

# COUNTY LINES

MAGAZINE

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Kitchen Renovation  
Historical 1800's Chester County Home  
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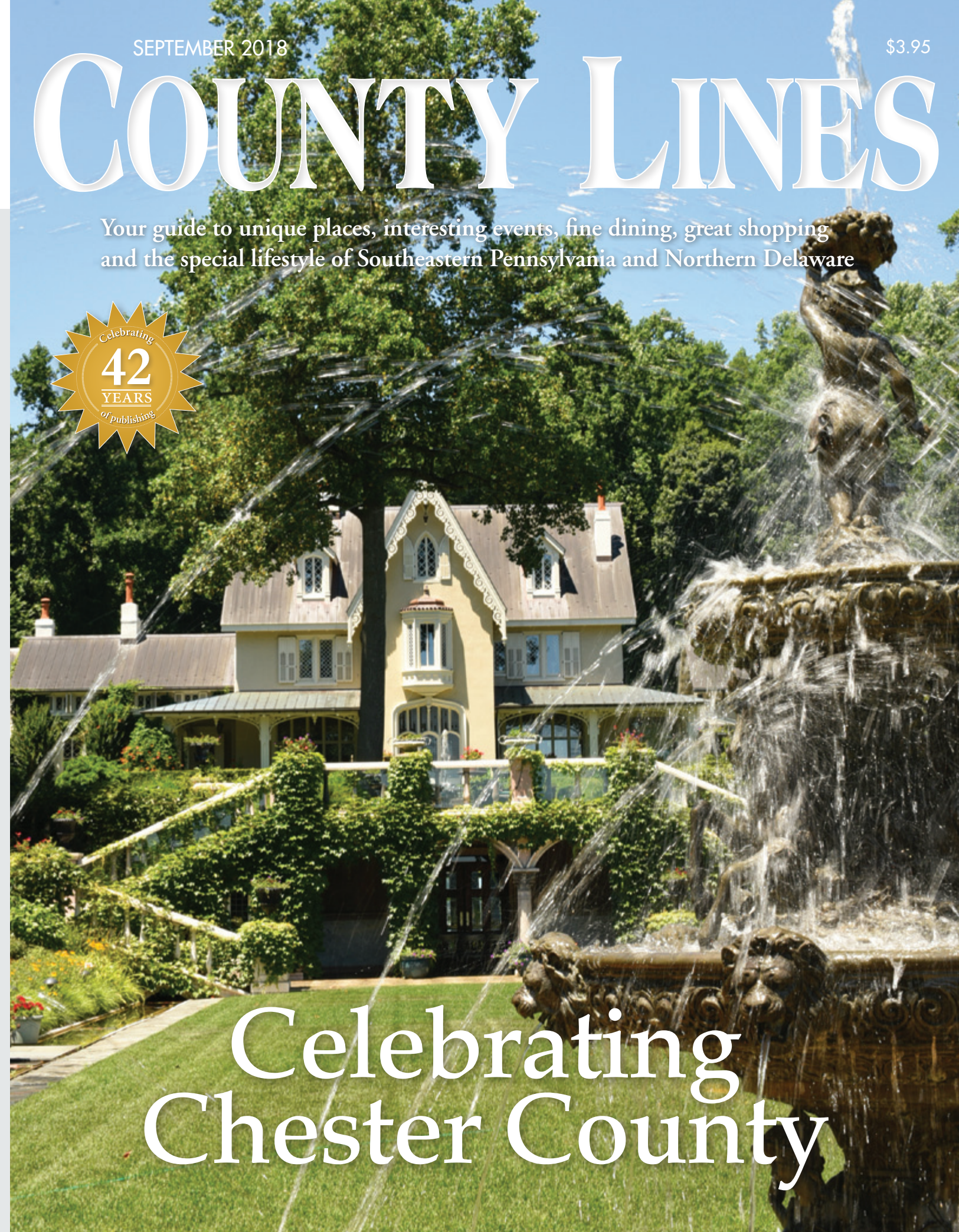
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# COUNTY LINES

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and the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware



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**Chester Springs**  
6 BR, 5.1 BA | 22.8 Acres  
Pool | Tennis Court | Pond  
Stream | Close to Ludwigs Corner  
\$2,499,000

**Unionville**  
6 BR, 4.1 BA | 74 Acres | Updated  
Private Pool | Amazing Barn  
Excellent Equestrian Facility  
\$1,799,000

**Unionville**  
6 BR, 3.1 BA | 35 Acres  
Indoor Arena Possible | Pond  
24 Stall Barn | Unionville Schools  
\$1,748,000

**Chester Springs**  
4 BR, 2.1 BA | 39.6 Acres  
Gorgeous Landscaping | Ponds  
Serene & Private | Preserved Views  
\$1,488,000

**Chester Springs**  
5 residences | Perfect Family Compound  
Historic Mill | Scenic Waterfall  
Large Stone Barn  
\$1,250,000

**Chester Springs**  
4 BR, 4.1 BA | 20.1 Acres  
In-Law Suite | 3 Car Garage  
Gourmet Kitchen | Stunning Property  
\$1,249,000

**Unionville Area**  
5 BR, 5.2 BA | 31.6 Acres  
Private | Separate Apt | Barn  
Riding Ring | Cheshire Hunt  
\$1,249,000

**West Chester**  
6 BR, 3.0 BA | 0.23 Acres | 2 Fireplaces  
3-Car Garage | Open Floor Plan  
Original Details | Finished Lower Level  
\$1,150,000

**Unionville Schools**  
4 BR, 3.1 BA | 12.8 Acres  
2 BR Cottage | Fabulous Views  
6 Stall Stable | Unionville Schools  
\$1,050,000

**West Chester**  
4 BR, 3.0 BA | 5.1 Acres  
Stunning Home | Pool | 3 Car Garage  
Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools  
\$995,800

**Downingtown Schools**  
4 BR, 5 BA | Barn Conversion  
Volumes of Space | Gourmet Kitchen  
Fabulous Master Suite | Barn & Pastures  
\$950,000

**West Chester**  
5 BR, 5.1 BA | On Cul-de-Sac  
Each Bedroom has own Full Bath  
Finished Lower Level | Unionville Schools  
\$925,000

**Pocopson**  
4 BR, 2.1 BA | 0.93 Acres | 2x Garage  
Natural Gas System | Great Spaces  
Unionville Schools | Commuter-friendly  
\$639,000

**Chester Springs**  
4 BR, 2.1 BA | 0.28 Acres | 2x Garage  
Great Floorplan | Backs to Open Space  
Commuter Convenient  
\$555,000

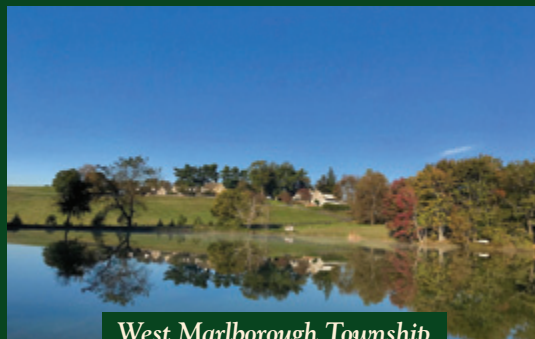
**Cochranville**  
4 BR, 4.1 BA | 1.90 Acres  
Open Floor Plan | Custom Kitchen  
Finished Lower Lvl | Stunning Living Rm  
\$495,000

**Villages at Hillview**  
3 BR, 3.0 BA | 0.46 Acres | Open Floorplan  
Finished Lower Level | Chef's Kitchen  
Magnificent Woodwork  
\$450,000



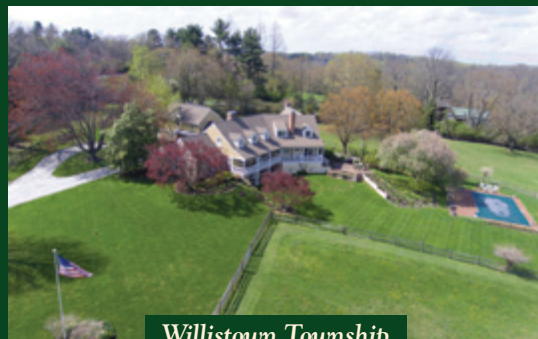


Classic Chester County stone home (c. 1738). Kitchen designed by local craftsman. 5 BRs including master bedroom w/built-ins, bath suite & sitting area. 6 stall barn, tack & feed room, attached 2 bedroom apartment and 2 car garage. Tennis court area. 45 +/- acres in Cheshire Hunt country side. Convenient to major arteries  
Price Upon Request



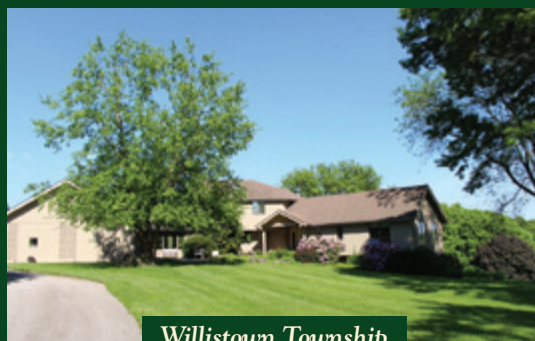
#### West Marlborough Township

"Whitehackle" Superb views with classic 1925 fieldstone manor. Large stone barn, 2 apts., pool, 2 ponds & outbuildings on 67+ acres in the heart of conserved Cheshire Hunt country.  
Price Upon Request



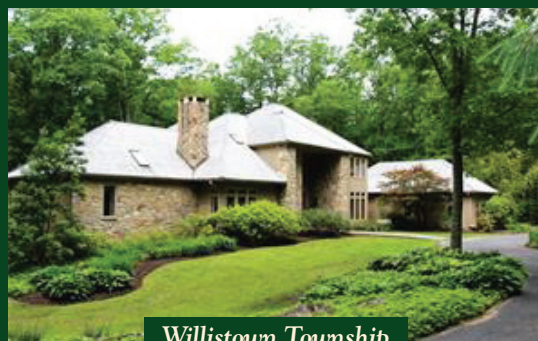
#### Willistown Township

Highly desirable Radnor Hunt 4.8 acre farmette w/long tree lined driveway, beautiful private pool w/amazing views and in law/guest apartment. 3 stall barn w/tack room & fenced pastures.  
Price Upon Request



#### Willistown Township

Flag lot. Hill top 4 acres. Privacy. Light & airy contemporary 5BR. Bonus rooms in the walkout south facing basement. Updated kitchen. Pool. Great landscaping. Fabulous location!  
Price Upon Request



#### Willistown Township

Fantastic Ann Capron design contemporary w/4BRs, clean lines & open floor plan. 4 stall barn w/pasture, sounds of tranquility f/Crum Creek & protected farms nearby.  
\$1,449,000



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New Price

BRAE COURT | LINCOLN UNIVERSITY | 7.51 ACRES

Stunning custom home overlooking a pond and open space featuring a gourmet kitchen open to family room with floor to ceiling stone fireplace.



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from the  
**EDITOR**

Our September issue again celebrates Chester County with homes, horses and fun.

For the 78th time, Chester County Day, a major fundraiser for Chester County Hospital, opens doors to fascinating places in our area—16 homes and 6 public landmarks in the northeast quadrant of the county. Matt Freeman gives us a preview of five homes on the tour.

Another stunning home is the focus of Laurel Anderson's Home of the Month feature. Crum Creek Farm is set on over 45 acres in Radnor Hunt Country with movie-set-worthy interiors. We add some design ideas in our Home Décor photo spread.

Stoneleigh—A Natural Garden in Villanova is the site of yet another magnificent home, this time a Tudor Revival mansion surrounded by 40-some acres of gardens. Now under the stewardship of Natural Lands, the property displays native plants used in new ways. Learn what's behind the "Save Stoneleigh" signs in Kirsten Werner's "Behind the Garden Gates."

Ken Leister makes a different kind of house—for bluebirds. In Blake Goll's "The Bluebird Keeper" learn what Ken's custom-built bluebird boxes have accomplished.

Our fall equestrian coverage starts by examining bling in the tradition-bound dressage ring in Ginny Simon's "Dressing for Dressage." In "An Equestrian End to the Season," Cole Pokropowicz and Erin Ahlefeld preview Ludwig's Corner Horse Show and the Plantation Field International Horse Trials. Plenty of horses mixed with family fun!

In "Fall for a Satisfying Story," Mike Walls of Wellington Square Bookshop recommends five biographies and auto-biographies—from Alexander Hamilton to Malala Yousafzai. Enjoy a good book with a great glass of wine recommended by our new wine writer, Fred Naddeo, in "Choosing Wines by the Numbers." And you can update your look this season with ideas in our "Fall Style" feature.

For more fun, check our monthly Picks of top things to do and our Best Local Events section, complete with a full page of Family Fun ideas for September.

Thank you for reading!

*Jo Anne Durako*  
Editor



## COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

**September 2018**

Volume XLII, Number 1

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To find *County Lines*, check our website's "Get A Copy" page, pick one up at Wellington Square Bookshop, West Chester Book Outlet and other newsstands, buy one at Wegmans, or visit advertisers listed in the Index.



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Cover photo by Matt Freeman of Soledad's Mansion, a home on the Chester County Day Tour





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

**Hop in the Saddle.** Here at *County Lines* we love all things equestrian. If you do, too, give horseback riding a try at beautiful **Sunset Valley Farms**. Located in the rolling hills outside West



Chester, it's the place to learn everything from horse safety and care to trotting through an obstacle course. The horses are trained to accommodate any new rider. Strap on your helmet and boots, it's time to saddle up! Classes, \$172. 880 Valley Creek Rd., West Chester. [SunsetValleyFarms.com](http://SunsetValleyFarms.com).

**Local Spotlights.** Walking around downtown West Chester and wondering where to eat that night? We've all wanted to try the latest specials or go to the hottest events in town—that's why the new app **Localized** is mapping out local businesses so users can view what's happening around them in real time. Check out updates on everything from breweries to yoga studios. Never miss out on anything happening around you by downloading the locally developed app at [Localized-App.com](http://Localized-App.com).



**Home History.** Did you know **Chester County** was one of the first three counties in the Pennsylvania Colony—along with Philadelphia and Bucks Counties—with roots dating back to William Penn's land grant in 1682? The name "Chester" comes from Chester, England, named for the Roman word *castra* meaning fort. And what a fort indeed, as Chester County was home to several significant battles during the Revolutionary War, including the Battle of Brandywine, The Battle of the Clouds and the Paoli Massacre. [ChesCo.org/History](http://ChesCo.org/History).

**International Intellect.** A group of Chester County high school students showed their physics skills in the big leagues when they represented the U.S. in the 31st annual **International Young Physicists' Tournament** in Beijing in July. By demonstrating their problem-solving prowess, participating students find solutions to challenging physics problems. The competition heats up when students cross examine other teams about potential flaws in their analysis. Challenging but worthy of our local representatives! [IYPT.org](http://IYPT.org).



**Constellation Celebration.** Want to get a better glimpse of our local night sky? Visit Marsh Creek State Park on September 15 for a **Star Party**, an enchanting evening of stargazing. Bring some friends to view planets, star clusters and galaxies through telescopes and live-view star cameras. It's an all-ages event with plenty of fun activities. Get there early to watch a sunset you won't soon forget. Check for date changes or rain at [ChesmontAstro.org](http://ChesmontAstro.org).





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## [September Picks] Our Picks for top events this month

### 22nd Annual Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance



September 7-9

This year's event features the Rolls-Royce and Bentley, European Style/American Power, and Fastbacks. *Sept. 7*, Welcome Barbecue, 6:30 p.m., \$55. *Sept. 8*, Chester County Road Rally, 8 a.m., includes lunch, noon, \$185, plus complimentary Cars and Coffee, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., and a Black Tie Gala, live auction and art show preview, 6 p.m., \$185. *Sept. 9*, Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance, 9 a.m., \$50 adult, \$25 for ages 12 to 18. Benefits Thorncroft Equestrian Center. 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. [RadnorConcours.org](http://RadnorConcours.org).

### Tredyffrin Historic Preservation Trust's 14th Annual Historic House Tour September 16 & 29



The tour celebrates the history, architecture and design of local historic homes, each with its own personality and story about its past. The 2018 tour will feature an interesting selection of privately owned historic homes in Tredyffrin and Easttown Townships. Things kick off on Sept.

16 with a pre-tour cocktail party, "Jazz It Up," at DuPortail House in Chesterbrook, \$30. The house tour on Sept. 29 is from noon to 5 p.m., \$35. For tickets, [TredyffrinHistory.org](http://TredyffrinHistory.org).

### 5th Annual Historic Odessa Brewfest September 8



On tap for the signature fundraising craft beer festival will be more than 50 local, regional and national craft breweries, plus live music, local gourmet food, Colonial reenactors, beer brewers and artisan vendors. Benefits the preservation, conservation and education efforts of the Historic Odessa Foundation. 202 Main St., Odessa, DE. VIP Tasting, noon to 2 p.m., \$70; general admission, noon to 6 p.m., \$55. 302-378-4119; [OdessaBrewfest.com](http://OdessaBrewfest.com).

### Brandywine River Museum of Art Palette to Palate

September 29



Help celebrate a new partnership between the Brandywine Conservancy and LandArt Events to bring awareness through art of our region's incredible natural resources and sustainable agriculture. Palette to Palate will feature over 300 original works of art

by more than 50 artists, as well as small plates created by local chefs inspired by ingredients from area farms and farmers markets. *Miller Farm*, 110 Buck Rd., Downingtown. 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$100. 610-388-2700; [Brandywine.org](http://Brandywine.org).

### People's Light—Such Things as Vampires September 20–October 31

A band of folk-punk musicians arrives in town with a mysterious mission: tell the real story of Mina and Lucy, two women at the heart of Bram Stoker's Gothic masterpiece, *Dracula*. Frightening and funny, this highly theatrical world premiere is filled with lilting ballads, rock anthems, melodious love songs ... and vampires. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. For times and tickets, 610-644-3500; [PeoplesLight.org](http://PeoplesLight.org).





# best Local Events

## FAMILY FUN

### 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 OCTOBER 8

Morris Arboretum's Summer Garden Railway. Loops and tunnels with 15 different rail lines and two cable cars, nine bridges and model trains. 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Phila. After Labor Day, weekends only. \$9–\$17. 215-247-5777; MorrisArboretum.org.

### SEPTEMBER 1

Back to School Science Day at Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation. Conduct your own scientific experiments—dye a handkerchief using indigo and madder root and discover how baking is like chemistry. 3900 N. Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square. 11 to 4. \$6–\$10. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

### SEPTEMBER 6

Swingin' Summer Thursday in West Chester. Great food, live music, clowns, artists, magicians, jugglers and more. Gay St. between High & Darlington Sts. or High & Matlack Sts. 6:30 to 9. Free. 610-436-9010; DowntownWestChester.com.

### SEPTEMBER 8

Newlin Grist Mill Archaeology Festival. Work with professional archaeologists and assist with excavations—sift, clean and process artifacts and see artifact displays from around Delaware County. 19 Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 10 to 3. Free. 610-459-2359; NewlinGristMill.org.

### SEPTEMBER 8–9

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 9

Malvern Oktoberfest. Enjoy this street fair with a beer garden, entertainment, shopping, kids activities (inflatables, games), delicious food from top area food trucks and more at this year's community festival. Along King St. and in Burke Park, S. Warren Ave. & Roberts La., Malvern. 11 to 4. Malvern-Festivals.com.

### SEPTEMBER 14–15

Elkton Fall Fest. Fun for the whole family with performances, The Voice of Elkton singing contest, crafters, vendors, games, demonstrations, children's activities and more. North & Main Sts., Elkton, MD. Fri, 5 to 8; Sat, 8 to 7. ElktonAlliance.org.

### SEPTEMBER 15

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 15

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. 334 Faggs Manor Rd., Cochranville. Noon to 4 pm. Free. 610-869-4902; K94Life.org.

### SEPTEMBER 15

8th Annual Pottstown Pet Fair. Watch K9 demonstrations by Pottstown Police Dept., 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 16

26th Annual Radnor Fall Festival. Family activities, street performances, dancers, face painting and carnival rides. N. Wayne Ave. & West Ave. between Lancaster Ave. and the Wayne train station, Wayne. 1 to 5. Free. 610-687-7698; RadnorFallFestival.com.

### SEPTEMBER 20–23

5th Annual Carnival for a Cure. Rides,

games, food, vendors and entertainment at this benefit for the Get Well Gabby Foundation, dedicated to childhood cancer research and assistance for those children who have cancer. Reeves Park, Main St. & 3rd Ave., Phoenixville. Thurs–Fri, start at 5; Sat–Sun, start at 1. GetWellGabby.org.

### SEPTEMBER 23

To Love a Canine Rescue—Miles for Mutts. Take part in the 5K, or participate in the 1-Mile Fun Walk. Stay for the post-race festival with vendors and food. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Chesterbrook. 8 am to noon. Registration \$20–\$35 (one of TLC's adorable adoptables can accompany you on your 1-mile walk). TLCRescuePa.com.



### SEPTEMBER 30

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 5–7

94th 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 6

Newlin Grist Mill Fall Harvest Festival. Artists 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 7

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

## ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

### AUGUST 31–SEPTEMBER 2

Long's Park Art Festival. More than 200 juried artisans plus food, craft beers and wines. Benefits the park's Amphitheater Foundation. 1441 Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. Fri–Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$12. 717-291-4835; LongsPark.org.

### SEPTEMBER 7–OCTOBER 13

GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. Sept. 7–Oct. 13, "Made in Cuba," Julio César Cepeda Duque created pieces of Cuban reality. 201 Washington St., Reading. Daily 9 to 9. Free. 610-374-4600; Goggleworks.org.

### SEPTEMBER 8–9

Brandywine Festival of the Arts. A Delaware tradition spanning over half a century, featuring arts and crafts from all over the country. 1001 North Park Dr., Wilmington. \$5. 302-419-6648; BrandywineArts.com.

### SEPTEMBER 22

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 28–29

20th Annual Artisans' Porch Walk in Lititz. Show and sale of art and crafts on private porches and lawns throughout the quaint town. Lunch and an auction to benefit Moravian Manor. Daily, 10 to 4. LititzPorchWalk.com.



### OCTOBER 5

West Chester Autumn Gallery Walk presented by Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery. Stroll through downtown West Chester for an evening of art, dining and shopping. 5 to 9. GreaterWestChester.com.

### OCTOBER 6–7

Arts Festival Reading—GoggleWorks Center for the Arts. Handmade items from over 75 artists, demonstrations, make-and-take

workshops, music, locally-sourced food and beverages. New this year, Kids Space by Yocum Institute for Arts Education. 201 Washington St., Reading. Daily 9 to 9. \$8–\$10. 610-374-4600; Goggleworks.org.



## BOOKS.....

### SEPTEMBER 19–20

Wellington Square Bookshop. Lili de Jong, by Janet Benton. 2 to 4 pm. 549 Wellington Square, Exton. 610-458-1144; Wellington-SquareBooks.com.

## CARS ... AND MORE CARS.....

### SEPTEMBER 7

Downtown Oxford Car Show. Live music, 50/50 raffle, remote control race track, BMX stunt show and vendors. 4 to 8 pm. 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org.

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SEPTEMBER 7-9

**22nd Annual Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance.** See *This Month's Picks*.

SEPTEMBER 16

**Hagley Car Show.** More than 500 antique and restored cars on display, vehicle parades, music, video and pedal car racing, and a festival food court. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$5-\$10. 302-658-2400; Hagley.org.

SEPTEMBER 22

**The Coatesville Invitational Vintage Grand Prix.** Cars compete in an individually timed event, over 50 rare and unique historic cars/

motorcycles on display, merchants, food trucks and a beer garden. Benefits the city of Coatesville. Gateway Park, First Ave. and Lincoln Hwy. 8:30 am to 5 pm. Free. 484-787-6408; CoatesvilleGrandPrix.com.



OCTOBER 4-7

**Delaware Auto Show.** The latest 2019 models, a kids Fun Zone 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.



OCTOBER 7

**Kennett Symphony Presents The Classics at Brantwyn.** Brunch, Blues & Hot Cars—open bar, gourmet brunch, musical entertainment and magnificent cars. Brantwyn Estate, 600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. 10:30 am. \$95. 610-444-6363; KennettSymphony.org.

#### DESIGN / HOME SHOWS.....

SEPTEMBER 8-9

**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.....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER, Fri & Sun

**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 1-3

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

SEPTEMBER 20-23

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

SEPTEMBER 23

**SPCA Benefit Horse Show.** Local horse show

### Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. Unit 13 B, West Chester. **Sat, 10 to 2.** ArtisanExchange.net.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Mkt., Lancaster Ave. at Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. **Sat, 10 to noon.** FarmToCity.org.

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

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

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Crt., Wellington Sq., Exton. **Thurs, 2 to 6.** 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., 101 E. State St. **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; LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

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

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

Oxford Village Mkt., 3rd & Locust Sts. **Tues, noon to 5.** 610-998-9494; DOWNTOWNOXFORDPA.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. **Sat, 9 to 1.** PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Pottstown Farmers Mkt., 300 E. High St. **Thurs-Fri, noon to 7; Sat-Sun, 9 to 5.** 610-323-5400; PottstownFarm.org.

SIW Farmers Mkt., 4317 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. **Daily, 8 to 6.** 610-388-7491; SIW-Vegetables.blogspot.com.

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

Thornbury Farmers Mkt. & CSA, 1256 Thornbury Rd. **Fri, 9 to 5; Sat-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; WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

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 25-30

**Dressage at Devon.** See article in this issue.

### FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 28

**Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.** A cast of hundreds fill the shire with music, dancing, artisan merchants with handcrafted wares and more. Mt. Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd.,

Manheim. Sat-Sun, 11 to 8. \$12.95-\$31.95. 717-665-7021; PAREnFaire.com.



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## SEPTEMBER 9

**Fall Super Sunday in Media.** Annual street fair on State St. with vendors, crafts and food. Benefits local charities. Rain date, Sept. 16. 9 to 4. 610-583-4432, ext. 102; MediaPA.com.

## SEPTEMBER 15-16

**National Revolutionary War Re-Enactment and Colonial Festival.** Revolutionary War encampment. Mount Harmon Plantation, 600 Mt. Harmon Rd., Earleville. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 10 to 3. \$5, under 12, free. 410-275-8819; MountHarmon.org.

## SEPTEMBER 16

**5th Annual Shugart's Sunday BBQ & Blues.** Scrumptious barbeque, sweet corn, homemade desserts, local brews, spirits and other cold beverages. Listen to the blues as you enjoy family fun against the backdrop of Historic Sugartown, 690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 2 to 6. \$12-\$40. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.

## SEPTEMBER 22

**6th Annual Paoli Battlefield Heritage Day.** Featuring a timeline of American military reenactors, firing demos, dog training demos, Ben Franklin's experiments, kids games, battle of the

food trucks and much more. Interact with soldiers from every era, enjoy traditional games, visit craft and food vendors. Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. \$10-\$20. 11 to 4. 484-320-7173; PBPFInc.org.



## SEPTEMBER 29-30

**Civil War Battle and Camp.** Watch firearm and cannon demos and learn about the use of herbs in the 1860s. 3900 N. Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square. Sat, 11 to 4; Sun, 11 to 3. \$8-\$12. 610-566-1725; ColonialPlantation.org.

## OCTOBER 7

**Westtown Day at Historic Oakbourne Mansion.** Live bands, carnival games, mini pony rides and petting zoo, food trucks, Civil War reenactors, historical demonstrations and vendors. Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 11 to 3. Free. 610-692-1938; WesttownPA.org.



## FOOD & DRINK.....

## SEPTEMBER 7

**Hops & Helicopters Craft Beer Fest at The American Helicopter Museum.** Sample awesome beer and enjoy great music and food. Local breweries, as well as Pennsylvania Distilling and Dressler Estate Cidery will be on hand. 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 5 to 9. \$35; \$10 designated driver. 610-436-9600; HopsAndHelicopters.com.



## SEPTEMBER 10-15

**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 14

**Chester County Library's Food Truck Festival.** Bring the family to Main Street at Exton and treat your taste buds to unique cuisines, enjoy live music and have lots of fun. 291 Indian Run St., Exton. 4 to 9 p.m. ChesCo-Libraries.org/3rd-Annual-Food-Truck-Festival.



## SEPTEMBER 16

**39th Annual Chester County Restaurant Festival.** Food from over 65 restaurants and vendors, crafters, live music and beer and wine garden. Benefits the West Chester Dept. of Parks & Recreation. Gay St. and Market St., West Chester. Noon to 5:30. Rain date, Sept. 23. West-Chester.com.

## SEPTEMBER 20

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

## SEPTEMBER 30

**Wine & Dinosaurs Around the World.** Enjoy premium wines, specialty beers, delicious hors d'oeuvres, live music and a fantastic silent auction at this fundraiser for Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Noon to 4. \$50-\$70. 302-658-9111; DelMNH.org.

## SEPTEMBER 22

**Pints in the Square Craft Brew Fest and 5K.** Start with a 5k then follow with a craft beer



festival featuring local and regional breweries. Benefits the Newtown Square Fire Co. 5K, 11 am; brewfest, noon to 4. Ellis Preserve, 3801 West Chester Pk., Newtown Square. \$10-\$65. PintsInTheSquare.com.

## SEPTEMBER 29

**Phoenixville VegFest.** Vegan food, music, and fun. Local restaurants and shops participate with vegan specials. 200 Block of Bridge St., Phoenixville. 11 to 5. Rain date Sept. 30. Facebook.com/PhoenixvilleVegFest.

## SEPTEMBER 29

**Taste of Trolley Square.** Beer, wine and

spirit tastings, small plates, sidewalk sales and more. Trolley Square, Delaware Ave. at Dupont St., Wilmington. 1 to 5. Free. Taste-OfTrolley.com.



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OCTOBER 4, 6

**King of Prussia Beerfest Royale.** Over 50 craft and international brewers, 100+ beers and area restaurants in an outdoor beer garden and live music. Thurs, 5:30 to 9, \$70–\$75; Sat, noon to 3:30 and 6 to 9:30, \$45–\$50; VIP Early Entry: Saturday Session 2, \$70. Designated driver, \$15. KOPBeerfest.com.

OCTOBER 5

**Blues and Brews at Tyler Arboretum.** An evening of specialty beers and hors d'oeuvres. Live music. Tyler's Barn Loft, 515 Painter

Rd., Media. 7 to 9. \$20–\$45. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



OCTOBER 6

**Phoenixville Food Festival 2018.** Enjoy gourmet foods from over 30 food trucks, with food both sweet and savory, plus 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.



OCTOBER 7

**38th Annual Media Food & Crafts Festival.** Many restaurants and craftspeople display on State Street. Music stages with bands and children's activities. 9 to 5. Rain date, Oct. 14. 610-566-5039; VisitMediaPA.com.

**FUNDRAISERS.....**

SEPTEMBER 8

**28th 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 23

**Brandywine Valley SPCA's 30th Annual Forget-Me-Not Gala—Cirque Dreams.** Guests will enjoy spectacular entertainment, delectable dishes, spirited libations, live music, silent and live auctions and, of course, adorable adoptables. Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall. 5 to 10 pm. \$175 and up. BVSPCA.org/Gala.



SEPTEMBER 29

**Greener Partners Gala.** The evening begins



with the Farmers' Square, then a seated three-course dinner followed by a live auction. Benefits Greener Partners' food access and education initiatives. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. 6 to 11 pm. \$175 and up. GreenerPartnersGala.com.

OCTOBER 1

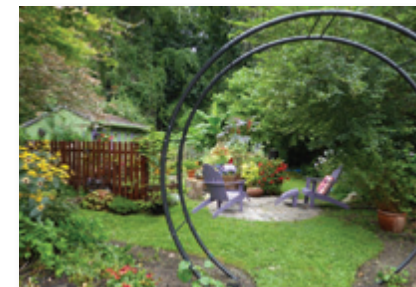
**People's Light Golf Classic.** "Swing for a Cause" and enjoy a friendly competition with those who share a passion for the arts ... and for golf. Benefits theater education programs for youth at People's Light. White Manor Country Club, 831 Providence Rd., Malvern. 11 am. For tickets and to register, visit PLGolf2018. Auction-Bid.org.

**GARDENS.....**

SEPTEMBER 8

**Barclay Friends 14th Annual Secret Gardens of West Chester Tour and Plant Sale.**

A walking tour of gardens in the northwest neighborhoods of West Chester, a plant sale and food truck at Barclay Friends. Benefits Barclay's Horticultural Program. 700 N. Franklin St., West Chester. 10 to 3. \$30. 610-696-5211; BF.Kendal.org.



SEPTEMBER 16

**Scott Associates Garden Day.** Explore the newest concepts in garden design and find great plants for your garden. Swarthmore College, 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 2 to 6. \$15–\$25. 610-328-8025; ScottArboretum.org.

**MOVIE NIGHTS.....**

SEPTEMBER 21

**Westtown Township Movie Night at Oakbourne Park.** High Noon. 1014 S. Concord Rd., Westtown. 8 pm. Free. WesttownPA.org.

**MUSEUMS.....**

THROUGH OCTOBER 28

**Brandywine River Museum of Art.** Through October 21, "Natural Wonders: The Sublime in Contemporary Art." Through Oct. 28, "The Serious and the Smirk: Portraits from the Collection." 1 Hoffmans Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$6–\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

THROUGH DECEMBER

**Chester County Historical Society.** "Many

Nations/Chester County." 225 N. High St., West Chester. Tues–Sat, 9:30 to 4:30. \$4–\$8. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 6, 2019

**Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.** Through Aug. 5, "Truths of the Trade: Slavery and the Winterthur Collection." Through Jan. 6, "Follies: Architectural Whimsy in the Garden." 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$15–\$30. 302-888-4600; Winterthur.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 13

**Delaware Art Museum.** Through Sept. 9,

"Danny Lyon: Memories of the Southern Civil Rights Movement" and "The Montgomery Bus Boycott: Drawings by Harvey Dinnerstein and Burton Silverman." Sept. 8–Jan. 13. Gifts from the Hotel du Pont Collection. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8, free after 4; Fri–Sun, 10 to 4. \$6–\$12, free, Sun. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

SEPTEMBER 1

**Wine & Cheese Tours at Wharton Esherick Museum.** Tour the studio then enjoy local wine, cheese and light fare. Res. required. 1520

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Horseshoe Trail, Malvern. 4 to 6. \$25–\$30. 610-644-5822; WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 22

**Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day.** Participating museums nationwide offer the ticket holder and one guest free admission with a downloadable Museum Day ticket. The theme this year: "Women Making History." Visit Smithsonian.com/MuseumDay.

#### MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

#### SEPTEMBER 6

**Resident Theatre Company Presents Broad-**

**way in the Borough.** Broadway in our backyard with amazing voices from New York, Philadelphia and surrounding area. Sprout Music Collective, 130 E. Prescott Alley, West Chester. Doors open at 6, show at 7, after party at 8. \$15–\$22. RTCWC.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 8

**Phoenixville Blues Festival.** Great food and performances by young local talent. This community event enables young musicians to perform in front of an audience. Reeves Park, Main St., Phoenixville. Noon to 10 pm. Donations accepted. PvilleBlues.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 8

**Haverford Music Festival.** Music, food, beer, children's activities and more. Eagle & Darby Rds., Havertown. Free, donations accepted. HaverfordMusicFestival.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 8

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

#### SEPTEMBER 8, 16, 28

**Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center.** *Sept. 8*, Tony Deyo Comedy; *Sept. 16*, Opera Tutti, "Opera LOL"; *Sept. 20*, Jazz Cocktail Hour: V. Shayne Frederick & Ella Ghant; *Sept. 27*, Dueling Pianos; *Sept. 28*, Better Than Bacon: Interactive Improv Comedy. 226 N. High St., West Chester. UptownWestChester.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 9

**Longwood Gardens From the Top.** A live recording of NPR's *From the Top* in concert setting with young musicians performing with special guest host and pianist Peter Dugan. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 7:30. \$33–\$53. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

#### SEPTEMBER 15

**South Wayne Porch Fest.** A community celebration with live music on the porches of private homes in South Wayne. 11:30 to 5. Free. SouthWaynePorchFest.com.

#### SEPTEMBER 16, 28

**Concerts at The Colonial Theatre.** *Sept. 16*, Theatre Organ Concert with David Peckham, 2 pm, \$5–\$15; *Sept. 28*, City Rhythm Orchestra presents An Evening with Jenna Esposito, 8, \$35. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

#### SEPTEMBER 20, 22, 27

**Point Entertainment Presents ...** *Sept. 20*, An Evening with Nils Lofgren Acoustic Duo; *Sept. 22*, Michael Nesmith and the First National Band; *Sept. 27*, Toad the Wet Sprocket. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. For times and tickets, 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

#### SEPTEMBER 22

**Bands and Bonfire at Thornbury Farm CSA.** Great music, yard games, beer and wine tastings and food. 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. 1 to 9 pm. \$10. ThornburyFarmCSA.com.

#### OCTOBER 6

**10th Annual Paoli Blues Fest & Street Fair.** Premier blues musicians perform at a location with room for dancing, vendors, a beer garden, KidZone and more. Paoli Presbyterian Church, S. Valley Rd., Paoli. Noon to 6. Parking available as well as shuttles for walkers and train arrivals. Donation of non-

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## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

SEPTEMBER 7-9

**Run, Ride and Soar Weekend.** Run, bike or take a hot air balloon ride to benefit the local fire company and Rotary. Bird-in-Hand Events Field, 2737 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. For schedule, 610-308-3993; Bird-in-Hand.com/Event/Run-Ride-Soar-Weekend.

SEPTEMBER 8

**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 provided. 9 to 2. \$40. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiver.org.

SEPTEMBER 9

**The Koko 5K/1 Mile Walk.** This fun run has lots of family activities and benefits the Edward Kokoszka Scholarship Fund. East Brandywine Park, 440 Dilworth Rd., Downingtown. Registration at 8; run at 9. Visit Koko5K.weebly.com.

SEPTEMBER 16

**Family Fun Run at Tyler Arboretum.** Join in the Toddler 20-yard "dash," or the Stroller Stretch and Roll or the Tyler 2K. Food and beverages available for purchase. Rain date Sept. 23. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 9 to noon. \$10-\$20. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



SEPTEMBER 21-23

**The American Birding Expo.** Bird-related products, goods and tour services. The Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station

Ave., Oaks. Fri-Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 3. \$10. 800-879-2473; AmericanBirdingExpo.com.



SEPTEMBER 22

**Unite for Her.** A 5K run/2K walk around West Chester. Registration 7:30 am at Classic Diner, 16 E. Gay St., West Chester. Kids Dash at 8:45; race starts at 9. Family tailgate and activities after the race. \$5-\$30. UniteForHer.org.

SEPTEMBER 22

**Bike the Brandywine.** Ride a 25-, 45-, or 80-mile loop in the Brandywine Creek Greenway. Benefits Brandywine Conservancy. Start and end at Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 N. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Check in 6:30 am. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.



OCTOBER 6

**Main Line Animal Rescue Gran 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. \$95-\$105. MLARGranFondo.org.

OCTOBER 7

**46th 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, 7 am; race, 8. \$55. MarshaltonTriathlon.net.

## THEATER.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 27

**Bird-in-Hand Stage—The Home Game,** a son's journey and a father's hope. *Magic & Wonder: Dream—Nothing is Impossible,* all-new variety show. 2760 Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Mon-Sat, 1 & 7 pm. \$17-\$57. 800-790-4069; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.

SEPTEMBER 12-30

**Sanctions.** Tackling institutional racism in sports and sexual assault on college campuses.

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**Dishman Springs.** A World Premiere at Hedgerow Theatre, 64 Rose Valley Rd., Rose Valley. For times and tickets, 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

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SEPTEMBER 7, 8, 15

**First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays.** *Sept. 7, First Fridays: Kennett Square Art Stroll,* 610-444-8188; HistoricKennettSquare.com. *Lancaster City,* 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. *Oxford,* 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. *West Chester,* 610-738-3350; West-Chester.com. *Wilmington Art Loop,* 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com.

*Sept. 8, Second Saturday Arts Stroll: Media,* 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org.

*Sept. 15, Malvern Stroll,* MalvernBusiness.com.

SEPTEMBER 11

**Coatesville Remembers 9/11: 17th 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. Music, speeches, 8:30 to 10:30 am; 10:30 to 4, free admission to indoor exhibits and videos. 610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org.

SEPTEMBER 29-30, OCTOBER 6-7

**Berks County Wine Trail Artisan Cheese & Wine Pairing Weekend.** Self-guided tour of 12 wineries offering tastings of over two dozen cheeses. Noon to 5. \$15-\$20. For map and to register, BerksCountyWineTrail.com.

OCTOBER 6

**78th Annual Chester County Day Tour.** See article in this issue. ♦

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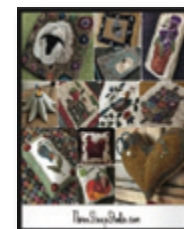
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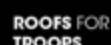
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# Behind the Garden Gates

*Stoneleigh has been many things to many people throughout the years: working farm, country retreat, palette for notable landscape architects, and home to three generations of the Haas family. This past Mother's Day, Stoneleigh began its next chapter as a public garden open to all. Here's a peek behind the garden gates...*

Kirsten Werner,  
Natural Lands

## AT THE HEART OF STONELEIGH

The elegant, Tudor Revival-style house at the center of the property was constructed in 1900 and replaced an earlier residence that had been built by former owner Edmund Smith. Smith called his estate Stoneleigh, a name that has been retained by each successive owner.

The gardens around the house include a myriad of native plants used in unexpected ways. Said Stoneleigh Director Ethan Kauffman, “In designing the Main House gardens, we wanted to complement this grand, elegant structure with a mix of formal-style beds filled with native plants. Most of us think of native plants as looking somewhat messy or informal, so we’re excited to showcase more refined species and techniques.”

Certain design principles and horticultural practices—shearing, symmetry, uniformity, repetition, balance, ver-

ticality—lend a formality to the landscape. Additionally, Ethan and his team have used native alternatives to non-native formal stalwarts such as inkberry instead of boxwood, Virginia rose for rose hybrids, and smooth hydrangea rather than mophead varieties.

## BOG BEAUTY

Moving down the path from the Main House, visitors enter a sheltered space that once held an in-ground pool installed by the Haases in the late 1960s. In his memoirs, John Haas noted, “We measured the height of (youngest son) Duncan’s chin and that became the depth of the shallow end of the pool.”

The shape of the flagstone patio, which Natural Lands installed as a more practical replacement, is a subtle nod to the swimming pool. So too are the bog gardens set within the flagstones.





A bog is a type of wetland with acidic soil that is low in nutrients. Native species, like the pitcher plants and sundews planted in Stoneleigh's bogs, have adapted to these difficult growing conditions by trapping insects and absorbing their minerals.

### GARDEN FOLLY

Just beyond the Pool House is one of four roofed gates on the property. This style—known as a lych gate—was once a prominent feature of English churchyards. Translated from Old English, the word “lych” means corpse.

In the Middle Ages before mortuaries, the dead were taken to the lych gate where they remained for several days and guarded against body snatchers until the funeral service. The lych gate sheltered the body and the vigil watchers from inclement weather.

After wedding ceremonies, children would wait by the closed lych gate and playfully demand a ransom—usually paid in sweets—from the newly wedded couple. Once paid, the gates were opened.

The lych gates at Stoneleigh are examples of romantic “follies” that became popular in 18th century English and French gardens, and later emulated by Americans.

The gate leads to a sheltered part of the garden known as the Rockery, where dogwoods and arbovitae were left to grow into twisting, soaring specimens that barely resemble the clipped and pruned cousins in our own yards and gardens. Said Stoneleigh Director Ethan Kauffman, “One of the best things the Haases did at Stoneleigh was to exercise restraint in pruning. The untamed character of these one-of-a-kind specimens is one of my favorite aspects of the garden.”

### COMING FULL CIRCLE

At the turn of the 20th century, then-owner Samuel Bodine hired George F. Pentecost and Ferruccio Vitale to design a series of Beaux Arts-style gardens at Stoneleigh. This formal, neoclassical style of architecture had gained popularity in America following the 1893 Chicago World's Fair. A remnant of the designs from this time is the Circle Garden, originally built as a sunken “knot garden” of flowering plants surrounded by oak trees.

After nearly eight years of work by Pentecost and Vitale, Samuel Bodine hired the prestigious Olmsted Brothers, sons of famed Frederick Law Olmsted who is considered to be the father of American landscape architecture. Olmstead Brothers replaced much of the architectural geometry at Stoneleigh with more informal designs, giving the estate a more naturalistic, park-like appearance.

Over 50 years, Olmsted Brothers prepared 237 drawings for the grounds, making Stoneleigh the best-documented property in the firm's history. Of the more than 80 projects Olmsted Brothers undertook in the Philadelphia region, few survive beyond trace remnants. Stoneleigh's gardens have remained remarkably intact.

### HARE FAMILY TREE

A visit to Stoneleigh is not complete without a stop along County Line Road at the chainsaw art sculpture commissioned by John and Chara Haas in 2002. The playful carving depicts the family members: two large rabbits—mom and dad—and five baby bunnies representing the five Haas children. (Haas means “hare” in German.)

For many years, the Haases dressed up the rabbits for holidays, graduations and sporting events. When John and Chara Haas passed away in 2001 and 2002, respectively, the hares wore angel wings and neighbors left flowers at the base of the sculpture.

Exposure to the elements eventually took a toll on the sculpture, so when Natural Lands assumed ownership of the property, restoring the rabbits was a priority. The original artist, Marty Long, was hired to carve a replica sculpture from a massive white oak stump. An annual coating of varnish will help preserve the rabbits so that they can look over Stoneleigh for many years to come. ♦

*Make a date with nature at Stoneleigh. Stoneleigh: a Natural Garden is open Tuesday through Sunday, 10 to 5. As part of Natural Lands' mission to connect people to the outdoors, the garden is free of charge for everyone. Learn more at [StoneleighGarden.org](http://StoneleighGarden.org).*

PHOTOS BY LOREN BERKEY, MAE AXELROD AND ADAM HRIBAR



Just days before Stoneleigh's opening in May, Natural Lands faced a fight to save the property. The Lower Merion School Board announced its intention to seize the historic gardens and buildings by eminent domain for construction of a sports complex and middle school.

In response, Natural Lands launched the #SaveStoneleigh campaign. Support from the community—parents, students, residents and beyond—has been overwhelming. More than 33,000 people signed a petition urging the School District to leave Stoneleigh alone.

In June, the Pennsylvania legislature passed with bipartisan support House Bill 2468, an effort Natural Lands championed. The new law requires court approval before any entity—like Lower Merion School District—can seize a property preserved by a conservation easement. However, the School District has yet to formally retract their interest in condemning Stoneleigh.





# The Bluebird Keeper

Blake Goll, Nature Education Coordinator,  
Willistown Conservation Trust

"I have the ability to look at a piece of wood and say I can do this or that with it." Ken smiles and the wrinkles deepen as light dances in his twinkling blue eyes.

**T**HE EARTHY SCENT OF CEDAR AND PINE FILLED the hot air inside the workshop on a July afternoon. Piles of sawdust lay here and there under antique drill presses and on top of cut wood as if an elf had been working all night. Perched on a piece of lumber was a bluebird mug, the telltale sign of the woodworker.

This workshop is where Ken Leister builds his renowned bluebird boxes with exceptional efficiency and care. At 81, he's not about to slow down. He's built close to a thousand boxes in the past ten years for homes, schools, golf courses, local businesses and nonprofits—including Willistown Conservation Trust—and has made over \$14,000, all donated to the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania.

## 20 YEARS OF PASSION

Four years ago Ken grabbed his bluebird mug and closed up his backyard shop as usual after working all afternoon. Meanwhile, a

bit of sawdust had ignited in an old woodworking machine and smoldered undiscovered as Ken and his wife went to bed. Later that night the fire raged and took his shop. So Ken did the only thing he could. Rebuild.

Within a year the new shop was up and running, built solely for the purpose of pumping out bluebird boxes. "I think I was smart to take my wife along," he said, smiling from ear to elfin ear. "She picked out the shingles and all the outside aesthetics and did a beautiful job."

Just outside the charming little workshop stands the bluebird box that started it all.

Twenty years ago, Ken was gazing out his kitchen window in West Chester as two very blue birds were flitting in and out of his bird box. At the time, he didn't know what they were. After consulting some books, he learned they were Eastern Bluebirds.

Growing up on a hundred-acre farm in York County, Ken had never encountered bluebirds. "They just weren't around," he said.

Now enamored with his backyard blues, he was disappointed when they didn't stay to nest that summer.

When Ken heard of a Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania (BSP) conference nearby, he decided to go. There, Ken met the group's president, who coincidentally recognized Ken as her 8th grade geography teacher.

Ken asked his former student why his bluebirds weren't nesting in his box.

"It's right next to the bushes where the birds are," he said.

She suggested he move the box to the middle of the lawn.

And voila!

That summer,

Ken's bluebirds nested three times and fledged 14 young! He was hooked.

## BEYOND THE BLUEBIRD SOCIETY

Ken soon became the BSP State County Coordinator, maintaining contact with the 67 county coordinators. He answers questions from members and the public, even making personal visits to help people monitor or maintain their bluebird boxes when necessary. For his dedication, uplifting attitude, commitment and tireless effort, Ken recently received the 2018 BSP appreciation award.

Ken's bluebird proselytizing doesn't stop there. He also offers bluebird box-building demos for the PA Farm Show, helps Eagle Scouts with the Bluebird Trail Award, establishes bluebird trails himself, and teaches people how to set up mealworm farms to feed bluebirds.

As a retired teacher, Ken has a knack for

spreading his passion for bluebirds through talks. He developed the Bluebird Chat program at local hardware stores, enabling customers to learn from each other. Ken also talks about bluebirds at retirement homes and lifelong learning programs, schools, Penn State Master Gardener meetings, local birdseed stores, nature centers and universities. Last year he had over 20 speaking engagements.

## DESIGN

It's clear, though, that Ken's favorite job is building bluebird boxes—tinkering with his design and fixing a sub-par box. He's even designed a camera box equipped with an internal surveillance camera that's powered by a solar panel and uses Wi-Fi to allow real-time observation of the birds inside. Ken beams as he describes watching a female bluebird build a nest, carefully using her wings to form a perfect cup.

His bluebird boxes are unique, not only because of his knowledge of wood, but because Ken designs them exclusively for the comfort and health of the birds rather than with people and profit in mind.

For example, Ken's boxes are all about air. They have ample space for ventilation between the sides and roof to ensure the chicks don't overheat. And the wood itself breathes—unlike the plastic used in commercial boxes. Ken also accounts for the birds' respiration, which creates heat and moisture in the box. Ventilation's importance is clear if you've ever peeked inside a sealed box at chicks gasping for air on a broiling summer day.

Ken's designs include an extra-large roof that extends well past the sides and front of the box to create an umbrella-like



Eastern Bluebird

effect. This helps keep the boxes dryer, provides shade and protects the chicks against hungry raccoons that could sit on the roof and reach in.

Another signature design element is the sides that extend vertically past the base of the box (instead of ending flush with the floor) so water drips down past the floor rather than pooling at the base, causing rot. Benefits include a longer lifespan for the box and less chance of the chicks getting wet or hypothermic.

Many commercial boxes become difficult to open when the wood expands in weather. It's key to be able to open bluebird boxes to monitor and clean them, so Ken builds his doors smaller than the frame and covers the gap with a weather strip.

## CONSUMMATE CRAFTSMAN

Ken's work is never done. He's always trying to improve his design. And ever since he was a young boy, he's given his all and stuck to his word.



Ken Leister in his wood working shop



Ken Leister's finished bluebird box  
BOTTOM TWO PHOTO COURTESY BLAKE GOLL





Ken Leister monitoring his bluebird box



A peek inside of bluebird eggs  
PHOTOS THIS PAGE COURTESY BLAKE GOLL

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As a kid, aside from his farm chores, his childhood was spent playing baseball and dreaming of playing Major League ball. Yet at the end of his senior year in high school, when presented with a contract from two Major League baseball scouts with the Philadelphia Athletics, he kept his word. He had already committed to West Chester University. "In those days, when you made a commitment you honored it, so I turned down the Major League offer," Ken stated.

When I asked him what inspires him to keep going so strong at his age, he said his inspiration is keeping busy in itself. "I had a grandfather who was busy all the time, and he lived to be 98. I guess I take after him," he mused. His other secret is topping his cereal with a spoonful of honey every day, which he believes wards off arthritis.

"So I can keep making these boxes!" he grins. "You've got to keep active. When I retire is when you'll put me in the grave."

As Ken and I walked back to the house from the shop, I looked over my shoulder to the brilliant male bluebird that landed on the box and peered at the two intruders leaving his territory. I smiled to myself as I thought of the hundreds of baby bluebirds that have entered the world over the past two decades of this Bluebird Keeper's legacy. ♦

*The Willistown Conservation Trust, a nonprofit land trust, has protected over 7,200 acres of wildlife habitat, scenic views and agricultural lands in the Willistown area. Its mission is to protect land and inspire a lifelong love of the land through education. The Rushton Farm bird banding station in Newtown Square is open to the public from the end of August through November. Ken Leister's bird boxes are for sale as part of our Homeowner Bird Box Program. More at [WCTrust.org](http://WCTrust.org).*

## Saving Songbirds

The housing market is through the clouds for area bluebirds, with a bumper crop of homes available—bluebird boxes in move-in condition! These small wooden havens built by bluebird lovers like Ken Leister supplement the natural cavities in trees and meadows where bluebirds seek to build their nests.

After being at risk of extinction during the past century, bluebirds are slowly rising again in number. The decline began in the early 1900s due to loss of open space and increased pesticide use, which limited their habitat.

But around 1996 bluebirds were finally taken off the rare species list thanks to the availability of man-made bluebird boxes. In fact, bluebird boxes are a main reason we have so many bluebirds inhabiting our backyards and waking us up to a tune that sounds like "chur-lee, chur-lee."

These pretty songbirds, whose beaks aren't strong enough to create holes themselves, use small spaces that already exist to build their bowl-shaped nests. They lay 4-5 eggs per brood and live together as a family for 15-20 days feasting on fruits, seeds and insects before the baby birds can go out on their own.

With a rapid loss of trees and open meadows over the past century, bluebird boxes have become a necessary means to keep this species alive. The restoration of the bluebird population is a prime demonstration that humans can reverse damage done to species headed for extinction.

Today, the majority of eastern bluebirds build nests in these man-made shelters in suburban and rural areas. Thanks to Ken and others who care, these colorful creatures will be filling the air with their distinctive color and song as they brighten our region for years to come!

Learn more about bluebirds at [BluebirdNut.com](http://BluebirdNut.com)

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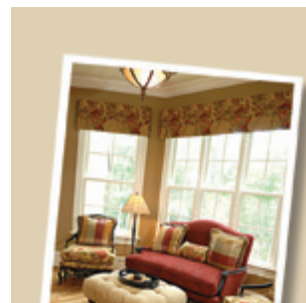
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# FALL FOR A SATISFYING STORY

Mike Walls, Wellington Square Bookshop

IT'S A GOOD TIME FOR A BIOGRAPHY OR AUTO-BIOGRAPHY.

**W**E WANT TO KNOW WHAT WE COULD NOT HAVE experienced: the pitch of Lincoln's voice; how Cleopatra presented herself as Queen to Caesar; how Josephine Baker survived as a member of the French Resistance under the Nazis. We are the animal that wants to know how others have lived. Thus, the popularity of biographies.

What better time to read these selections than fall, when the chill sets in and the reading lamp beckons. And, although the biography craze did not begin with Hamilton's story, that's not a bad place to begin these recommendations.

**Alexander Hamilton**  
by Ron Chernow

Born a bastard in Nevis, a dot in the Caribbean east of Puerto Rico whose slaves outnumbered whites 4 to 1, Hamilton

understood early the cruelties life could inflict, and that he must make his own way or sink. In America he lifted himself through brilliance and audacity. Twenty when the Revolution began, Hamilton joined a militia and from that moment found the audience that would serve his rise. Sharpened by poverty and war, Hamilton also understood that "men, for the most part, are governed by the impulse of passion," a sentiment we are learning anew.

**Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman**  
by Robert K. Massie

Catherine was born into minor German nobility, to a mother 22 years younger than her Prussian husband. Her mother wanted a son. At 16 Catherine was

married off to Peter, heir to the Russian throne, a strange man who played with toy soldiers. At 33, after a miserable marriage, she led a coup against Czar Peter, seized power and for 34 more years guided Russia through a reign threatened by revolution and wars. She survived palace intrigues, feckless ministers and many lovers. In a time when women were regarded as inferior beings, devoid of courage and wisdom, Catherine the Great kept Russia whole and left it better than she found it. She once wrote, "I may be kindly, I am ordinarily gentle, but in my line of business I am obliged to will terribly what I will at all."

**Prairie Fires: The American Dreams of Laura Ingalls Wilder**  
by Caroline Fraser

After passing middle age, do we not look back and make a myth of our youth that serves our more settled lives? In her 60s Wilder turned her very difficult Western life into children's books—the *Little House on the Prairie* series. She reframed privation and hardship into stories that described homesteading as struggles overcome and dreams fulfilled. Fraser's description of

the contrast between Wilder's experience and her creations gives us a perspective on how we shape our lives into stories.

**The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Path to Power**  
by Robert Caro

Johnson grew up in the Texas Hill Country, a poor boy who never forgot what it had been like to work "seven days a week, dawn to dark" in a region without electricity and radios. He experienced a hard and lonesome 20th-century American childhood. In 1929 when the little his people had was smashed to bits by the Depression, all he could think was "I had to get out. I had to escape." The first

book of three (so far), this biography describes Johnson's escape from poverty and his political ascent during the political wars of the New Deal. Everything in Johnson's character had its beginnings in isolation and struggle, and in his empathy for those crushed by circumstance and power.

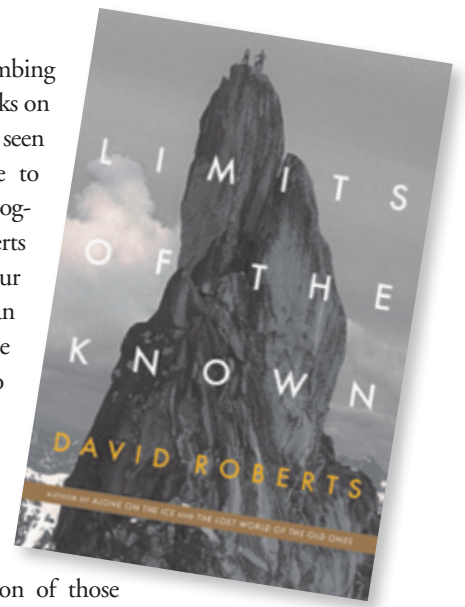
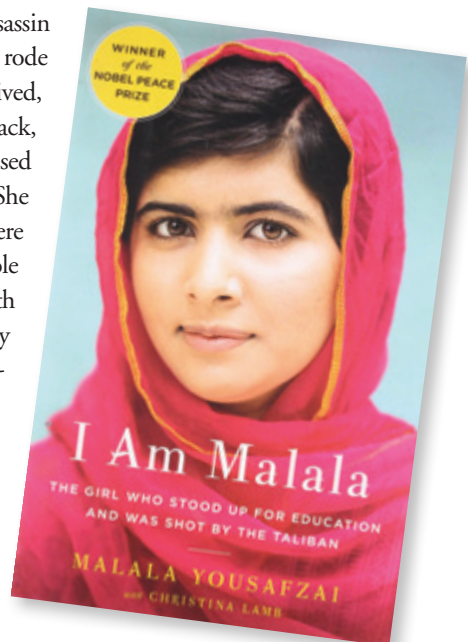
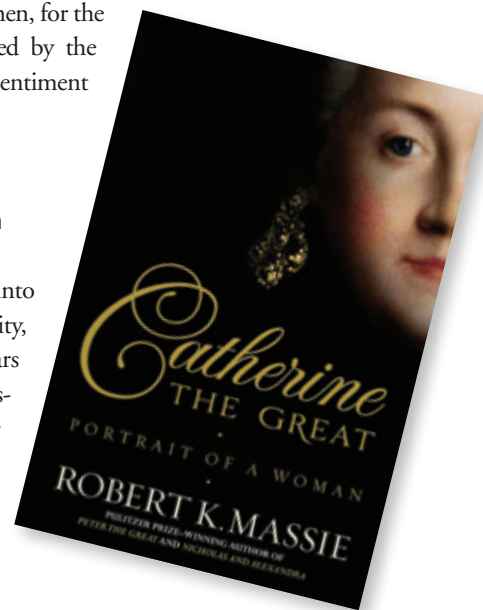
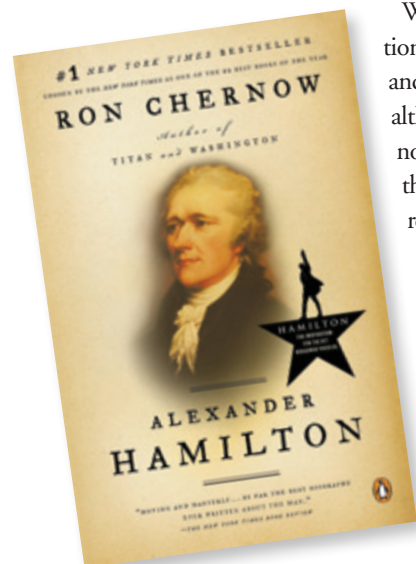
**I Am Malala**  
by Malala Yousafzai

When she was 15, a Taliban assassin shot Malala in the face as she rode her school bus home. She survived, and somehow freed by her attack, found a new life where she refused to be cowed by men with guns. She stepped away from a culture "where daughters are hidden away, their role in life to prepare food and give birth to children." Malala's self-told story expands to include multiple examples of daily courage by others in the face of murderous threats—her father and mother, classmates and teachers. Her experience asks that nagging question—What would I have done if this had happened to me?

**Limits of the Known**  
by David Roberts

David Roberts has been climbing mountains and exploring "blanks on the map" all his life. He has seen men die. He has come close to death. In this memoir and biography of other explorers, Roberts wants to know why we risk our lives in these pursuits. He began climbing as a teenager because he "was bored," yet in two years "it became the most important thing in [his] life." Writing eloquently after having been diagnosed with cancer, Roberts confronts the obsession of those who have happily ventured into places that may kill them. ♦

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# 78<sup>th</sup> TOUR *of* TOURS

Story and photos by Matt Freeman

**T**he 78th Chester County Day House Tour will open the doors of 16 notable homes and 6 public landmarks in the northeast portion of the county—from little-known byways around Exton and Frazer up through the history-rich communities of Chester Springs, Kimberton and Phoenixville. It includes charming houses, tastefully furnished, unusual houses that are imaginative inside and out, and opulently spectacular properties restored to past glories for the benefit of beholders today and as a lovingly preserved legacy for the future.

Photo: Soledad's Mansion





## Soledad's Mansion

THE ONLY THING MORE STUNNING than the fairy-tale manor house and regally opulent fountain-studded gardens of Robert and Maria Soledad Hollenshead's home on Old Valley Road north of Exton is the state to which it had fallen.

It's hard to believe now, but Robert Hollenshead says the house, built in the mid-19th century and inspired by the work of Gothic Revival leader Andrew Jackson Downing, had stood vacant for about 40 years. Rain poured in through the roof; the magnificent plaster and woodwork paid a heavy toll.

But the Hollensheads saw potential in the prop-

erty and decided to make the very substantial investment needed to bring it back to its original glory. Today, the house blends Gothic drama and Queen Anne whimsy, with leaded-glass windows and carved woodwork on the projecting eaves. A literal boatload of hardwood glows on the walls, and the rooms are elegantly furnished from the floors to the ceilings.

The gardens embrace an art studio and carriage house, surround the house and sweep out to the south. If you ever imagined you could see such things at a private home in Chester County, well, that's what Chester County Day is all about.





## Jacob Binder House

**J**OE AND JENNIFER SPADAFORD DESCRIBE THEMSELVES as the “current custodians” of the Jacob Binder House on Horse-shoe Trail in Chester Springs. “That’s exactly how we feel,” Jennifer Spadaford says. “It’s on loan to us.”

After the Spadafords bought the classic stone house—the original part of which was built in 1780—they put in some additions, including an airy sitting and dining area off the kitchen. There’s a tasteful glow of well-crafted woodwork in the kitchen cabinetry as well as from the pecan and hickory floors, cherry in the office, and the heavy exposed beams of the living room (original to the home), built in and evocative of the 18th century.

The dining room has a charming mural by Birdsboro artist Carrie Kingsbury, done in a Rufus Porter folk-art style that picks up the colors in the house—a style and subject matter that original owner Jacob Binder would be approvingly familiar with.

The house is circled by expansive gardens and woods on the five-acre grounds, one of the many ways the Spadafords have respectfully made the home their own while living their chapter of it.







## *Yellow Springs Road*

**Y**OU CAN SENSE THE HISTORY ALL AROUND AT PAIGE and Dale Parker's house on Yellow Springs Road. The circa 1825 house is part of a cluster of similarly venerable buildings in the village, still known by the locals as Rapp's Corner, named after the long-since-gone general store once owned by Joseph Rapp.

The main exterior section of the Parkers' fieldstone house has a dignified, Federal-style look. Through the mid-1800s the house served as a parsonage for a Lutheran church several miles away, and it's easy to imagine a clergyman long ago hitching up a buggy to go tend to his flock.

The Parkers were living in a modern house in the area, which they sold in order to buy this home. Both were in the construction business and used their experience to update and enlarge the new home with natural materials to help maintain its historic character. Additions have given it more light and space, but the older parts of the house proudly retain their Old World regional charm.

Like so many other owners of historic homes, the Parkers want their improvements to strike the perfect balance between practicality and preservation.

"We're caretakers," Paige Parker says.





## An Okie Home

SHEILA AND BERNIE MCLAUGHLIN'S HOME ON BRAINERD Place near Exton is said to be the work of R. Brognard Okie, and if not provable, it's certainly plausible. Okie's Colonial Revival homes dot the Chester County landscape and have their own genre-transcending character—like Shaker furniture—they mostly have a certain handsome rightness about them that more ephemeral styles can't equal.

The McLaughlins had young children when they bought the house and didn't want their home to be close to the road. No problem; this house is set well up a hill, with bridges, retaining walls and landscaping that draw your eye up toward it.

There's an addition that adds a comfortable family room and breakfast area to the home, with a bay window that offers a view of the grounds.

The furnishings are tastefully restrained. In the living room, chairs and plates on the heavy fireplace mantel evoke the surprisingly colorful furnishings of the 18th century. The dining room is the same type of hard-to-achieve confident simplicity.

"I just went with what I thought worked with the house," Sheila McLaughlin says, and the house wears the results with a certain dignity and pride.







## Villa Fortunata This Year's VIP House

**W**ENDY AND JOHN O'BRIEN'S SOARING MEDITERRANEAN-INSPIRED home on Yellow Springs Road was built in 1989, and evokes more history and tradition than it's seen itself.

But like all houses, it has a story, and not always a happy one. When the O'Briens first looked at it, on a friend's advice, it had been painted pink and green for some reason, and the neighbors had some uncomplimentary nicknames for it.

Wendy O'Brien, who'd been an event planner, reinvented herself as a designer and completely redid the interior, concentrating on creating comfortable spaces to socialize and emphasizing the flow between rooms.

The building was modeled on a home along the Amalfi coast. Wendy O'Brien's mother was Spanish and John O'Brien is a Californian, so it was natural to fill the home with colorful furnishings that make it Mediterranean indoors as well as out. The house is full of surprising touches, from the master bath equipped with island, coffee station and TV to the collection of Porsches in the garage.





### IF YOU GO:

**T**he 2018 Chester County Day House Tour celebrates the traditional, distinctive architecture of the Northeast Quadrant of Chester County. Visit 16 homes and 6 public landmarks in West Chester, Exton, Frazer, Chester Springs, Kimberton and Phoenixville.

**When:** Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**The Hunt:** Start “The Day” with the beauty and pageantry of a Chester County fox hunt. Kimberton Hunt hounds and riders will move off promptly at 9 a.m. from the quaint village of Birchrunville.

**Tickets:** \$50 per person. Boxed lunch from Arianna’s Gourmet Café, \$12, can be ordered online. \$100 VIP ticket.

**Benefits:** Women’s Auxiliary’s upcoming pledge to Chester County Hospital.

**Information:** [ChesterCountyDay.com](http://ChesterCountyDay.com)

### VIP TICKETS HOLDERS WILL ...

Attend a Preview Party at The Washington in Historic Yellow Springs, where they will enjoy fine cuisine and wine and be treated to a preview of this year’s tour.

Drive a MINI for “The Day.” Otto’s MINI in West Chester will provide a MINI for qualified guests with purchased VIP tickets, while supplies last.

Have a private tour of the VIP House, a unique three-level Mediterranean style home built into a hill with a zero-entry swimming pool and cabana, courtyard patio, as well as the homeowners collection of jelly bean-colored Porsches. Gourmet boxed lunch from Montesano Bros. Italian Market & Catering is included.

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

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# DRESSING FOR DRESSAGE AT DEVON

Story by Ginny Simon



Overheard at a horse show (slightly paraphrased)

"What do you think of that striped shirt?"

"I don't know. I have to see if that white stripe is a plain stripe or if it's bling. If it's bling, I'll have to talk to her."

**T**HESE DISCUSSIONS GO ON ALL THE TIME AT dressage shows among FEI (Fédération Equestre Internationale) stewards whose job it is to make sure FEI rules are strictly followed. That careful adherence to established rules includes not only general show rules for the horse show itself but extends to the tack worn by the horse (saddle, bridle and any other accouterments) as well as the apparel worn by the rider.

Of course riders and spectators may have other opinions about what's proper. And their opinions often conflict with the official rulebook. For example, a current hot topic involves ... bling.

Is bling okay in a dressage ring? Will it make the sport more accessible to the general public by making it more visually interesting? Will it offend judges and negatively affect scores?





Classic dressage attire: top hat, dark shadbelly coat, white shirt, breeches and gloves, with black boots. The horse sports a simple bonnet identifying his country flag.



Some modern variations on the classic look: white piping on a dark jacket, plain collared shirt, dark gloves and a safety helmet.

Bling is a real concern these days for competitors at Dressage at Devon and at other dressage shows.

#### ROOTS IN TRADITION

Dressage tradition has roots that date back hundreds of years when a military partnership between horse and rider could be the key to winning the war. It's this long history that underpins the strict rules and functional attire. Today, horses are no longer used in battle, but many traditions continue in the show ring.

In dressage, bling—if it's there at all—must be understated. Something as simple as a strip of rhinestones on a helmet or a black-on-black stripe on a jacket may be considered too much and viewed negatively by judges and some spectators.

But, as with many rules, there can be room for interpretation. For example, the rules say the rider's jacket must be a solid, dark color and the dark color

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Music & Lyrics by Michael Ogborn  
Directed by David Bradley

JAN 16  
FEB 10

## Sweat

By Lynn Nottage  
Directed by Elena Araoz

FEB 27  
MAR 31

## Nina Simone: Four Women

By Christina Ham  
Directed by Hayley Finn

APR 10  
MAY 12

## For Peter Pan on Her 70th Birthday

By Sarah Ruhl  
Directed by Abigail Adams

MAY 15  
JUN 9

## Endgame

By Samuel Beckett  
Directed by Neal Huff

JUN 26  
JUL 28

## Mud Row

By Dominique Morisseau  
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By Thornton Wilder  
Directed by Abigail Adams

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A single line of bling on a browband.  
PHOTO COURTESY MALVERN SADDLERY



The classic look with yellow "points" added.  
PHOTO COURTESY DOVER SADDLERY



More bling: on broader browbands, gloves, helmets.

can include navy, burgundy or green. There is some permissible leeway.

But what about a pink lining in a black show coat? Or white piping on a black jacket? Yep—those details will raise eyebrows among traditionalists. Yet these tiny flourishes are becoming increasingly popular among riders.

Another rule: When wearing a show jacket, a white shirt must be worn with a "stock tie" for women—a tie that looks more like a scarf. If no jacket is worn (done only in lower, beginning levels of dressage shows), the shirt must be open at the neck.

Historically riders had very few options. Riders' jackets and shadbellies (a coat cut short in the front with tails in the back) were black, while shirts, breeches and gloves were white. Helmets were not required, though most wore a simple black velvet hunt cap (rounded top, with short bill). When riders reached the higher FEI levels, they added an elegant black top hat (flat on top).

Not now, though. Today top hats are not allowed except for senior riders in FEI Concours Dressage International (CDI) classes, which include only upper level competitions. This is, of course, in response to the increased awareness of the dangers inherent in any equestrian sport when the head is not adequately protected. But tradition still rears its head, so to speak, as riders symbolically "tip their hat" to the judges at the start and end of their rides.

## MODERN TRENDS IN THE RING

Not surprisingly, riders are increasingly pushing the envelope on their attire. "The stock tie has evolved, with a wide selection of tonal patterns and fabrics, often sporting a tasteful bit of 'sparkle' to catch the light," says Jill Apfelbaum, owner of Malvern Saddlery. This "sparkle" may come from a tasteful pin at the tie. Small, plain earrings (silver, gold, pearl) may be worn as well, but that's about it for jewelry.

Top international helmet designers are taking advantage of the trends, developing styles that are not just about safety but also using them to make a "first impression moment" with a bit of bling.

And so begins the quest for individuality in styling the rider for the show ring. Today riders can design every aspect of their helmet—including color, texture, trims and embellishments—as long as things don't go too far.

Although the riders' breeches still remain white, show jackets and shadbellies are now often customized with "points" that look like the bottom of a vest (often in yellow) but are bought separately and attached to the coat with buttons.

Other touches may include contrasting stitching, piping or jacket collars along with exquisite buttons. "Fabric has also changed over time and is now lightweight, breathable, stretchy and usually washable," said Amy Clough, Manager of Rick's Saddlery.



"The beauty of all this," added Apfelbaum, "is you can now make selections for yourself and your horse that bring out the best and most flattering runway look to set the tone for your presentation."

## JUDGES' AND EXPERTS' VIEWS

Lauren Arnett, Head Trainer of Bally Vae Farm in Cochranville and a dressage judge, is a traditionalist in terms of proper attire, but she tries to be flexible. "As a judge, I don't notice bling. But as a trainer who wants to be sensitive to my clients' style, I'm open to how they choose to wear it," she says.

As a rider Arnett generally prefers not to wear bling herself. "I'm not a fan of bling because I don't want to stand out any more than I already do—I'm 5'10" with hot red hair. I think the focus should be on the horse and the quality of training and riding," she continues.





Participants in Ladies Hat Day at Dressage at Devon are free to bring the bling! PHOTO: HOOFPRIINT PHOTO

### Limits of Tradition

None of these rules, of course, apply to spectators at any horse show from racing to hunters to dressage. For them, the challenge is to stand out, with fanciful hats, bright dresses and unusually colored slacks and jackets for men. Thus the long-standing tradition of Ladies Hat Day at Dressage at Devon brings out many ladies—and occasionally a gentleman or two—with hats, fancy, creative but always unique, hats.

But those are the spectators.

That said, two of the primary horses Arnett rides wear brow bands that are quite noticeable—one was a gift and the other, chosen by her mother, is a crystal color to match the mare's coat.

The traditional view of bling may be best expressed in an exchange from a piece by Nancy Jaffer for *Dressage Today*. Although

the incident is from two decades ago, the sentiment remains for many.

“At the 1996 Atlanta Olympics, where dressage freestyle (a dance-like event with dressage movements accompanied by music) made its ground-breaking Olympic debut, it was suggested that the competition dress code could be more relaxed, with a wider variety of styles and colors. Then, perhaps innovations could become more daring as time went on,” Jaffer wrote.

It sounded interesting to some dressage supporters. Jaffer decided to put the issue to Reiner Klimke, perhaps the most eminent dressage figure at that time. The German, who wowed America with his brilliant 1984 Los Angeles Olympics gold-medal performances, listened tight-lipped. Then he fixed Jaffer with a piercing look and said, emphasizing each word, “This ... is ... NOT ... circus!”

Yes, that was over 20 years ago but for some, the sentiments have not changed

much. For others, however, bling is not such a bad thing—within limits, of course. So the trend continues—though perhaps at a trot rather than a gallop—towards more acceptance of non-traditional attire in the dressage ring.

In the end, though, all agree that the focus in the ring should remain on the horse, the beauty of its movements, and the culmination of years of work by both the rider and their mount. ♦

### IF YOU GO

**When:** September 25–30

**Where:** Devon Fairgrounds, Lancaster & Dorset Aves., Devon

**Tickets:** Ticket office is open during the event. \$10/day gen. adm. \$5, for 3 to 12 years; free under 3.

**Information:** For reserved seating, group sales and information, visit [DressageAtDevon.com](http://DressageAtDevon.com).

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## An Equestrian End to the Summer

Cole Pokropowicz  
and Erin Ahlefeld

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Carriage Driving at Ludwig's Corner



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Your Guide to Chester County & Beyond



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CHESTER COUNTY GOES HEAD OVER HOOVES FOR another season of equestrian excitement! Check out Ludwig's Corner Horse Show for Labor Day Weekend fun for fans young and old. Then send off the summer watching serious equestrian competition at the Plantation Field International Horse Trials.

Saddle up for these action-packed September weekends full of activities for the whole family.

### LABOR DAY AT LUDWIG'S CORNER

Ludwig's Corner Horse Show kicks off September with an annual Chester County Labor Day tradition. Bring the entire family for the

September 1-3 weekend filled with competitive equestrian entertainment and fun for the kids.

A community mainstay for the past 75 years, this event is one of the best shows for equestrians young and old to compete in locally rated competition in Hunters, Jumpers and Equitation. The action continues throughout the weekend in three competition rings, where riders of all ages from around the region compete each year—some are even back for their 50th year in a row! The competitions feature events from Ladies Sidesaddle, Leadline for Children, Hunter and Pony Derbies and Carriage Driving.

There's plenty of family fun, starting with Saturday's Pet Parade sponsored by Lulu's Rescue, where pets from rabbits to alpacas are



Plenty of jumpers



The oval gets a name this year.



Family fun at Ludwigs Corner



dressed in costumes and judged by State Senator Andy Dinniman. Take a break from watching horses compete in the ring and watch bunnies compete in their own special—and smaller—jumping contests!

Kids will have a weekend to remember on attractions like a bungee jump, mechanical bull and rock wall plus games, pony rides and much more. Listen to live music while sipping cool craft beer and browsing local and national boutique vendors' tents. Come hungry because Yellow Springs Catering is providing tasty treats, including BBQ, hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and more Labor Day weekend favorites!

On Monday, there's a dedication and naming ceremony for the main ring as Dr. and Mrs. Donald J. Rosato are honored for their loyalty, generosity and involvement over many years. The Board of Directors are proud to name the ring "The Rosato Oval."

"[Ludwig's Corner Horse Show] has always been an integral part of the 'country atmosphere' that we love. Through the years, we have contributed our efforts to ensure that the grounds of LCHSA have remained in good form; the people with whom we have worked have been an integral part of our involvement," said Dr. and Mrs. Rosato.

Be there for all the family horse show fun and to join in for what makes Ludwig's Corner Horse Show special.

#### IF YOU GO:

Sept. 1–3, 8 a.m. to dusk; \$3–\$7  
1325 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore.

[LudwigsHorseShow.com](http://LudwigsHorseShow.com)

PHOTOS COURTESY C. HOOPES PHOTOGRAPHY



Cross country event



#### PLANTATION FIELDS OF FUN

End your September alongside fellow serious fans of equestrian events! The 11th annual Plantation Field International Horse Trials runs September 20–23, and includes intense spectacles of horsemanship—what's often called an equestrian triathlon with three separate events testing horses and riders. This star-studded event will feature the best riders from North America along with the U.S. and Canadian teams from the World Equestrian Games competing in dressage, cross country and show jumping. There's something for everyone during the competition—from horses to tailgating and shopping!

Come to the event ready to witness some serious competition. Experience equine elegance as the top show horses display their prowess in the dressage ring. Get ready for adrenaline-fueled cross country races as horses and riders blaze across the rolling hills of Chester County to compete for first place among the best in the region. Stay for show-jumping as horses leap over unique decorated hurdles.

There's plenty to do for spectators, too! Bring friends and family for the hillside tailgating competition during the Cross Country event on Sunday. Set out your best silver and savory bites for the judges as they sample the food at each spot.

Kids will enjoy the Kids' Corner, complete with petting zoos, face-painting, crafts and rock climbing. Let them test their future riding mettle on pony rides. Parents can visit the Vendor Shoppes and pick up equestrian themed goods and more.

Whether you're there for equestrian events or just good fun with family and friends, this is a great end to the summer.

#### IF YOU GO:

Sept. 20–23, \$20/carload  
387 Green Valley Rd., Unionville  
[PlantationField.com](http://PlantationField.com). ♦

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Cross country—another view



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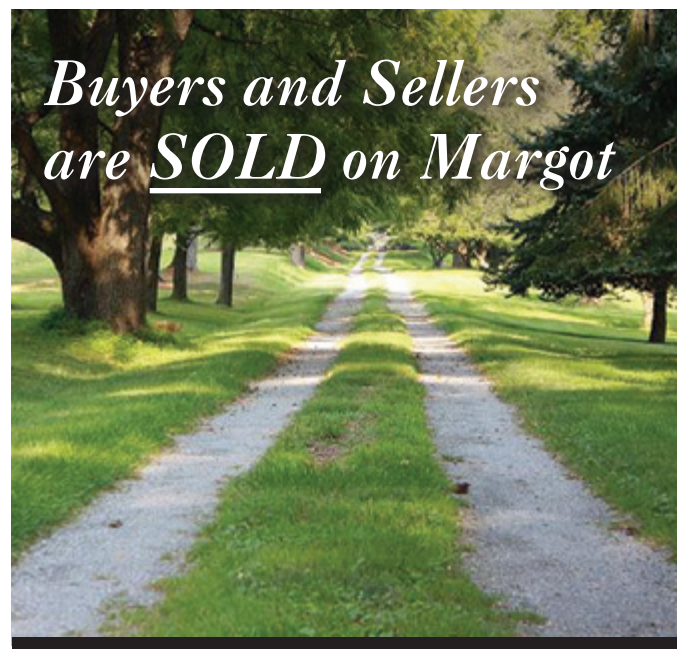
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Tony Gable Photography



# Crum Creek Farm

ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME ESTATE IN RADNOR HUNT COUNTRY

Laurel Anderson

IN AN ISSUE OF OUR MAGAZINE BRIMMING WITH unique homes featured on Chester County Day's annual tour, we add another that could easily be the highlight of "The Day" for those who seek out copies of *Architectural Digest* (now rebranded as *AD*) or Nancy Meyers' movies with their satisfying set designs. (Double your fun and read "The Psychology Behind Why Everyone Wants a Nancy Meyers House" in *AD*.)

Crum Creek Farm is set on over 45 acres of lush pastures dotted with stately trees, including an old sycamore over six feet in diameter and large enough to use as a hiding spot yet welcoming enough to support a child's swing. This pristine patch of land—not yet under conservation easement, though some neighbors' are—is a jewel in Radnor Hunt Country.

## THE MAIN HOUSE

The original stone Colonial home, dating from the early 1700s, was thoughtfully expanded in 1999 by John Milner Architects, the foremost restoration architecture firm in Chester County. Now with five bedrooms, five full plus two half-baths, and ten fireplaces, the new home displays artisan craftsmanship, attention to every detail and appreciation for modern amenities throughout its 11,000 square feet of open, sunlit space.

A stunning two-story, plant-filled atrium connects the original structure—with its cozy sitting room and wood-paneled den—with the grand addition. Period details—hardware, reclaimed wood, paneling—mix with modern features in spacious rooms in the integrated space.

When you enter, sparkling white millwork highlights the foyer—with staircase and hidden pocket wet bar—connecting the formal living and dining rooms then extending to the kitchen and family room.

High-ceilings and French doors to the landscaped flagstone patio add light and airiness to the living and dining rooms, while fireplaces and extensive millwork (ceiling moldings, fireplace mantels, deep window sills, paneling and wainscoting) create a sense of history in these comfortable rooms.

Huge reclaimed oak ceiling beams span the entire kitchen and great room. Equipped with commercial-grade appliances, granite counters, custom inset cabinetry and an immense island, the chef's kitchen opens to the informal family room and adjacent brick-floored game room/sunroom with magnificent views of the property. More French doors, large windows and white cabinets and walls continue the bright feel of the home that's accented by the warmth of wood beams, reclaimed wood floors and massive stone fireplace.

Other features on this floor make the home family-friendly. The large old-brick floored mudroom with copper sink, built-ins and powder room is a convenient family entrance, while a large butler's pantry and separate walk-in storage pantry off the kitchen make entertaining easy in this gracious home.

## OTHER FLOORS

The luxurious master suite on the second level includes an expansive bedroom with fireplace, dressing room, separate his-and-her bathrooms, along with his-and-her walk-in closets, plus a sitting room that opens to a covered balcony overlooking the grounds.







Four other large bedrooms with Jack-and-Jill baths complete this floor: three with fireplaces and one L-shaped princess suite with built-in desk and cabinetry. Walk-in closets, a private balcony, bonus computer room and a second-floor laundry round out the space.

The third floor attic space is partially finished, with walk-in cedar closet plus two bonus rooms and a bath for more bedroom space, a home office or quiet retreat.

The basement is also partially finished and carpeted and offers even more bonus space for a playroom or home gym. It currently houses a wine storage room (with built-in racks), a large laundry room as well as abundant additional storage space.

#### OUTBUILDINGS

The extensive grounds surround a kidney-shaped pool with hot tub, a prime location for enjoying the peaceful vistas. A charming clapboard playhouse complete with shutters also has a prime spot with a view.

Above the two-car garage is an updated studio apartment, perfect for guests, an on-site office or a boomerang kid. For those needing more space, there's a recently renovated three-bedroom, two-bath cottage with two-car garage nearby—close enough for a caretaker or for multi-generation living but far enough away from the main house for privacy.

And because this is Crum Creek Farm, there must be a barn. And there is. The sizable barn is currently used for storage and large equipment. But the remains of the stone foundation of a larger structure, perhaps bedecked with tiny lights, provides a movie-set backdrop for parties and family gatherings to enjoy this once-in-a-lifetime estate.

*This 45-acre property with 11,000-square-foot main house, 3-bedroom cottage, guest studio above the garage, and barn offers country living minutes from downtown Wayne. Price upon request. Further information: Meghan Chorin, Berkshire Hathaway/Fox Roach, 610-299-9504; MeghanChorin.com.*



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# 95 Choosing Wines by the Numbers 90 94 92 97

Fred Naddeo

Look beyond the ratings to the descriptions.

**H**OW DO YOU PICK A WINE? Walk into your favorite wine store and you're confronted with a vast array of choices. You could ask a knowledgeable clerk for a recommendation. Or you could look at the signs and shelf talkers—the small, informational cards in front of the wines.

If you opt for the information cards, you'll notice that many of these cards include rating information that can be used as a guide to rank the wines you're considering. The most common wine rating system is the 100 Point Wine Scale.

In the 100-point system, wines are assigned a rating from 0 to 100 by an experienced wine professional. In theory, the higher the number the better the wine, with 90 points and above considered 'A' grade wines.

But that's just part of the story—the reviewer's description also provides a sense of what the wine tastes like. There are several publications that provide most of the ratings you'll see. Let's explore some of the best known publications and a sample of the wines they're reviewing.

## WINE ADVOCATE

The first and probably best known is *Wine Advocate*. Started as a newsletter by Robert Parker in 1978 to fill the information gap for consumers, *Wine Advocate* was the first to use a 100-point rating system. Generally, this source is a little more conservative,

and therefore, the ratings are a little lower for any given wine.

Here's an example of a 90+-point wine. A wine that received 94 points from *Wine Advocate* in October 2016 is **Bootleg Red Wine 2013** from Napa Valley (\$34.99). Bootleg is embracing an unconstrained winemaking spirit in an attempt to redefine what makes a great wine.

This blend contains seven different grape varieties. It's a rich, full-bodied red wine with lovely black fruits on the nose and palate. If you're looking for an intense yet smooth wine, this one's for you. Enjoy it with any kind of red meat.

## WINE SPECTATOR

The next most popular publication is *Wine Spectator*, known for slightly higher ratings than *Wine Advocate*. The staff of *Wine Spectator* review more than 15,000 wines each year in blind tastings. Many wines tasted are submitted to the magazine by wineries and importers from around the world, but the staff also purchase many wines on their own. Their tastings are conducted blind to help eliminate any subconscious biases.

An example of a wine that *Wine Spectator* awarded 90 points is **Seghesio Family Vineyards' Zinfandel** (\$21.99). This wine is a mix of select batches of grapes harvested from different vineyards throughout Sonoma County and blended together by winemaker Ted Seghesio. Blending from the many diverse microclimates in Sonoma produces a wine that has a balanced structure of dark fruit, spice and tannins. Pair this wine with bolder flavors like grilled meats or strong cheeses.

## WINE ENTHUSIAST

Next is the *Wine Enthusiast* magazine. Founded in 1979 as a mail order catalog for wine accessories, the magazine was launched in 1988 to provide more information to consumers. They have a reputation for giving higher scores than the other two magazines.

A 90-point wine according to *Wine Enthusiast* is **DFJ Vinhos Grand'Arte Alvarinho 2016** for just \$12.99. Winemaker José Neiva Correia began in the wine business more than 35 years ago. He invented a system that disinfects corks to prevent TCA contamination that he sold to the largest cork manufacturer in the world. TCA contamination is a somewhat common problem that overpowers the wine's flavor and makes a wine smell like damp cardboard.

This white wine from Portugal delivers bright fruit flavors of apricot and plum. The rich, smooth mouthfeel is balanced by a beautiful crisp finish. You can best enjoy this wine with seafood or chicken.

## VINOUS.COM

Another popular source for wine ratings is *Vinous.com*. The site was founded in 2013 by Antonio Galoni, the one-time lead

reviewer for the *Wine Advocate*. The ratings of this website tend to be about the same as *Wine Advocate*. Their philosophy is that the written review is just as important as the score.

A wine that scored 91 points on *Vinous.com* is **Andrew Hardy Little Ox Shiraz 2014** (\$18.99). This wine is made by winemaker Andrew "Ox" Hardy from vines that date back to 1891 from a small vineyard in the McLaren Vale in Australia. It's a big, ripe, dry wine with lots of dark fruit flavors and a fruity, slightly sweet finish. This wine can be served with steak or other red meat.

## JAMESSUCKLING.COM

Finally we have another website, *JamesSuckling.com*. Suckling was a senior editor and European bureau chief for nearly 30 years at *Wine Spectator*. He launched the website because he believed the wine world needed a more modern approach to delivering information. He and his team review thousands of wines each year and tend to be in the middle of the pack with their scores.

A wine they rated at 90 points is **Bonny Doon Vineyard's A Proper Claret 2014** at only \$10.99. Named claret, which is the British term for Bordeaux reds, this is a fuller bodied version of those classic blends but not as rich and sweet as some from California. Look for the dark red fruit flavors and spice from the cabernet sauvignon, filled in by the petit verdot that nearly shares equal billing. Pair it with lamb or smoked duck.

As you can see the scores are helpful, but the reviews can provide additional information to help match a wine with your preferences.

So, feel free to rely on the information on the shelf talkers, available online, or talk with your local wine specialist for more recommendations. ♦

*What started as a hobby is now a career. Fred Naddeo began his wine journey more than 20 years ago when his wife bought a bottle of Black Tower Riesling to try something different. It marked the beginning of an exploration of the amazing world of wine that continues to this day. Fred is a wine specialist at the Springfield Fine Wine & Good Spirits store on Baltimore Pike. Learn 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*

**A Liquid Lunch.** Love smoothie bowls? **Liquid Eatery**, soon to open in West Chester, is on trend with a twist. Inspired by the "tropics of Miami," this refreshingly tasty spot will offer assorted liquid pairings and special bowls for a healthy bite. Made only with sustainably sourced and hearty ingredients, Liquid Eatery's health-conscious options include goodies like the beach-to-bowl specialty and signature nice-cream milkshakes. Enjoy tropical food made fresh and local! 18 N. High St., West Chester. [LiquidEatery.com](http://LiquidEatery.com).



**Sweet Tooth.** Watch talented local bakers in their small screen moment on Netflix's new cooking series, *Sugar Rush!* Catch Phoenixville's **Brooklyn Girl Bakery** owner, Peri Anderson, paired with former co-worker Jennifer Low as four teams of two bake sweet treats to impress top pastry chefs. After competing in three rounds—cupcakes, confections, cakes—the winners get the \$10,000 prize. Check out the series to see Chester County's contestants in episode 3 of the first season! [Netflix.com](http://Netflix.com).

**Got Chocolate?** Celebrate National Chocolate Milk Day on September 27th at Chester County Library's class for adult chocolate lovers eager to learn the history of their guilty pleasure. Debunk common myths about cocoa beans, and test three different chocolates, comparing aromas and taste. Explore the sweet you'll never get enough of with The Cocoa Exchange Independent Founding Curator, Arlene Adam. Class is free, from 7 to 8 p.m. 450 Exton Square Pkwy., Exton. [CCLS.org](http://CCLS.org).



**Taste of Sicily.** Taste light and fresh Mediterranean cuisine at Malvern's new **Avola Kitchen + Bar**. Using fresh ingredients from Chester County's producers plus wild edibles foraged locally, Avola offers tapas-style dishes, wood-fired pizzas, homemade pastas and charcuterie meats cut table-side, along with craft cocktails, beer and wines. Co-owned by a team of four, it's a sister restaurant to Twenty9 Restaurant & Bar, Stephens on State, Larielle Wood Fired Square Pie and Pizza Cruiser. 625 N. Morehall Rd., Malvern. [On Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/avolakitchenbar).



**Great Wines & Grape Vines.** Landowners Ben and Sarah Cody produce fine European and premium Mid-Atlantic wines at the new **1723 Vineyards** in southern Chester County. Send your taste buds on one last vacation this summer as the fifth-generation farmers from the Midwest bring their grape-cultivating experience to McMaster farm in Landenberg. Host a special event at the beautiful venue or plan a visit for quality wines, vineyard views and unforgettable experiences! 5 McMaster Blvd., Landenberg. [1723Vineyards.com](http://1723Vineyards.com).





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