessica Springsteen rides? She's a rock star's daughter and among the top-ranked riders).

Does leasing sound better? See if the dream endures ... beyond the first month or two. Leasing can still top \$1k per month and can run much more, depending on how experienced the horse is. Maybe you'll get lucky—thoughts of California Chrome again.

Rule of thumb: winners cost more. Often much more.

Boarding and Grooming

Now you need a barn, which generally charges monthly fees. Or build your own? But that plan adds the costs of buying land and a farm. Using your trainer's barn (more on the trainer later) costs something, but saves trailering the horse back and forth for lessons.

And there's horse feed, which is not cheap—you're feeding an equestrian athlete weighing more than a couple of sumo wrestlers. Plan about \$1k per month for room and board.

Add more for grooming supplies—shampoo, special tail mane conditioner, polish for painting hooves (really!)—and replacing horseshoes every five weeks on a four-legged pet that has no idea how much horseshoes cost. Plus brushes, hoof picks and more. Estimate \$250 per month. And add on clipping, done before the winter "indoor" season and as expensive as a visit to a high-end human salon.

Medical Care and Insurance

Your vet will visit three to six times in an uneventful year, while the dentist comes twice. Major medical (covering colic) and life insurance for the horse can run around \$7k per year; it's based on the horse's value—another plus for the budget horse option. You can buy disability insurance, but most don't. It's too expensive, which will give you pause if you think about why that's so.

Tack and More

Start with things like saddle, saddle pads, bridle, bits, halter, leg wraps, grooming tote, tack trunks, feeding buckets ... whew! Say \$2500? Now sit down.

Luckily, most of this lasts a few years. Plus you can buy some of it used, reconditioned or at swaps. Preferably not from Hermès. Unluckily, there are always more things you need, like fly sheets and masks in summer, blankets in winter, coolers for walking—special things for every season and occasion.

Rider's Clothes

For everyday riding, your darling needs a helmet, boots, britches and whatever else all the girls at the barn are wearing that year. These do wear out. And the rider grows.

Clothes for the ring are another chapter of this story: think special jackets for warm

and cold weather, two pairs of boots, a few pairs of britches, shirts, helmet, gloves, stock tie and pin (preferably an antique). About \$1500 for the outfit. Update as needed, though the styles are classic, so that's a plus. Oh, and the horse may need special tack for the ring.

Trainer

Remember, we prepared you for this earlier. Fees are based on experience, ranging from around \$50 per lesson to \$500 for a

monthly rate and continuing year round. Trainers get mileage for trailering the horse to shows (more on this coming up), plus additional fees for services at the shows, based on how much they do—number of events, extra coaching, prep for the course, critique after the run. Trainers put in long hours! Were those fees less than you expected?

Costs for Qualifying Shows

This is a big category. To ride at Devon, riders must qualify by earning points at

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local, regional or national horse shows—each year.

One dad shared that his daughter rode in about 20 horse shows this prior year in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, Vermont, Virginia and Florida. And then the horse was injured. That might have ended the Devon dream for 2015. Luckily, this dad had a spare horse. (Quickly double most of the costs outlined above in your head.)

So, what are the costs for each horse show? And since Devon takes points from the rider's top 15 shows from April 1 to March 30, you may want to schedule an extra show or so to ensure qualifying for the hunter classes—equitation is less stringent, so more chances for savings. But, there's that pesky multiplication for the number of shows you enter. And the number of days at each show.

For each horse show, plan for entry fees, and coaching/trainer fees (see above), plus grooming charges, like braiding the mane *and* the tail, and rebraiding as needed—which means daily—for about \$150.

Then there's food, transportation and lodging for horse, rider and entourage. For each horse there are separate entry fees, bedding fees and night watch fees. You'll skip the night watch fees? Then you didn't hear the story from a Virginia show where a horse's tail was cut off at night by a rival's owner. Trust me, that trainer always hires a night watch now!

Add trailering fees or initial costs to buy a horse trailer (\$15k) and a truck or van strong enough to pull it fully loaded (a bit more). Not to mention souvenirs, shopping and junk food costs incurred while parents spend 14-hour days watching 40 minutes of riding.

On the Plus Side

Many shows have cash prizes, so subtract your winnings. That should help. Once your rider starts winning.

More important, parents wax nostalgic about the trips together with their fledgling riders. Despite rising in the dark on Saturday mornings and heading for rings that are cold and wet or hot and dusty, parents remember the sound of their child's name being announced, the look of con-

centration before her event, the growing mastery of a complex skill and the concept of healthy competition, of lessons learned handling defeat and triumph with equal grace. Life lessons, all.

And then, Ivy League colleges recruit for their equestrian teams. So another dream lives. And a new budget begins. ♦

Many thanks to the horse mothers, fathers and owners who shared their fond memories with us. They all thought this was money well spent.



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Understanding Childhood Asthma

Sandra M. Gawchik, D.O.

It's common and treatable, and yes, your child can enjoy an active kid's life!

SPRING IS IN FULL BLOOM. For most kids, this means sun, fun and outdoor sports. But for a child with asthma, it also means exposure to seasonal allergens—pollens from trees, grasses and weeds. And if that weren't enough to trigger an asthma attack, mold is a constant presence in warmer months.

Plus, all those young equestrians at the Devon Horse Show are exposed to horse dander and dust in the stables and ring—even more triggers.

What is asthma? Asthma is a chronic condition caused by inflammation and narrowing of the bronchial tubes (passageways that allow air to enter and leave the lungs). It's the same disease for adults as for children, and affects about 7 million American children, according to the Centers for Disease Control. Untreated asthma is a leading cause of school absenteeism and the leading cause of kids' visits to the emergency room.

There are two types of asthma. *Allergic asthma* is caused by exposure to an allergen, such as pollen, pet dander, dust, dust mites, milk, eggs, peanuts or ingredients in certain medications. There's often a family history of this type of asthma. *Non-allergic asthma* is caused by exposure to something that affects normal breathing, especially a viral respiratory illness, like a cold or flu.

Either type can be triggered by irritants like smoke or perfume, strong emotions, intense exercise or weather changes.

What are the symptoms of childhood asthma? Three of the most common symptoms are: 1) a change in normal breathing, such as coughing or wheezing, often interrupting sleep or play; 2) shortness of breath, chest tightness or rapid breathing (signs like the belly pumping hard or the pulling in of the muscles between the ribs or skin at the base of the throat); and before difficulty keeping up with other kids when playing.

If your child has asthma symptoms and repeated episodes of what's been diagnosed as bronchitis or pneumonia, or is not responding to treatment for asthma (for example, repeated doses of oral steroids)—and is unable to sleep well, regularly attend school, run and play—then see an allergist. Allergists specialize in diagnosing and treating allergies and asthma.

Undiagnosed and untreated, childhood asthma can worsen as the lungs work harder and harder to breathe, posing a danger to growing lungs.

How is asthma diagnosed? The allergist will begin with a detailed medical history, including symptoms, medications and family history of allergies and asthma. Next come questions about the child's environment at home and school (identifying triggers like household or school pets, smoking, dust, etc.), sleep patterns, school attendance and activities.

The doctor will perform a physical exam and, depending on the child's age, a peak flow meter test or full lung function study, which involves blowing into a tube connected to a computer. Don't worry, it doesn't hurt! Allergy skin tests (skin pricks testing sensitivity to dander, dust, mold) may be done to identify specific allergies so triggers can be avoided.

How is childhood asthma treated? An effective treatment plan has several parts and is designed to treat symptoms and prevent asthma attacks. The allergist will explain how to identify and eliminate or control asthma triggers.

For a child with mild, intermittent asthma (symptoms less than twice a week), the doctor typically will prescribe a rapid-acting broncho-dilator medication (an inhaler) to be used to prevent or relieve the symptoms before or during triggers, such as vigorous exercise.

If that's not sufficient, and the child has more frequent, moderate, severe or persistent asthma symptoms, then the doctor will prescribe additional medications to control airway inflammation.

Will my child outgrow asthma? Children with non-allergic asthma triggered by viral infections typically outgrow it

by age 6 or so. Children with allergic asthma—including kids with food allergies and eczema—typically continue to have asthma as adults.

In either case, children with well-managed asthma can sleep through the night, regularly go to school and, yes, enjoy a full, active kid's life—including running, playing and riding. ♦

Sandra M. Gawchik, D.O., is the Co-chief of Allergy/Immunology at Crozer-Chester Medical

Center and a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatrics at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. A board-certified allergist and pediatrician, Dr. Gawchik treats patients of all ages who have asthma and allergic conditions. 610-876-1249; CrozerKeyStone.org/Providers.



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Good to Know

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



Design Time. Shoppers have discovered former home stager Krissa Wichser's dream project, **The Blue Octagon**—a new Malvern boutique featuring contemporary décor, furniture and gifts. From glam to boho to classic, the must-haves include lucite bookshelves, tufted sofas, linen pillows, Mongolian ottomans and more. Showcasing established brands like Jonathan Adler, Dana Gibson and Bungalow 5, the shop also features new artists each month. Create your wish list at 335 E. King St., Malvern. TheBlueOctagon.com.

Relay for a Cure.

With spring comes an annual 24-hour walk to raise funds for cancer research. **Relay for Life** events abound this season in Chester County. Join one in May, such as the Rose Tree Media Community Relay at Penncrest High School, Saturday, May 16, with other events in Phoenixville and Downingtown. All walks have a survivors lap and a luminaria ceremony to honor loved ones with illuminated paper bags. Help the American Cancer Society continue saving more than 400 lives a day. RelayForLife.org.



Bit of Blue.

Need a touch of cool color in your late May flowers? Make your next garden project turning pink **hydrangeas** blue. Hydrangea flowers' color is based on your soil's acidity levels. To up the acid and get the blue hue, use organic materials like coffee grounds, citrus peel or crushed eggshells. Sprinkle these around the hydrangea's base, then water. It may be a year before they bloom true blue, but the exotic color is worth it! More at HydrangeasHydrangeas.com.



May Merrymaking. Looking for unique, local May traditions? Bryn Mawr College holds an annual all-day **May Day** event Sunday, May 3. Students and the community celebrate medieval-style with a parade, Scottish dancing, King Arthur and Robin Hood plays, a cappella music, Maypole Dancing and a big afternoon concert on the green. The finale is a showing of the film *The Philadelphia Story*, starring Bryn Mawr alum Katharine Hepburn. More under traditions at BrynMawr.edu.



Pumping Pedals. Warm weather. Sunny skies. It's no surprise May is **National Bike Month**, so take advantage of this month's cycling activities. You can join National Bike to Work Week, May 11-15. Use the Bike Fix-It Stations on the Chester Valley Trail at the PNC branch of Malvern and the Exton Trail Head. Or be part of the Cinco de Mayo Benefit Bike Ride Sunday, May 3 at the Chester Valley Trail to help bring sports to people with disabilities. More ideas at BikeLeague.org.



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Sunday, May 31 has been dedicated to Hunter Breeding*

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT DEVONHORSESHOW.ORG OR CALL 610-688-2554.

Brenda Carpenter Photography

of Special Note

Brandywine Ballet Presents



Brandywine Ballet

May 1-3

Tchaikovsky's timeless score transports us to a world where good conquers evil when inspired by love. This production uses both new and original choreography. *Emilie K. Apslundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Fri., 10 a.m.; Sat., noon & 5 p.m.; Sun., 2 p.m. Tickets, \$25-\$40. Call 610-696-2711; BrandywineBallet.org.*

Brandywine Hospital Strawberry Festival

May 28-31

Rides, entertainment, children's games and activities, craft fair and fireworks display on Friday night. Organized by Brandywine Health Foundation and benefitting the Coatesville Youth Initiative. *Brandywine Hospital, Rt. 30 Bypass, Coatesville. Thurs., 5 to 10 p.m.; Fri., 5 to 11 p.m.; Sat., 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Sun., noon to 6 p.m. 610-380-9080; BrandywineStrawberryFestival.com.*



Brandywine Valley Craft Brewers Festival

May 9

The premier showcase of handcrafted products from the region's craft breweries. Benefits the Media Youth Center, which offers recreational and educational programs for youth in addition to partnership opportunities with the community. *Iron Hill, 30 E. State St., Media. 1 to 5 pm. \$45; designated drivers, \$5. Designated drivers and King of the Hill members will receive a free food voucher. IronHillBrewery.com/Brewfest-2015.*



Vox Amadeus Ensemble The 3 Bs—Bach, Beethoven & Brahms

May 15

The season's grand finale with critically acclaimed British virtuoso pianist Peter Donohoe performing Bach's exciting Concerto in D minor, followed by the elegant and heart-wrenching Brahms Concerto No. 1, and ending with the amazing Beethoven Piano Concerto No. 5, "Emperor." *Kimmel Center, 300 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 8 p.m. \$10-\$70. 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.*



We Love A Parade

May 25, 31

This Memorial Day, listen for the marching bands and look for the balloons and floats. Then follow the procession to one of these parades: *May 24, Marshallton*, begins at The Goddard School, Sugars Bridge Rd. 1:30 p.m. *MarshalltonConservationTrust.org*. *May 25, Downingtown*, from Beaver Creek Elementary School, 601 W. Pennsylvania Ave., to Kerr Park Veterans' Memorial. 10 a.m. *Downingtown.org*. *Radnor*, parade begins at the Radnor Financial Center on Rt. 30 and proceeds west, 9:45 a.m. *RadnorMemorialDay.org*. *Media*, on State Street beginning at 10 a.m. *VisitMediaPA.com*. *Kennett Square*, gathering at Kennett High School, ending at the Union Hill Cemetery with a memorial gun salute. 10 a.m. *HistoricKennettSquare.com*. *May 31, Malvern*, begins on King Street and ends with a ceremony honoring veterans at Memorial Park. 1:30 p.m. *MalvernMemorialParade.com*, *GrowingRootsPartners.com*.

best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH MAY 24

Magic Tree House: The Knight At Dawn Kids.

Based on the best-selling book series, Jack and Annie journey to the Middle Ages and learn the power of hope. *Media Theatre for the Performing Arts*, 104 E. State St., Media. Fri-Sun; call for curtain times. \$12-\$15. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER

Wharton Esherick Museum. The 43rd tour season begins with special children's tours every Saturday at 11 am, with hands-on activities and lots of fun. *1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern.* Tours by reservation, Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 1 to 5. \$6-\$12. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.

THROUGH MAY 2

Philadelphia Science Festival. More than 100 institutions collaborate in this community-wide celebration of science (see website for sites). *May 2*, Science Carnival on The Parkway, with exhibitors offering family-friendly activities and live entertainment. 215-448-1128; PhilaScienceFestival.org.

MAY 2

Fairville Friends School Fun Fair. Lots of fun planned with pony rides, moon bounce, crafts and cookie decorating. Children can even dig for buried treasure, see farm animals or pretend to drive a tractor. *On school grounds, 216 Pond View, Chadds Ford.* 11 to 3. Free. 610-388-1268; FairvilleFunFair.org.

MAY 2

20th Annual Trout Rodeo in Kennett Square. Ponds will be stocked with trout up to 22-inches. Breakfast and lunch for sale. PA fishing license req. for fishermen 16+. Benefits *Anson B. Nixon Park*, N. Walnut St. 8 to 4. Tickets at *Buck's Hunting*, 809 Gap-Newport Pk., Avondale. \$5-\$10. 610-444-0792; AnsonBNixonPark.org.

MAY 2

Mother's Day Gift Workshop for Kids at Historic Sugartown. Dads are invited to bring the kids to the General Store to "shop" for gift materials, then proceed to the Design Station to create Mom's treasure. *690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern.* 11 to 2. \$6 for children, adults free. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.

MAY 2

A Teddy Bear Tea at the Wayne Art Center. Parents and kids 4 to 8 are welcome. Bring along your favorite stuffed friend and enjoy an authentic tea service and storytelling served in the children's garden. *The Children's Garden, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne.* 1 to 3. \$50 for adult and child; \$25 for additional child. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

MAY 2-3

Greater Reading Family & Pet Festival. A family-oriented festival featuring demonstrations, hands-on-petting, attractions and pet adoptions. Leashed pets are welcome. *Reading Fairgrounds, 1216 Hilltop Rd., Leesport.* \$10 parking, free adm. 800-677-4677; HorseAndPetExpo.com/Greater-Reading-Family.

MAY 2-3

Malvern Blooms Festival. Celebrate Malvern at the festival that includes activities for the whole family, great shopping and dining, antique car show, fashion show and live music. *King St. & Warren Ave., Malvern.* Sat, noon to 6; Sun, 11 to 4. GrowingRootsPartners.com/About-Malvern-Festivals.

MAY 3

Radnor Township Recreation Presents Bike Rodeo. Children can bring their bikes and participate in games, an obstacle course, watch safety demonstrations and take a ride along Radnor Trail. *Wayne Art Center parking lot, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne.* 3 to 5. Free. 610-688-5600; RadnorRecreation.com.

MAY 3

May Day Festival of the Arts in West Chester. A celebration of the arts with music, art, crafts and kids' activities at *Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St., (W. Union & S. Brandywine Ave.) West Chester.* 11 to 4. Free. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

MAY 9

Helicopter Ride Day at American Helicopter Museum. If you've ever had even a hint of a desire to take a helicopter ride, this is your lucky day. Liberty Flight School is on hand to take you, or a gift recipient, on an exciting journey. *1220 American Blvd., West Chester.* 11 am to 1 pm. \$40-\$50. 610-436-9600; AmericanHelicopter.Museum.

MAY 11-16

Phoenixville Dogwood Festival. A community festival and parade with lots of activities. *May 16*, Dogwood Parade, noon. Reeves

Park Bandshell, 2nd & Main Sts., Phoenixville. Mon-Fri, 6 to 10; Sat, noon to 10. 484-928-0052; PhoenixvilleDogwoodFestival.org.

MAY 16

Mother & Daughter Tea Party at Rock Ford Plantation. Young ladies ages 5-12 may bring their favorite doll to the 18th Century Rock Ford Barn. All guests will be entered into a door prize drawing to win an American Girl "Caroline" Doll and storybook valued at \$115. *881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster.* 1 to 3. \$20. 717-392-7223; RockFordPlantation.org.

MAY 17

Berwyn-Devon Wellness Festival. Bring the family for a day with lots of activities including a zip line, rock wall, bounce house, live music, kids' games and prizes. Benefits local charities. *Corner of Old Lancaster Rd. and Rt. 30, Berwyn.* Noon to 4. BDWellness-Festival.com.

MAY 23-SEPTEMBER

Morris Arboretum's Summer Garden Railway. This year's theme is "Art & Architecture," highlighting miniatures of iconic Philadelphia sculptures and famous lighthouses, to buildings from the last World's Fair. *May 23*, Grand Opening events, 1 to 3. *100 E. Northwestern Ave., Phila.* Mon-Fri, 10 to 4; Sat, Sun, 10 to 5; Wed until 8, June-Aug. \$8-\$16. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.

MAY 30-31

Malvern's Family Fun Days. *May 30*, the Run for Freedom a 5K, 1 mi. run/walk, 9 am; Kids Run, 9:45, benefitting a local Marine. Followed by family games and activities. At 5 pm, enjoy a spaghetti dinner, \$10-\$12, then a concert with the Chester County Concert Band. *May 31*, Memorial Day Parade (see Of Special Note) Visit MalvernMemorialParade.com or GrowingRootsPartners.com for details.

JUNE 4-SEPTEMBER 3

Swingin' Summer Thursdays in Downtown West Chester. Great food, live music, clowns, artists, magicians, jugglers, zip lines and lots of family fun. *Gay St., the first Thurs. of the month.* 6:30 to 9:30. Free. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

JUNE 7

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.

ANTIQUES.....

MAY 1, JUNE 5

Vintage Garage Sale in West Chester. Vintage home goods, antiques, collectibles, architectural salvage, vintage jewelry, clothing and original art and photography. Food trucks on site, along with live music. Chestnut Street Parking Garage, 14 E. Chestnut St. 4 to 9. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

MAY 22-25

Brandywine River Museum 44th Annual Antiques Show. Outstanding dealers present American and English furniture, glass, ceramics, folk art, Oriental and European porcelain, rugs and fine collectibles. Benefits the Museum Volunteers' Art Purchase Fund. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Preview Party, Fri, 6 to 9, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, music, \$125; res. required. Show, Sat-Mon, 9:30 to 5. \$18. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

ART & CRAFT SHOWS.....

THROUGH MAY 10

42nd Annual Yellow Springs Art Show. See *Art Gallery Round Up* in this issue.

THROUGH MAY 23

"Unrestrained"—Fiber/Textile Exhibit at Some Things Looming Fiber Arts Gallery. Contemporary fiber and textile art by artists from the U.S. and Spain are on display at the gallery. 526 Washington St., Reading. Tues-Wed, 11 to 2; Sat, 10 to 3. 610-373-7337; SomeThingsLooming.com.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER 6

Moderne Gallery Exhibit. Wharton Esherick: The Rose and Nathan Robinson Collection. An exhibition and sale of furniture, sculptural objects and woodcuts, all by Wharton Esherick, the "Dean of American Craftsmen." 111 N. 3rd St., Philadelphia. Daily noon to 5. 215-923-8536; ModerneGallery.com.

MAY 1

Gallery Walk in West Chester. See *Art Gallery Round Up* in this issue.

MAY 16-17

Chester County Studio Tour. See *Art Gallery Round Up* in this issue.

MAY 16-JUNE 27

Wayne Art Center's 9th Annual Plain Air Art Festival. See *Art Gallery Round Up* in this issue.

MAY 30

Art From the Heart Gala. A fundraising event and gala hosted by four area organizations. When you purchase a ticket you'll receive a playing card that entitles you to take home a piece of art. Phoenix Village Art Center, 207 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 6:30 to 9:30 pm. \$75. ArtFromTheHeartGala.blogspot.com.

MAY 30-31

Downingtown Fine Arts Festival. On *May 30*, artists display along with Victory Beer Garden (E. Lancaster Ave. municipal parking lot only), 10 to 6 and on *May 31*, there will be additional vendors, music and booths. Takes place on the 100-200 block of E. Lancaster Ave. 610-269-1523; DowningtownMainStreet.com.

BOOKS.....

MAY 2-26

Book Signings and Events at Chester County Book Company. *May 2*, all day festivities for



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the first Independent Bookstore Day. **May 9**, Joe Consiglio (Silly Joe) performs a medley of songs for children and signs, *Big Billy and the Ice Cream Truck That Wouldn't Stop*, 11 am; **May 9**, Bill Kreutzmann, *Deal: My Three Decades of Drumming, Dreams, and Drugs with the Grateful Dead*, Stetson Middle School, 7 pm; **May 13**, Caroline Todd interviews Kim McCreight about her new mystery, *Where They Found Her*; **May 14**, Cathryn Craft, *The Far End of Happy*; **May 16**, Connie Nye conducts a watershed science workshop and signs, *Sweet*

Water Hunt, 10:30 am; **May 20**, Philadelphia Mystery Panel; **May 21**, Young People's Book Club, ages 10-14, 6:30; **May 26**, Craig Johnson, *Dry Bones*, 7 pm. 967 Paoli Pk., West Goshen Center, West Chester. 610-696-1661; ChesterCountyBooks.com.

MAY 16
Chester County Book Company Book Launch. Andrea Kiliany Thatcher is launching her new book, *The SFP LookBook: Atelier to Runway*, at Nich Boutique, 29 S. High St., West



Chester. Light bites, cocktails, cupcakes, beauty bar and book sales. 1 to 4 pm. 610-696-1661; ChesterCountyBooks.com.

DESIGN HOME SHOWS.....

THROUGH MAY 30
40th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. Regional designers display their creativity in interior and landscape design at Villa d'Braccia, a Mediterranean-style villa. Benefits Doylestown Hospital and Village Improvement Assoc. 745 Stump Rd., Chalfont. **Apr. 24**, Preview Gala, 6 to 10, \$150-\$2,500. Show: Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri, 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$25. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

EQUESTRIAN.....

See the *Devon Horse Show and Steeplechase* articles in this issue.

FESTIVALS.....

See *Family Fun* for more.

MAY 17
Haverford Spring Fest Music & Arts Festival. A lively event featuring great live music, art, food, beer gardens, a Fun Zone for children and so much more. Brookline Blvd., Havertown. Noon to 7 pm. For information visit HaverfordSpringFest.com.

JUNE 2-6
Annual Greek Festival at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. It's a bit of Greece as you 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.

JUNE 6
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.

FILM.....

MAY 14, JUNE 11
Uptown! Entertainment Film Series. **May 14**, *The Graduate*, 7 pm. **June 11**, Elvis Presley

double feature, *Viva Las Vegas* at 6:30, *Jailhouse Rock* at 8. Ballroom at the Westside, 430 Hannum Ave., West Chester. Doors open at 6. UptownWestChester.org.

FOOD.....

MAY 2-7
Phoenixville Food Truck Festival & Restaurant Week. **May 2**, food trucks will line Bridge St. cooking a wide variety of delicious fare and vendors will be selling their wares, noon to 6 pm. **May 3-7**, Restaurant Week takes off with restaurants offering prix fixe dinners, with price points at \$10 (for small boutique food options), \$25 and \$35. For details and participating restaurants, visit PhoenixvilleFoodFestival.com.

MAY 6-SEPTEMBER 30
Stroll, Shop, Dine—Dining Under the Stars in Media. It's that time of year again when Wednesday is the night to dine out in Media. Restaurants offer outdoor dining along State Street, from Jackson to Orange Sts. There's entertainment and children's activities on each block. 5 to 11 pm. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

MAY 6
2015 Philadelphia Food & Wine Festival. Sample unique and high-end wines, perfectly paired with gourmet food from the region's best restaurants. Benefits The Children's Hospital of Phila. Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia. \$110-\$225. VIP entry at 5; general tasting, 6:30 to 9 pm. 215-940-4605; FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com.

MAY 9
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. \$45 in advance; \$50 at the gate. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.

MAY 9
Boone's Beerfest. A fundraiser to help keep the Daniel Boone Homestead open. Two dozen reweries, live music and food. 400 Daniel Boone Rd., Birdsboro. 2 to 6. \$45; \$15 for designated driver. DanielBooneHomestead.org.

MAY 13-17
MidAtlantic Wine & Food Festival. Chefs and winemakers gather and invite guests to enjoy one-of-a-kind epicurean experiences, meet and chat with vintners, brewers, distillers and other experts. Benefits Opera-Delaware, Christina Cultural Arts Center and CAMP Rehoboth. Ticket prices vary, check MAWFF.org.

MAY 23-24
The Great PA FlavorFest at Mt. Hope. Wineries provide complimentary samples of their most popular vintages, and food and craft ven-

dors showcase their wares. Mt. Hope Estate & Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Free. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.

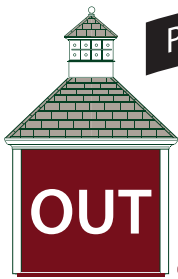
MAY 29-JUNE 7
Philly Beer Week. More than 500 events at over 100 venues throughout the city and suburbs, highlighting the region's diverse beer scene, its world-class breweries, neighborhood taverns, restaurants and rich beer culture. For venue information, PhillyBeerWeek.org.

MAY 30
SIP Wine in the Park. Enjoy a celebration of exceptional wines from around the world at the

new event held at Musser Park, E. Chestnut & N. Lime Sts., Lancaster. 3 to 6 pm. \$75; designated driver, \$20. SipWineInThePark.com.

FUNDRAISERS.....

MAY 1
"A Hollywood Evening With Our Stars" Fundraiser for Domestic Violence Center of Chester County. A gala designed to celebrate the supporters of the agency in a glamorous fashion with host Tracy Davidson. Reception is followed by a gourmet dinner. Mendenhall Inn Gold Ballroom, 323 Kennett Pk.,



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Brahms
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Left to right: New York, 1999. Elliott Erwitt (born 1928). Gelatin silver print, 30 x 22 inches. © Elliott Erwitt / Magnum Photos. | Photograph provided by JD3.

NIGHT

www.thebrandywinesingers.org

May 16, 2015 7:00pm

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May 17, 2015 4:00pm

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Local Farm Markets

Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station. May–Nov., Sat, 9 to 1. BrynMawrFarmersMarket.com.

Collegeville Farmers Mkt., 217 E. Main St. May–Nov., Sat, 9 to 1. 610-454-1050; CollegevilleFarmersMarket.org.

* Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Dane Decor Warehouse Parking Lot, 216 Washington Ave. May–Nov., Sat, 9 to 1. 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

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

East Goshen Farmers Mkt., E. Goshen Park, 1580 Paoli Pk. May–Nov., Thurs, 3 to 7. EastGoshenFarmersMarket.blogspot.com.

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

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

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

Media Farmers Mkt., State St. b/w Monroe & Gayley. May–Nov., Thurs, 3 to 7. 610-566-5039; MediaFarmersMarket.com.

New Garden Grower's Mkt., 8934 Gap Newport Pk. May–Nov., Sat, 9 to 1. 610-972-7194.

Oxford Village Mkt., 3rd & Locust Sts. May–Oct., Tues, 2 to 6. 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org.

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

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

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

West Chester – Artisan Exchange Indoor Artisan Foods & Farmers Mkt., 208 Carter Dr. Sat, 10 to 2. ArtisanExchangeWCPA.com.

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. May–Dec., Sat, 9 to 1. 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

West Grove Mkt., Harmony Park, Harmony Rd. May–Oct., Thurs, 2 to 6. 610-932-5468; WestGroveFarmersMarket.com.

* New Location

Mendenhall. 7 to 11 pm. 610-431-3546; DVCCC.com.

MAY 1–2

The Saturday Club's Women & Children's Consignment Sale. A shopping experience with new and gently used brand names for women and children. Benefits the club and their philanthropic support of women and children's charities. 117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. Fri, 9:30 to 2 and 5 to 8; Sat, 8 to noon, ½ price day. 610-688-9746; SaturdayClub.org.

MAY 6

"Treasures for Change" Event at Warwick Jewelers. Warwick Jewelers is teaming up with Home of the Sparrow for an evening to celebrate Home of the Sparrow's 20th anniversary, donating 20% of the proceeds that night to the organization. Wine and cheese will be served while you browse the treasures. Whiteland Towne Center, 165 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton. 5 to 8. 610-594-2441; WarwickJewelers.com.

MAY 7

9th Annual Rebecca Lukens Award Presen-

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tation. The National Iron & Steel Museum is honoring Mary Ann Rossi, of MacElree Harvey in West Chester. This is one of the museum's largest fundraisers. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. 5:30 to 8. \$60. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.

MAY 9
Interfaith Housing's Spring Casino Night. Casino games, catered dinner, raffle, silent and live auction and fun. Benefits Interfaith Housing Assistance Corp. of Chester County, dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness among single working parents. The Ballroom at Westside, 430 Hannum Ave., West Chester. 6 to 10. \$85. 610-696-5675; InterfaithHouse.org.

MAY 16
Community Arts Center Spring Fundraiser. "Ol' Blue Eyes—Celebrating Frank Sinatra." Celebrating Frank Sinatra, his music, the color blue and the foods he loved. Dine on Italian cuisine, bid on auction items and dance to Frank's greatest hits. Duke Gallery, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 7 to 11. \$75-\$125. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

MAY 17
The Gilbert & Sullivan Society of Chester County presents A Victorian Spring Tea. A variety of tea and tea sandwiches will be served along with delicious pastries and scones. Live entertainment is provided offering may G&S favorites. Church Hall of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, 212 S. High St., West Chester. 2 & 4 pm. \$20. 610-269-5499; GSSChesco.org.

MAY 20
13th Annual Garden Party, "Bluegrass and Barbeque at Springbank Farm." Brandywine Health Foundation kicks off the 2015 Strawberry Festival with music, great food and a spectacular fireworks display. Held on Jennifer and Robert McNeil's property in Coatesville. 6 to 9. \$150. Benefits the foundation. 610-380-9080; BrandywineFoundation.org.

MAY 30
Canine Partners for Life's "Pawty at the Preserve." Celebrating 25 years of canine-partnerships, the party unfolds at the Lenfest Center at ChesLen Preserve. Guests will enjoy culinary delights, live music, games and plenty of puppy kisses. Please, no personal pets allowed. 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 3 to 7. \$15-\$50. 610-869-4902; K94Life.org.

JUNE 2
Chester County Futures 15th Annual Golf Classic. Chester County Futures is a poverty prevention program providing academic, mentoring and scholarship support for motivated, disadvantaged Chester County youth. Apple-

brook Golf Club, 100 Line Rd., Malvern. 11:30 am to 8 pm. Registration starts at \$700. 610-458-9926; CCFutures.org.

JUNE 6
Stroud Water Research Center Presents "Sustainable Splurges—A Feast for the Senses." Sample specially created pairings by Éclat Chocolate, Va La Vineyard, Doe Run Cheese and Talula's Table then bid on silent auction items. Benefits the Stroud Center's freshwater research, environmental education programs, and watershed restoration projects. The Farm at Doe Run, Thouron Rd., Coatesville. 6 to 8. \$125. 610-268-2153; StroudCenter.org.

JUNE 6
American Helicopter Museum Gala. A Blast from the Past Bash with a "Back to the Future/1950s" theme. Cocktails at 6; dinner and entertainment, 7:30. Open bar, hors d'oeuvres, dinner, auctions and music. 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 6 to 10. Phone for tickets, 610-436-9600; American-Helicopter.Museum.

GARDENS.....
See Home, Garden Tours & Plant Sale Guide in this issue.

MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH MAY 10
Delaware Art Museum Exhibits & Events. *Through May 10*, "Oscar Wilde's Salome: Illustrating Death and Desire." *Through May 24*, "Dog Dogs," photographs by Elliott Erwitt. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. *May 2*, World Labyrinth Day, a celebration of the labrinth as a symbol for healing and peace. Wed, Fri, Sat, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12. Free Thurs after 4 and all day Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH JULY 19
Brandywine River Museum Exhibits & Events. *Through July 19*, "Horace Pippin: The Way I See It." *June 3, 10*, Plein Air Painting at Laurels Preserve and Waterloo Mills Preserve, to register, 610-388-8386. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 4:30. \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

THROUGH AUGUST
Chester County Historical Society Events & Exhibit. *May 14*, History on Tap, "Behind the Scenes of *Biloxi Blues*," at The Farmhouse at People's Light, explores the historical research and resource materials used to craft the production, 6 to 8 pm, phone for reservation. *Through August*, "The 1960s Pop Culture: Movies, Memorabilia and the Media," The Steve and Michell Friedman Collection. 225 N. High St., West Chester. Wed-Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorial.org.

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY JIM GRAHAM



THROUGH NOVEMBER

Christian C. Sanderson Museum. Two new exhibits: The Abraham Lincoln Exhibit. New this year, "Sanderson's Summer Stories," children enjoy an interactive book reading and participate in a craft and snack. 1755 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Thurs-Sat, noon to 4 or by appt. \$5. 610-388-6545; SandersonMuseum.org.

MUSIC, ENTERTAINMENT.....

MAY 3

Chester County Choral Society Concert. A 150th Anniversary Retrospective featuring Beck's Philadelphia Brigade Band and a new arrangement of Bruce Montgomery's *Lincoln's Gettysburg Address*. Bayard Rustin High School, 1100 Shiloh Rd., West Chester. 4 pm. ChesterCountyChoralSociety.org.

MAY 3

Chester County Concert Band Spring Concert. The 100-piece band will perform a wide variety of music including *Irving Berlin Showstoppers*, *The Magic of Andrew Lloyd Webber* and *Russian Easter Overture*. J.R. Fugett Middle School, Paoli Pk. & Ellis La., West Chester. 2:30 pm. \$7-\$10. 484-639-9118; CCCBand.org.

MAY 7, 21

Uptown! Entertainment Alliance. Concert Series: **May 7**, The John Grecia Band, 6 pm, \$5-\$10. Thursday Evening Jazz Cocktail Hour: **May 21**, The Francois Zayas Quintet, doors open, 6, concert, 6:30 pm, \$15. Ballroom at Westside, 430 Hannum Ave., West Chester. 484-639-9004; UptownWestChester.org.

MAY 16

Summer Theatre Organ Concert. Theatre Organ Society of the Delaware Valley presents a two-hour concert of theatre organ music featuring Ron Rhode on the 3/24 Wurlitzer theatre pipe organ. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 2 pm. \$5-\$15. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

MAY 16

Comedy & Variety Festival. This one night only show features nationally and internationally touring stand-ups, variety performers and beyond. Recommended for a mature audience. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$21.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

MAY 16-17

The Brandywine Singers Present "Night—Music of Dusk Til Dawn." The Singers present a concert featuring works by Ola Gjeilo, Eric Whitacre, David Conte and Johannes Brahms. **May 16**, Christ Church, 20 N. American St., Philadelphia, 7 pm. **May 17**, Church of the Good Samaritan, 212 W. Lancaster Ave., Paoli, 4 pm. \$20. TheBrandywineSingers.org.

MAY 30, JUNE 4

Point Entertainment Presents. **May 30**, Livingston Taylor with very special guest Stephen Kellogg, \$22-\$32.50. **June 4**, Leon Russell, \$25-\$39.50. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

JUNE 2-AUGUST 25

Eagleview Town Center Concerts on the Square. On Tuesday evenings through the summer, bring a blanket or chair and sit back to enjoy the live music. Canned food items requested for Chester County Food

Bank. Schedule available later this month. Wellington Square, Eagleview. 7 pm. Free. In case of rain, phone 800-851-2779. In Eagleview.com.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

MAY 2

Justice4PAKids 5K Run and 1 Mi. Fun Run/Walk. Come out for a great cause. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place, t-shirts for all and free refreshments. Chester County Trail, 140 Church Farm La., Exton. 8 am. \$25. Justice4PAKids.com; RunCCRS.com.



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MAY 3

Walk MS—Greater Delaware Valley Chapter. Funds raised give hope to the 14,000 people living with MS in our chapter area. East Goshen Twp. Park, 1655 Paoli Pk., West Chester. Registration opens at 9 am, walk begins at 10. To register online visit, WalkPaE.NationalMSSociety.org.

MAY 3

Blue Cross Broad Street Run. A 10-mile, point-to-point course. Race starts at Central High School Athletic Field, Broad St. and Somerville

Ave., Philadelphia and finishes inside the Phila. Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 8:30 am. 215-683-3594; To register and pay entrance fee, BroadStreetRun.com.

MAY 8-9

The Aberdeen Dad Vail Regatta. This event hosts thousands of student athletes who join in the largest collegiate rowing competition in the country. Schuylkill River, parking along Kelly Drive and in remote parking areas with shuttle service. 215-542-1443; DadVail.org.

MAY 15-17

Wilmington Grand Prix and Gran Fondo. Action starts Fri, with the Monkey Hill time trials in Brandywine Park. On Sat, there is a series of men's and women's amateur and professional races over fast-paced courses, a bike parade, street festival, vendors and more. Sun, the Gran Fondo (62 mi.), Medio Fondo (31 mi.) or Governor's Ride (15 mi.) offers spectacular views of the rolling hills of chateau country. Visit WilmGrandPrix.com.

MAY 16

"Small Town...Big Race...Strong Community" 26th Annual Kennett Run. The race begins downtown and finishes in Anson B. Nixon Park. Events for all ages, including a 10K and 5K run and a 1-mile Fun Walk. Registration, 6:30 am, 8:30 race. Post-race party with refreshments, music, awards. Benefits local charities. \$20-\$45. 610-388-1556; KennettRun.net.

MAY 30

Racing on the River Dragon Boat Festival. Local companies, groups, high school and colleges are encouraged to join in the festivities by forming a team for this exciting event at Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park. Benefits the Delaware Children's Museum. 75 Rosa Parks Dr., Wilmington. 9 to 3. To register, Racing-OnTheRiverfront.com.

JUNE 6-12

17th Annual Schuylkill River Sojourn. A 112-mile guided canoe or kayak trip, beginning in Schuylkill Haven and ending in Philadelphia. Enjoy rapids, songs at the campsites and celebrations in the river towns. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiver.org/Sojourn.aspx.



JUNE 7

Radnor Conservancy Race For Open Space. Bring the entire family as there is a shorter course for walkers and activities for children. Begin at Willows Park in Radnor, through scenic woods and past the community garden in Skunk Hollow Park and ends at Willows Cottage. Registration at 8, race at 9. 610-688-8202; To register, RadnorConservancy.org.



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THEATER.....

THROUGH MAY 24

Hello Dolly. Starring Andrea McCardle (who will not be in the production May 1, 2 or 3). Media Theatre for the Performing Arts, 104 E. State St., Media. Call for curtain times. \$25-\$42. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

THROUGH MAY 24

Biloxi Blues. The semi-autobiographical Tony Award-winning play by American comedic genius Neil Simon. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Call for curtain times. \$27-\$68. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

MAY 12-17

Guys and Dolls. Music and lyrics by Frank Loesser and book by Jo Swerling and Abe Burrows. The Playhouse On Rodney Square, 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Call for curtain times. \$50-\$79. 302-656-4401; ThePlayhouseDE.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....

MAY 1, JUNE 5

First Fridays. Stroll through area towns to find exhibits, galleries, restaurant specials, entertainment and extended hours. **Kennett Square,**

610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; LancasterArts.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Wayne,** 610-687-7698; FirstFridayWayne.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com; **Wilmington,** 302-576-2100; ArtLoopWilmingtonDE.com.

MAY 7-16

Southern Chester County's Best Kept Secrets Tour. Enjoy a shopping/food & fun adventure featuring 17 off-the-beaten-path businesses. Travel place to place enjoying all the special events, games, refreshments and coupons the businesses have for you. Tickets \$9 (\$1 donated to Kennett Area Comm. Services.). 717-721-1750; BestKeptSecretsTour.com.

MAY 21

Third Thursday on State Street in Kennett Square. Visitors enjoy outdoor dining, extended shopping hours, live music, strolling entertainers and children's activities. Parking free in parking garage after 5. State Street will be closed from Broad to Center Sts. 6 to 10. 610-444-8188. HistoricKennettSquare.com.



MAY 21

Malvern Stroll, Third Thursdays. The shops on King Street are open until 8 and offering special trunk shows, demonstrations, entertainment and refreshments, plus the restaurants offer specials. MalvernBusiness.com.

MAY 21

TEDx West Chester. The theme for this evening's talk is What's It Worth and will feature five speakers and several projected TED Talks exploring the concept of value. West Chester University, Bull Center Main Stage, 2 E. Rosedale Ave., West Chester. 6:30 to 9:30. \$30. TEDxWestChester.com. ♦

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

Send a description of your activity to Info@ValleyDel.com by the first of the month preceding publication.

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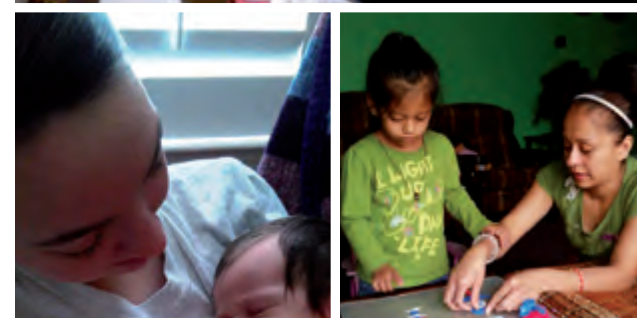
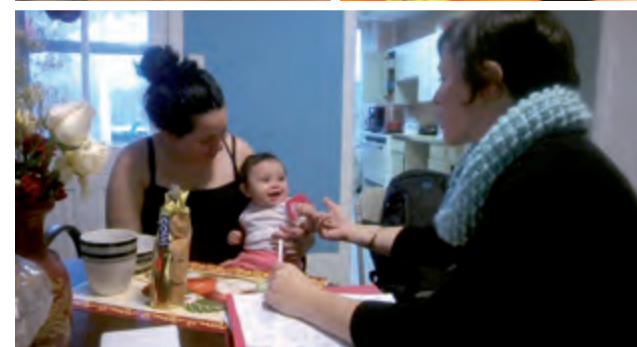


Chester County Hearth & Home



LOCAL HERO

Mother's Helper: THE MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH CONSORTIUM



QUIETLY, THE YOUNG WOMAN FEELS PROUD. The test confirms her feelings. Yes, it's true—she's going to be a mother! Her own mother who's come for the test hugs her.

But, for struggling Hispanic and Black moms in Chester County, the test result may foretell a less happy future. Their babies tend to be born too small or too soon. Living on a subsistence income, the children lack access to medical care and later to educational resources. The mothers experience high levels of stress. Their initial exhilaration may fade.

Alain Oliver, Executive Director of The Maternal and Child Health Consortium (MCHC), explains the organization's goal to combat these problems by helping ensure that "every family in Chester County starts healthy, stays healthy, and succeeds in school." His experienced staff—Nelly Jiménez-Arevalo, Milena Lanz, Michelle Legaspi Sanchez—with over 25 years of combined experience, passionately agree, sharing stories about their client-families.

Predominantly bi-lingual and bi-cultural, MCHC staff often recruits enrollees by word of mouth. Focusing on the regular home visit, the staff helps mothers navigate the world of health insurance, food stamps, education and whatever else the new mom needs. With the guidance of outreach workers, expectant and new moms begin to feel more hopeful and prepared.

In 2014, for instance, MCHC, in its Healthy Start Program, connected 93% of its mothers to health insurance coverage and 96% to a prenatal provider. Through its Family Benefits Program, over 1200 were assisted with food stamps. And at its Kennett Square Family Center, MCHC led a five-week Kindergarten Summer Transition Program, increasing school readiness by 24%.

MCHC programs have been highly successful. The Chester County Chamber of Business and Industry recognized MCHC as the Nonprofit Organization of the Year and the Pennsylvania Association of Nonprofit Organizations awarded MCHC a Standards of Excellence certification.

Yet, despite—or perhaps because of—its many successes, MCHC's federal funding was cut in 2014. Chester County no longer met the requirement of "catastrophic births." Staff was necessarily reduced, and MCHC had to dig deeper and redesign its programs. Increasingly, it turned to state programs, private foundations and other resources.

The transition has been successful, as MCHC's mission is intact. Oliver and his staff look forward to continuing their pivotal role in the lives of the young mothers and children of Chester County.

For these reasons we honor MCHC's staff and volunteers as Local Heroes. And applaud that more mothers can celebrate Mother's Day with their healthy children this year.



Alain Oliver,
Executive Director

To volunteer, contact Courtney Coleman, 610-344-5370, or learn more at CCMCHC.org.



Young CSA members harvesting potatoes



A Rushton CSA member picking peas



CSA members help plant the herb garden



A mid-summer pick-up is listed on the chalkboard



Rushton Farm Staff gleaming spring peas

Who's Your Farmer?

PROMOTING LOCAL FOOD THROUGH COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Fred DeLong || Willistown Conservation Trust

Your kids just might eat a new green vegetable if they saw it growing a few hours ago.

AS SUMMER APPROACHES, thoughts of fresh summer fruits and vegetables may start dancing in our head. What would the season be without the bounty of summer—freshly shucked corn, plump heirloom tomatoes, many kinds and colors of sweet peppers, and that perfectly ripe watermelon?

We're fortunate to live in an area where local farms and markets offer these summer treats, often harvested the same day. While some of us rely on the supermarkets for what we eat, others take a more personal and hands-on approach: they get involved with a farm through Community Supported Agriculture.

CSA 101

Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) offers an opportunity to get closer to the source of our food by buying a "share" in a local farm. The shareholder's fee helps to offset operating costs of the farm and provides a living wage to the farmer.

In return, community members come out to the farm each week to pick up a different kind of share—a share of what's being

harvested. In May, it might include strawberries and asparagus; in August, perhaps corn and peppers; in October, the week's box might offer up potatoes, beans and greens. The share changes with the harvest.

There are usually 8 to 12 types of produce offered each week, and the bounty may be larger than some families' typical supermarket haul. To help, most CSAs provide recipes and advice on how to enjoy what's given.

A Little History

CSAs first popped up in the mid-'80s in Massachusetts, where early pioneers like Robyn Van En recognized that people wanted to celebrate fresh local food and support the farms growing it. Van En understood that there's beauty in both the growing and eating of fresh food and that nothing quite matches the taste of a freshly picked heirloom tomato or snap peas right off the vine.

The first CSAs in Chester County began in the late '90s and adopted Van En's ideas that communities should not merely eat

food but experience the process of growing and harvesting it. Chester County now features over two dozen CSAs. (See sidebar with some local CSAs)

Typically a CSA member gets a chance to come to the farm and pick up a share of what's been harvested that week. In the basic model, a box with samples from the harvest is prepared—the same mixed box for each member. Some CSAs, however, offer their weekly pick-up in a more traditional "market" style. Rather than a one-box-fits-all model, everyone loads a customized box from the farm's available produce.

Yet another CSA model has the farmer delivering the weekly shares. This is particularly popular in cities where farmers can bring shares into the city to drop-off sites. Increasingly popular are CSAs where farmers include more than vegetables—flowers, eggs, meat, cheese, fruit and other farm products.

One CSA: Rushton Farm

Located in Willistown, Rushton Farm is an example of a Chester County CSA that offers an opportunity to experience all aspects of farming, not just the food being grown. The CSA sponsors seasonal events

and weekly volunteer days when members can do everything from planting seeds to weeding crops to harvesting vegetables.

A six-acre farm set in the heart of an 84-acre nature preserve, Rushton Farm has 120 members who come out each week to walk the preserve and pick up their shares. Their weekly bounty features over 150 varieties of fruits and vegetables from May through November. Members also enjoy "pick your own" items such as flowers, berries and herbs.

And, as with many CSAs, any extra food that's harvested or that members elect not to pick up is donated to local food banks. This

CHESTER COUNTY CSAs

So many to choose from, here's one of our favorites: Founded in 1709, **Thornbury Farm** offers special events like pot lucks, parties and creative classes, along with full and half shares for its CSA, with weekly baskets of produce, from June into the fall, plus free-range eggs, local honey and more for purchase at the country market.

Thornbury Farm CSA
1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester
610-793-2933; ThornburyFarmCSA.com

North Star Orchard
3226 Limestone Rd., Chochranville
610-593-0314; NorthStarOrchard.com
Offering fruit shares & veggie shares

Two Gander Farm
110 Buck Rd., Downingtown
610-812-2582; TwoGanderFarm.com
Weekly baskets, early June to mid-Nov.

Down to Earth Harvest
912 S. Union St., Kennett Square
913-775-3711; DownToEarthHarvest.com
Fresh vegs & herbs, May 19 to Nov. 14

Vollmecke Orchards & CSA
155 Cedar Knoll Rd., Coatesville
610-383-4616; CSAChesterCounty.com
Fruits & organically grown veggies
In My Back Yard at Misty Hollow
1020 East Street Rd., Westtown
610-717-6949; IMBYMistyHollow.com
Flowers, herbs & spring water

Yellow Springs Farm LLC
1165 Yellow Springs Rd., Chester Springs
610-827-2014; YellowSpringsFarm.com
Native plants & goat cheese products

Charlestown Farm
2565 Charlestown Rd., Phoenixville
610-917-0252; CharlestownFarm.com
Blueberries, strawberries, raspberries, more

Kimberton CSA
415 W. Seven Stars Rd., Phoenixville
610-933-8339; KimbertonCSA.org
Harvest season from mid-May to mid-Nov.

Sankanac CSA
1852 French Creek Rd., Phoenixville
610-495-7295; SankanacCSA.com
Watermelon, flowers & herbs, 24 weeks starting end of May

MONTGOMERY COUNTY CSAs

Greener Partners
3215 Stump Hall Rd., Collegeville.
610-584-8204; GreenerPartners.org
Feeds family of 4/share, mid-May to Oct.

LANCASTER COUNTY CSAs

Buckhill Farm
1002 Lititz Pike Suite 178, Lititz
717-409-5027; BuckhillFarm.net
Fresh herbs, small fruits & veggies, June to late Oct.

The Old Homestead Farm & Greenhouses
208 Herr Rd., Ronks • 717-669-1636
TheOldHomesteadFarm.com
Weekly shares of 6-10 fruits & veggies

Wimer's Organics
258 Spring Grove Rd., East Earl • 717-208-2098
WimersOrganics.com • Organic beef, chicken, eggs & yogurt • Apr. 29-Aug. 31

DELAWARE CSAs

Highland Orchards Farm Market
3 Mount Lebanon Rd., Wilmington
302-478-4042; HighlandOrchardsFarmMarket.com
Fruit & veggie shares all year, meat shares Sept. to June



A late summer potluck at Rushton Farm CSA



CSA members learn how to plant potatoes



Just some of the bounty from fall harvest

way the whole community benefits, not just shareholders.

Rushton Farm CSA member Jodi Spragins says: "I know my commitment to Rushton Farm goes beyond supporting a local farmer. My membership promotes land conservation, supports local food banks, educates our children and, most of all, contributes to the health and nutrition of my family."

Benefits Beyond Food

When members talk about benefits of a CSA, it's often about their children becoming engaged with the food they eat in a different way than the usual grocery store shopping experience. Visiting a farm, seeing crops grown and food being harvested help them better understand their food and where it comes from.

Kids can walk the CSA fields, see the plants grow, and pick berries straight from the bush or try cherry tomatoes right off the vine. It's a sensory experience. From the field to the table, your children can connect the food they saw at the farm with the food on their plates. And they just might eat a new green vegetable if they saw it growing a few hours ago.

Joining a CSA offers a family a unique opportunity to see where and how their food is grown, and to interact, communicate and learn from the farmer responsible for growing it. All family members will better appreciate the food they eat.

CSAs are a community venture in mind, spirit and action. It's the support of the members and the work of the farmers that create a bond around the food grown and harvested. And you'll also get to know your farmer's name. ♦

Rushton Farm is part of the Willistown Conservation Trust Community Farm Program, committed to using conserved land to promote local sustainable agriculture. The Rushton CSA is currently fully subscribed for 2015. Learn more at WCTrust.org.



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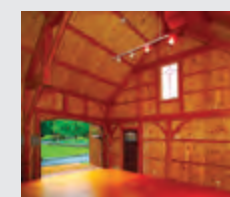
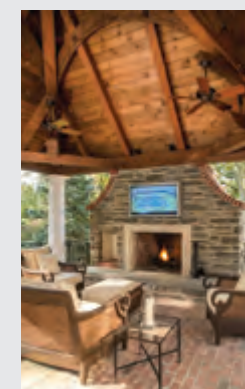
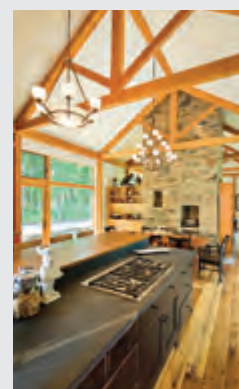
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Lead Line



Saddlebred



Side Saddle



Our Photographer Alix Coleman



Judge



Show Jumping



Breed Division



Grand Prix



Coaching



Pony Hunt Team



Junior Riders

PHOTOS BY ALIX COLEMAN

DEVON HORSE SHOW DAILY SCHEDULE

{ MAY 21 TO 31 }

THURSDAY ~ May 21

Junior Weekend –
Thursday through Sunday
Family Day

*Specials on souvenirs, food and
Midway rides. Live music in the Picnic
Grove, 5 to 9 p.m.*

8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ USEF Talent Search
- ★ WIHS Equitation Jumper

Gold Ring

- ★ Pony Hunter Breeding
- ★ Pessoa/USEF
Hunter Seat Medal

FRIDAY ~ May 22

*Get an early start at over 40 Country
Fair shops.*

7 a.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ ASPCA Maclay
- ★ R.W. “Ronnie”
Mutch Equitation Ch.
- ★ Junior Jumpers
- ★ Junior Hunters

Gold Ring

- ★ Pony Hunters

7 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ *Exhibition: trick rider,
Rachel Jackson*
- ★ Junior Jumper Gambler’s
Choice, 8 p.m.

SATURDAY ~ May 23

*Lead Line, Junior and Pony
Hunters and the costumed Pony
Hunt Teams. A great day for kids!*

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Junior Hunters
- ★ Pony Jumpers
- ★ Lead Line, 1 p.m.

Gold Ring

- ★ Pony Hunters
- ★ Costumed Pony Hunt
Teams, 4:30 p.m.

7 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Junior Jumper Classic
- ★ Horse Hunt Teams
- ★ Parent & Child &
Family Class
- ★ *Exhibition: trick rider,
Rachel Jackson*

SUNDAY ~ May 24

*The Carriage Pleasure Drive is the
highlight of the day’s events. Pick
up dinner at the Garden Café and
enjoy it in the new Pavilion.*

11 a.m. to 5:15 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Carriage Pleasure Drive
- ★ Handicapped Riders’
Division
- ★ Pony Jumpers
- ★ *Exhibition: Return of the
Shetland Pony races*

6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Pony Jumpers & Adult
Amateur Jumpers
- ★ Open Tandems
- ★ *Exhibition: trick rider,
Rachel Jackson*

MEMORIAL DAY MONDAY ~ May 25

*Visit the Tea Cart for a special
blend of iced tea, specialty coffees,
tea sandwiches and pastries. Stop
by the Derby Booth for a chance to
win the raffle.*

8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Hunter Classes
- ★ Scurry Driving
- ★ Adult Jumpers
- ★ Carriage Racing
- ★ *Exhibition: Return of the
Shetland Pony races*

7 to 9:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval

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

TUESDAY ~ May 26

Family Day

*Specials on souvenirs, food and
Midway rides. Guided back-barn tours,
3 to 6 p.m.*

8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m.

Dixon Oval

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

Gold Ring, morning only

- ★ 5- & 6-Year-Old Young
Jumpers

7 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

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

WEDNESDAY ~ May 27

Ladies Day

*Ladies Day at Devon! Ladies Side
Saddle Classes and the Ladies Hat
Contest. Free admission until 1 p.m.
for ladies wearing elegant hats.*

8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Hunter Classes
- ★ Ladies Side Saddle
- ★ Hackneys, Saddlebreds &
Friesians
- ★ 7- & 8-Year-Old Hunters
- ★ Open Jumpers

Gold Ring, morning only

- ★ 5- & 6-Year-Old Jumpers

7 to 10:15 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Open Jumper
- ★ Ladies Side Saddle
- ★ Hackneys & Saddlebreds
- ★ Coaching
- ★ Friesians

THURSDAY ~ May 28

*Be sure to take a chance on this year’s
Operation Goldmine prize—a
gold bracelet with diamonds and
sapphires!*

8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ USHJA Hunter Derby
- ★ Hackneys & Saddlebreds
- ★ Coaching
- ★ Friesians

Sunset at Devon

Dixon Oval

- ★ *Exhibition: Carriage Racing*

★ Sapphire Grand Prix of Devon ★

7:15 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ **FRIDAY ~ May 29**
*Take a little piece of Devon home
with you. Stop by the Souvenir
Booth where you’ll find everything
you can imagine.*

7:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Amateur Owner Jumpers
& Hunters
- ★ Hackneys & Saddlebreds
- ★ Open Jumpers

Gold Ring

- ★ Local Hunters
- ★ Amateur Owner 3’3”
Hunters

7 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Friesians
- ★ Gambler’s Choice
Open Jumpers
- ★ Coaching Championship &
Coach Horn
- ★ Hackneys & Saddlebreds
- ★ *Exhibition: Carriage Racing*

SATURDAY ~ May 30

*The Idle Dice Open Jumper Stake
takes place this evening. Win a
2015 car or other great prize at the
Devon Derby Drawing.*

8:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Amateur Owner Hunters
- ★ Saddlebreds & Hackneys
- ★ Amateur Owner Jumper
SJHOF Classic
- ★ DVCTA Quad Squad
Dressage Quadrille

Gold Ring

- ★ Local Hunters
- ★ Amateur Owner 3’3”
Hunters
- ★ *Exhibition: DVCTA Quad
Squad dressage quadrille*

7 to 10 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ Idle Dice Open Jumper
Stake
- ★ Saddlebreds
- ★ Hackneys & Roadsters
- ★ *Exhibition: Carriage Racing*

SUNDAY ~ May 31

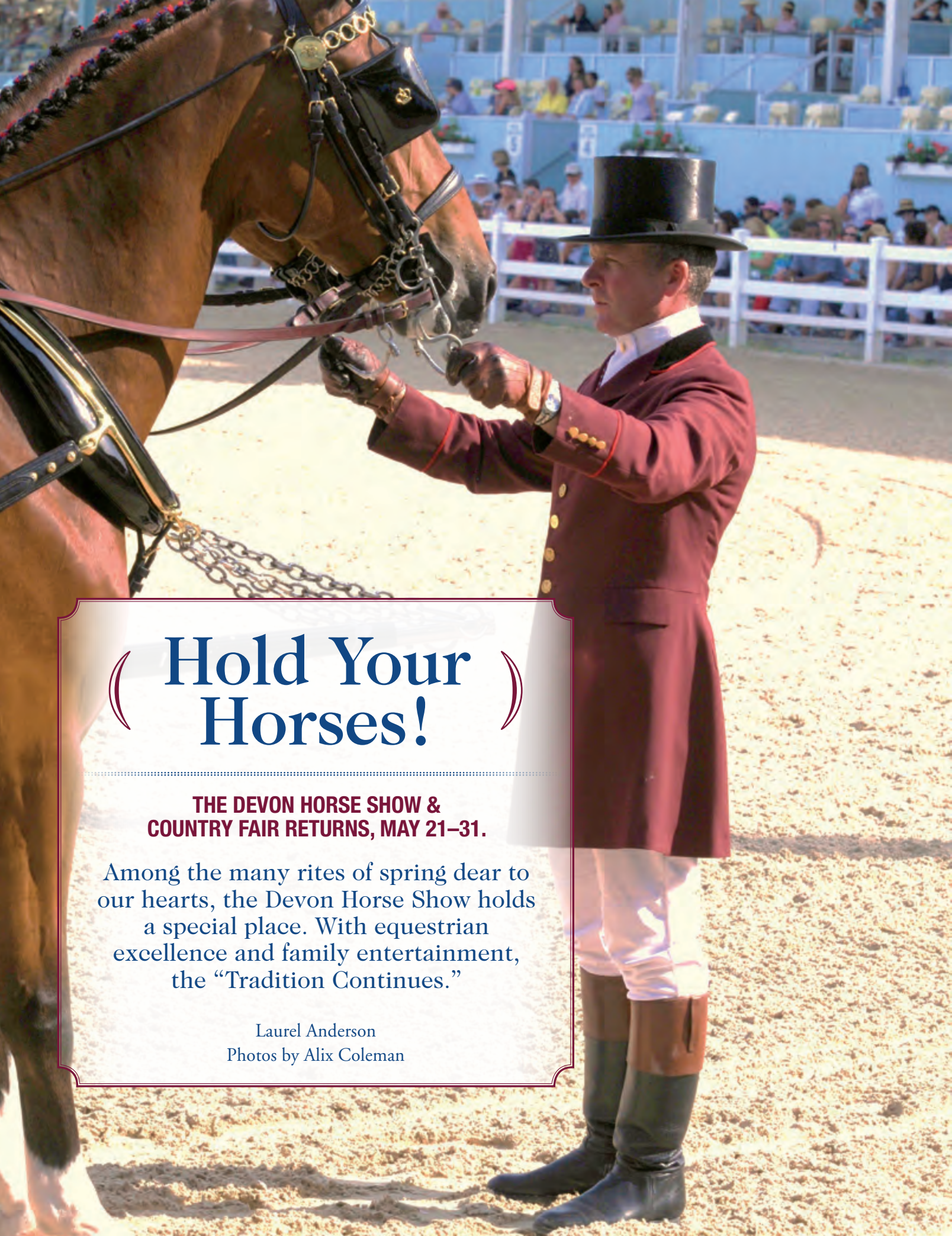
Family Day

*Lots of activities for the kids—pony
rides, Itty Bitty Hat Contest. Plant
sale at the end of show.*

8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dixon Oval

- ★ PA Bred Thoroughbred &
Non-Thoroughbred
- ★ Young Hunter Under Saddle ♦



Hold Your Horses!

THE DEVON HORSE SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR RETURNS, MAY 21–31.

Among the many rites of spring dear to our hearts, the Devon Horse Show holds a special place. With equestrian excellence and family entertainment, the “Tradition Continues.”

Laurel Anderson
Photos by Alix Coleman



OVER 100,000 DEVON VISITORS CAN'T BE WRONG. That's the number of fans who attended the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair last year, and more are expected at the 119th annual event in 2015.

With high jumps and high fashion, total tenderfoots and expert equestrians meet and mix behind the sky blue wall of the landmark on Lancaster Avenue. You've passed it and no doubt wondered when the grounds come alive again—with horses, riders, spectators, vendors and volunteers alike. The Devon Horse Show and Country Fair will captivate the Main Line for 11 days in May.

Will you be joining them? We think you should.

Steeped in History

Now a family tradition, top horse show, social event and fundraiser for Bryn Mawr Hospital (donating over \$50 million in today's dollars), the horse show began rather humbly in 1896. Over a century ago some foxhunting enthusiasts bought a patch of prime real estate at the Devon Horse Track and Polo Grounds suitable for hosting horse shows and promoting the breeding of superior horses. And the rest, as they say, is Devon history.

Surviving two World Wars, a great depression and recent reces-

sion, the oldest and largest multi-breed outdoor horse show in the United States is still going strong. There is world-class competition in the ring among the top riders and equally fierce competition in the grandstands among tailgaters in box seats that may well have been in the family for generations.

Mix in celebrity sightings (Bruce Springsteen watching his daughter years ago), Ladies Day hats, Lead Line cuties, fabulous food, midway moments and the best boutique browsing and buying and you've got a tradition worth observing up close.



It Began With a Horse Show

For a prestigious show drawing competitors throughout the country and Olympic qualifiers every four years, the Devon Horse Show manages to engage a wide array of spectators with events running day and night in the main-stage Dixon Oval and the smaller, adjacent Gold Ring.

The show's original purpose is honored by the Breed Division, where spectators can see young thoroughbreds led by handlers, yearling fillies and colts, up to four-year-olds and mares judged on their suitability to produce show hunters. See if you can guess which horse earns the judge's blue ribbon.

The first weekend is filled with family fun, starting Thursday, May 21, with Family Day, then Junior Weekend for riders under 18, Lead Line classes for tiny tots and fashionable handlers, costumed Pony Hunt Teams full of high jinx and bribes for judges, Parent & Child & Family classes, Trick Riders, and the Handicapped Riders' Division for inspiration. Other Family Days are on Tuesday, May 27, with behind-the-scenes barn tours, and on closing day, Sunday, May 31, with music, face painting, hat decorating and more.

Memorial Day weekend is made memorable by the grace and spectacle of Sunday's Carriage Pleasure Drive. Watch antique and reproduction horse-drawn vehicles of all sizes—from one-pony carts to majestic four-in-hand carriages fit for ten passengers—as they drive over four miles of residential roads delighting Devon homeowners and spectators along the route.

Passing lavish tailgates and picnics prepared to set the stage to be magically transported back in time, the carriages end their marathon in the Dixon Oval—often announced with a flourish from tootlers (horn blowers, and yes, there's a horn competition, too). After circling the Oval for the admiring crowds, they're judged on every detail, from the buttons on the groom's coat to the condition of the antique coach.

Building excitement toward Thursday night's Grand Prix event, the performance rings are filled with all classes of jumpers—pony jumpers, adult and adult amateur jumpers, 5&6 and 7&8-year-old jumpers—with horses and riders clearing fences of astounding heights at break-neck speed. Scurry driving and carriage racing on obstacle courses also keep things lively.

Ladies Day, now a beloved Country Fair tradition on Wednesday, May 28, starts with a stylish hat contest (fascinators and bigger, plus prizes for Best Hat to Toe), celebrity judges like Carson Kressley, champagne, tea and lunch. All this is coordinated with events in the ring like Ladies Sidesaddle (remember Lady Mary riding in Downton Abbey last season), where women "ride aside" rather than astride the horse, but still manage to clear hurdles up to 6 feet 8 inches, the current record.

Plus there are high-stepping hackneys (elite carriage horses seen on the Devon logo), saddlebreds (the first truly American breed, from Black Beauty to Mr. Ed) and Friesians (with long leg hair and mane).

The highlight of the Devon Horse Show and highest level of show jumping, the Sapphire Grand Prix was added in the 1960s and is now one of best show jumping competitions in the country, often attracting Olympians and Olympic hopefuls. Equestrian athletes, both two- and four-legged, face fences over five feet high. Tickets go fast for this elegant evening of entertainment and thrills, complete with prize drawings, Devon at Sunset carriage racing and much more for this well attended night.

The final days of the Horse Show include the return of hackney, saddlebred and Friesian classes along with amateur and local hunters and jumpers. You'll see more carriage and roadster racing, plus a dressage quadrille (horses, music and sparkly costumes) before closing day on May 31.

Whew!

Have Fun at the Country Fair

Started in 1919 and kept going by generations of volunteers who make participation a family tradition and number over 2500, the Country Fair provides fun outside the Dixon Oval. You'll find food and souvenirs, art and midway rides, plus things you didn't know you needed until you saw them in the shops.

First Night is a festive launch for activities at the Country Fair. Held the night before the official opening of Devon, First Night's reception—complete with a signature cocktail each year—also marks the opening of the Art Gallery at Devon (see article in this issue) and the unveiling of the annual Devon poster, this year by local artist, Sandra Severson. Guests may also browse the boutique shops and watch riders' final preparations for the big events to come.

Horse Show fans schedule time to visit the almost 60 shops set in clapboard cottages between the Dixon Oval and midway. Special Devon logo souvenirs (t-shirts and barware, sterling jewelry and Vineyard Vines Devon ties), antiques, home décor items, jewelry (often with horses and foxes), equestrian gear and tack, stylish designer clothing and that perfect gift for the horse or dog lover on your list are all available. Or the Devon Derby booth to buy a chance for a two-year lease for a Discovery Sport Land Rover.

Food at the Country Fair covers all bases from tantalizing to traditional—lobster rolls to hot dogs, frappuccinos to tea, and ice cream to tea sandwiches. Enjoy yours at the Devon Garden Café Pavilion, the Picnic Grove, Clydesdale Corner Pub, back in your box seats, or at the New Devon Club Hospitality Tent.

Many Devon regulars head immediately for the classic lemon sticks—over 7,000 sold each year—or famous Devon fudge—1,500 pounds of sweetness annually. Others search out the Tea Cart, the oldest booth at the fair, and a time-honored tradition harking back to days when volunteers poured tea from silver urns.

For gooey treats like cotton candy, funnel cake and fried Oreos, head for the midway. It's where the little ones can play skee ball and other games or ride the carousel and Ferris wheel as it lights up the night sky. Visit the midway during Family Days for specials on rides and food, and live music under the stars in the Picnic Grove.

As you stroll the Country Fair, don't forget another favorite pastime: people watching. You'll see riders decked out in their show outfits waiting for their moment in the ring, plus kids wearing big smiles beneath face paint, Main Line moms decked out in the latest fashions, celebs hoping to blend in, and horse dads beaming proudly that their child is riding at the Devon Horse Show. ♦

IF YOU GO

What: The Devon Horse Show & Country Fair

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

When: May 21–May 31; gates open at 8 a.m. and close around 10 p.m.

Information: DevonHorseShow.org and Facebook

Fun Fact: Devon blue comes from the color of sunshine glinting off the slate roof of the old Devon Hotel. At least, that's what Devon historian Fran Jacobs says.

New Hospitality Feature: The Devon Club offers a unique VIP experience close to the action in the rings—air conditioning and table seating inside special suites and outside on the covered patio. Contact Chris Wightman at 610-964-8402.

Beneficiary: Bryn Mawr Hospital. \$14 million donated since 1972 (almost \$50 million in today's dollars). The Horse Show is the single largest, longest and most consistent contributor.



Devon Horse Show & Country Fair.
Enough to make you smile...



PHOTOS: ALIX COLEMAN



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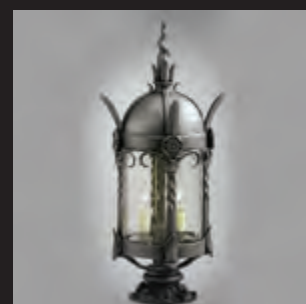
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THE ART GALLERY at DEVON

In a prime spot under the sycamores in the midst of the Country Fair at the Devon Horse Show in a cottage bursting with art—the Art Gallery at Devon.

Take a break from the equestrian action at the Dixon Oval to discover this gem and surround yourself with art. It's a special treat and a tradition as much a part of the Country Fair as fudge, lemon sticks, midway games and Devon souvenirs.

Explore the Gallery

Art lovers, collectors, artists and visitors have been drawn to the landscapes, still-lives, equestrian and animal life paintings since the Gallery opened in 1999. This juried show exhibits over 500 paintings by 60 regional and national artists in mediums from oils, watercolors and acrylics to sculpture.

You'll find pastoral landscapes, scenes from the Devon Horse Show, plus others of horses, dogs, cats, foxes and even a rooster or two. Browse the art for sale, and see why the Gallery's popularity has made it one of the top grossing contributors to Bryn Mawr Hospital, beneficiary of the Country Fair.

First Night at Devon

Before the Horse Show's official start, the Art Gallery hosts a festive "First Night at Devon," May 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. Annual features include a first look at the art, plus music, heavy hors d'oeuvres and a new signature cocktail (both by Perfect Setting Catering) and a preview of the official 2015 Devon Poster.

This year's Devon Poster is by Sandra Severson, an award-winning artist inspired by her Chester County family farm. A poster artist for Dressage at Devon in 2013, Severson has also exhibited at the Kentucky Derby Museum at Churchill Downs.

First Night will honor Leonard King, Chairman emeritus and leader in the equestrian world, who was known as "the Face of Devon." His artwork will also be on display.

Come enjoy this special launch to the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair! ♦

The Art Gallery is open May 21st—31st, 10 a.m. until closing of the show, around 10 p.m. For information, 610-331-9481; DevonHorseShow.org.



PHOTOS: ALIX COLEMAN

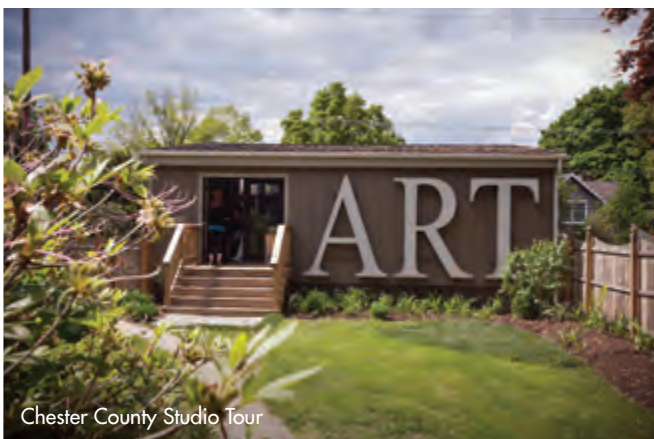


Just some of the mini-paintings at Yellow Springs Art Show

GALLERY ROUND UP



Yellow Springs Art Show



Chester County Studio Tour

42nd Annual Yellow Springs Art Show

Spend a spring day at this juried art show featuring some of the finest artwork in the Delaware Valley and beyond. The site is the charming Lincoln Gallery at Historic Yellow Springs, a village with 300 years of history.

Over 175 artists were selected to exhibit based on their exceptional work and innovative techniques. You'll see 14 new artists along with established favorites such as Brad Earl, Nancy Barch, Ray Hendershot and Mary Ann Weselyk.

In addition to paintings, drawings, graphics and three-dimensional pieces, the show offers unique features like unframed original works and prints, a treasure hunt with prizes for kids, and entire rooms covered floor to ceiling in mini-paintings.

Join the First Friday Happy Hour, May 1 from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and Artists and Craft with craft beer, May 3, 2 to 4 p.m., or make it a special Mother's Day event.

Through May 10. Show hours: Mon.-Sun., 10 to 4. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.

Chester County Studio Tour

This year's Chester County Studio Tour has even more ways for you to "Engage with the Arts" by seeing 100 professional artists in their creative environments. It's the region's first tour designed to showcase artwork each year found in "Andrew Wyeth's Country."

Studios are spread across Chester County, so this self-drive tour will take you from small town alleys and Victo-

rian townhouses to flower-filled neighborhood backyards. Many artists are grouped together at each stop and feature demonstrations or works-in-progress in paper, porcelain, metal, clay and steel.

For the most scenic route or to look at specific types of art, visit the Studio Tour website for links to pre-planned routes. Or design your own tour by downloading a map or catalogue and plan for an artful day of fun.

Tour: May 16, 10 to 6; May 17, 11 to 5. ChesterCountyStudioTour.com.

Wayne Art Center's 9th Annual Plein Air Festival

This 9th annual Plein Air Festival has attracted 30 artists from the East Coast, Midwest and as far as California who come to paint outdoors "en plein air"—in the open air.

These 30 artists create about 250 works in just four and a half days. During the first three days, painters capture the character of rural areas within 20 miles of Wayne, including parks and quaint Main Line neighborhoods. The competition culminates on May 16 when artists paint in downtown Wayne on the main thoroughfares. Watch them from early morning to 1 p.m.

Meet the artists at the Gala Opening and Artist's Reception, Saturday, May 16, with open bar, hors d'oeuvres by Jimmy Duffy Catering, wine from Little Black Dress Wines, and of course, distinctive art.

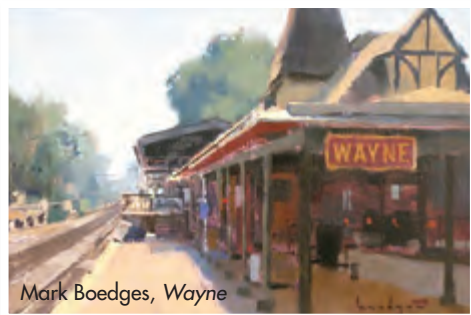
May 12 to June 27. Gallery hours: Mon.-Fri., 9 to 5.; Sat., 9 to 4. 610-688-3553; WaynePleinAir.org.



Wayne Art Center



Chester County Studio Tour



Mark Boedges, Wayne

West Chester's Gallery Walk

This spring marks a special 25th anniversary of West Chester's Spring Gallery Walk. Hosted on a First Friday, this is the perfect opportunity to explore favorite West Chester galleries and view emerging talents.

Local, national and international artists display paintings in watercolor, acrylic and oil as well as sculpture, photography, jewelry, ceramics, textiles and more. Five galleries will combine with more than a dozen "one night only" venues. Be on the lookout for signs of official Gallery Walk hosts, and visit the Greater West Chester Commerce website for details.

Gather friends for an evening of art, dining, shopping and experiencing the blend of urban sophistication and small town ambience that is West Chester.

May 1, 5 to 9 p.m. 610-696-4046; GreaterWestChester.com.

Looking Ahead to Crafted in Eagleview ...

Don't put away your calendar just yet. Arts and crafts continue in June with Eagleview's first juried craft festival, June 14 in Exton.

In addition to 50 juried craftpersons, the show features music, wineries and brunch cuisine. Browse the crafts and make it an early summer event.

June 14, 11 to 3. GrowingRootsPartners.com ♦

-Elizabeth Thomas

CREATE

CAPTIVATE

Chester County Studio Tour invites friends, families, art enthusiasts, and the curious to experience and meet a variety of astonishing artists as they exhibit their works during this two-day event. This unique and intimate opportunity gives the visitor FREE, unlimited access to the artists, and a clearer understanding of their stories and creative process.

ENGAGE WITH THE ARTS

chester county
STUDIO TOUR

SATURDAY, MAY 16
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
SUNDAY, MAY 17
11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

CHESTERCOUNTYSTUDIOTOUR.COM

May is Steeplechase Time!

Stephanie Loeh



EXPERIENCE THE THRILL OF THUNDERING HOOVES RACING BY AS YOU JOIN FELLOW SPECTATORS IN THE EXCITEMENT THAT IS STEEPLECHASE SEASON.

85th Radnor Hunt Races
PHOTO: JIM GRAHAM

WATCH THROGS of thoroughbreds speed around the racetrack and over hurdles of timber and brush. Showcasing a top-level equestrian sport full of tradition and prestige, the 2015 steeplechase season will feature three consecutive weekends filled with vendors, activities for kids and canines, boutique shopping, carriage parades and of course—tailgating.

With a variety of races and places to choose from, don't miss out on the family fun and a chance to witness our area's best steeplechasing this spring!

Steeplechase History

Before jumping across the Atlantic and landing in the U.S., the sport of steeplechasing made its debut in mid-18th-century Ireland. As the name suggests, horses and their riders tested their speed and stamina by racing through the rolling countryside from church steeple to steeple, while jumping over fences and streams along the way.

After this horse race gained American fandom, the event has since attracted jockeys and jumpers alike competing in official, National Steeplechase Association-sanctioned races in 11 different states. Apart from the intense competition, jump racing has grown beyond its status as a simple equestrian event. Steeplechasing brings family and friends together for a day filled with memory-making activities and entertainment and a chance to raise money for local charities.

37th Winterthur Point-to-Point

Start off the steeplechase season at Winterthur's Point-to-Point for another year of pageantry and excitement for professional thoroughbred racing. Expect the competition to be tougher than ever—the stakes have been raised again this year with hefty purses weighing in at \$10,000, \$15,000 and \$25,000!

From captivating kids' activities to festive tailgates for families to charming canine contests, the Point-to-Point features plenty of activities to keep the entire family busy all day. Match the event's high style and attend the region's most stylish spring sporting event wearing the official Point-to-Point hat—the Villa 6. Feel like a celebrity

for the day (and the rest of the summer) wearing this crotched hat designed by the same Helen Kaminski whose fashions have adorned Nicole Kidman, Sandra Bullock and Amal Clooney.

Gather family and friends for a spectacular day of elite horse racing on Henry Francis du Pont's former 1,000-acre estate. Whether you're watching the kids gallop across their own finish line in the stick horse races before the main event begins or spending the time tailgating in the sunshine, get ready for a fun-filled day at Winterthur!

When: Sunday, May 3; gates open 10:30 a.m. for tailgate and premium parking; general admission 11:30 a.m.; first race 2:00 p.m.

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

Info: 302-888-4992; Winterthur.org

Tickets: Adults, \$50; 12 to 20, \$15; under 12, free. Tailgating, \$250-\$600.

Benefits: Winterthur Garden and Estate

Tip: Winterthur Member discounts available. Shorten your walk and purchase Premium Parking. Advance sales only.

23rd Willowdale Steeplechase

Spend Mother's Day alongside family and friends (both two- and four-legged) as you enjoy an afternoon full of suspense and thrills at the 23rd annual Willowdale Steeplechase. Between the impressive showcase of equestrian talent and the upscale boutique shopping, treat Mom to a day full of tradition and fun.



Winterthur Point-to-Point PHOTOS THIS PAGE: BOB HICKOK



Willowdale Steeplechase
PHOTO: STEPHANIE PEDITTO



Willowdale Steeplechase
AMY KRAMER PHOTOGRAPHY



Willowdale Steeplechase
AMY KRAMER PHOTOGRAPHY

Sit among 10,000 other spectators in Willowdale's natural amphitheater viewing area to witness sleek horses competing for over \$80,000 in prize money as they race around a course designed by an Irishman to replicate some of Europe's toughest courses. As if the three-and-a-half-mile long race wasn't enough nail-biting entertainment, Willowdale also features a unique 12-foot span with an 18-inch drop in the Water Jump event along with 16 other daunting jumps.

With a race day schedule packed with fierce equestrian competition, make sure you check in on the James Bond-themed tailgate competition. This year, Willowdale hosts Pat Ciarrochi from CBS 3 as the celebrity tailgate competition judge!

More exciting events include the antique car display, pony races for the young jockeys, Jack Russell Terrier races, and tasting food from local vendors.

Continue the Mother's Day tradition at Willowdale—the place where competition and community unite.

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

Where: At Rts. 82 & 926; 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square

Info: 610-444-1582; WillowdaleSteeplechase.org

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

Benefits: Quest Therapeutic Riding Services, Stroud Water Research Center, and Univ. of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine at New Bolton Center

Tip: Come early to avoid traffic on country roads.

85th Radnor Hunt Races

Celebrating 85 years of elite horse racing tradition, the Radnor Hunt Races is back for another year filled with more excitement than ever. Watch six hurdle-hopping races, as you gather at the rail next to 20,000 other fans cheering on the riders and their equestrian companions as they compete for purses totaling \$180,000.

On race day, you'll see an a capella performance of the National Anthem by the Orpheus Club, a parade of the Radnor Hunt hounds, and an antique carriage parade. From corporate sponsor tents to parking spots on the infield, choose from a variety of tailgating options perfect for race viewing, all while surrounded by the rolling hills of Chester County countryside.

Celebrate with Radnor Hunt Races as their campaign—Racing for Open Space—proudly continues to benefit the open space and clean water programs of the Brandywine Conservancy.

When: Saturday, May 16; 10:30 a.m.; first race 1:30 p.m.

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

Info: 610-647-4233; RadnorHuntRaces.org

Tickets: Parking \$75/car includes all passengers; \$150-\$700/car rail-side parking available

Benefits: Brandywine Conservancy's Open Space and Clean Water Programs

Tip: Advance ticket sales only. No stilettoes—you'll be walking on grass! ♦



Radnor Hunt Races
PHOTO: JIM GRAHAM

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Wayne!

AT THE JUNCTION OF
OLD AND NEW

Carol Metzker



Estia Greek Taverna



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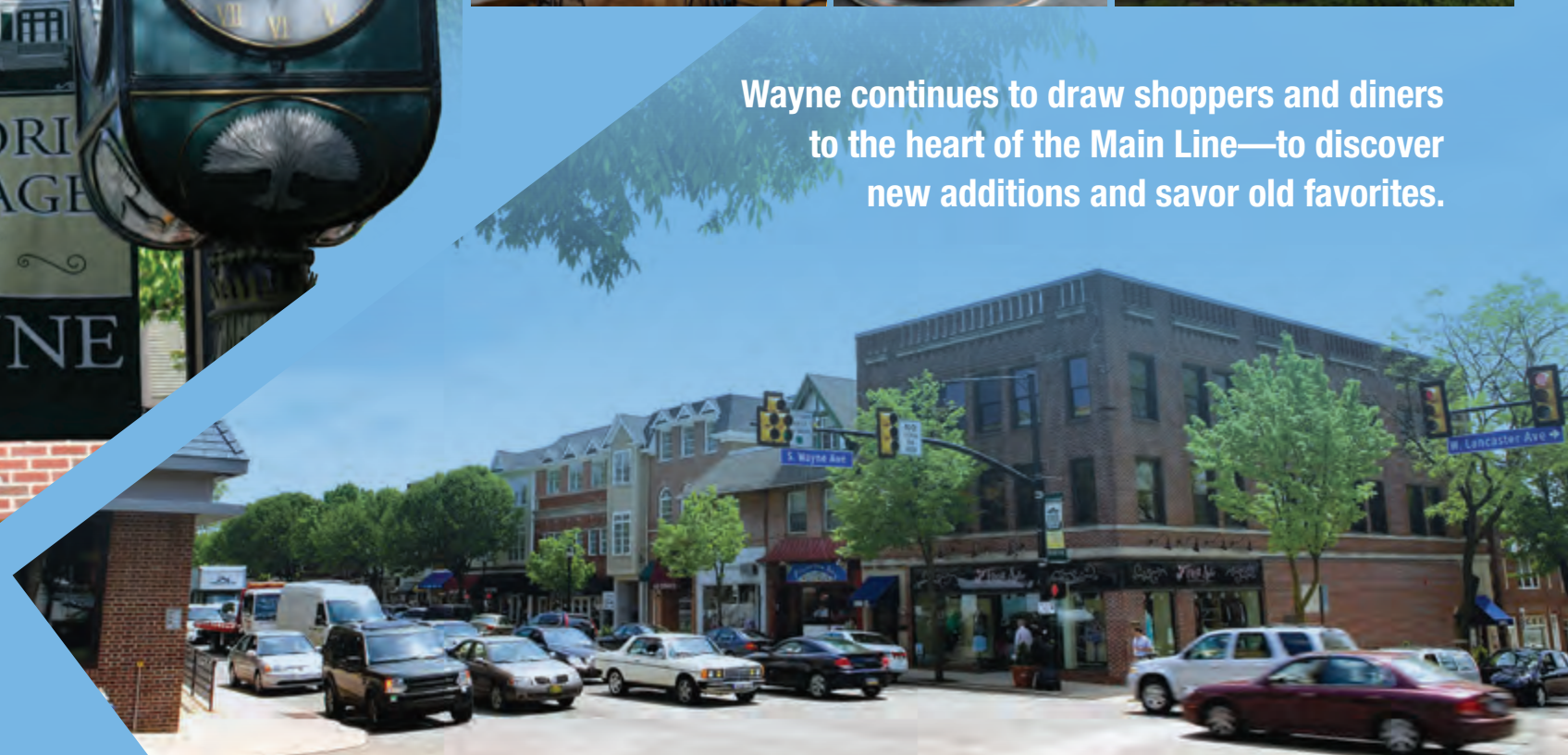


Black Powder Tavern



Eagle Village Shops

Wayne continues to draw shoppers and diners to the heart of the Main Line—to discover new additions and savor old favorites.



NAMED AFTER AN ARMY GENERAL in the American Revolutionary War, developed in the Victorian era, and bustling ever since, one town in the county stands at the crossroads of past and present like no others. Whether you seek Colonial antiques, gingerbread porches, an old-fashioned Christmas celebration or new shops with the latest finery, Wayne is for you.

WHERE DO SHOPPERS GO?

Furniture and Feathers is the perfect proof and first stop. Step into the new shop of Kathy Morgan, who transformed a passion for auctions and antiquing into a retail treasure trove of high-end new and used furniture and home accessories. Find eye-catching pieces including a pair of early 20th-century bronze stallions that greet out-of-towners attending the Devon Horse Show and a Victorian mother of pearl and abalone desk set.

Savor the stories that come with many pieces. A Victorian settee that would have graced a lady's salon sits close to the ground so a long skirt with bolts of fabric could have fanned out "to show one-upmanship to the neighbors."

Above the settee a Baroque ornamental over-mantle mirror—hand-carved and gilded—commands attention. The proprietor explains a curious object that was tucked into its elaborate carving

and found during cleaning. A small bump was an old folded photograph of a little girl named Morgan—coincidentally sharing the name of the shop owner who acquired the mirror.

Down the road, the six-month-young **Barn at Valley Forge Flowers** exudes charm from the top of the stone silo to the bottom of the barn. Explore every nook and cranny, including the warm wood loft. Delight in the spring flowers, patio umbrellas and shiny copper weathervanes. Shop to your heart's content, then refuel at the barn's café before engaging in a Friday afternoon cooking demonstration or weekend-afternoon fairy garden workshop.

Not to be missed—the café's Belgian Pearl Sugar Waffles. Made from dough flown in from Belgium, edged with a hint of caramelized sugar, topped with gelato in flavors including Irish coffee, and served at a quaint wooden table decorated with a Gerbera daisy. The only dilemma is whether to gaze at the waffle or eat it. (Guess which won in my case!)



Christopher's—A Neighborhood Place

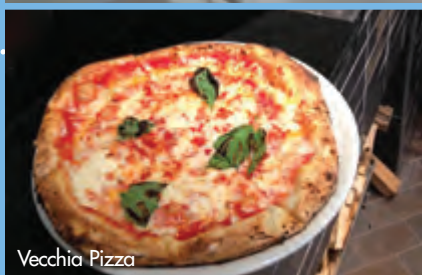




Louella



Barn at Valley Forge Flowers



Vecchia Pizza



SewRob



Fluid Cycling



Ardé Osteria



Lace Silhouettes Lingerie



Furniture and Feathers

Avenue, **Christopher's—A Neighborhood Place**, extends the idea of neighborhood to their new East King Street location. Stroll just a few blocks down East King and you'll find women's fashions, from classic to contemporary, at the newest branch of **Louella's** boutique.

Maybe the only question at the crossroads of old and new is where to start. ♦

of picturesque settings help riders feel like they're conquering the Alps, scenic routes in Italy or Germany and other locations around the world.

Visit **Lace Silhouettes Lingerie**, a new-comer to the **Eagle Village Shops**. Pick out luxury lingerie and snuggly sleepwear, or consult a bra therapist to find what "a perfect fit" really means. Undergarments should never make you feel like you're stuffed into your grandma's corset, or give the impression that they're as tired as you at the end of a Friday. (You know what I mean ... straps have fallen down on the job and material is stretched too thin.) All staff members are trained bra therapists who expertly measure, provide options for styles and ensure that a bra feels comfortable and enhances a figure all day.

The lingerie shop's founder, Karen Thompson, also founded the Harry G. Thompson Pajama and Underwear Pantry to aid disaster victims and others who need new underclothes. During the month of May while you're at Lace Silhouettes, drop a new package of panties or a bra into the bin designated for the New Day Women's Drop-In Center where women who are commercially sexually exploited find help and a better future.

A few doors away, visit **SewRob**. Specializing in custom tailoring and repairs, it's another place to find a unique gift for Mother's Day—a transformed favorite coat or jeans, or a completed job of mending.

And just a few towns away you'll find that favorite Wayne businesses are expanding to another classic Main Line town—Malvern. After years of being one of the busiest restaurants on North Wayne

WHAT'S ON YOUR PLATE TODAY?

For other scrumptious foods, there are several new restaurant choices in Wayne.

Family-run **Ardé Osteria** offers artisan-cured meats, bread baked on-site, pasta and pizza. Now open for lunch as well as dinner, families who stroll in after Sunday afternoon walkabouts relish the establishment as much as date-night couples do. In March, a boy chose to celebrate his eighth birthday at Ardé because he liked eating the pizza and seeing the glow within the wood-fired oven.

The **Black Powder Tavern** on Valley Forge Road is the perfect place to kick back with great food and a beer. According to legend, George Washington, Lafayette and other Revolutionary War leaders met secretly at the tavern that provided food,

shelter and cheer to soldiers fighting for independence. If Washington and Lafayette met there today, no doubt they'd dive into the slow-cooked chicken pot pie made with ingredients straight from the vegetable and herb garden on the premises. They'd certainly raise their spirits with a pint of Yards Brewing Company's tavern ale named for George himself.

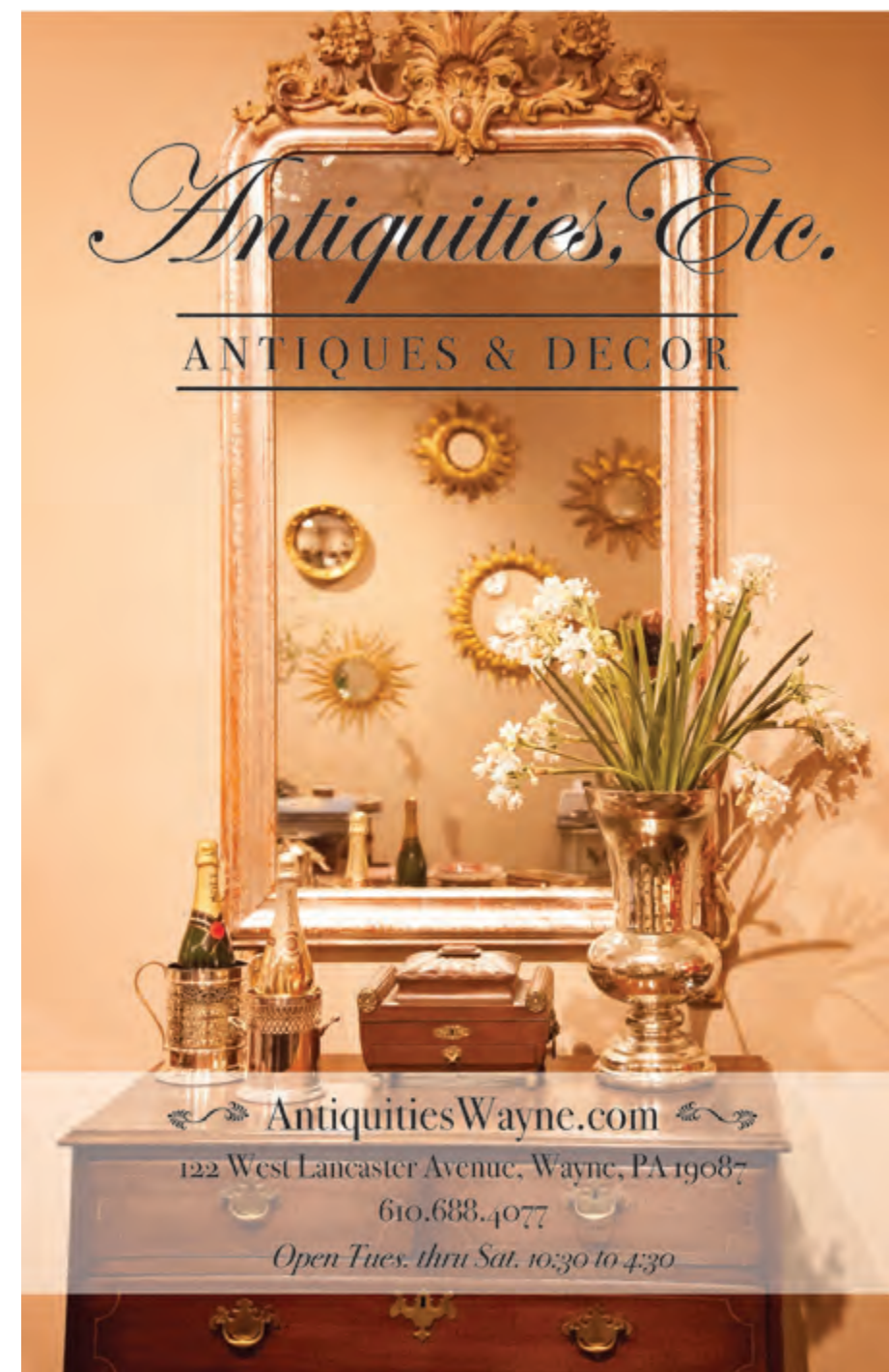
For pizza connoisseurs, **Vecchia Pizza** combines a bit of the old and the new for a scrumptious, mouth-watering meal. The authentic Neapolitan restaurant concentrates on its specialty—pizza made from a centuries-old recipe from Naples, cooked in an oven of stone imported from Mount Vesuvius, and dished piping hot onto a plate from Italy, according to owner Frank Nattle.

To be transported to old Greece, try the grilled octopus in the inviting ambiance of the **Estia Greek Taverna** in Radnor. Braised, grilled and sliced, the dish is served over a Santorini fava puree and topped with pickled red onions.

Head to the other end of the complex to try pizza and classic Italian cuisine at **Pietro's Pizzeria Birreria**, owned by Estia's proprietors.

OLD FAVORITES WITH NEW TWISTS

If the fabulous new restaurant fare in town increases your appetite for fun, food and culture of Italy, Greece or elsewhere—yet necessitates a reduction in your waistline—head to **Fluid Cycling**. Special bikes that twist and turn to simulate the feeling of riding outdoors, upbeat music and video



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BEST NEW RESTAURANT VENTURE - COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

Home and Garden Tours & Plant Sales

After a gray, dreary winter, one bright spot was a little happening at the Pennsylvania Convention Center—an event that attracts thousands and is the world's longest-running and largest indoor event of its kind—The Philadelphia Flower Show. County Lines is happy to congratulate recent winners, Stoney Bank Nurseries, Hunter Hayes Landscape Design, Michael Petrie's Handmade Garden and J. Downend Landscaping just to name a few for their beautiful displays.

And it's from these displays that we get a picture of what we'd like to accomplish in our own gardens this year. So now's the time to head out to those plant sales, and visit the many homes that open their gardens to us. Fill the wagons with perennials and add in a few annuals to keep it interesting. Have fun!

Courtesy of the Delaware Center for Horticulture



Wilmington Garden Day



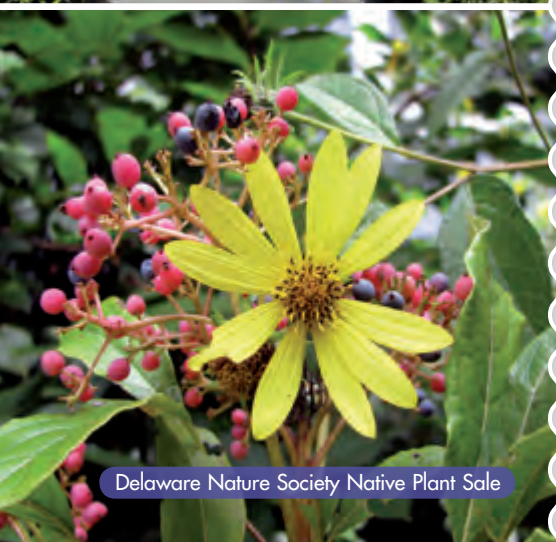
Plant Sale at Rushton Woods Preserve & Farm



Wilmington Flower Market



Jenkins Arboretum



Delaware Nature Society Native Plant Sale

THROUGH MAY 30

Bucks County Designer House & Gardens.

Designers display their creativity at Villa d'Braccia, a Mediterranean-style villa. 745 Stump Rd., Chalfont. Mon-Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs-Fri, 10 to 7; Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$25. 215-345-2191; BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

MAY 1-2

Arasapha Garden Club's Annual May Market in Historic New Castle. Unique, flowering plants and herbs, shrubs and artisan crafts. Market Square, Second & Delaware Sts., New Castle. Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 9 to 3. 302-322-7895; Arasapha.org.

MAY 2

Pleasant View Auxiliary Flower & Plant Sale. Prepare for the growing season or shop for Mother's Day. You'll find everything you need at this plant sale which also includes a White Elephant Sale of assorted unique finds for the home. 544 N. Penryn Rd., Manheim. 9 to noon. PleasantViewRC.org.

MAY 2

Garden Club of Springfield's 5th Annual Plant & Bake Sale. Herbs, vegetables, native plants, perennials, homemade baked

goods and garden art. Old Central School, Saxer Ave. & Powell Rd., Springfield. 9 to 2. SpringfieldSelco.org/Residents/Garden-Club.php.

MAY 2

68th Annual Wilmington Garden Day. Twelve gardens to tour, each unique in scale, plant variety and design inspiration. Benefits children in need, specifically Friendship House, Inc. and St. Michael's School & Nursery. 10 to 4. \$30-\$35. WilmingtonGardenDay.org.

MAY 2

Annual Plant Sale at Tyler Arboretum. Hard-to-find trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and herbs, plus a special selection of tough plants for tough spaces and deer-resistant plants. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9 to 3. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.

MAY 2

Friends of Everhart Park Plant Sale. Varieties proven to thrive in the Brandywine Valley are offered. Proceeds go to maintaining and improving Everhart Park. 501-599 W. Union St., West Chester. 10 to 2. Facebook.com/FriendsOfEverhartPark.



Herb Sale of Phila. Herb Society



Barnes Foundation Plant Sale

MAY 2

Barnes Foundation Plant Sale. Trees, shrubs, perennials, annuals and greenhouse specimens for sale with plant experts on hand with advice. The Arboretum of the Barnes Foundation, 300 N. Latches La., Merion. 10 to 2. 215-278-7350; BarnesFoundation.org.

MAY 2-3

DE Nature Society Native Plant Sale. More than 300 rare, unusual varieties of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns and aquatic plants are for sale. Some from nearby Mt. Cuba Center and many species that attract wildlife. Coverdale Farm, 543 Way Rd., Greenville. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. 302-239-2334; DelawareNatureSociety.org.

MAY 2-3

Plant Sale at Rushton Farm. Early vegetable and annual flower seedlings, raspberry canes and a limited supply of perennials are available. Rushton Woods Preserve & Farm, 911 Delchester Rd., Newtown Square. 10 to 3. WCTrust.org.

MAY 2-3

Valley Forge Chapter, American Rhododendron Society Plant Sale, at Jenkins Arboretum. One of the largest area plant sales, offering perennials, wildflowers, ferns, azaleas, rhododendrons and more. Sat, 9 to 3; Sun, 11 to 3. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.

MAY 7-9

95th Annual Wilmington Flower Market. Benefits nonprofit Delaware children's agencies. Carnival rides, art, gifts, entertainment, flowers and plants of all kinds are available. Rockford Park, Wilmington. Thurs-Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 10 to 7. 302-995-5699; WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

MAY 8

National Public Gardens Day. Nationwide effort to raise awareness of our public

gardens and their value to our communities. Participants include Tyler Arboretum, Chanticleer, Brandywine Conservancy, Scott Arboretum, Longwood Gardens and more. NationalPublicGardensDay.org.

MAY 8-9

28th Annual Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire. Over 80 vendors of heirloom plants, roses, native and hard-to-find plants, annuals, perennials and art for the garden, spread over the historic village. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. \$10. 717-569-0401; LandisValleyHerbFaire.org.

MAY 9

Willistown Conservation Trust 3rd Barns & BBQ. Tour six of Willistown area's beautiful barns and farms, followed by a bountiful barbecue. Tour begins at 3; cocktails hors d'oeuvres and barbecue follow. \$250. Res. req. 610-353-2562; WCTrust.org.

MAY 9-10

34rd Annual Brandywine River Museum Wildflower, Native Plant & Seed Sale. Hundreds of varieties for sale to benefit Brandywine Conservancy's native plant gardens. Staff will answer questions. Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 4:30. 610-388-2700; BrandywineMuseum.org.

MAY 10

Welkinweir's Mother's Day Tea & Azalea Bloom Walk. A springtime tradition celebrating mothers and special women in your life. Light fare served on the tented terrace overlooking the pond and spring blooms. 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown. Adv. res. req. Seatings: 12:30 and 2:30. \$22; 6-12 years, \$6; under 6. 610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org.

MAY 13

41st Annual 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,



Scott Arboretum Unusual Tropicals & Annuals Sale



Tyler Arboretum Plant Sale



Bayard Taylor Home & Garden Day

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\$25 (res. req.), box lunch, \$15. Tour, \$45.
9 to 3. 610-525-4544; ShipleySchool.org/SecretGardens.

MAY 14

76th Anniversary Herb Sale of Phila. Herb Society of America. Herbs, vegetable seedlings, rare and unusual scented geraniums and salvias for sale. Herbal offerings in the boutique tent. In the meadow at Historic Yellow Springs, Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Herbal brunch, \$15, res. only. 10 to 1. 610-970-5264; HSAPhiladelphia.org.

MAY 16

A Day In Old New Castle. Beautifully tended gardens and historic homes, plus the Historic New Castle Festival Lunch Tour (with the MidAtlantic Wine & Food Festival, *see Event listing*). Shuttle from First Baptist Church in New Castle (Rts. 141 & 273) to the Green in Old New Castle. 10 to 5. \$5-\$25. 877-496-9498; DIONC.ImmanuelEpiscopal.com.

MAY 16

Scott Arboretum's Unusual Tropicals & Annuals Sale. Create a tropical paradise in your backyard with plants from this sale. Experts on hand for questions and demos. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. Noon to 3. 610-328-8023; ScottArboretum.org.

JUNE 5-7

32nd Annual Demuth Garden Tour & Party. See exclusive Lancaster locations, with urban gardens and unique home interiors. Tour kicks off with the Demuth Garden Party, June 5, featuring live music, hors d'oeuvres and silent art auction at Conestoga House & Gardens, 1608 Marietta Ave., Lancaster. Res. req. Tour, Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 5. \$18-\$20. 717-299-9940; Demuth.org.

JUNE 6

Annual Bayard Taylor Home & Garden Day. Featuring homes and gardens in the Landenberg/New London area. Visitors can sample food and beverages from local restaurants and merchants and enjoy local artists and musicians. Benefits Bayard Taylor Memorial Library. 10 to 4. Tour, \$35. 610-444-2702; BayardTaylor.org.

JUNE 6

New Hope Historical Society's 22nd 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. \$35. 215-862-5652; NewHopeHS.org.

JUNE 13

DE Center for Horticulture: Wilmington City Gardens People's Choice Tour. Gardens of all types, small to large, vegetable, water, formal, shade, cottage, perennial and native will delight your senses and motivate you to create some of their magic in your own gardens. 1810 N. Dupont St., Wilmington. 10 to 3. \$25. 302-658-6262; TheDCH.org. ♦



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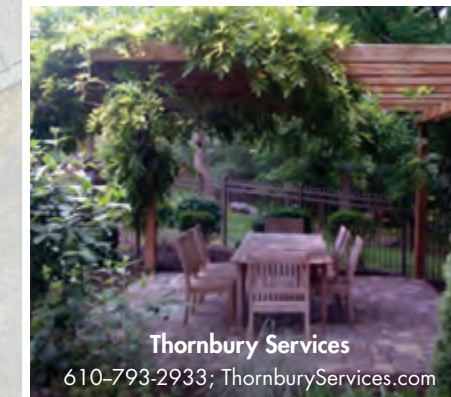
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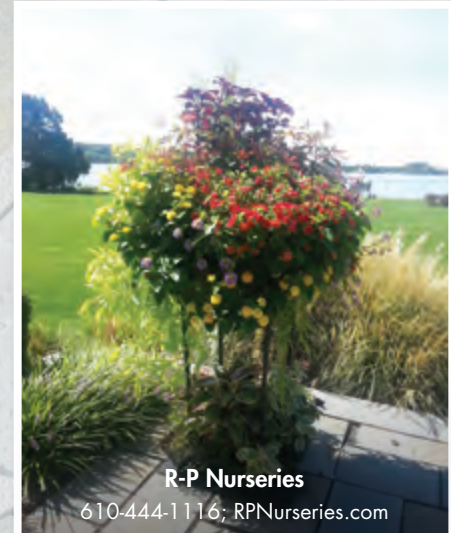
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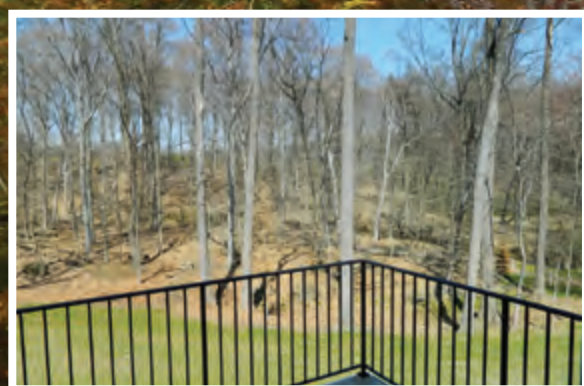
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Laurel Anderson

CLASSIC CHARM OR MODERN AMENITIES? Sacrifice craftsmanship and quality for convenience and efficiency? Too often these are the dilemmas of house hunting.

Fortunately, custom builder Steven Papas has designed a modern retreat that captures the grandeur of an early-20th-century Main Line estate and recast it in a 21st-century home. You’ll find handcrafted details—custom millwork, inlaid hardwood floors, unique granite finishes and designs—and state-of-the-art materials—50-year Certainteed roof, granite stone façade, smart wiring and energy-saving LED bulbs. Top-quality materials and construction methods ensure a timeless home that will endure.

This brand new five-bedroom, six-bath, three-story Colonial-style home is set on a quiet cul-de-sac off Sawmill Road in Newtown Square. The 1.4-acre site enjoys the open space benefits of neighboring Aronimink Golf Club—a preserved buffer of wooded green space free from the obligations of maintenance and taxes. The home was designed to take advantage of the views in every season.

Imagine being the first owners of this legacy home—still so new you get to enjoy that new home smell.

Pleasure in the Details

A cobblestone-lined circular drive, flagstone walk and solid mahogany front door with sidelights and transom are the first clues to what lies within. The elegant front-to-back foyer boasts gleaming red oak herringbone-pattern floors, a lighted center medallion overhead, and samples of exquisite millwork including three grand elliptical archways, raised-panel wainscoting, and a magnificent main staircase with carved spindles and African mahogany handrail.

The formal living room, dining room and morning room all have hardwood floors that go beyond the ordinary. Each is accented by hand-cut, inlaid, picture-frame borders, which took skilled carpenters days to perfect. More details—wainscoting, crown moldings, paneled fireplace mantle in the living room and old-school framing on the bay window in the dining room—add charm.

Still more wainscoting, this time cherry, accents the library, along with cherry bookcases, custom built-ins, and stunning mantle above the gas fireplace. French doors provide privacy from the anteroom and powder room.

Family Space

Taking advantage of the scenic views, the kitchen, morning room and great room are certain to draw family members to this open space. The gourmet kitchen fulfills every chef's dream—from Wolf six-burner gas cooktop,

double convection ovens and microwave to Subzero refrigerator and dual-zone wine cooler. Top-of-the-line Woodmode cabinets complement a 12-foot, exotic Spanish granite island seating six, plus Kohler farm sink and leathered gray granite side counters.

Entertaining is as pleasant as it is easy with the help of the adjacent butler's pantry, with granite counters, a second dishwasher, sink and storage cabinets. For casual family meals, the morning room is a perfect spot, with French doors to the expansive flagstone patio.

Every modern house must have a great room for family time, and this 24-by-20-foot space fills the bill, with coffered ceilings, a wall of windows, fireplace and wiring ready for your flat-screen and surround sound. There's easy access to the kitchen, back stairs to the second floor, plus a family entrance from the driveway. Another side entrance, through the four-car garage (with radiant heat and pet station), takes you to the mudroom, with bench and cubbies, powder room and the "command center"—a perfect place for organizing a busy family.

More family space is available in the large (1500 square feet, with options for more) and light-filled lower level, with two sets of windows and French doors. You'll find a full bath, separate exercise room, and space for a media room to house a 70-inch TV. There's also plumbing for a wine cellar or wet bar and more space to customize to your lifestyle.

More Than Your Average Bedrooms

Five bedrooms on the second floor include a master suite—beamed cathedral ceiling, sitting room, balcony, two walk-in closets, luxurious bath with Italian Carrera marble and radiant heat. A large guest suite—also with sitting room, large bath and walk-in closet—could become two bedroom if more are needed. Other bedrooms have full baths, ceiling fans and all but one have walk-in closets.

A second-floor sitting area, laundry room with granite counters and sink, and separate snack center with fridge, sink and microwave make this more than your average sleeping area.

The third floor has 250 square feet of finished space with the option for much more—possible in-home office, studio or kid cave.

Ultimate Utilities

As you'd expect, the same level of attention to detail and state-of-the-art features continue in the mechanical systems. Count 11 climate zones, smart wiring for remote internet control, high-efficiency everything, security system with cameras, wiring for a whole house generator, and so much more.

Maybe it is possible to find craftsmanship and convenience after all. ♦

This new 5+ bedroom, 6.2 bath Colonial home with 4-car garage has accessory building approval for a possible second garage or guest/poolhouse. It is offered at \$2,595,000. For more information visit 411TimberLane.com or contact Missy Schwartz, 610-888-3349; Missy@MissySellsHomes.net.



1. Front-to-back foyer with stairs to second and lower levels; 2. Foyer with red oak herringbone-patterned floor and extensive molding; 3. Chef's kitchen with top-of-the-line appliances and two kinds of granite counters; 4. Great room with fireplace, coffered ceilings and great light; 5. Great room views of open space to morning room and kitchen; 6. Master suite with sitting room and balcony; 7. Formal dining room with chandelier and bay window



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{ Kir Royale }

Although Domaine Hudson is best known for signature cocktails, they know how to go back to basics with this classic Kir Royale.

1/3 oz. Chamboard Black Raspberry Liqueur
3 oz. Jaquart Champagne
Orange string peel or raspberry, garnish

Start with a chilled champagne flute.
First add 1 part Chamboard Liqueur.
Then add 9 parts Jaquart Champagne.
Finish with an orange peel string or raspberry (organic if possible) for garnish.
Serve, toast and enjoy!

{ Mint Julep }

This delicious spring berry version of a traditional mint julep from Sovana Bistro is fun, convenient and fitting for the season.

1/4 cup of frozen (preferably fresh) berries
10 medium mint leaves
10 oz. simple syrup (equal parts water and sugar dissolved) or substitute with 1 Tb. powdered or superfine sugar
Ice cubes
2 oz. Woodford Reserve Rye Whiskey
Soda water

Put berries, mint and simple syrup into a 12 oz. mason jar and close the lid.
Shake hard for 30-45 seconds. The frozen berries will bruise the mint and release juices as they melt.
Carefully open the lid. Get any berry or mint goodness off the lid and into the jar.
Fill the jar with ice. Pour whiskey (or bourbon if you prefer) into the jar over the ice.
Stir gently with a spoon. Do not shake.
Top with a splash of soda water and serve or pour into a traditional silver cup.



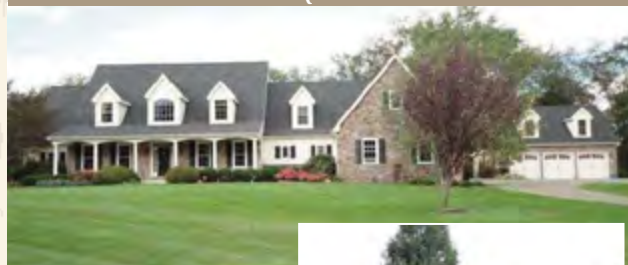
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{ White Sangria }

Más Mexicali Cantina has the perfect recipe for this long-time tailgating favorite. Serve in a punch bowl or large pitcher for the whole crowd!

- 1 orange
- 1 lime
- 1 lemon
- 4 oz. apple liqueur
- 4 oz. peach schnapps
- Ice cubes
- 24 oz. chardonnay

- 8 oz. pineapple juice
- 8 oz. orange juice
- 4 oz. ginger ale

Slice the orange, lime and lemon and muddle with the apple liqueur and peach schnapps.

Add ice cubes, chardonnay and pineapple and orange juices.

Stir thoroughly.

Top with ginger ale.

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{ Pimm's Cup }

Best made in quantity and in a punch bowl, this recipe was repeatedly tested when County Lines served it at the Radnor Hunt Races.

- 12 lemon slices
- 12 lime slices
- 12 orange slices
- 4 cups Pimm's No. 1 Cup
- 6 cups lemonade, lemon soda (San Pellegrino limonata) or ginger ale
- Ice cubes
- 12 cucumber spears
- 12 fresh mint sprigs

Place fruit (organic if possible), but not the cucumber, in the punch bowl.

Add the Pimm's and soda. (Note: adjust proportions to taste and preference.)

Stir and allow the fruit flavors to mingle.

Serve over ice, traditionally in a tall glass, making sure to include pieces of fruit in each glass.

Garnish with cucumber spears and mint.

Serves about 12.



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Food News

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

Perfect PA Pint. Combine Pennsylvania's two favorite kinds of pints—beer and ice cream—with two local breweries and you've got the ultimate frozen dairy dessert. After returning from a 29-year hiatus, **Yuengling's Ice Cream** has reintroduced its 10 original flavors, plus four new ones. Now slow down before you get a brain freeze! Save room for five unique, wort-infused flavors from **Victory Brewing Co.** inspired by their beers. *Store locations at Yuenglings IceCream.com and VictoryBeer.com.*

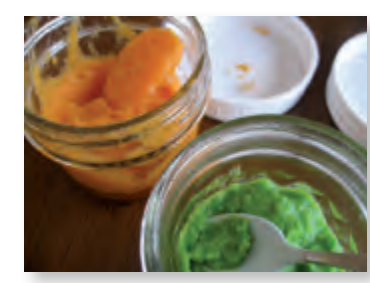


The Farmer and the Chef. Experience **Wyebrook Farm** like never before at the 350-acre Honey Brook property's new, full-service restaurant. Farmer Dean Carlson has partnered with Executive Chef Andrew Wood of Philadelphia's acclaimed Russet restaurant to treat diners to seasonal, sustainable plates featuring beef, pork and poultry fresh from the farm, alongside handmade pastas and in-season produce. Enjoy lunch and dinner, Wednesday through Saturday, and brunch and dinner on Sundays, all BYOB, as you dine inside the restored barn or in the newly expanded outdoor courtyard. *Visit Wyebrook-Farm.com.*



New Still in Phoenixville. “Bluebird day” means perfect conditions for snowboarders to hit the slopes, so **Bluebird Distilling** must mean the streets of downtown Phoenixville are a perfect location for a small-batch distillery. From bourbons to whiskeys to vodkas, spirits from Bluebird will be produced on-site from scratch and with local ingredients. Featuring a large tasting bar and lounge, distillery tours during the week, and live music on the weekends, Bluebird plans its grand opening in May. Check Facebook for updates. *100 Bridge St., Phoenixville. BluebirdDistilling.com.*

Baby Food Facts and Fiction. Ever wonder how, when and why baby food was invented? On May 7, Dr. Amy Bentley of New York University answers your questions about the food we feed our children in “Inventing Baby Food” at the **Hagley Museum**. Don't miss this tasty talk on how our palates have been shaped by the foods we ate as infants and a chance to decide for yourself whether DIY baby foods are worth the fuss. Res. req. *298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Hagley.org.*



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Picnic Season is Here

Laura Muzzi Brennan

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There's Memorial Day and family reunions, not to mention those equestrian events dear to many Brandywiners—Devon Horse Show and Country Fair, Willowdale Steeplechase, Winterthur Point-to-Point and Radnor Hunt Races—where the tailgates and picnics garner as much attention as the horses.

Who better to talk picnics than Tracey Deschaine, owner of Malvern's **Dixie Picnic** and our area's unofficial goodwill ambassador for outdoor super-casual dining. Dixie's bestseller—and all you need for a picnic—is the boxed lunch, which comes with a sandwich, side salad, deviled egg and an upcake—an upside-down cupcake iced on top and sides so there's frosting in every bite. Upcakes come in too many flavors to name but to give you a taste: devil's food with peanut butter icing; zebra cake with vanilla icing, yellow cake with key lime icing. And from Memorial until Labor Day, look for the S'mores—marshmallow icing rolled in crushed graham crackers on a cake filled with chocolate.

Deschaine's not sure whether her Aunt Bert invented the upcake or whether she just claimed to, but like the upcake, many Dixie favorites have roots in the large family picnics of Deschaine's Virginia childhood where relatives tried to outcook each other. Her Southern-



Dixie Picnic Boxed Lunch and Upcakes

style potato salad, a hands down favorite side with Dixie customers, contains lots of eggs and derives its creamy texture from Yukon Gold potatoes. For her nutty chicken salad, she roasts whole chickens just as her grandmother did and combines tender meat with toasted pecans, herbs and seasonings.

Other sandwich options include egg salad, veggie, shrimp salad, and a Thanksgiving sandwich that's available all year round. Deschaine's latest invention and new favorite is the Gold Rush, named not only for the sourdough bread made famous in San Francisco during the mid-1800s but also because this combination of Virginia baked ham, pimento cheese and cucumbers is a real treasure. All sandwiches come on bread baked in house from scratch. Customers looking for a gluten-free option can request salad greens instead of bread or can order one on Dixie's garden fresh salads.

When Deschaine isn't serving customers at the cafe/take out shop or catering events, she enjoys getting outside for a picnic herself. Her first rule: consider location, timing and activities and choose a menu to match. If a bike ride or a long walk is part of your picnic plan, pick food that tolerates a little jostling around and holds up well outside the refrigerator. For other tips, read the "Picnic Pointers" sidebar and then, let the 2015 tailgating and picnicking season begin!



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Savory Picnic Crostata

A *crostata* is a tart, often free-form. A spring special at *Dixie Picnic*, these individual *crostatas* are ideal picnic food because they can be eaten out of hand and hold up well at room temperature.

For the dough:

- ½ C. all-purpose flour
- ½ C. whole wheat flour
- ¼ tsp. kosher salt
- ¼ lb. (1 stick) cold unsalted butter
- 2 Tb. ice water

For the topping:

- 1 bunch (approx. 1 lb.) fresh asparagus
- 6 oz. Bleu cheese, crumbled
- 8 slices crispy bacon, chopped
- 2 oz. chopped pecans

Place both flours and salt into the bowl of a food processor. Cut the butter into small pieces and place in the bowl with the dry ingredients. Pulse gently until the mixture blends with the butter, and it looks like the mixture has small peas in it. With the motor running, pour in the ice water and mix just until the dough comes together. Don't over mix the dough or it will be tough!

Remove the dough from the bowl, divide into fourths and form into four discs. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for one hour.

While dough chills, remove woody ends from asparagus. Steam for 5 minutes and cut into bite-size pieces. Set aside.

Preheat oven to 375°.

Remove dough from fridge and roll out into 4 discs, 10" in diameter and ¼" thick. Don't worry if the edges are uneven. It just proves the *crostatas* were made by hand. Place your discs on a parchment lined cookie sheet.

Spread the asparagus in a nice pattern on the center of your discs. Now add the cheese, bacon and pecans. Neatly turn up the edges of your discs to hold your delicious fillings in place. Bake until the crust is golden brown—about 10–18 minutes depending on your oven. Cool at room temperature. These can be wrapped in plastic wrap or put into plastic sandwich bags.

Makes 4 servings.

Picnic Pointers

Follow these 10 tips all the way to the perfect picnic.

1. Pack items you'll need first on top of other items in the cooler or basket.
2. Freeze almost-full water bottles. Once they're finished chilling food, you've got an ice-cold beverage.
3. Pack small, smush-able foodstuffs such as deviled eggs in muffin tins lined with lettuce leaves or paper liners.
4. Place an old shower curtain liner under a blanket to keep your blanket from getting damp or stained.

Grilled Pineapple Salad with Citrus Vinaigrette

This salad is often a winter special at *Dixie Picnic*, but it's perfect for outdoor dining because it contains no ingredients that spoil easily when the temperature rises.



For the vinaigrette:

- ⅓ C. orange juice
- ⅓ C. lime juice
- ⅓ C. grapefruit juice
- ½ C. red wine or champagne vinegar
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- Freshly ground pepper, to taste
- 1½ C. extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Fresno pepper, seeds removed, finely diced (substitutions: ¼ red pepper; for a hotter vinaigrette, 1 jalapeno.)

For the salad:

- Oil for brushing on pineapple rings
- 4 pineapple rings, fresh preferred but canned will work
- 12 oz. (or 8 C.) spring mix
- 1 avocado, cut into large dice
- 1 pint blueberries

To make the vinaigrette: Mix citrus juices together in a bowl with vinegar, salt and pepper. (If you don't have all three juices, no worries—use what you have to equal a cup. It just tastes better with the blends of flavors.) Whisk the mixture as you slowly drizzle in the oil.

5. Pick a picnic spot not too far from bathrooms and water fountains.

6. Put food away after 2 hours—or after 1 hour if the temperature goes above 90°. For more food safety information, visit FoodSafety.gov.

7. Pack plastic bags for transporting dirty utensils and serving platters back home.

8. Bring a permanent marker for writing names on cups.

9. Find a shady spot for your cooler.

10. Leave your cell phone at home!

Whisk in the diced Fresno peppers.

To make the salad: Lightly oil the pineapple rings. Place on a preheated cast iron pan with ridges to give rings beautiful grill marks. (A griddle or a George Forman grill works fine, too.) Cook until rings are nicely browned. Remove from heat.

This salad is great to layer in a mason jar. Put the pineapple ring on the bottom, layer on the spring greens to fill the jar, top with avocado and blueberries. Its best to top with the dressing just before eating.

Makes 4 servings.

Creamy Crunchy Kids Peanut Butter Sandwich

One of Tracey Deschaine's favorite sandwiches growing up, this sweet-savory combination pleases grown ups too, so make extras! These sandwiches hold up well in non-refrigerated environments for a couple of hours.

Whole wheat bread ("Let's make this healthy!" says Tracey.)

Peanut Butter

Bananas

Corn chips (such as Fritos)

Spread each side of the bread with peanut butter. Place sliced bananas on one side and corn chips on the other. Place both sides together and press gently so it all sticks together.

Find a comfy picnic blanket. Crunch away and watch the clouds go by! (That last part is for maximum enjoyment.)

The Tastiest Summer Tomato Tea Sandwich

Tracey Deschaine shared this recipe with *County Lines* years ago, and while we

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generally don't repeat recipes, this one is an exception. "This tea sandwich is amazingly popular down South," says Tracey. "When you try it, you'll understand why!" Best to use heirlooms, since they are usually meatier than regular tomatoes.

1½ C. butter, softened
2 T. heavy cream
⅛ tsp. Dijon mustard
Juice of ½ lemon
Salt and pepper
10 heirloom tomatoes (Brandywine is a good choice.)
1 loaf country-style white bread, such as Pepperidge Farms or Arnold

Blend the butter, cream, mustard and lemon juice into a spreadable paste. Add salt and pepper to taste.

Boil a small pot of water. Cut a cross into the top of each tomato. Using tongs, drop each tomato into the water for a mere 20 seconds. Remove from hot water and plunge into a bowl of ice water. The skin will peel off like a glove.

Cut the tomatoes into quarters and scrape out the goo and the seeds. Pat the tomato lightly with a paper towel to dry.

Spread the country bread with your butter spread. Next, place a single layer of tomato on the spread and top with another slice of bread. Trim off the edges and cut into a fancy shape—triangles, squares or hearts. Take a bite and summer has arrived!

Makes about 40 tea sandwiches.

Vichyssoise

I adapted this recipe from America's Test Kitchen Soups and Stews book. I wouldn't make this refreshing soup for a large crowd because puréeing and straining are labor intensive, but for a group of 6, it's do-able—and a real treat. Pour soup into small glasses or cups and sip away. No spoon necessary!

2 large leeks, white and light green parts only, sliced into ¼" discs, (about 2 C.)
2 Tb. butter
2-3 very large shallots or 2 medium onions, chopped (about 2 C.)
4 C. vegetable broth
1 large russet potato, peeled, cut into 1/2" pieces
1 C. heavy cream
Salt to taste

Snipped chives for garnish
½ cucumber, seeded, cut into small dice, optional

Soak sliced leeks in a bowl of cold water to remove grit. Remove and rinse in a colander. Separate discs into rings.

In a Dutch oven or stockpot, melt butter over medium low heat. Add leeks and shallots. Cover and cook for 10-15 minutes, until vegetables soften. Stir every 2 minutes to prevent vegetables from browning.

Add vegetable broth and potato. Bring to a boil. Reduce to a simmer and cover, cooking until potatoes are tender, 10-15 minutes.

Using a free-standing or stick blender, purée soup in batches until very smooth. Strain soup through a fine mesh strainer into a large bowl. (Using the back of ladle to push the soup through the strainer works well to extract all the liquid.) You'll be left with what looks like mashed potatoes. Discard or sprinkle with salt and eat up!

Stir in heavy cream and salt and chill in the refrigerator for 4 hours or overnight. Pack in a thermos. Right before serving, pour into small cups and garnish with snipped chives and cucumbers.

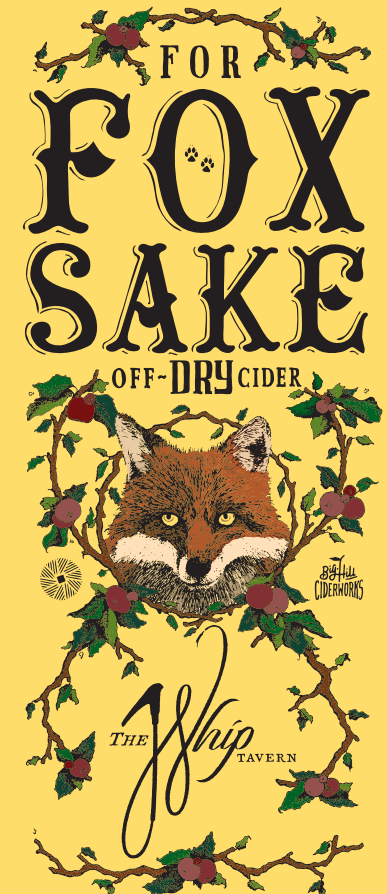
Makes 6 servings.

Peanut Butter Chocolate Chip Banana Bread

My friend Sheryl adapted this recipe from Cooking Light. Notes: You can play with the type of flour, using gluten free, almond, whole wheat pastry flour or a combination. According to Sheryl, "You really can't mess it up!" Although she doesn't glaze the muffins, glazing the bread is worth the extra calories!

For the bread:

1½ C. mashed ripe bananas
⅓ C. plain fat-free yogurt
⅓ C. chunky peanut butter (or if using creamy, stir in 2 Tb. chopped, dry-roasted peanuts at the end.)
3 Tb. butter, melted
2 large eggs
½ C. granulated sugar
⅓ C. packed brown sugar
1½ C. all-purpose flour
¼ C. ground flaxseed
Handful of chia seeds, optional



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- ¾ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- ⅛ tsp. ground allspice
- ½ C. semi or bittersweet chocolate chips

For the glaze:

- ⅓ C. powdered sugar
- 1 Tb. milk
- 1 Tb. creamy peanut butter

To make the bread: Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, beat together bananas, yogurt, peanut butter, butter and eggs with a mixer set on medium speed. Add granulated and brown sugars; beat until blended.

In a separate bowl, combine flour, flax-seed, chia seeds (if using), baking soda, salt, cinnamon and allspice. Add flour mixture to banana mixture; beat just until blended. Stir in nuts (if using) and chocolate chips.

Pour batter into a 9x5-inch loaf pan coated with cooking spray. Bake for 1 hour 5 minutes or until a wooden toothpick comes out clean. If making muffins, cook for about 20 minutes.

Remove from oven; cool 10 minutes in pan on a wire rack. Remove bread from pan; cool.

To make the glaze: Whisk together powdered sugar, milk and peanut butter. Drizzle glaze over bread.

Makes 1 loaf.

Cheddar Biscuit BLT

When I interviewed Tracy Deschaine, she mentioned that although most people don't think "bacon" when they think picnic, bacon is a good food to pack for outdoor meals—you don't have to worry about it spoiling and it tastes good at room temperature. With her comment and notions of an old-fashioned, down-home picnics dancing in my head, I came up with this sandwich, adapted from the biscuit recipe in Taste of Home.

- 2 C. all-purpose flour
- 1 Tb. sugar
- 4 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. kosher salt
- ½ C. butter, chilled, cut into ½" pieces
- 2 Tb. dried chives
- ½ C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- ¾ C. buttermilk



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1 lb. bacon, cooked
Lettuce
6–8 sliced cheddar cheese, optional
2 large tomatoes, sliced

Preheat oven to 425°. In a mixer fitted with a paddle attachment, mix together flour, sugar, baking powder, salt and butter until a coarse meal forms. Mix in chives and cheddar. Add in buttermilk and mix until just combined.

On a lightly floured surface, knead dough 8–10 times. Form into a 1" thick disc and using a 3" in diameter biscuit cutter or a drinking glass, cut out 6–8 biscuits. Bake for 15–18 minutes on an ungreased cookie sheet.

If you haven't gobbled biscuits straight from the oven, allow them to cool, split in half and layer with bacon, lettuce and cheese (if using). Put tomatoes on immediately before serving.

Makes 6–8 sandwiches.

Sesame Noodles

For these noodles, I drew on recipes from Tyler Florence and Epicurious.

2 Tb. sesame oil
2–3 Tb. rice wine vinegar
3 Tb. soy sauce
2 Tb. brown sugar
½ C. chunky peanut butter
1 tsp. minced fresh ginger
3 cloves garlic
3 Tb. hot water
½ tsp. plus more to taste
Sriracha to taste
12 oz. linguini
2–3 scallions, sliced thinly
½ C. chopped cilantro, optional
1 small cucumber, peeled, seeded and diced, optional
1 red pepper, seeded and cut into matchsticks, optional

In a blender, blend sesame oil, vinegar, soy sauce, brown sugar, peanut butter, ginger, garlic and hot water. Add Sriracha ½ tsp. at a time until you reach desired level of heat.

Cook linguini. Strain and rinse in cold water. Using tongs, toss linguini and peanut dressing.

Right before serving, toss with scallions, cilantro, cucumber and red pepper.

Makes 8–10 side servings. ♦

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



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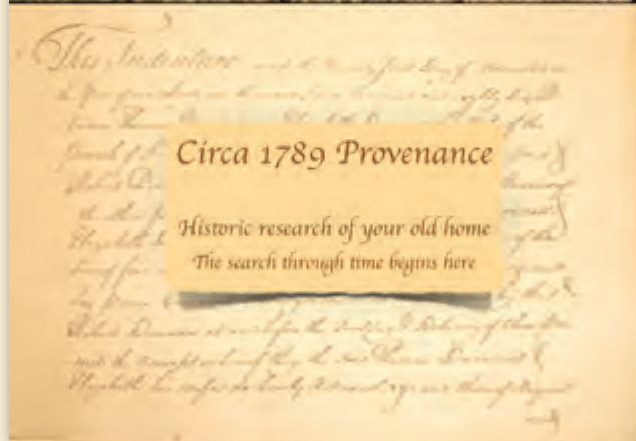
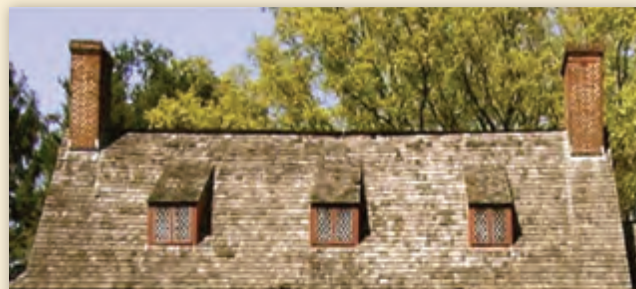
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talking with

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Mark Fields, Executive Director

You may have heard that back in January, Wilmington's DuPont Theatre got a name change, among other things, when The Grand Opera House assumed operations. Now The Playhouse on Rodney Square, this historic theater has announced its next season's performances and plans for the future. We talked with Mark Fields, Executive Director for both theaters, to find out more.



First, why did The Grand Opera House take over operations of the former DuPont Theatre?

The Grand was not looking to run another historic theater, but when the DuPont Company approached us with this opportunity, we were intrigued. Running two venues gives us the chance to cross-market the shows to the patrons of the other. It also gives our managing director of programming, Steve Bailey, twice as many opportunities to find an open date for artists routing through the region. And, it avoids unnecessary competition between the two theaters. Now everything will be coordinated.

Why the name change to The Playhouse on Rodney Square?

The name allows us to retain a strong connection to the illustrious history of this theater while updating it for a new generation. It also locates the theater clearly in downtown Wilmington.

What's your vision for The Playhouse? Will it retain its focus on Broadway shows?

Absolutely, we'll continue presenting Broadway at The Playhouse. That's what the theater is renowned for, and what our patrons want. But, we also intend to supplement that series with other shows that appeal to the same audience tastes and also to the general public. Having more shows in total between the two theaters is good for everybody: The Grand and The Playhouse, downtown Wilmington restaurants and businesses, and for theater-goers who'll have more entertainment options and more reasons to come to Market Street.

How will theater lovers benefit from the joint management of The Playhouse and The Grand?

Our Playhouse patrons have told us quite clearly that they love Broadway, but they want more shows, higher-quality productions, more ticketing choices, and a better patron experience. I think we've responded to all those expectations quite well, especially in retaining some familiar Playhouse box office staff and in expanding our enthusiastic volunteer Show Corps to usher at The Playhouse.



Mamma Mia!
PHOTO: JOAN MARCUS

The Grand has always prided itself on our customer service experience, allowing the true owners of the venue—the community—to have a voice in how the theater is operated. We'll apply that same philosophy at The Playhouse. Patrons are already telling us they can tell the difference ... and they like it.

Finally, having both theaters allows patrons to put together an entire schedule of entertainment options ranging from Broadway to pop to stand-up comedy to classical and world music to family shows, all with one purchase. One-stop shopping!

What's been the reaction of the many long-term DuPont ticket holders and of the community?

We've been communicating with our new patrons, and listening to what they have to say. We've made adjustments based on that input. I have to say that the patrons were a little apprehensive, because they didn't want to lose Broadway here in Wilmington, and they didn't know what The Grand would do. I think they're very pleased with what we've done thus far. But, for this enterprise to succeed, we need to build our season ticket base back to what it was years ago. We need the community to show its support. And we hope they do!

You've announced the 2015-16 season. What are some highlights?

It's a great line-up, overall. The best touring shows that Broadway has to offer, but I'm sure the highlight is the Wilmington premiere of *Jersey Boys*. But how can you go wrong with such crowd-pleasers as *Annie*, *Chicago*, *Blue Man Group*, *Mamma Mia*, and *42nd Street*?! Season tickets are on sale now, and the initial response has been very positive. We hope to see more new faces in the audience next season. ♦

For information on The Playhouse, 302-888-0200; ThePlayhouseDE.org.



Blue Man Group
PHOTO: PAUL KOLNIK



Jersey Boys
PHOTO: JEREMY DANIEL

Next seasons line-up:

Annie (Dec. 1-6)
Chicago - The Musical (Jan. 12-17)
Mamma Mia! (March 4-6)
Blue Man Group (March 17-20)
42nd Street (April 19-24)
Jersey Boys (May 10-15)

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