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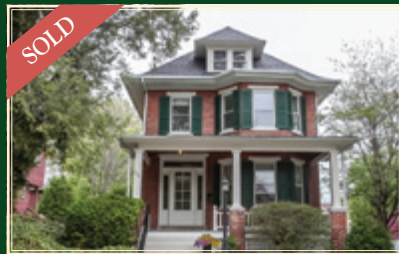


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from the EDITOR

September's here! With a season filled with events and festivals—horse shows, car shows, bike rides, house tours and so much more! Farmers markets are filling with local apples. Fall is coming!

Our cover feature is the Chester County Day House Tour. As always, the homes are spectacular! Matt Freeman tours a few in “77th Tour of Tours,” including the dramatic home in the cover photo.

A Federal-style home is in the “Home of the Month” spotlight and is also on the house tour—two reasons to head for Warwick Furnace Road to see this stunner, surrounded by lush landscape framing preserved views along French Creek.

For HGTV fans we interview Chester County native, Rachel Street, whose pilot show “Philly Street Flippin’” features an opera singer turned house flipper. Here’s hoping the pilot gets picked up!

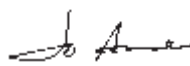
And for gardeners, Willistown Conservation Trust’s Blake Goll describes how to have an endless summer of color in “Late Blooming Wildflowers.”

Equestrian fans have a busy season, too. Mary Dolan previews Ludwig’s Corner Horse Show, Devon Fall Classic and Plantation Field International Horse Trials in “Three Shows Draw the Crowds.” And then there’s “horse ballet,” aka dressage, as horses do pirouettes, piaffes and flying changes, all to music at Dressage at Devon. Ginny Simon gives the short course in “Dressage as Dance: Cue the Music.”

Car fans will enjoy Ed Malet’s coverage of road rallies and a grand prix. Shine the car, find a navigator and head out on the highway. Or choose a bike. In “Bike the Brandywine,” Nicole Kindbeiter describes routes in the beautiful Brandywine Creek Greenway and celebrating Brandywine Conservancy’s 50th.

We’ve got recommendations for coming-of-age novels from Wellington Square Bookshop, suggestions for syrahs and shirazs from wine-guide Kayleigh Thompson, and advice about hepatitis C testing from Chester County Health Department’s Peggy McCall. For dressing up, check out “Fall Style.” For dressing up your home, there’s our “Home Decor” feature.

Plus the Best Local Events! I hope you enjoy this issue.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



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September 2017

Volume XLI, Number 1

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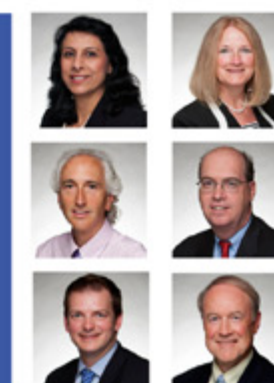
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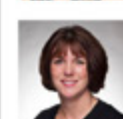
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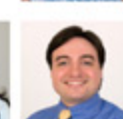
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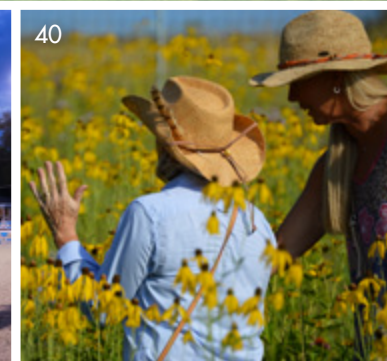
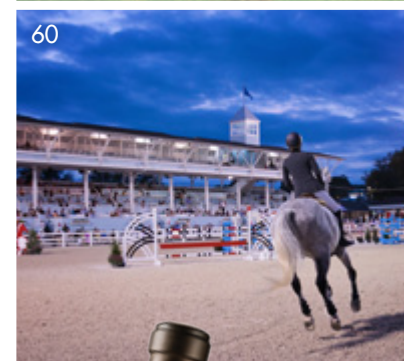
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CONTENTS

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 1 • SEPTEMBER 2017

COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE



- 37 **BIKE THE BRANDYWINE**
Celebrate the Brandywine Conservancy's 50th
Nicole Kindbeiter
- 40 **LATE BLOOMING WILDFLOWERS**
The secret to an endless summer
Blake Goll, Willistown Conservation Trust
- 43 **REVISIT COMING-OF-AGE NOVELS**
Find a title that speaks to you
Leslie Finkel & Mike Wall, Wellington Square Bookshop
- 46 **77th TOUR OF TOURS**
Our preview of the Chester County Day House Tour
Matt Freeman
- 60 **THREE SHOWS DRAW THE CROWDS**
From Ludwig's Corner to Devon to Unionville
Mary Irene Dolan
- 64 **DRESSAGE AS DANCE: CUE THE MUSIC**
Dressage has been called "horse ballet" for a reason
Ginny Simon
- 69 **FALL STYLE**
Our favorite picks for the fall season
- 70 **HOME DECOR**
Update your home with unique decor picks
- 72 **HOME OF THE MONTH**
An idyllic 62-acre French Creek Valley estate
Laurel Anderson
- 76 **QUE SYRAH, SHIRAZ**
Old World and New World choices
Kayleigh Thompson
- 82 **ROAD RALLIES**
Antique cars, a quiz, teamwork and Chester County
Edwin Malet
- 87 **FLIPPIN' JUST DOWN THE STREET**
Talking with Rachel Street about her HGTV pilot

departments

18 **BEING WELL**
21 **GOOD TO KNOW**

23 **SEPTEMBER PICKS**
24 **BEST LOCAL EVENTS**

81 **FOOD NEWS**
90 **INDEX**

Cover photo by Matt Freeman

What's Behind those Hepatitis C Ads on TV?

Peggy McCall, Chester County Health Department

BABY BOOMERS AND OTHERS AT RISK SHOULD GET THE SIMPLE TEST.

IF YOU WATCH TV OR SURF THE WEB YOU'VE PROBABLY seen ads about hepatitis C (Hep C) and new drugs used to treat it. The older adults in the ads represent a group of people in the U.S.—Baby Boomers—identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as at-risk for chronic Hep C.

But what exactly is Hep C? How do you get it? What tests and treatments are available?

Types of Hepatitis: The term *hepatitis* simply refers to liver inflammation. *Viral hepatitis* refers to a group of infectious diseases caused by distinct viruses and known as hepatitis A, B, C, D and E. While all types affect the liver, each type spreads in a different way, affects different groups of people, and results in different outcomes.

Hepatitis A is spread through contaminated food or water and causes only acute disease. Hepatitis B is spread through contact with blood and other body fluids and can be both acute and chronic. Hepatitis D is passed through contact with infected blood but only occurs in people already infected with hepatitis B virus. Hepatitis E is mainly spread through contaminated drinking water and causes acute disease. There are vaccines available in the U.S. but they prevent only hepatitis A and B.

About Hep C: Hep C is spread primarily through contact with the blood of an infected person. It can cause acute and chronic infection. Some people clear the virus from their system on their own, but most (about 80 percent) develop chronic infection.

In the U.S., three in four people with chronic Hep C are Baby Boomers and about half the people who have it don't know it. That's why the CDC recommends that everyone born from 1945 to 1965 gets tested for Hep C.

Why Baby Boomers? There are several reasons this group may have been exposed: infection caused by medical equipment or procedures in the 1960s through 1980s before standard infection control practices were in place; contaminated blood and blood products received before 1992 when screening eliminated the virus from the nation's blood supply; and sharing needles or drug paraphernalia in the past—even just one time.

Tragically, our country's current opioid epidemic is creating a whole new group of non-Boomers who are chronically infected with Hep C through injection drug use.

Testing: Regardless of age, testing for hepatitis C is crucial because many people live for years with few or no symptoms of the disease. Over time though, Hep C can cause serious liver disease including cirrhosis. It's also the leading cause of liver cancer and the number-one cause of liver transplants in the U.S.

Testing for hepatitis C is a simple blood test, called a **hepatitis C antibody test**. This screening test looks for chemicals (antibodies) that the body's immune system releases into the bloodstream in response to infection with hepatitis C virus. If this screening test is negative or non-reactive, the person does not have hepatitis C and no further testing is needed.

If the antibody test is positive or reactive, it may simply mean that at some point the person was exposed to the virus and developed antibodies. An additional viral load test, checking for viral RNA (**HCV RNA test**), is needed to diagnose chronic infection. If the preliminary test is positive, both tests are essential to determine Hep C status.

Now the Good News: Treatment is available that can cure over 90 percent of chronic hepatitis C infections. Today's medications, called direct-acting antivirals (DAAs), target specific steps in the Hep C

virus life cycle to ultimately clear the body of the virus. So if you're a Baby Boomer or otherwise at risk of having Hep C, ask your doctor about testing the next time you see one of those ads about Hep C.

For more information about Hep C, testing and treatment, contact your primary care provider, or visit CDC's website at CDC.gov/Hepatitis. ♦

Peggy McCall, RN BSN, has been a public health nurse with the Chester County Health Department for four years, specializing in infectious diseases including hepatitis, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted infections and HIV. After completing her nursing education at Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia and West Chester University, she practiced for many years in critical care and emergency nursing.

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[Good to Know] *Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

.....

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on September 16th is just the event for you! Work with professionals as they dig for relics and artifacts in two excavation sites, an ongoing project since 2010. Help with screening through the soil or browse local trinkets on display. There are even kid-friendly activities and an archaeology-themed escape room! 219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. NewlinGristMill.org.

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Homey and Historic.

Join the **Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust's 13th Annual Historic House Tour** and see this year's collection of lovely local homes and gardens. Each house—most from the 18th to 20th centuries—will have a guide with insights on architectural design, historic preservation, restoration, and interior and exterior decorating. Set for September 23rd with a Party for Preservation on the 17th, this is a perfect warm-up for the 77th Chester County Day House Tour, featured in this issue. Catch them both! TredyffrinHistory.org; ChesterCountyDay.com.



.....

No Such Thing! Ever had a question you're itching but hesitant to ask? Hold that thought for **Ask a Stupid Question Day**, September 29th. This seemingly silly day was started by schoolteachers, who noted that many students were concerned about sounding stupid. To counter this, teachers designated the day so kids might come out of their shells and feed their curiosities. So, ask away! DaysOfTheYear.com.

.....

Timber Frame & Stone Masterpieces.

Ever passed one of the 20-some thousand barns in this region and wondered how old it was? Or who built it, or why it had a particular design? The answers might surprise you. A new resource comes from Schiffer Publishing, as barn historian Greg

Huber's *The Historic Barns of Southeastern Pennsylvania* explores the intricacies of barn design, methods of dating barns and their fascinating evolution here since the 1700s. SchifferBooks.com.



Locally Grown.

Longwood Gardens will shine a light on five local garden clubs with an exhibit in the elegant ballroom, September 23–24. Organized by the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania, **"Magical Gardens"** features new and different horticultural designs along with innovative floral arrangements in special design, artistic crafts and youth divisions. And you can still catch the final days of Longwood's spectacular Main Fountain Garden display, through the 30th. LongwoodGardens.org.





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DELAWARE ART MUSEUM



HAPPY HOURS

Thursdays | 5 PM – 7 PM
Extended through October 26

Mingle with friends outside on the terrace or tour the galleries on Thursday nights this fall. Drinks and dinner by Toscana available for purchase.

Happy Hours will take place in the Thronson Café during inclement weather. Museum galleries are open with free admission every Thursday from 4-8pm. Dogs are welcome outside in the Garden and must be kept on a leash.

2301 Kentmere Parkway | Wilmington, Delaware 19806 | 302.571.9590 | delart.org

[September Picks] Our Picks for top events this month

Resident Theatre Company

September 29–October 15



RTC opens its 2017–2018 season of New York-caliber professional theater with Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning *Next to Normal*. This deeply moving musical with provocative lyrics and an electrifying score is about a typical American family that is anything but normal. Recommended for ages 13 and up. *The Uptown! Knauer Performing*

Arts Center, 226 N. High St., West Chester. \$25–\$53. Sept. 29, Opening Night—a VIP after-party with open bar, local cuisine and mingling with cast—\$100. Visit RTCWC.org.

4th Annual Shugart's Sunday BBQ & Blues

September 17

Savor scrumptious barbeque, sweet corn and homemade desserts, then quench your thirst with local brews, spirits and other cold beverages. Listen to the blues as you enjoy family fun against the backdrop of Historic Sugartown's c. 1880 General Store and c. 1860 Wor-rall House. 690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 2 to 6 p.m. Admission, \$40; ages 3 to 10, \$12. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.



Malvern Harvest Oktoberfest & Bark in the Park

September 10

Enjoy a beer garden, music, shopping, kids activities (inflatables, games, prizes), delicious food from top area food trucks and more at this year's community festival. Bark in the Park hosts pups needing good homes, plus dog rescues and other dog-centric exhibitors. Along King St. and in Burke Park. 11 to 4. Malvern-Festivals.com.



Paoli Battlefield Heritage Day

September 23

This event features a timeline of American military reenactors and fun for the whole family. Interact with soldiers from every era as kids enjoy traditional games and you visit craft and food vendors. Watch a Twilight Battle Reenactment, 5:30–7 p.m., and see the British battle the Continental Army and watch what happened at this battlefield 240 years ago. Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. Donation, \$8; children, \$5; family, \$20. 11 to 4. 484-320-7173; PBPFInc.org.



Brandywine Valley SPCA 29th Annual Forget-Me-Not Masquerade Gala

September 9

Come to the SPCA's premier event to benefit homeless animals. Celebrate the evening in a dazzling mask, and enjoy delectable dishes, live entertainment, adorable adoptable pets, plus live and silent auctions. Hagley Museum, 200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 5 to 9 p.m. Tickets \$175 and up. BVSPCA.org/Gala.



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17, Sundays
West Chester Sunday Picnic Trains. Pack your own or purchase a boxed lunch and ride the rails of the old Pennsylvania Railroad from West Chester to Glen Mills. Trains depart Market Street Station, 230 E. Market St., West Chester at noon. \$13–\$15; boxed lunch, \$10–\$12. 610-430-2233; WestChesterRR.net.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER, Tuesdays
Wellington Square Bookshop—Children's Story Time. Ages 2–5 listen to songs and have cookies as stories come alive in the bookshop. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. See website for more information. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER, Thursdays
Brandywine Zoo—Story Time at the Zoo. Enjoy fun animal stories in the otter circle in the main zoo followed by crafts or live animal presentations. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 10:30 to 11 am. \$5–\$7. 302-571-7747; BrandywineZoo.org.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 5, Sundays
Steamin' Days at Auburn Heights. Antique automobiles, trains and tours of the 1897 Marshall family mansion. Marshall Steam Museum at Auburn Heights Preserve, 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn, DE. 12:30 to 4:30. \$12–\$19. 302-239-2385; AuburnHeights.org.

SEPTEMBER 2
Back to School Science Day at The Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. Learn how Colonists experimented with science every day, from making butter to dyeing clothes, to getting water from the well. 3900 Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square. 11 to 4. \$6–\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

SEPTEMBER 7
Swingin' Summer Thursdays. Munier Mandolin Ensemble. Gay St., between High and Matlack Sts., West Chester. 6:30 to 9:30. 610-436-9010; West-Chester.com.

SEPTEMBER 9–10
52nd Annual Chadds Ford Days. The grounds of the Chadds Ford Historical Society come alive with live entertainment,

Colonial demonstrations, over 60 vendors, local restaurants and more. 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$10. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

SEPTEMBER 16
Charlestown Day. Shop from vendors, meet local nonprofit organizations and enjoy music, food and kids activities. Charlestown Township Park, 100 Academic Way, Phoenixville. 10 to 2. Free. 610-240-0326; Charlestown.Pa.US/parks.aspx.

SEPTEMBER 16
Canine Partners for Life's Open House and Cow Bingo. Tour the kennel, enjoy a free barbecue lunch, puppy kissing booth, party games, music, shopping and the ever-popular Cow Bingo. Off-site location: Manor Presbyterian Church, 505 Street Rd., Cochranville. 1 to 5 pm. Free. 610-869-4902; K94Life.org.



SEPTEMBER 16
7th Annual Pottstown Pet Fair. Chat with the experts, visit the vaccine clinic and vendors, have your pet blessed or adopt a new member to your family. Leashed pets welcome. Pottstown Memorial Park, 75 W. King St. 9 to 3. Free. 610-970-6507.

SEPTEMBER 17
25th Annual Radnor Fall Festival. Family activities including street performances, dancers, face painting and carnival rides. N. Wayne Ave. & West Ave. between Lancaster Ave. and the Wayne train station. 1 to 5. Free. 610-687-7698; RadnorFallFestival.com.

SEPTEMBER 23
Community Day at Warwick County Park. A celebration of community with crafts and food vendors. 382 County Park Rd., Pottstown. 10 to 2. Free. 610-469-1916; Chesco.org/CCParks.

SEPTEMBER 24
Downingtown Fall Fest. Street festival featuring food and craft vendors, Victory

Brewing Beer Garden and live entertainment. Green Street and E. Pennsylvania Ave. 11 to 4. 610-269-1523; DTRCC.com.

OCTOBER 1
Radnor Fall Harvest & Great Pumpkin Patch. Tractor and pony rides, pumpkin patches and painting, hay scramble, moon bounces, music. The Willows, 490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Radnor. 1 to 4. Free. Rain date, Oct. 8. 610-688-5600; Radnor.com.

OCTOBER 1
Falling Leaf Festival at Eagleview Town Center. Talent showcase from local art and dance schools, craft market and food court. 540 Wellington Square, Exton. 11 to 3. Free. EagleviewTownCenter.com.

OCTOBER 1
Westtown Day at Historic Oakbourne Mansion. Live bands, carnival games, pony rides and petting zoo, food trucks, reenactors, an archaeological dig for kids, and local vendors. Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 10 to 2. Free. 610-692-1938; WesttownPA.org.

OCTOBER 6–8
93rd Annual Unionville Community Fair. Family activities, contests, music, live animal exhibits, food and rodeo on Sat, 6 pm, \$10–\$15; auction on Sun. Landhope Farms, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Fri–Sat, 9 to 9; Sun, 10 to 5:30. UCFairInc.org.

OCTOBER 7
Nottingham Country Fair & Run. 5K run, vendors, contests, music and family activities. Benefits local emergency services. Nottingham Co. Park, 150 Park Rd. 10 to 2. Free. 610-932-2589; ChesCo.org/CCParks.

OCTOBER 7
Newlin Grist Mill Fall Harvest Festival. Artisans demonstrate a variety of colonial trades, hay rides, pumpkin painting and games. 219 Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 10 to 4. Free. 610-459-2359; NewlinGristMill.org.

OCTOBER 8
Kimberton Waldorf School's Farm to School Trail Run & Wellness Fair. Enjoy organic, healthy foods, local vendors, post-run massages and the 5K / 10K French Creek Trail Runs, 5K nature walk and kid's fun run. Benefits the school's Community Spirit Fund. 410 W. Seven Stars Rd., Phoenixville. 610-933-3635; Kimberton.org/5K.

ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18
Visual Arts Members Show. Main Line Unitarian Fireside Gallery, 816 S. Valley Forge Rd., Devon. Daily 9 to 4:30; Sun, 9 to 1. Free. 484-341-8014; MLUC.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 1, Weekends
Philadelphia Watercolor Society Art Show & Sale. Benefits Historic Sugartown and will be held at The William Garrett House, 260 Spring Rd., Malvern. Sat, 11 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. \$5–\$7. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.

SEPTEMBER 1–3
Long's Park Art Festival. Over 200 top artists from across the country. Live music, fine food, wine and craft beer. Rt. 30 & Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. Fri–Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$7–\$12. 717-735-8883; LongsPark.org.

SEPTEMBER 9–10
Brandywine Festival of the Arts. Artists, music, kid's activities and local food vendors. Brandywine Park, 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5; under 12, free. 302-690-5555; BrandywineArts.com.

SEPTEMBER 23
Community Arts Center's Fine Arts & Crafts Festival. Local artists bring their finest works. Live music, children's activities, raffle and festival fare. Park Ave., Swarthmore. 10 to 5. Free. 610-566-1713; FineArtsAndCraftsFestival.org.

SEPTEMBER 23
Art on the Green in Historic New Castle. Delaware River in Battery Park, 3rd & South Sts., New Castle, DE. 10 to 4. Free. 302-328-5466; ArtOnTheGreenDE.net.

SEPTEMBER 29–30
19th Annual Artisans' Porch Walk in Lititz. Show and sale of art and crafts on private porches and lawns throughout town. Lunch and an auction to benefit Moravian Manor. Daily, 10 to 4. 717-664-2359; MoravianManor.org.



OCTOBER 1–8
Annual Berks County Art Show. Museum-quality paintings by the school of artists from Berks County, circa 1850–1950. Greshville Antiques & Fine Art, 1041 S. Reading Ave. (Rt. 562), Boyertown. Free. 610-367-0076; GreshvilleAntiques.com.

OCTOBER 6
West Chester Fall Gallery Walk. Stroll through downtown West Chester for an evening of art, dining and shopping. The Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce hosts its annual Gallery Walk with many locations. 5 to 9. GreaterWestChester.com.

OCTOBER 6
Vintage Garage Sale. Live music, food, wine tastings and vintage home goods, clothing, jewelry, art and more for sale. Parking Garage, 14 E. Chestnut St., West Chester. 610-436-9010; DowntownWestChester.com.

OCTOBER 6–8
Main Line Antiques Show. Thirty distinguished dealers offer a wide selection of fine antiques. Cabrini Univ. Dixon Center, 610 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor. Fri, Opening Night, cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and a light buffet, 6 to 9, \$125. Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$15. (Complimentary tickets available on website.) 484-580-9609; MainLineAntiquesShow.com.

OCTOBER 7–8
Arts Festival Reading at Goggleworks Center for the Arts. Quality show featuring juried fine artists and craftsmen, plus music and

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local food and craft beverages. 201 Washington St., Reading. Daily 10 to 5. \$8. 610-374-4600; ArtsFestivalReading.org.

AUTO SHOWS / RALLIES.....

See article in this issue for more road rallies.

SEPTEMBER 1

Downtown Oxford Car Show. Live music, 50/50 raffle, Remote Control Race Track and vendors. 4 to 8 pm. 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org.

SEPTEMBER 8-10

21st Annual Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance. Sept. 8, Welcome Barbecue, 6:30 pm, \$75; Sept. 9, Chester County Road Rally, 8 am, includes luncheon (noon, \$185) plus Cars and Coffee, 8am to 2pm and a Black Tie Gala, live auction and art show preview, 6 pm, \$160; Sept. 10, Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance, 9 am, \$50 adult, \$25 for 12-18 years old, MotorSport Park exhibition area, (\$60). Benefits Thorncroft Equestrian Center. 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. RadnorConcours.org.



SEPTEMBER 23

Chester County Road Rally. See article in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 17

Hagley Car Show. More than 500 antique and restored cars are on display. This year's theme: "Distinctively Different: Styling in the 1950s." Vehicle parades, jukebox display, go-kart racing and food court. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$5-\$10. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

SEPTEMBER 23

Coatesville International Vintage Grand Prix. See article in this issue.

OCTOBER 5-8

Delaware Auto Show. The latest 2018 models, a kids Fun Zone, Spider Man, balloon artist and more. Benefits DE Breast Cancer Coalition. Preview Gala Thurs, 5:30, see website for tickets. Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison St., Wilmington. Daily 10 to 6, \$10. DelawareAutoShow.com.

DESIGN / HOME SHOWS.....

SEPTEMBER 8-10

Greater Philadelphia Fall Home Show. Find experts, inspiration and more at this show. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. Free. 855-449-3714; GreaterPhilly-HomeShows.com.

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 1, Fridays & Sundays Brandywine Polo. Spectators picnic and tailgate at the grounds. 232 Polo Rd., Toughkenamon. Friday Twilight Polo—gates open at 5; match at 5:30. Sun, gates open at 1:30; match at 3, \$10-\$15. Cancelled for rain or extreme heat. 610-268-8692; BrandywinePolo.com.

SEPTEMBER 2-4

Ludwig's Corner Horse Show & Country Fair. See article in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 14-17

Devon Fall Classic. See article in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 14-17

Plantation Field International Horse Trials. See article in this issue.

SEPTEMBER 24

44th Annual SPCA Benefit Horse Show. Enjoy this local horse show tradition featuring hunters, jumpers and equitation. Ludwig's Corner Show Grounds, 5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore. 8 to dusk. Free. 610-416-9643; FreedomHorseShowSeries.com.

SEPTEMBER 30

MidAtlantic Horse Rescue Gallop to the Gala Benefit Auction. An evening with friends, food and fun at the sanctuary where race horses once at the end of the line are now given possibilities. Silent auction includes gift baskets, antiques, artwork and more. 560 Budds Landing Rd., Warwick, MD. 4:30 to 9. \$50. 302-376-7297; MidAtlanticHorseRescue.org/events.

FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 29

Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. A cast of hundreds of colorfully costumed characters fill the Shire with music, dancing and more. Mt. Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Sat-Sun, 11 to 8. \$11.95-\$31.95. 717-665-7021; PARenFaire.com.

SEPTEMBER 8-10

32nd Annual Mushroom Festival in Kennett Square. Enjoy tasty mushroom foods, mushroom exhibits, cooking demos, antique and classic car show and kids entertainment. Fri, community parade with dining and dancing in the streets, 6 to 10; Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 5. \$2. 610-444-8188; MushroomFestival.org.

SEPTEMBER 10

Fall Super Sunday in Media. State Street is the site for this annual street fair with lots of vendors, arts, crafts and food. Benefits local charities. Rain date, Sept. 17. 9 to 4. 610-583-4432, ext. 102; MediaPA.com.

SEPTEMBER 23

Pottstown Veterans' Community Day. A fun day of music, food, crafts and helpful information for veterans and their families. Benefits



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West Chester / \$1,250,000



Welcome to 1040 Ballintree Lane, an amazing property in the Unionville Chadds Ford School district and a great location in the sought-after Courts at Longwood. 1040 Ballintree boasts a large lot, an in-ground swimming pool (fenced in) and a charming pool house, perfect for summer entertaining. The property is beautifully landscaped with new lights throughout the gardens and the stucco exterior of the house has been replaced with hardie plank, a huge undertaking and expense. The 7000 + sq ft of living space has a wonderful open floor plan, large bedrooms and ample storage. There's an enormous playroom or game room on the second floor, a finished basement, a four car attached garage and a garage off the pool house. A must see!

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local veterans' organizations. Memorial Park, 75 W. King St., Pottstown. 11 to 4. Free. 610-970-6608; Pottstown.org.

FOOD & BREW FESTS.....

SEPTEMBER 9

Pints in the Square. Newtown Square's brewfest includes a 5K walk/run, \$30, craft beer festival, live music, great food and vendors. Local sports announcer Michael Barkann is emcee. Benefits the Newtown Square Fire Company. Ellis Preserve, 3801 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. 11 to 4. \$50. PintsInTheSquare.com.

SEPTEMBER 10

Crowfest. Come out to celebrate the Eastern Shore's bounty with wine, food, games, hayrides, celebrity chef cooking demo and more. Crow Vineyard, 12441 Vansants Corner Rd., Kennedyville, MD. 11 to 5. \$10-\$25. 302-304-0551; CrowVineyardAndWinery.com.

SEPTEMBER 11-16

Brandywine Valley Restaurant Week. Upscale dining with prix fixe menus at premier restaurants in N. Delaware and S. Chester Co. \$15 lunch and \$35 dinner. BrandywineTaste.com.

SEPTEMBER 15

Food Truck Festival at Chester County Library. Treat your taste buds to unique and one-of-a-kind cuisines, enjoy live music. Benefits the library system. 450 Exton Square Pkwy., Exton. 3 to 8 pm. ChesCoLibraries.org.

SEPTEMBER 15-16

Boyertown's Annual Oktoberfest. You'll find local food vendors, a beer garden, live music, raffle and craft vendors. Fri, 5 to 9; Sat, 11 to 9. Tapping of the keg ceremony on Sat, 11 am. BoyertownOktoberfest.com.

SEPTEMBER 17

38th Annual Chester County Restaurant Festival. Sample food from over 65 restaurants and food vendors, visit crafters, enjoy live music then relax at the beer and wine garden. Benefits the West Chester Dept. of Parks & Recreation. Gay St. and Market St., West Chester. Noon to 5:30 p.m. Rain date, Sept. 24. ChesterCountyRestaurantFestival.com.

SEPTEMBER 21

Annual "Taste of the Town" Event. Restaurants offer tastings of their signature dishes to win "Best of the Fest." Benefits and is held at the Community Arts Center, 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 6:30 pm. Adv. tickets, \$75. 610-566-1713; FineArtsAndCraftsFestival.org.

SEPTEMBER 22

Brandywine Zoo—Brew at the Zoo and Wine, Too. Join the Delaware Zoological Society at its annual fundraiser. An outdoor, after hours event including tastings, local fare and auction. Must be 21 or older. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 5:30 to 9 pm. \$50. 302-571-7747; BrandywineZoo.org.

Local Farm Markets

Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. *Sat, 9 to 1.* FarmToCity.org.

Downingtown Farmers Mkt., Log Cabin Field, Kerr Park, Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown. *Sat, 9 to 1.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

East Goshen Farmers Mkt., E. Goshen Park, 1580 Paoli Pk. *Thurs, 3 to 7.* EastGoshenFarmersMarket.org.

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Crt., Wellington Sq., Exton. *Thurs, 3 to 7 pm.* 610-836-1391; GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Jennersville Mkt., 352 N. Jennersville Rd. *Wed, 3 to 7.* 610-345-1763; Facebook.com/JennersvilleFarmersMarket.

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 112 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. *Fri, 3 to 7.* 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. *Wed & Fri, 8 to 6; Sat, 8 to 4.* 610-688-9856; LancasterCounty-FarmersMarket.com.

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

Newtown Square Farmers Mkt., Mostardi Nursery, 4033 West Chester Pk. *Wed, 2 to 6.* 610-353-1555; NewtownSquare-FarmersMarket.com.

Oxford Village Mkt., 3rd & Locust Sts. *Tues, 1 to 5 pm.* 610-998-9494; Downtown-OxfordPA.org.

Pete's Produce Farm, 1225 E. Street Rd., West Chester. *Mon-Sat, 9 to 6:30; Sun, holidays, 9 to 6.* 610-399-3711; PetesProduceFarm.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Mkt., 200 Mill St., Phoenixville. *Sat, 9 to 1.* Phoenixville-FarmersMarket.org.

Pottstown Farmers Mkt., 200 block of High St. *Thurs, 5 to 7:30 pm.* 610-323-5400; PottstownFarm.org.

SIW Farmers Mkt., 4317 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. *Daily, 7 to 6.* 610-388-7491; SIW-Vegetables.blogspot.com.

Swarthmore Farmers Mkt., 432 Dartmouth Ave. *Sat, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm.* SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org.

Thornbury Farmers Mkt., 1256 Thornbury Rd. *Tues-Fri, 11 to 6, Sat, 9 to 5, Sun, 11 to 5.* ThornburyFarmCSA.com.

Thornton Farmers Mkt., 330 Glen Mills Rd. *Sat, 10 to 1.* Facebook.com/ThorntonFarmersMarket.

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

Westtown Amish Mkt., 1177 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. *Thurs, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 8; Sat, 8 to 4.* 610-492-5299; WestChesterAmish-Market.com.

SEPTEMBER 23

Ardmore Oktoberfest & Fall Family Festival. German beers, foods and music for the whole family. Sample Tired Hands Brewing Company's "Oktüberfest" while the kids enjoy a moon bounce and games. Crickett Ave., Ardmore. 2 to 8. Free. CricketAvenue.com.

SEPTEMBER 30

Kennett Brewfest. Sample beers from over 90 local, regional and craft breweries, enjoy food, live music and vendors. 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. Connoisseur Tasting, noon; regular fest, 1:30 pm. All taps close

at 5:30. \$50-\$85. 610-444-8188; KennettBrewfest.com.

SEPTEMBER 30

Taste of Trolley Square. Beer, wine and spirit tastings, small plates, sidewalk sales, entertainers, scavenger hunt, games, prizes. Trolley Square, Delaware Ave. at Dupont St., Wilmington. Noon to 5. Free. Taste-OfTrolley.com.

OCTOBER 1

37th Annual Media Food & Crafts Festival. Many restaurants and craftspeople display on State Street. Music stages with bands and chil-

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dren's activities. 9 to 5. Rain date, Oct. 8. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

OCTOBER 5, 7

King of Prussia Beerfest Royale. Over 50 craft and international brewers, 100+ beers and area restaurants in an outdoor beer garden and live music on two stages. Donnerstag Happy Hour, Thurs, 5:30 to 9, \$60-\$65; Sat, noon to 3:30 and 6 to 9:30, \$35-\$40. Designated driver, \$15. KOPBeerfest.com.

OCTOBER 7

Phoenixville Food Festival 2017. Enjoy gourmet foods from over 35 food trucks, with

food both sweet and savory, and a variety of vendors. Main St. and Bridge St. (100 and 200 blocks). Free parking and a free shuttle service. Noon to 6 pm. PhoenixvilleFoodFestival.com.

FUNDRAISERS.....

SEPTEMBER 9

27th Annual Wings N' Wheels. Aircraft, cars, sightseeing flights, food, music and kids activities. Benefits Angel Flight East, providing free air transport for ill patients. Wings Field, 1501 Narciss Rd., Blue Bell. 11 to 4. \$5-\$10. 215-358-1900; AngelFlightEast.org.

SEPTEMBER 17

Stroud Water Research Center's Annual Gala, The Water's Edge. The Stroud Award for Freshwater Excellence will be presented to His Serene Highness Prince Albert II of Monaco at Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Cocktails at 6; lecture at 7; dinner at 8. Tickets \$200 and up. 610-268-2153; StroudCenter.org.



SEPTEMBER 17

DE Museum of Natural History's "Wine & Dinosaurs"-Wine, Beer & Food Tasting. Sample the fare while bidding on the silent auction and enjoying live entertainment. This year's theme is "Mardi Gras in the Fall." Benefits museum programs. Must be over 21. 4840 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Wilmington. Noon to 4. \$45-\$55. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

SEPTEMBER 22

4th Annual Greener Partners "Remarkable Farms" Gala. Seated dinner featuring local, farm-fresh food and spirits, tastings from local purveyors and an auction. Benefits Greener Partners. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 6 to 11 pm. Tickets \$200 and up. RemarkableFarmsGala.com.

SEPTEMBER 24

Auburn Heights Preserve Invitational-Annual Fundraiser at Marshall Steam Museum. Historic autos from the classic era, with a spotlight display on Roadsters and Runabouts. 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn. 12:30 to 4:30. \$14-\$25. 302-239-2385; AuburnHeights.org.

SEPTEMBER 30

The Gathering—Fundraiser for Home of the Sparrow. Great wine, food trucks and live music. Home of the Sparrow secures housing, education and support for homeless and low-income women. Penns Woods Winery, 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. 6:30 to 9. Tickets, \$55. 610-647-4940; HomeOfTheSparrow.org.

SEPTEMBER 30

Wellness in Harmony—Autumn Goddess Retreat. All ages enjoy a full day of workshops, music, dance, local artists. Benefits Unite for HER, providing therapy and education for women with breast cancer. Freedoms Foundation, Valley Forge. 10 to 6. Tickets \$100 and up. 484-354-0499; WellnessInHarmony.com.

OCTOBER 1

Kennett Symphony Presents The Classics at Brantwyn. Annual vintage and super car tour and show at Brantwyn Mansion, featuring a

Grand Parade, champagne brunch and live blues. 600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. 11 am. \$95. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

OCTOBER 2

15th Annual People's Light Golf Classic. Enjoy lunch, golf, prizes and cocktails while raising funds for Arts Discovery. Chester Valley Golf Club, 430 Swedesford Rd., Malvern. Tickets \$250 and up. PeoplesLight.org.

GARDENS.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Longwood Gardens Summer of Spectacle. Musical programs accompany soaring water fountain displays. Stroll through the garden for a nighttime experience. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Thurs-Sat, 9:15 pm. \$12-\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

SEPTEMBER 7-8

University of Delaware Botanic Gardens Fall Plant Sale. Get inspired with a trip to U of DE's gardens at 531 S. College Ave., 152 Townsend Hall, Newark, DE. Fri, 3 to 6; Sat, 9:30 to 2. 302-831-2531; Ag.UDel.edu/UDBG.

SEPTEMBER 9

13th Annual Secret Gardens of West Chester Tour & Plant Sale. A walking tour of gardens in the neighborhood surrounding Barclay Friends. A plant sale at Barclay Friends begins at 10 am. Benefits Barclay's Horticultural Program. 700 N. Franklin St., West Chester. 10 to 3. \$20-\$25. 610-696-5211; BF.Kendal.org.



SEPTEMBER 16-17

Scott Arboretum Selections Fall Sale. Hard-to-find plant performers that thrive in Delaware Valley gardens. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. Sat, noon to 3; Sun, 11 to 2. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.

MOVIE NIGHT.....

SEPTEMBER 6

King of Prussia Town Center Outdoor Movie Nights. Popcorn, raffle tickets for prizes and first 100 guests receive a blanket. E.T. 155 Village Dr., King of Prussia. 7:30. Free. 484-231-1762; KingOfPrussia-TownCenter.com.

SEPTEMBER 7

Eagleview Movie Nights. Bring your blankets and a picnic dinner to enjoy *National Treasure*. Wellington Square, Exton. 7 pm. Free; canned

food donations encouraged. 610-458-1900; EagleviewTownCenter.com.

SEPTEMBER 15

Movie in the Park—East Goshen Township Park. Sing. 1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 8 pm. Free. 610-692-7171; EastGoshen.org.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER

Christian C. Sanderson Museum. "Wyeth Unplugged" uncovers the relationship between Chris Sanderson and the Wyeths. 1755 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Thurs-Sun, noon to 4. \$5-\$8. 610-388-6545; SandersonMuseum.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 8

The Demuth Museum. "Robert E. Locher: A Modern Classic." 120 E. King St., Lancaster. Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 1 to 4. Donation adm. 717-299-9940; Demuth.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17

Delaware Art Museum. "The Original Mad Man: Illustrations by Mac Conner." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12, free, Sundays. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17

Brandywine River Museum of Art. "Andrew

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Wyeth: In Retrospect," a chronological examination of Wyeth's career since 1973. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$6-\$15. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 7, 2018

Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. "Treasures on Trial: The Art and Science of Detecting Fakes." 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. Tues-Sun, 10 to 5. \$15-\$30. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

SEPTEMBER 7-22

Uptown! Events at Knauer Performing Arts



Center. Sept. 7, Dueling Pianos, 7:30, \$15-\$20; Sept. 14, Opera Tutti! 7 pm, \$25; Sept. 15, The Summer Club, big band music, 7:30, \$35; Sept. 16, Chosen Dance Co. presents: The Story of Hip Hop Dance in America, 7 pm, \$10; Sept. 22, Better Than Bacon Improv, 8 pm, \$15. 226 N. High St., West Chester. UptownWestChester.org.

SEPTEMBER 9

8th Annual Phoenixville Blues Festival. Local, talented musicians gather at Reeves Park for a day of the blues, great food and activities. Benefits local charities. Reeves Park, Main St. & 2nd Ave. Noon to 10. Free; donations accepted. PvilleBlues.org.

SEPTEMBER 9

Beats & Brews. Relax and enjoy a late summer evening of live music and craft beer. Held at and benefits Binky Lee Preserve, 1445 Pikeland Rd., Chester Springs. 6 to 9:30. \$50. 610-353-5587; NatLands.org.

SEPTEMBER 9

Brandywine River Museum of Art—Music on the Brandywine. The Dolce Suono Trio performs "American Canvas for Flute, Cello, and Piano." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 7 pm. \$50, complimentary glass of wine and light fare. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

SEPTEMBER 9

Arts in the Park. Latin American folk music with Eco del Sur. Glen Providence Park, 550 W. State St., Media. 5 pm. Free. GlenProvidencePark.org.

SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 5

The Grand Wilmington. Sept. 15, Last Comic Standing's Josh Blue, \$24; Sept. 16, comedian Hannibal Buess, \$35-\$40; Sept. 22, Red Molly, \$28; Oct. 5, Ron White, \$53-\$61. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. All shows, 8 pm. 302-658-7897; TheGrandWilmington.org.

SEPTEMBER 16

Roots and Bluestems. Live music, craft beer and food truck treats. Stroud Preserve, 454 N. Creek Rd., West Chester. 4 to 7. \$40. 610-353-5587; NatLands.org.

SEPTEMBER 21

Point Entertainment Presents Robby Krieger of The Doors. One of the legendary figures in rock will perform at The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$34-\$52. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

SEPTEMBER 30

Can Jam Music Festival 2017. A day of amazing music in the beautiful pastures adjoining the brewery, a Kan Jam Disc game tournament and hot air balloon rides. Sly Fox Brewing Company, 331 Circle of Progress Dr., Pottstown. 10 to 6. Free. 484-524-8210; SlyFoxBeer.com.

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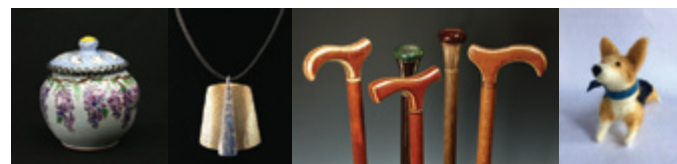
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Learn more & purchase tickets at ›
goggleworks.org

OCTOBER 7

Paoli Blues Fest & Street Fair. Premier blues musicians perform at a new location this year with lots of room for dancing, vendors, a beer garden, KidZone and more. Paoli Presbyterian Church, S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 11 to 6. Donation of nonperishable food for the Food Bank. 610-206-7743; PaoliBluesFest.com.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 13, Wednesdays
Bike and Hike at Hagley Museum & Library. Stroll, jog or cycle the three-mile loop then, on selected evenings, enjoy Dogfish Head craft beers and Woodside Farm Creamery ice cream. Rt. 141. 5 to 8 pm. \$2. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

SEPTEMBER 9

Schuylkill River Pedal and Paddle. Take a 4.5 mile bike ride from Pottstown's Riverfront Park to Historic Morlatton Village in Douglassville. Lunch, bikes, kayaks and gear are provided. 9 to 2. \$40. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiver.org.

SEPTEMBER 9, 17

Bird Walks at Welkinweir. Join staff from Green Valleys Watershed and naturalists from Valley Forge Audubon Society to explore the arboretum and nature sanctuary. 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown. 9 to 11:30 am. Free, donations welcome. 610-469-8646; GreenValleys.org.

SEPTEMBER 29–OCTOBER 1

The American Birding Expo. See the latest in bird-related products, goods and worldwide tour services. The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$10. 800-879-2473; AmericanBirdingExpo.com.

OCTOBER 1

44th Annual Marshalton Triathlon. Bike, canoe and pace-walk at this family-friendly event with music, food and drink. Benefits West Bradford Fire Co. Rt. 162. Check-in, 6:30 am; race, 8. \$50. MarshaltonTriathlon.net.



OCTOBER 1

Pedal4Cam. A bicycle event for persons of all ages and abilities—road bike, paved trail and mountain bike options. Benefits the Childhood Cancer Foundation. Eagleview Town Center, 540 Wellington Square, Exton. Registration 7:30 am, race at 8:30. \$45. Cure4Cam.org.

OCTOBER 7

Main Line Animal Rescue Fran Fondo Cycling Event. Ride through Chester Springs on a 15K, 40K, 50K or 100K climb. After-party with food, beer garden, live music and adoptable dogs. Begins and ends at Pickering Meade Farm, 1149 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. \$65–\$85. MLARGranFondo.org.

THEATER.....

SEPTEMBER 1–17

Storyboard: Treasure Island. An adaptation of the greatest pirate story of them all by Robert Louis Stevenson. Hedgerow Theatre, 64 Rose

Valley Rd., Rose Valley. \$20. For times and tickets, 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

SEPTEMBER 13–OCTOBER 8

Something Wicked This Way Comes. Based on the book by Ray Bradbury. Recommended for age 12 and up. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times. \$25–\$60. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

SEPTEMBER 20–OCTOBER 22

Carousel. An American classic featuring some of the most powerful music ever written for the stage. Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media.



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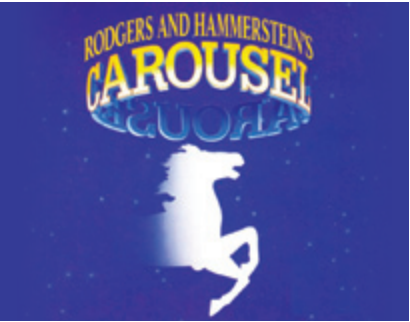
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\$25–\$50. For times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, Wednesdays
Stroll, Shop, Dine—Dining Under the Stars in Media. Restaurants offer outdoor dining along State Street, with entertainment and children's activities on each block. 5 to 11 pm. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

SEPTEMBER 1, 9, 21
First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays. **Sept. 1, First Fridays: Kennett Square Art Stroll,** 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; Visit-LancasterCity.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494;

DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3070; PhxFirstFriday.com. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; West-Chester.com. **Wilmington Art Loop,** 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com. **Sept. 9, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: Media,** 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org. **Sept. 21, Malvern Stroll,** MalvernBusiness.com.

SEPTEMBER 11
Coatesville Remembers 9/11: 16th Annual World Trade Center Commemoration. Guests are invited for quiet reflection among the World Trade Center Steel Tridents. Lukens Executive Office Building, 50 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville. Bell ringing, 8:30 to 10:30 am, music, 7 pm. Free. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.

SEPTEMBER 16–17
On Hallowed Ground—The Battle of Brandywine. The 240th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine is remembered at Sandy Hollow Battlefield with authentic re-enactors, music, 18th-century celebrities, games and crafts. New St. and Birmingham Rd., Birmingham Township. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 10 to 3. Free. 610-793-2600; Brandywine2017.org.

OCTOBER 5–21
Lancaster County Best Kept Secrets Tour. Visit over 40 off-the-beaten-path businesses on this fun adventure. Your ticket includes a map and guide, valuable coupons, gifts, refreshments, raffles, tours, demos or games at each stop. \$9; \$1 of each ticket sold benefits the Good Samaritan Homeless Shelter. 717-721-9409; BestKeptSecretsTour.com.

OCTOBER 7
77th Annual Chester County Day Tour. This year the tour will honor the 125th anniversary of Chester County Hospital, and attendees will visit old and interesting homes, gardens and historic landmarks in West Chester and the surrounding Northwestern countryside. Tickets, \$50, available at Chester Co. Hospital and on the website. VIP ticket, \$100, includes a reception and Preview Cocktail party at French Creek Country Club on Sept. 24 and a private tour of a special VIP house with a gourmet boxed lunch prepared by Montesano Bros. Italian Market & Catering. Benefits Chester County Hospital. 610-431-5329; ChesterCountyDay.com. ♦

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Bike the Brandywine

RIDE A 50-MILE LOOP (MORE OR LESS) THROUGH THE GREENWAY TO CELEBRATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY.

ENJOY THE SCENERY, HISTORY AND LURE OF THE Brandywine Creek—a major source of drinking water for nearly half a million area residents—during the second annual Bike the Brandywine event. Hosted during the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art's 50th anniversary year of celebrations, this year's Bike the Brandywine offers three new loops that take in the beautiful Brandywine Creek Greenway and surrounding countryside.

Riders can choose from routes ranging from 25, 50 and 100 miles, each with a unique experience for both recreational and more seasoned cyclists. Proceeds from the ride benefit the Conservancy's clean water programs.

Following both the East and West Branch of the historic and scenic Brandywine Creek waterway, the 100-mile loop will guide riders from Chadds Ford all the way to the Creek's headwaters in bucolic Honey Brook Township. Along the way riders will experience iconic western Chester County vistas and countless views of rural landscapes, rich history and active farmland, some of which the Brandywine Conservancy has helped preserve for future generations. Plus you pass The Whip Tavern!

The 50-mile loop gives riders looking for a shorter Brandywine experience a route that also follows both branches of the Creek. Following the West Branch to The Laurels nature preserve and then crossing through the valley to reach the Creek's East Branch

just south of Downingtown, the route rejoins the 100-mile route and visits the historic village of Marshallton. Riders on this route will also experience the history, vistas and bucolic countryside on their journey.

As an exciting introduction to the Brandywine Creek Greenway for the recreational cyclist, the 25-mile loop closely mirrors the early sections of the 100- and 50-mile routes. Following the West Branch of the Brandywine Creek through open farmland and scenic river valleys, this route provides a trip through the historic village of Marshallton, past one of the oldest barns in Pennsylvania and through areas of the historic Brandywine Battlefield.

So grab your bike helmet, test your toe-clips and prepare to pedal for clean water! ♦

—Nicole Kindbeiter

IF YOU GO:

Where: Begins and ends at Chadds Ford Historical Society
1736 N. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford, PA

When: September 30, 2017

Registration: \$50 per rider; fee increases closer to the event. Includes a Bike the Brandywine t-shirt.

Benefits: Brandywine Conservancy's Clean Water Programs

More at: Brandywine.org/BikeRide

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Late Blooming Wildflowers

THE SECRET TO AN ENDLESS SUMMER

Blake Goll, Nature Education Coordinator at
Willistown Conservation Trust

THERE'S A CERTAIN WITCHCRAFT that settles into an autumn wildflower meadow. The ironweed and goldenrod create a dreamlike palette of deep hypnotic violet and harvest yellow, while brown seedpods add a cathartic nostalgia to the romantic cornucopia. In the September wind, swaying stems, quivering blooms and fluttering wings create the same serenity one feels gazing out onto an oceanscape.

Yet, unlike the ocean, in the meadow you're surrounded by extraordinary winged animals everywhere you look. Even after gardeners have finished the season's weeding, children have gone back to school, and beach bags have been stowed away, the energy of summer continues here.

Flashy goldfinches frolic across the meadow from one sunflower to the next, honeybees covered in pollen eagerly wriggle among the velvet petals of the mountain mint, and butterflies of myriad species—monarchs, fritillaries, sulfurs, buckeyes, skippers, swallowtails—dance with rapture around the profusion of aster blooms! Indeed, late September and October are the pollinator after-party, where the champagne of the aster takes center stage.

NATIVE PLANTS AND NATIVE INSECTS

Contributing in a meaningful way to this kind of biodiversity throughout the year and deep into the fall starts with mindful plant selection.

Although many plants available in garden centers and nurseries are beautiful, only native plants function well in our ecosystem's food webs.

This is ultimately because plants don't want to be eaten. Consequently, plants have developed chemical defenses against the insects drawn to them, which in turn set in motion an arms race for the insects to develop ways around these defenses.

As a result of many years of evolution, our native insects specialize in targeting species of native plants. For example, a native oak tree can be used as a caterpillar host plant for 500 native species of butterflies and moths, although a non-native ginkgo (native to China) supports only about five of our native insect species.

AND BIRDS

It follows then that a wildflower meadow filled with native perennials is a self-sustaining bird feeder filled with insects, a major food supply for most North American land birds. This is especially true in the summer when, for example, one pair of chickadees must feed their young up to 500 caterpillars a day. In September and October when some of the flowers are spent, finches and sparrows feast on the seeds to prepare for the cold weather ahead.

During the cooler months, billions of birds are migrating south and may stop to hunt insects and spiders in a wildflower meadow. And finally, during the winter the unmown wildflower meadow can provide nourishing seeds in an otherwise barren landscape for overwintering birds like dark-eyed juncos.

KALEIDOSCOPE OF WILDFLOWERS

Part of the joy of a wildflower meadow is the long-lived kaleidoscope of colors changing throughout the seasons and extending into fall. The show starts in mid-June with beardtongue, butterfly milkweed, and false sunflower creating a lively tapestry of white, orange and yellow. Common milkweed—a big whimsical ball of tiny pink flowers—also fluoresces at this time, luring many pollinators including the iconic monarch butterfly.

Late June is greeted with delicate sprays of white of the Virginia mountain mint, bright fuchsia of the purple coneflower and the fanciful blue petals of the curious spiderwort. July is the peak display with splashes of lavender of wild bergamot, dusty rose-colored Joe Pye weed and multi-colored garden phlox. Finally the robust August performers of asters, ironweed, trumpet honeysuckle and goldenrod do not tire until well into October, helping sustain migrant species like monarchs and ruby-throated hummingbirds.

A WILDFLOWER GARDEN

While this profusion of color and life is occurring aboveground, something marvelous is occurring below the earth. Native wildflowers spend the first couple of years developing impressive root systems that can stretch 8 to 12 feet underground, allowing them to mine groundwater. Compare that to your typical Kentucky bluegrass lawn—with roots barely reaching 6 inches—and you can see how much harder native wildflowers are.

Even setting aside a few drifts on your property for wildflowers instead of lawn grass can substantially reduce your water usage. Mowing your wildflower patch is also necessary only once a year in early



Butterfly milkweed in July

spring. Leaving the wildflower growth during the fall and winter months provides habitat for overwintering birds, cocoons and other wildlife.

Not only are native wildflowers easy to care for, they're also relatively easy to establish. Simply stop mowing a manageable sunny area of your property in the spring and tuck a thoughtful variety of landscape plugs into the ground among the existing lawn, each plug about one square foot apart.

The planted plugs may need occasional water at first if you notice wilting, but within a month or two their tough roots will be able to sustain the plants. Yearly weeding may be needed during the first few years until the perennials reach their full competitive size.

That's all it takes.

As you wistfully take in those last sips of summer from the September air, look around your yard and think about where you could begin to enhance your garden with the unparalleled natural beauty of wildflowers. This time next year as the rest of your garden begins to rest, you could be



Spiderwort and false sunflowers in late June

reveling in your endless summer landscape of late blooming color and life. ♦

Willistown Conservation Trust, a nonprofit land trust that's protected over 7,200 acres of wildlife habitat, scenic views and agricultural lands in the Willistown area, has a mission to inspire in people a lifelong love of the land through education. Its Rushton Farm bird banding station is open to the public through November and the one-acre wildflower meadow at the Trust headquarters is also open for viewing. 925 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. More at WCTrust.org.



Variegated fritillaries on aster in late September

Tiger swallowtail on garden phlox in July
PHOTOS BY BLAKE GOLL



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REVISIT Coming-of-Age NOVELS

Leslie Finkel & Mike Wall
Wellington Square Bookshop

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SPEAKS TO YOU ▶



COMING-OF-AGE NOVELS FOLLOW THE PROTAGONIST FROM youth (typically starting in the teen years) to adulthood. As teens face overwhelming physical, social and societal changes, the novels range from heartening to devastating. The best of these stories capture the zeitgeist—the spirit of the time explored in the novel.

And since everyone must grow up—even droids in science fiction novels—the universal nature of this stage of life ensures the genre survives. As you'll see from the recommendations in this article, the best coming-of-age novels stay relevant for generations. In fact, the Germans even have a special word for this type of book—*Bildungsroman*.

Many of us overlook the genre because we're removed from teen angst—and frankly may not want to relive our own. Great writers, though, provide

a lens through which we may assess our own stumbling journeys and growth, even in adulthood.

These books carry lifelong lessons that aid us in moving forward in our lives. They emphasize the universality of discovery and the fortuitous nature of learning. Here are a few to consider reading or rereading.

CONTEMPORARY CHOICES

Among contemporary works, these three books show a range of sometimes shattering experiences.

THE ART OF FIELDING by Chad Harbach (2011)

Henry Skrimshander, a superb college baseball player whose name calls forth the inexorable engraving process of life upon our hearts, makes one errant throw during a game and injures a friend. That one haphazard act is the pivot point for the novel and breaks Henry, but then sets him up to be put back together as a very different young man.

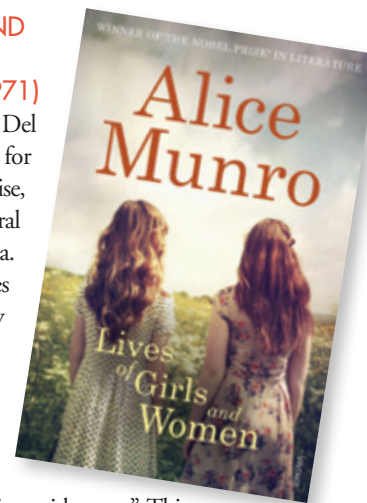
PERSEPOLIS: THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD

by Marjane Satrapi (2000)

In this graphic autobiographical novel, Satrapi, a bright Iranian girl, sees the beginning of the Iranian Revolution, the overthrow of the Shah, and the settling in of a terrible repression. She discovers her capacity for courage and her cunning under very dangerous circumstances. We follow her as she matures and settles with her family in France.

LIVES OF GIRLS AND WOMEN by Alice Munro (1971)

A young woman, Del (perhaps a stand-in for Munro herself), is a wise, clever observer of rural life in Ontario, Canada. The book's title comes from a short speech by Del's mother—"There is a change coming in the lives of girls and women ... All women have had (until) now has been their connection with men." This statement certainly rings true in the 1971 setting of the story. In her quest for selfhood, Del encounters vital older women whose failures, toughness and hard-won joys show her that life must be met with tenacity and energy.



CLASSIC CHOICES

For choices with real staying power, these classic works focus on teens in crisis and the journeys they take to reclaim their lives.

THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN by Mark Twain (1884)

In this favorite, Twain chronicles the development of Huck Finn from an immature boy who loves playing tricks on others to a thoughtful and moral young man. Originally steeped in the mentality of bigotry and narrow-mindedness—the result of his upbringing—Huck has experiences that teach him the importance of flexibility in handling moral choices. One example of his growing maturity is his decision to help Jim, an escaped slave, to avoid bondage rather than to turn him in, which is what Huck originally intended to do.

THE OUTSIDERS by S.E. Hinton (1967)

In a gang world divided between the haves and the have-nots, Ponyboy is the protagon-

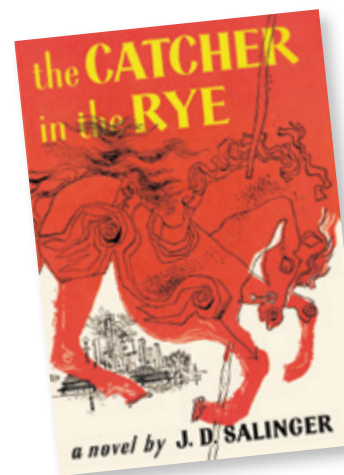
ist living in a hellish social climate defined by his family's poverty and limited circumstances. He's a member of the Greasers, the sworn enemies of the SOCS (short for Socials and higher up on the food chain). The SOCS attack Ponyboy, nearly killing him. By the end of the book, Ponyboy has witnessed senseless violence and murder, but as he works through his grief and frustration, he finds a way to lead a better and purposeful life. You may remember the 1983 Coppola film based on the book.

THE CATCHER IN THE RYE by J.D. Salinger (1951)

Holden Caulfield may be the classic of classic teenagers in literature. He is walking angst, lacking in focus and direction. He finds no meaning in the reality in which he lives. Towards the end of the book, Holden gives us insight into how he envisions a role for himself:

"Anyway, I keep picturing all these little kids playing some game in this big field of rye and all. Thousands of little kids, and nobody's around—nobody big, I mean—except me. And I'm standing on the edge of some crazy cliff. What I have to do, I have to catch everybody if they start to go over the cliff—I mean if they're running and they don't look where they're going I have to come out from somewhere and catch them. That's all I'd do all day. I'd just be the catcher in the rye and all. I know it's crazy, but that's the only thing I'd really like to be. I know it's crazy."

This passage rescues Holden for us and serves as an example of how, as young men and women, we might find our enduring natures in visions of rescue and goodness. ♦



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OTHER COMING-OF-AGE NOVELS:

THE GOLDFINCH by Donna Tartt (2013)	NATIVE SON by Richard Wright (1940)
THE KITE RUNNER by Khaled Hosseini (2003)	OF HUMAN BONDAGE by W. Somerset Maugham (1915)
ENDER'S GAME (science fiction) by Orson Scott Card (1985)	GREAT EXPECTATIONS by Charles Dickens (1861)
A SEPARATE PEACE by John Knowles (1959)	EMMA by Jane Austen (1815)
A TREE GROWS IN BROOKLYN by Betty Smith (1943)	

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77th Tour of Tours

Story and photos
by Matt Freeman

THIS YEAR'S CHESTER COUNTY DAY HOUSE Tour—the longest running house tour in the country—takes place on its traditional first Saturday in October—on the 7th. For the 77th year of this fundraiser for the Chester County Hospital, the tour focuses on West Chester and the northwestern part of Chester County. (Learn more details at the end of this article.)

Both featured areas of the tour offer highlights of the historic character of The Day—as the tour is called by its many fans and supporters. But the tour also keeps some surprises in store to add spice to the more familiar sorts of things people come from around the country to see.

Here's a brief preview of a few of the featured homes on view to give you a sense of what you can look forward to.



20TH-CENTURY COUNTRY HOUSE



JUST OUTSIDE GUTHRIESVILLE, SCREENED FROM view on a wooded five-acre tract dotted with a variety of beech trees, is a residence that's very much a country house for its New-York-based owners. But not in the ways you might think.

The house is uncompromisingly 20th-century modern, a composition in rectangles—like a Mondrian painting—free of anything you could call decoration. But within the stylistic bounds of mid-20th century modern architecture, its creators at Koko Architecture + Design have woven together inspiration from different traditional sources, including their own Japanese heritage and the spirit of Pennsylvania's farm country.

The architects say the overall first impression is of two “black boxes” connected by a “bird cage.” But there's a surprise when you walk inside. That seemingly caged area, which looks like a corridor from the outside, is a stylishly furnished living room that's expansive by any measure and, framed by floor-to-ceiling windows, open to gorgeous views of the wooded grounds. The room is also home to Gus, the smooth fox terrier, pictured above.

If you enjoy modern design—or are open to its appeal—be sure to visit this sleek house of glass, steel and Pennsylvania bluestone. See why it was also featured in *Elle Décor* and *International Architecture & Design*. You'll discover a refreshing new approach to blending compelling architecture and our region's natural beauty.





LYONS RUN FARM



ONCE YOU WEND YOUR WAY UP THE long, winding drive and finally see the farmhouse of Lyons Run Farm to your right, you'll know what the owner means when she says what attracted her was "how private and tranquil it was." The increasingly noisy, built-up Route 100 corridor is less than four miles away, but the distance seems measured less in miles than in centuries.

The original parts of the house do date to the 18th century, so it's no surprise the owners had to extensively renovate what was there. The home needed a lot of work, but it had good bones.

Although geothermal heating and cooling were added and a new stairway tower was built, these and

other modern improvements were meant to complement the oldest parts of the house and not change its inherent appeal and character.

Visitors will notice that the home's decor is comfortable but rewards a closer look almost everywhere, as the family are lovers not just of history but music and art as well. Original artwork by family members is on display throughout.

Be sure to visit the charmingly decorated springhouse—possibly the original dwelling on the site. And even the hardest core natural history buffs will enjoy contemplating the peri-glacial marsh it overlooks, with its unique diversity of mosses and ferns.

Fortunately, a conservation easement ensures that the peaceful natural world of this 86-acre oasis will be preserved in perpetuity.





18TH-CENTURY FARMHOUSE



THE EAST NANTMEAL HOUSE NOW OWNED by Tyler and Tildy Wren was originally built in 1789, and nothing much in the hilly landscape shows any sign the world has changed a bit since then. If you're addicted to the charm of 18th-century fieldstone farmhouses, beautifully maintained and landscaped, this is the pure, uncut stuff.

Of course you have the requisite walk-in fireplace, wide plank oak floors, oil paintings and Oriental rugs. But the decor isn't just that; it's interestingly eclectic.

Yes, there are traditional styles aplenty represented here, certainly, but mixed with Asian and folk art pieces as well. You'll also see a 2015 kitchen renovation blending modern appliances with traditional pine cabinets and soapstone sinks and countertops.

Extensive landscaping surrounds the home, and there's a two-story party barn to visit up the hill. Another Old World touch is the livestock—the Wrens share their property with a flock of chickens and a miniature goat named Tigger.

Just more elements that harken back to an earlier time in a home that's rich in them, inside and out.





SERPENTINE STONE

MARION AND JEFFREY WHITE'S WEST Chester home was built in 1929 of serpentine, the famous often-green stone much quarried in the area and used in a number of well-known local buildings, including many on the West Chester University campus. You might not notice this fact about the White's home, since the color is more of a natural, subdued hue. The exterior is a traditional Colonial style, with a porch on its smaller wing and a pent eave across the larger.

You wouldn't know it, but the house was extensively renovated recently. The original facade wasn't changed much, but the interior is new, with new arrangements of rooms and hallways and wider doors and windows.

And if larger windows help visitors see the variety of artworks and striking decorative elements on display,

so much the better. The dining room, for instance, has several glass pieces on the wall, cabinet and table, tied together by a lamp of hanging glass globes. The overall effect is a kind of retro modernity that would have been familiar when the house was built.

The entire house is studded with striking fine arts and decorative pieces in settings that form elegantly simple, yet strong visual compositions. At one corner of the dining room is a lovely baby grand piano, two paintings above it, and a decorative chest underneath. Through an opening in the wall you can see the foyer, one side of which features two small fanciful glass heads, a painted ceramic vase, an abstract painting and a striking bust, and so on through the other rooms.

In short, there's something unusual and eye-pleasing in every direction.





PAT BURTON LOEW'S 1859 ITALIANATE HOME on North Matlack Street in West Chester is this year's VIP house. Even if you're just walking by, you'll understand why. The three-story house does have the characteristic Italianate extended eaves, but in many ways it's more a handsome, impressive Victorian with beautiful landscaping outside and interiors that artfully blend high style and a spirit of comfort and welcome.

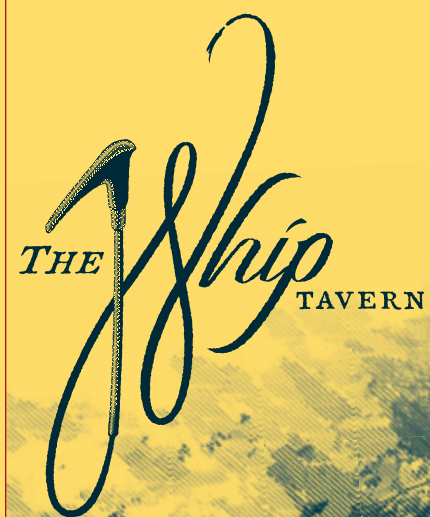
Loew used to live near Crebilly Farm in southern Chester County but wanted to have more neighbors around her. And so she found a special house in a developed neighborhood in

the Borough. The Matlack Street house needed extensive renovation, so after buying it in 2014, Loew spent another year and a half restoring it, later earning a West Chester Historic Preservation Award for her efforts.

The coffered ceilings are among its most impressive interior features, but with a daughter-in-law's help, Loew put her own stamp on her new home in other ways both large and subtle. "I wanted to create, in the interior, a comfortable house for my family to come and visit," she says.

The comfort is certainly there. Loew modestly doesn't mention the bowl-you-over beauty, but the house speaks for itself.

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IF YOU GO:

Join Chester County Hospital in celebrating its 125th Anniversary on this tour of homes and historic landmarks in and around West Chester's Marshall Square Park, where the Hospital once stood at its inception in 1892. The tour continues throughout the northwest quadrant of Chester County.

When: Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Location: Enjoy a self-directed walking tour of Marshall Square Park area in West Chester and drive through the northwest quadrant of Chester County

Tickets: \$50 per person; \$100 VIP ticket

Benefits: Chester County Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit Expansion Project

Information: ChesterCountyDay.com

VIP TICKETS: In addition to an exclusive tour of the three-story Loew home, VIP ticket holders also enjoy a Preview Party with the Tour's homeowners at French Creek Golf Club on Sunday, September 24th.

You'll have a chance to tour for the day in a BMW or Mini from Otto's BMW of West Chester and Otto's Mini of Exton (while they last!), and enjoy a gourmet boxed lunch prepared by Montesano Brothers Italian Market and Catering on The Day.

VIP Tickets cost \$100, with 100% of your contribution benefiting The Chester County Hospital. For information, call 610-431-5301.

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Three Shows Draw the Crowds

Mary Irene Dolan

**COME SEE WHAT THE CROWDS ARE EXCITED ABOUT
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IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN ... HOOVES HIT THE GROUND and crowds cheer them on during the equestrian event-packed month of September. Take your pick from the family-friendly Ludwig's Corner Horse Show, action-packed Devon Fall Classic and world-class Plantation Field International Horse Trials—or plan your month to see all three!

IF IT'S LABOR DAY, IT MUST BE LUDWIG'S

Kicking off the fun, the 74th Ludwig's Corner Horse Show should be on your list of Labor Day weekend plans. At home in Glenmoore, just off the intersection of Routes 100 and 401 that bears its name, Ludwig's Corner's 33-acre grounds pack in plenty to enjoy. There's a reason this three-day affair—September 2 to 4—has been a favorite tradition for decades. And it keeps getting better!

Start off with Family Fun Day on Saturday for good old Country Fair and Midway festivities. For starters, take the kids on a hay ride or pony ride, play pioneer games—like egg toss, 3-legged race and stick horse steeplechase races. Then try bungee jumping, the bucking mechanical bull, a 25-foot rock climb or an inflatable jump for even more excitement.

Animal lovers will want to hang out with llamas and alpacas from Silkie's Farm, check out creepy crawlers big and small, watch the Mounted Parade of Hounds in the Main Ring, and maybe even enter

their animal companion in the Costumed Pet Parade—sponsored by Lulu's Rescue and totally free to register.

Speaking of animals, don't forget about the main reason you're here—the horses! Watch as riders of all ages and from different parts of the region compete in events like Ladies Side Saddle, Leadline for children, Hunter and Pony Derbies, and the marquee event—the \$5,000 Mini Prix Jumper Classic on Monday.

Be sure to catch Sunday's traditional Carriage Exhibition to see spectacular horses, harnesses and carriages as they take a Pleasure Drive through the showground's surrounding countryside.

When you get hungry, grab delicious country fare at the fair from Yellow Springs Catering including BBQ, hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, wraps, salads, stuffed portabella mushrooms and ice cream. Check out the boutique vendor tents, open daily from 8 a.m. until closing.

Catch the ever-popular Ludwig's Corner Car Show on Monday—featuring classic cars and antique tractors—while you gear up for the main event!

NOT SO LITTLE DEVON FALL CLASSIC

Everyone knows about the upcoming international competition at Dressage at Devon at the end of September and, of course, the big, 11-day Devon Horse Show in May, but the 6th annual Devon Fall Classic has made a name for itself and gets bigger and better

each year. From September 14 to 17, the Devon show grounds will be alive with an exciting all-jumper competition, family fun and much more.

Watch as horses and riders clear high jumps and weave through obstacles, racing for the fastest time. Riders represent ages from five to adults as well as a variety of experience levels.

Don't miss the Welcome Stake on opening night, Open Speed Stake Friday night or the Grand Prix event in the Dixon Oval—the \$25,000 Devon Fall Classic, closing Saturday's action.

While you're there, join in the festivities of this year's theme “Boardwalk Nights,” featuring boardwalk rides, games, boutique shopping and live entertainment every evening in the picnic grove.

Enter your canine companion in the What a Good Dog Contest on Saturday and stay late on Sunday after the end of the show for the annual Plant Sale, with plants supplied by Main Line Gardens.

You'll want to be sure to join “Yappy” Hour on Friday night from 6 to 9 p.m. for special people and pup treats—plus fun like ticketed beer and distillery tastings, still TBD. And hang out for brunch the next two days, noon to 2 p.m., with fun themes of Ladies That Brunch on Saturday—with a possible fashion show and champagne—and Jazz Brunch on Sunday.

Check the website for updated information closer to opening night.



Devon Fall Classic
PHOTO COURTESY BRENDA CARPENTER

Plantation Field International Horse Trials
PHOTO COURTESY AMY DRAGOO



WORLD-CLASS FUN AT PLANTATION FIELD INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

Diehard equestrian fans, rejoice! The Plantation Field International Horse Trials are back for their 10th year of Three-Day Eventing, this year partnered with the Retired Racehorse Project! Unionville's 350-acre grounds will be packed, September 14 to 17, for heart-pounding, hardcore, competitive fun with equestrian favorites—dres-

RETIRED RACEHORSE PROJECT

Thoroughbreds have long been prized for their agility, speed and “hot-blooded” spirit. With that fiery temperament, it's no surprise the main claim to fame for these horses is on the racetrack.

But with a typical racing career lasting only 5 to 6 years, the thoroughbreds' fate afterwards is uncertain without retraining. Is there any hope? Yes, according to the Retired Racehorse Project.

This charitable organization is celebrating the Plantation Field Horse Trials' 10th anniversary by kicking off a multi-year partnership with the horse show, honoring this majestic breed. The goal is to inspire horse lovers and offer retired thoroughbreds and their riders the chance at a second career.

Thoroughbreds are well suited to eventing—which draws on the horses' strength and willingness to learn—and is showcased at Plantation Field. The Racehorse Project is a resource to owners, trainers and breeders alike to bridge the gap between the worlds of racing and eventing. And, most importantly, to show there's always hope.

Come see the second act in the life of these amazing animals at Plantation Field!

sage, show jumping and cross country—plus fun for all ages.

Get in for free on Friday and enjoy dressage all day in the main arena, along with the Vendor Village, open every day, to see why the Horse Trials have gained a reputation for having the Best Shopping Ever. Along with saddle and tack shops, you'll find jewelry, country clothing, antiques, artwork, furniture,



What a Good Dog Contest at Devon
PHOTO COURTESY BRENDA CARPENTER



Egg Toss at Ludwig's Corner



Cross Country Tailgating at Plantation Field

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Hungry? Enjoy the foodie fare at the Food Court with burgers, barbecue and organic treats. Thirsty? Head to the Victory Brewing Beer Garden all weekend and quench your thirst in the most tasteful way.

Saturday is for show jumping, plus Kid's Corner opens up for fun for the little ones—complete with a towering rock wall, mechanical bull, face painting, petting zoo and carnival games—all free with your carload's admission.

Round out the excitement Sunday with all-day cross country races, the Pro High Jump competition and, arguably the star of the show—the Cross Country Tailgate “Best of Theme” Competition. Celebrity judges will make their way through the tailgate parking site, viewing, sampling and sipping to determine who best embodies the theme “A Day at the Races.” Participation in the competition: optional. Relaxation and good times: mandatory! ♦

IF YOU GO:

LUDWIG'S CORNER HORSE SHOW

Sept. 2–4, 8 am to dusk; \$3–\$7
1325 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore
LudwigsHorseShow.com

DEVON FALL CLASSIC

Sept. 14–17, 8 am; \$2–\$5
23 Dorset Rd., Devon
DevonHorseShow.com/Fall-Classic

PLANTATION FIELD INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

Sept. 14–17, \$20/carload
387 Green Valley Rd., Unionville
PlantationField.com

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DRESSAGE AS DANCE: CUE THE MUSIC

Ginny Simon

Dressage has been called “horse ballet”—with good reason. Horses complete pirouettes, piaffes and flying changes. And they dance their ballet to music. Oh, and it’s a competition.

FOR MANY DRESSAGE RIDERS AND THEIR HORSES, the Grand Prix Musical Freestyle represents the culmination of years of work and practice. The precise dressage movements are performed in the ring with the artistry of a prima ballerina. And the performance is done during a high level competition, all while in synch with a specially designed musical program.

Have you enjoyed the special pleasure of watching a musical freestyle? You can at this year’s Dressage at Devon, when horses are dancing in the Dixon Oval.

SOME BACKGROUND

To better understand what it takes to make a powerful horse appear to move gracefully and effortlessly in a series of intricate movements—all in time to music—a little background on dressage’s musical freestyle competition should help. And add to your newfound knowledge that the origin of dressage movements dates back to classical Greek horsemanship when soldiers trained their horses to perform these stylized moves to evade or attack the enemy.

According to the U.S. Dressage Federation (USDF), the “Dressage Musical Freestyle combines the elegance and beauty as well as the power and strength of the horse with the stirring impact of music. This creative expression of the horse-rider relationships is entertaining and offers great audience appeal.” The event is judged not merely on artistic impression of the performance; the technical execution—judging of the compulsory elements—counts for 50% of the score.

Innumerable hours, days, weeks and years of work have taken place for the horse and rider team—or pair, as they’re often called—to reach this pinnacle in the dressage world. But the training is just part of the story.

Many people behind the scenes, often professionals in this highly specialized field, work to develop just the right mix of music—music that showcases the horse and rider pair, meets official rules for the compulsory elements, and engages the audience.

Yes, the audience is an important consideration. That may be why these performances are so memorable.





PHOTO: ALIX COLEMAN



PHOTO: ALIX COLEMAN

MUSIC AND CHOREOGRAPHY

If you haven't seen a musical freestyle competition, you may want to head to YouTube to see what's involved. Several suggested clips—featuring music from hip hop to Leonard Cohen's "Hallelujah"—are in the sidebar.

So, how are the musical tracks created?

Music can be selected from any genre or combination. Mixes of types of music from classical to pop to rock 'n' roll, show tunes and movie themes are often heard. The choice depends in part on the horse's movement, type and personality as well as the rider's own tastes.

Most freestyle programs choose different music for the different gaits of the horse—walk, trot, canter—measured in beats per minute, while also creating a cohesive whole. The musical phrasing and dynamics of the music—such as changes in tempo and builds toward crescendos—support and complement the range of movements, from graceful to powerful.

Choreography is another opportunity to be creative, and although it's called the freestyle, there are rules that must be followed in the performance. The routine must incorporate certain technical elements (much like the compulsory portion in figure skating) and be a prescribed degree of difficulty. The choreography should match the horse's ability and strengths, so the movements look fluid while still demonstrating precision.

The rider's entrance into the ring and the start and end of the performance are all carefully timed—5.5 to 6 minutes from the initial halt to the final salute—and are important factors in the choreography. For example, the timing of the salute must match the tempo of the music and the final halt should be on the last beat of the music—much like a gymnast sticking the landing.

WHAT THE EXPERTS SAY

"We start with finding the horse's tempo," explains Fiona Gowers of Bally Vae Farm in Lincoln University and a USDF Silver and Bronze Medalist. "The walk, trot and canter of each

DANCE TO THE MUSIC

The quote "writing about music is like dancing about architecture" applies here. So it's worth watching some YouTube videos capturing highlights of musical freestyle performances. Over 20 million have done that already. Head to YouTube and search for these clips.

- Hip hop dressage, with over 5 million views: search "hip hop dressage"
- An international performance with over 18 million views: search "andreas heigstrand"
- 2016 Dressage at Devon, Jacqueline Brooks on D-Niro to Leonard Cohen's *Hallelujah*: search "dressage at devon jacqueline brooks"
- 2014 Grand Prix Freestyle winner at Dressage at Devon, Ashley Holzer on Tiva Nana: search "dressage at devon winning freestyle"



PHOTO: ALIX COLEMAN



PHOTO: STACYLYNNEPHOTO.COM

horse have their own tempo, or number of beats per minute. We use a metronome and watch one leg of the horse at each gait. When the foot fall of that leg matches the tempo of the metronome, we have the tempo for that gait."

With knowledge of the horse's tempo, the search for music can begin. "We try to find music that tells a story or fits a theme. All big band, or all Beatles. ... Now comes the fun part, we play the music while riding the horse! The horses have definite opinions on what music they do and don't like," says Gowers.

Lauren Annett, owner of Lauren Annett Dressage, also at Bally Vae Farm, adds, "When thinking about picking suitable music for a pair, I start with tempo. I consider the tone of the music and how it relates to the pair when watching them ride to the particular selection." An example: Thundering dark music doesn't work with a petite rider and small horse, but it's exciting with a Fresian—a powerful, energetic horse with a long, thick mane.

"Most of the horses play a role in picking out their music. They show a clear preference for some pieces over others. The music should enhance the horse, not detract from the performance or distract the horse," Annett says.

WATCHING FREESTYLE AT DEVON

Both the Grand Prix Special (very high level riding, minus the music) and the Grand Prix Musical Freestyle take place on Saturday night at Dressage at Devon. Although seats go quickly, there's standing room with good views for this exciting and fun night.

"The Grand Prix Freestyle is always a favorite of competitors and spectators alike," said Dressage at Devon President, Lori Kaminski. "Often though, our audience doesn't realize that Saturday night isn't the only time they can see these fantastic rides."

Insider Tip: The same riders and the same horses must also compete on Friday in the qualifying rounds—prerequisites for riding in the Saturday night Grand Prix events. The top 15 riders from each qualifier go on to ride on Saturday night, so you can see the top riders and others on Friday night. Plus on Sunday—a.k.a. kids day—the Juniors get to try their hand (and hoof) at the Grand Prix Young Rider Freestyle and the Grand Prix Freestyle under 25.

AND THERE'S MORE

That being said, each day of the six-day dressage show features some of the best horses in the world. Dressage at Devon also hosts the largest open breed show in

the world—the open breed show features many different breeds, on September 26th through 28th—and showcases some of the best in breeding, from very young foals shown with their mothers, to the three- and four-year-olds who are just beginning their career.

The Performance Division—where the focus is on dressage tests, or the prescribed series of movements that "test" the horse and rider—begins Thursday afternoon and continues through Sunday. Each day features top performances from some of the finest horses in the world.

Outside the ring you'll find fabulous shopping for equestrians and non-equestrians alike, and what's widely known as the best food on the horse show circuit.

So, go and join the fun! ♦

IF YOU GO

When: September 26–October 1

Where: Devon Horse Show Grounds, Lancaster & Dorset Aves., Devon

Tickets: Available online or at the ticket office during the event. \$10/day gen. adm.; \$5, for 3 to 12 years.

Information: For reserved seating, group sales and information, visit DressageAtDevon.com.



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[Home of the Month]

On Warwick Furnace Road

A FEDERAL-STYLE ESTATE SET
IN THE HEART OF THE
FRENCH CREEK VALLEY

Laurel Anderson

AS THE 77th CHESTER COUNTY DAY TOUR EXPLORES the County's northwest quadrant this year, there are several reasons to include a stop at 1351 Warwick Furnace Road. To start, there are three homes on the Tour along this historic road, deep in French Creek Valley: a barn converted into a contemporary home, a 1978 home lovingly built in Colonial style, and this month's featured home—an estate dating back to the 18th century, with a period-perfect 20th-century addition.

Another reason your route should swing north to Warwick Furnace Road is to drive scenic country roads to visit this pristine countryside in one of our area's last unspoiled valleys. An area that's also full of history, this is where General Washington brought his army after the Battle of the Brandywine and where the iron and steel industry started in Pennsylvania three hundred years ago.

COUNTRY ESTATE

Though the term nestled is overused when describing properties, a photo of this month's featured home could be the dictionary definition. The idyllic 62-acre estate is a self-contained private retreat—with four-bedroom Federal-style main house, two-car garage, separate two-bedroom carriage house, back-up generator, five-stall barn,

four pastures and spring-fed, fresh-water pond with spring house. And it's surrounded by lush landscape framing breath-taking preserved views along French Creek.

Because some of the parcels making up the property are under conservation easement with French & Pickering Creek Conservation Trust, in addition to other conserved neighboring parcels, this enviable viewscape—from hilltop to hilltop—will be preserved.

MAIN HOUSE

The original part of the fieldstone home, built in the late 1700s for a Quaker family, was expanded and restored to its Federal-style glory by the current owners. Taking it from a major HGTV-caliber reno (snakes in the basement!) to Chester-County-Day-worthy was the owners' passion project for 35 years.





Inspired by the Thomas Bull House on the National Register of Historic Places—Bull was a Revolutionary Army officer and manager of Warwick Furnace—the restoration and addition boast historically accurate millwork, hardware and design features embodying the balance and symmetry of Federal style. Expert craftsmanship created a seamless transition to the 20th-century fieldstone addition with its random-width red oak floors and other period details—the only clues being higher ceilings and larger windows.

The home's first floor includes a spacious eat-in country kitchen highlighted by custom book-matched walnut cabinetry, large slate island and views of the pond—home to kingfishers, herons and ducklings.

abundance of storage space. And the walk-out basement has a workshop, large laundry room with working laundry chute to upper floors, and a spacious unfinished room currently used for storage but with many future possibilities.

Outdoor living spaces include porches, decks and brick patios to take in the views in every direction—of the pond, stream, pastures and valley. Old growth trees, along with evergreens, a giant magnolia, beech and weeping redbud trees, create a lush environment for every season. A mature herb garden is accented by an espaliered apple tree on the stone wall, while the brick formal perennial garden is a picture-perfect site for entertaining.

Sliding doors lead to the pond-view brick patio, perfect for entertaining. A large living room, formal dining room and sunny study—each with wood-burning fireplaces—along with powder room and formal entry, with skylight above, complete this floor.

On the second floor, you'll find two large bedrooms both with custom shelves, one with a window seat, plus full bath. At the other end is the master suite with fireplace, built-ins, walk-in closet, and master bath with shower and Jacuzzi tub.

The L-shaped guest suite on the top floor has a full bath and shares this floor with an

CARRIAGE HOUSE

Past the main house's large two-car garage, with loft storage, is the charming two-bedroom, two-bath carriage house—perfect for in-laws, guests or rental. Impeccably renovated in the same style and quality as the main house, it features an open floor plan for the greatroom (kitchen/dining/sitting area with fireplace), plus separate living room with fireplace, mudroom, laundry room, and its own garage. Other special features include the front porch overlooking the valley and stream and rear porch looking up the hill.

DETAILS

Entrance to the property is across a picturesque bridge as you wend your way up the paved drive past four post-and-rail fenced pasture to the iconic red barn. This historic structure was erected by the owners through Recycle the Barn Builder's "Barn Again" program, which took down unwanted barns and found them new homes. Now updated, the barn has five stalls, wash stall, heated tack room bedecked with prize ribbons, plus drive-up loft and hay drops. A red chicken coop adds a country touch.

Equestrians will also enjoy trail riding and fox hunting, both of which are accessible from the farm. And there's room for additional pastures on the property.

Near the pond, a charming springhouse, with storage above, awaits a new purpose—studio, wine cellar or favorite hideaway for enjoying the view. ♦

For more information about this unique 62-acre property (including a 25-acre buildable parcel) in the East Nantmeal area, offered at \$2.6 million, contact Rachel Street, The Street Group at Space & Company, 215-625-3650 (office), 267-357-1334 (cell) and visit the property's website, 1351WarwickFurnance.com.



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Due Syrah, Shiraz

Kayleigh Thompson

OLD WORLD AND NEW WORLD CHOICES FROM AROUND THE WORLD



SYRAH IS MY FAVORITE GRAPE AND ONE that I want to share. The best way to do that is to take you on a quick journey around the world exploring the many different ways the grape is used in wine. We'll focus on France and Australia, the biggest producers and best examples of Old World and New World versions of the wine.

SOME BACKGROUND

Due to climate, soil, natural influences, viticulture practices and winemaking style, syrah, like many other grapes, can produce notably different wines when grown in different countries or regions—another reason for our world tour.

Yet, there are important similarities among syrah grapes and wines despite the conditions for production. For example, one grape-growing nugget is “Syrah likes a view.” That’s because syrah grapes grow best planted at the top of hills where there’s less soil, yielding fewer grapes but with more concentrated flavor.

Deeper in color than most other grapes, syrah has small, thick-skinned, dark, almost black berries. In fact, when held up to the light, it’s hard to see through the wine. Syrah is also notable for high antioxidant levels, dark fruit flavors, medium+ tannins and a front-loaded blast of flavor that tapers off to a spicy, peppery finish. With bottle aging, notes of leather and truffle develop. Most syrah can age for five to ten years, though some well-made examples will easily age for two decades.

Syrah grapes are made into many different types of wine in addition to its namesake, including blends, rosés, fortified wines and sparkling wines.

OLD WORLD OVERVIEW

In general, Old World syrah from France, Spain and Italy has higher acidity and tannin levels (producing a mouth-drying feel) and more earthy, herbaceous, smoky and savory notes. These wines tend to be lower in alcohol and more elegant in style.

I would pair these styles with roasted or braised chicken, veal and beef, stews and cassoulet. Try using roasted peppers or herbs de Provence with your dishes. Hummus, olive tapenade and harder, earthier cheeses, such as Gouda and smoked Gruyère, work well with the flavors in the wine.

In Italy, you can find single-varietal examples of syrah with berry and olive notes from Cortona DOC and Syrah Tarantino IGT (DOC and IGT are regional designations with quality standards) as well as blends with sangiovese



and cabernet sauvignon from Tuscany and with Nero d’Avola from Sicily. In Spain, syrah is often blended with tempranillo, garnacha or monastrell into juicy wines.

But the real Old World star of syrah is France, where over half the syrah grapes are grown.

SYRAHS FROM FRANCE

Syrah is grown throughout the Rhône valley in southeast France, where it has grown since at least Roman times. In the southern Rhône valley, syrah is a key ingredient in two different regional blends with grenache, syrah and mourvèdre, the inexpensive and easy-drinking Côtes-du-Rhône wines, and the powerful and prestigious Châteauneuf-du-Pape wines. The crus of Lirac, Vinsobres, Rasteau, Gigondas and Vacqueyras produce excellent blended wines from syrah that are fun to explore, too.

In the northern part of the Rhône valley, syrah is grown on steep terraces along the Rhône River and is used to make serious, single-varietal wines that are the ultimate Old World expression of the grape. Good examples can easily age for as long as a Bordeaux. The wines made there vary greatly due to differences in soil type, quality, slope, climate, sunlight and elevation, but all are elegant and very complex with sun-ripened black fruit flavors and distinctive olive and black pepper notes.

Wines from Côte-Rôtie, the “roasted slope” in the far north of the Rhône valley, are richly fruity and perfumed due to the intense sun the grapes receive on the steep, southeast-facing vineyards. An even more perfumed character can result from adding up to 5% viognier in the blend.

Farther south, in Saint-Joseph, the vineyards are east-oriented, resulting in less sunshine and ripening of the grapes. These wines are lighter and faster maturing.

In Hermitage the slopes are south-facing, and the heat-retaining granite soils help encourage ripening. The source of some of the highest priced syrahs, Hermitage wines are very dark and tannic with structure, minerality and superb concentration of flavors, including blackberry bramble and smoked meat.

Crozes-Hermitage, encompassing the vineyards surrounding Hermitage, is the largest appellation in northern Rhône, producing wines that are softer than those from Hermitage, due to richer soils, and have lots of spice. Nearby Cornas has south-facing vineyards on granite soils and produces elegant, near-black, tannic wines that challenge Hermitage in intensity.

NEW WORLD WINES

In contrast, New World syrah from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, South America and South Africa tends to be characterized by jammier fruit and more spice, licorice, chocolate and black pepper notes. These wines are usually higher in alcohol, more fruit-forward, and less tannic.

I pair these styles with smoked sausage, barbecue ribs, grilled steaks, hamburgers or game meats. Marinate meats with anise and clove to bring out those spices, or add caramelized onions to accent the bold, sweet notes in the wine. Softer, stinkier cheeses—such as Abbaye de Belloc, Port Salut and blue cheeses—combat tannins and match the bold flavors of the wine.

SYRAH BECOMES SHIRAZ

Syrah is Australia’s most planted grape variety, and Australia is the second largest producer behind France. Here the bottles are labeled shiraz (think pinot gris and pinot grigio), further delineating the difference in style.

These New World wines are rich and potent with distinct dark chocolate notes in addition to black pepper, spice and eucalyptus. The majority of shiraz production is in the state of South Australia, which produces most of the country’s wine and has some of its oldest vines, untouched by the phylloxera outbreak that affected vineyards in most of the world. The hot and dry climate produces fully ripe grapes and dense, bold wines.

The Barossa Valley is considered king for excellent Australian shiraz, though McLaren Vale produces fantastic, powerful examples as well. In the cooler regions, such as Hunter Valley and Margaret River, shiraz is made into medium-body, earthy and still age-worthy wines that lean more towards black pepper.

Shiraz is also frequently blended in a Côtes-du-Rhône style with grenache and mourvèdre—for what are known colloquially as GSM blends of the three grapes—or with cabernet sauvignon. Recently, some producers,



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following in the footsteps of their Côte-Rôtie counterparts, have been adding up to 4% viognier to their shiraz wines to add apricot notes and a brighter, more floral finish.

OTHER SOURCES

In addition to the two major sources, New Zealand produces wonderfully concentrated single-varietal and Bordeaux-style blends with rich fruit that balances the tannins. In the United States, in warm regions like Napa, the grape is often blended with cabernet sauvignon, merlot or Rhône varieties, while in mountainous or cooler regions, like Washington, powerful varietal wines are produced.

South American syrah is very bold and fruity with riper black cherry and blueberry fruit and is sometimes blended with cabernet sauvignon or petit verdot. In South Africa, where the wine is also generally known as shiraz, the grape produces smooth, ripe, fruity wines with spicy flavors and oaky notes of vanilla and cinnamon.

Syrah is also grown in Switzerland, Portugal, Morocco, Bulgaria and Turkey, although wines from these countries are harder to find in stores. But do keep an eye out for these unique wines!


With your newfound knowledge of syrah styles, impress your friends by hosting a syrah tasting! Find examples from as many regions as you can, contrasting Old World and New World wines. See how many differences you can discern, and find a favorite.

I hope you fall in love with this bold, fun and versatile grape, too! ♦

Kayleigh Thompson has worked in the wine industry for over seven years and has earned the Certified Specialist of Wine certification from the Society of Wine Educators. She works as a Wine Specialist at the Fine Wine & Good Spirits Premium Collection store in King of Prussia, on DeKalb Pike. More at FineWineAndGoodSpirits.com.




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Food News

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

Very Vera. You may have found Joe D'Andrea's homemade, artisan pasta at local farmers markets and tasted it in area restaurants even before it became a *Best of Philly* hit. Now, after six years in the business, **Vera Pasta** has its very own retail storefront in West Chester! Shop for over 20 different types of organic, ancient grain and non-GMO pasta, plus seasonal specials and homemade sauce, all with ingredients sourced as naturally and locally as possible. 319 Westtown Rd., Suite K, West Chester. VeraPasta.com.



No-Cal Binge. Looking for a new **Netflix** series worth sinking your teeth into? Foodies have many options—from the Emmy-nominated Netflix original *Chef's Table* for ultimate food porn to Anthony Bourdain's *The Mind of a Chef*, combining cooking with science, travel and history through the stories of select chefs. Don't want to commit to a series? There are still plenty of flavorful films like *Jiro Dreams of Sushi* or *Somm* for sushi or wine lovers. More picks at TastingTable.com.

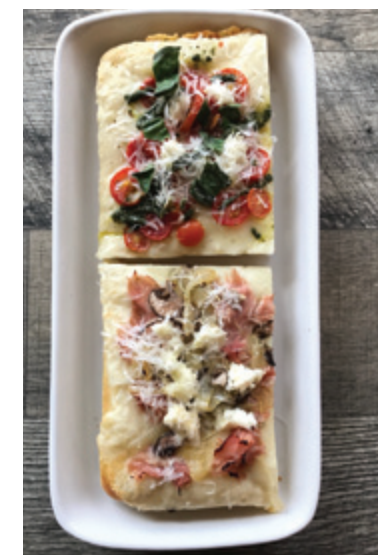


Oodles of Zoodles. Noodles don't need to be of the wheat variety to satisfy. In fact, **zoodles**—a.k.a. **zucchini noodles**—are more popular than ever. Gluten-free and color-full, this healthy pasta alternative can be enjoyed in many different ways, from salad toppings to shoestring fries or all on their own. Just pick up a spiralizer and go crazy! And don't be afraid to get creative with other fruits and veggies like carrots, sweet potatoes, squash, apples and pears. More ideas at FoodNetwork.com.

Root Down on Main. What? Another brewery in Phoenixville? Yep. Just when you thought four was enough, **Root Down Brewery** opened its doors this summer, carving out its space as brewery #5. Located in an old root beer factory (no surprise) with endless walls of eye-catching graffiti, the massive space has plenty of seating for a crowd and a casual, fun atmosphere. Enjoy freshly smoked BBQ from the kitchen and a selection of expertly crafted brews. 1 N. Main St., Phoenixville. RootDownBrewing.com.



Elevation of Pizza. West Chester continues to raise the pizza bar with its newest addition, **Rize Pizza**, also in Broomall. What makes them stand out? Their Roman style, fluffy, square crust for one—which takes 2 to 3 hours to “rise”—plus sesame seeds on the bottom and lots of unique flavors. Try fan favorites like the Venus, Monte Carlo or Southern Bell with fried chicken. Watch for an expanded menu exclusive to West Chester, including pastas, appetizers and desserts. And it's BYOB. 124 E. Market St., Building A, West Chester. RizePizza.com.



Antique Cars, a Quiz, Teamwork and Chester County



Edwin Malet

ROAD RALLIES AND A GRAND PRIX RACE

TOOLING DOWN A WINDING COUNTRY ROAD, hair and scarf dancing in the wind, goggles pressing the driver's face. The sunlight sparkles off the freshly waxed cowl and polished hubs. The low growl of the motor is the soundtrack.

On the curb, spectators rubberneck, admiring the sleek machine. Then watch as the car disappears and the hum of the motor dims.

CHESTER COUNTY ROAD RALLY

On September 9, the autos of the Chester County Road Rally (CCRR) start their engines. About 70 miles and 4 hours later (averaging under 20 m.p.h.), they'll shut them down.

A road rally is not a race. It usually lasts several hours, but some last several days. The drivers strive for an optimum, not the fastest, time. Frequently, the driver (and team) must answer questions about

the route: How many Maui Jim Sunglasses in a particular store? Who was born at a designated site, according to the road sign?

CCRR rallymeister Bill O'Connell says the rules are strict: "Spelling and correct answers are graded. It's not horseshoes, so close doesn't count."

The CCRR is part of the Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance, one of the top events in the world of vintage automobiles. The Concours is very exclusive: only 100 cars are accepted each year. Last year, "Best of Show" was won by a 1931 Marmon convertible sedan. "Best of Show Sport" was won by a 1958 Ferrari Berlinetta.

Driving the CCRR, however, is not a requirement of Concours entries. Only about a dozen enter this road rally. For the non-Concours CCRR entrants, there's a fee, entry is limited and it's often sold out.

Vintage cars—and driving teams—must be prepared for the roads. For example, Pascal Maeter will show a 1955 Austin-Healey at the Concours, and he'll drive it there believing it's meant "to be used, not just shown."

But for the CCRR, Maeter will drive a 1962 fuel-injected Corvette. And his daughter will navigate, "unless she chickens out again as she did last year," he says.

Tom Lee is a judge at the Concours, where he'll show his red 1930 Cord L29 Cabriolet, a beauty that five years ago won the DuPont Helmsey award for style. "Cleaning, polishing, waxing ... it takes a while to get cleaned and shiny." Of the CCRR, though, he says, "The best part about these cars is taking them out, driving them and sharing them with others. It is much more engaging than seeing a car in a museum." RadnorConcours.org

RALLY 'ROUND THE RACES

Sunday morning, October 8, will mark the 11th year of the Brandywine Conservancy's Rally 'Round the Races. In early autumn, expect the trees to begin showing their color along the drive.

This rally takes about two hours and explores the Brandywine Creek Greenway and surrounding countryside. Here there's less emphasis on antique cars than in the CCRR, though the rally still gets several.

Most ralliers at this popular event where children are welcome use their family car and bring friends and family members. Given its sponsorship by the Brandywine Conservancy, the rally's questions about the route have a clear environmental theme. At the end, the teams dine at a secret luncheon destination.

Everyone who starts, finishes. And rarely is there a breakdown. Since the directions are in "code," some do get lost, but they usually find their way back on track. Just in case, a "Lost Ralliers" envelope is included. If it's opened, though, eligibility for prizes is lost.

Last year prizes included a Brandywine Conservancy membership, Museum Shop items, and tickets to the Young Friends of the Brandywine's popular Halloween party. In years when it rains,



Stroud Water Road Rally with John and Vickie Manning in a 1965 Morgan Plus 4

expect a joke prize, such as a bucket of car cleaning products.

Amy McKenna, a real estate agent at County Properties, is a veteran of a long roster of rallies in *County Lines* country and elsewhere. She'll be driving her 1958 220S Cabriolet Convertible or 1967 Mercedes SL.

McKenna used to work on the cars with her father over 40 years ago. Now she considers them "part of the family [to be handed] down to the next generation, whenever that comes." Always, she takes her girlfriends "as they are more adventurous and it allows us to spend time together." Brandywine.org

STROUD WATER ROAD RALLY

You'll have to wait until next June for the 2nd Stroud Water Road Rally and to see if it follows the same plan as its premier: an 80-mile course through the countryside of Chester County, ending on the grounds of Runnymede Sanctuary. There was an environmental theme, with, of course, a big emphasis on water and watershed facts.

Eric Degenfelder, of Axalta, one of this past year's sponsors, drove a 2012 Jaguar XF, for which he was careful to "make sure that the paint ... was shining brilliantly and ready to show off." Commenting on the other cars, he observed "the rally included



Tom Lee's 1930 Cord L29 Cabriolet at the Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance



Chester County Rally in a Triumph TR3A



Skip Chalfant's Porsche 356 Speedster at the Coatesville International Vintage Grand Prix

some spectacular vehicles" including several Porsches and a Morgan.

Driving his 1974 Triumph TR6, Joe Mackin, in contrast, said he did little to get the car ready for the rally: "Besides cleaning it, I'm embarrassed to say I did nothing more than have my very knowledgeable mechanic confirm it wouldn't leave me stranded somewhere, and thankfully it didn't!"

But he did put more thought into his navigator, George Metzler of Rittenhouse Builders, who kept him "on the straight and narrow." Contemplating the beautiful

scenery, he confided, "I love seeing our beautiful County from another perspective. I also enjoy seeing the other cars in attendance, all of which were nicer than my car!" *Stroud-Center.org*.

I love seeing the countryside, too.

Even more, I love seeing a vintage auto cruising the countryside, enjoying the cooling weather.

And even more, I love *seeing, feeling and experiencing* the countryside from a vintage auto, preferably a convertible.

So, does anyone need a navigator? ♦

2nd Coatesville International Vintage Grand Prix (CVGP)

The Coatesville event is not a road rally. But it does involve driving classic cars.

The CVGP takes place September 23 on a 2.2-mile closed course around and through Coatesville—closed to all but about 60 vintage cars and motorcycles.

Denis Branca, event chair, points to a distinguished lineup of owners and drivers. Dick Vermeil, former Eagles coach, and his 1927 Miller Schofield Sprint car, will enter. Also scheduled for this year, talented local drivers Dave George with his 1936 Bear Special Indy Champ, Len Rusiewicz with a 1969 Ferrari, and Roger Radbill's 1923 Mercer Raceabout as the oldest car there.

For his part, Tom Lee, also of the Chester County Road Rally, will enter his 1938 K8 Sprint Car—the Riley Special #5. It's a Ford Model B, 4-cylinder that's won several big New England races in its time. Estimated top speed: about 60 m.p.h. on the back straightaway at the CVGP; probably 100 m.p.h. on a longer straight.

Lee says the streets of Coatesville are "exciting but a bit challenging. ... You're driving right down the town roads. There are people along the sidewalk. ... There are hay bales to slow you down, but you're right next to the crowd."

In preparation, Lee follows the Vintage Sports Car Club of America guidelines. "You go over every aspect of the car—every nut, bolt, springs, suspension, safety equipment—verify that there are no fluid leaks, and that all of the body panels are secure. There are about 75 different things that I check before each event."

Coatesville-GrandPrix.com

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Flippin' Just Down the Street

We talked to Rachel Street of the HGTV pilot, "Philly Street Flippin'."

FLIP OR FLOP, FLIP THE HOUSE, FLIPPING OUT, Flipping Vegas, Flip or Flop Atlanta, Flipping Boston. It was only a matter of time before our area joined the flippin' frenzy as the setting for a television show dedicated to the dream of flipping houses for fun and profit.

In late July, HGTV previewed "Philly Street Flippin'" featuring Chester County local, Rachel Street, who did just that and starred in the TV pilot about it.

We talked to her about how she got to be in a show named after herself and featuring her passion.

FIRST QUESTION, OF COURSE, IS HOW DID YOU GET THIS GREAT TV GIG?

The producers found me on social media—I'd been posting about my projects—and then came to Philly for a meeting. They filmed a short video, following me working as a realtor and contractor. After a few months, we were lucky enough to do the pilot for "Philly Street Flippin'."

BEFORE WORKING IN PHILLY, YOU LIVED IN CHESTER COUNTY. WHAT'S YOUR CONNECTION TO OUR AREA?

Well, Chester County is where I was born, raised and went to school—at Westtown School.

Just after I was born, my parents bought a dilapidated, old farmhouse in Chester County, which is also where my father grew up. They restored the original house, expanding it, sourcing historically accurate materials from local shops and antique dealers, and researching other historic homes.*

Later they added a big vegetable garden and barn, along with horses, chickens, dogs, cats and rabbits. On weekends we got up early to take care of the crops and animals, helped out around the farm, put up fences, drove tractors. Living in the country meant we built hay forts, rode bareback through the hills of East Nantmeal and with the Pickering Pony Club, and played in swimming holes in French Creek.

*Editor's Note: Rachel's home is featured in "Home of the Month" in this issue.



My dad and I rode dirt bikes together, made furniture and built forts. Before dinner, my sister and I cut fresh asparagus while my mom made pies from the strawberries we picked.

There's nothing like farm life to teach kids about hard, physical work! For girls, it's really important to feel confident and strong in their own skin. I loved it!

CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND—LEAVING THE

FARM AND BECOMING A REALTOR, GENERAL CONTRACTOR AND DESIGNER? HOW DID THAT EVOLVE?

It's a round-about path, starting in a very different place—literally and figuratively.

I loved music and studied opera in college, then moved to Italy to work as an opera singer. But it was hard to make a living in music, so I moved back to the States.

When I returned to Chester County and worked with my father—a commer-

cial mortgage broker—I got my real estate license and studied to be an appraiser. That's when I started buying houses on the side to rent them out—mostly houses that needed work, since I couldn't afford renovated properties.

Growing up on the farm and having been a tomboy, I was used to working with my hands and with different tools, so I did most of the work myself or with friends. And because I loved design, I'd experiment with different ideas in my projects. People got really excited seeing something that wasn't a plain white box!

Meanwhile, my father fell ill and into a coma. My life changed overnight. Suddenly I was responsible for the family business. When he passed away on Christmas Eve, I'd lost my father and my career. The short version is that I grew from someone nervous about answering the phone to negotiating deals, and eventually closing out his business.

The silver lining was that I sold the property I'd worked on and made a good profit. My new business idea was born!

I was ready for a change, so I began working with Space & Company in Center City, a boutique woman-owned real estate firm. A few months later, I opened my own construction company, Hestia Construction, LLC.

Now I work as a realtor and contractor, choosing a few interesting properties to renovate and sell.

WHAT'S YOUR APPROACH FOR A RENOVATION PROJECT?

My business is more about quality than quantity. I try to offer something different from what's on the market by doing design-driven renovations that preserve some history of the homes.

Growing up in a historic home with parents passionate about design and quality, I came to love homes with a story. So I preserve the interesting original details and mix them with modern elements to create unique spaces for people to enjoy.

The project in the TV pilot, on Tasker Street, is in my own neighborhood. I met the family who lived there for many years, and wanted to do a quality reno-

vation that would honor their history and make the new owners (who'd be my neighbors!) happy.

So I restored the old door, made here in South Philadelphia, and kept the original façade. The original floor plan didn't work for a modern home—too many small rooms—so we opened it up and exposed the brick to bring in some Philly row-home character.

Each home I work on is a labor of love, so I try to come up with new designs, thinking how each room can be used, and adding fun features for the new owners—like unusual design elements and hiding spots. In fact, at closing on one of my properties I told the owners where the secret hiding spot was in their new home!

ON THE PILOT EPISODE, WE SAW A UNIQUE WAY YOU KEEP YOURSELF OCCUPIED WHILE YOU WORK. CARE TO SHARE?

Yes, I sing while I work. With my opera background—my first career—and performing all over Italy and Spain for three years, singing is still part of me. Now I mostly sing for the people who work with me, whether they enjoy it or not! Mostly they just make fun of me, as you saw on the show.

WHAT'S YOUR BEST ADVICE FOR ARMCHAIR FLIPPERS?

My advice is just get started! The sooner you get into real estate, the better! Philadelphia is one of the cheapest big cities, so there's still room to grow. Plus there's so much information online and lots of classes about using tools or learning about real estate.

The biggest challenge is finding the courage to start. From there it's all about building your team. You don't need to be an expert in everything, but you do need to know where to turn for help.

WHAT'S NEXT FOR YOU?

Of course I'm hoping the show becomes a series, so we can bring you more episodes of "Philly Street Flippin'." Otherwise, I'm busy finding and renovating properties—looking for new challenges and interesting projects.

And I also started a team—The Street Group—at my real estate company. That keeps me busy training my realtors in both construction and real estate, to offer a well-informed approach to our clients. We help people buying, selling and investing in Philadelphia and the western suburbs—from the hills of East Nantmeal to the Main Line!

Here's hoping we get to see more of Rachel and "Philly Street Flippin'!" ♦

Contact Rachel Street at The Street Group at Space & Company, 215-625-3650; SpaceAndCompany.com.



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Index to Advertisers

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AK Interiors	68	Daylesford Crossing Senior Living.....	36
Appetites on Main.....	80	Delaware Art Museum.....	22
Artisan's Porchwalk in Lititz	34	The Devon Senior Living.....	30
Arts Festival in Reading	34	Dilworth's Custom Design, Inc.....	85
B & D Builders.....	33	Dooley Pyne Landscape Co., Inc.....	59
Ball & Ball.....	79	Dressage at Devon.....	25
Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach / M. Chorin.....	27	E. C. Trethewey Building Contractors, Inc.....	39
Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach / Country Properties	8	Eleanor Russell Ltd.....	68
Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach / S. Fitzgerald	89	Exton Senior Living	35
Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach / Holly Gross Group	7	Fine Wine & Good Spirits	86
Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach / M. Schwartz, J. Durham	12	Flowing Springs Landscape Design	38
Best Kept Secrets Tour, Chester County	34	Gateway Medical Associates.....	15
Binkley Horticultural Services, Inc.....	4	Giuseppe Kitchens & Baths.....	85
Black Powder Tavern.....	80	Glen Mills Senior Living	31
Brandywine Fine Prop./Sotheby's / K. Nader	11	Griffiths Construction, Inc.....	59
Chester County Hearth & Home.....	75	Heritage Design Interiors, Inc	78
Chester County Day House Tour	6	Hestia Construction, LLC.....	68
Chester County Library System	79	The Hickman.....	19
Christiana Cabinetry	5	Home + Studio.....	44
Color & Style	44	Jane E. Dorchester, Architectural Historian	85
Consign-It Furniture	44	Key Financial, Inc.....	3
Creative Nook Kitchen, Bath, Additions.....	2	Kimberton Waldorf School Fair	62
		King Construction	18
		Kyffin Grove	36
		The Laurels Pet Cemetery	88
		Latta Kennedy Builders.....	22
		Main Line Antiques Show.....	34
		Main Street Cabinet Co.	75
		Malvern Harvest Oktoberfest.....	42
		Martin Appliance	10
		Matlack Florist.....	68
		The Merchant of Menace	45
		Merry Maids Cleaning.....	86
		MidAtlantic Horse Rescue	32
		John Milner Architects, Inc.	20
		Moore's Furniture	13
		Mostardi Nursery.....	84
		Nittany Valley Offset.....	90
		Period Architecture, Ltd.....	39
		Plantation Field International Horse Trials	33
		Plush Mills Senior Living.....	36
		Precise Buildings LLC	63
		ReMax Preferred / M.M. Teetor.....	28
		Rudloff Custom Builders	20
		Salvaged Furniture Company	9
		Shutter Tech, Inc.	26
		Space & Company	68
		Spring Mill Senior Living.....	86
		The Street Group.....	68
		Sugarbridge Kitchens & Baths	back cover
		Sylvan Stoltzfus Builders LLC.....	42
		Thousand Acre Farm	63
		Toninos Pizza & Pasta Co.....	80
		Walter J. Cook Jeweler	16
		Waterbury Kitchen & Bath	91
		Welcome Neighbor	90
		Westtown School.....	78
		The Whip Tavern.....	58
		White Horse Construction, Inc.	29

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