

Love your Kitchen!



Photography by Letitia Clark

Kitchen Renovation
Historical 1800's Chester County Home

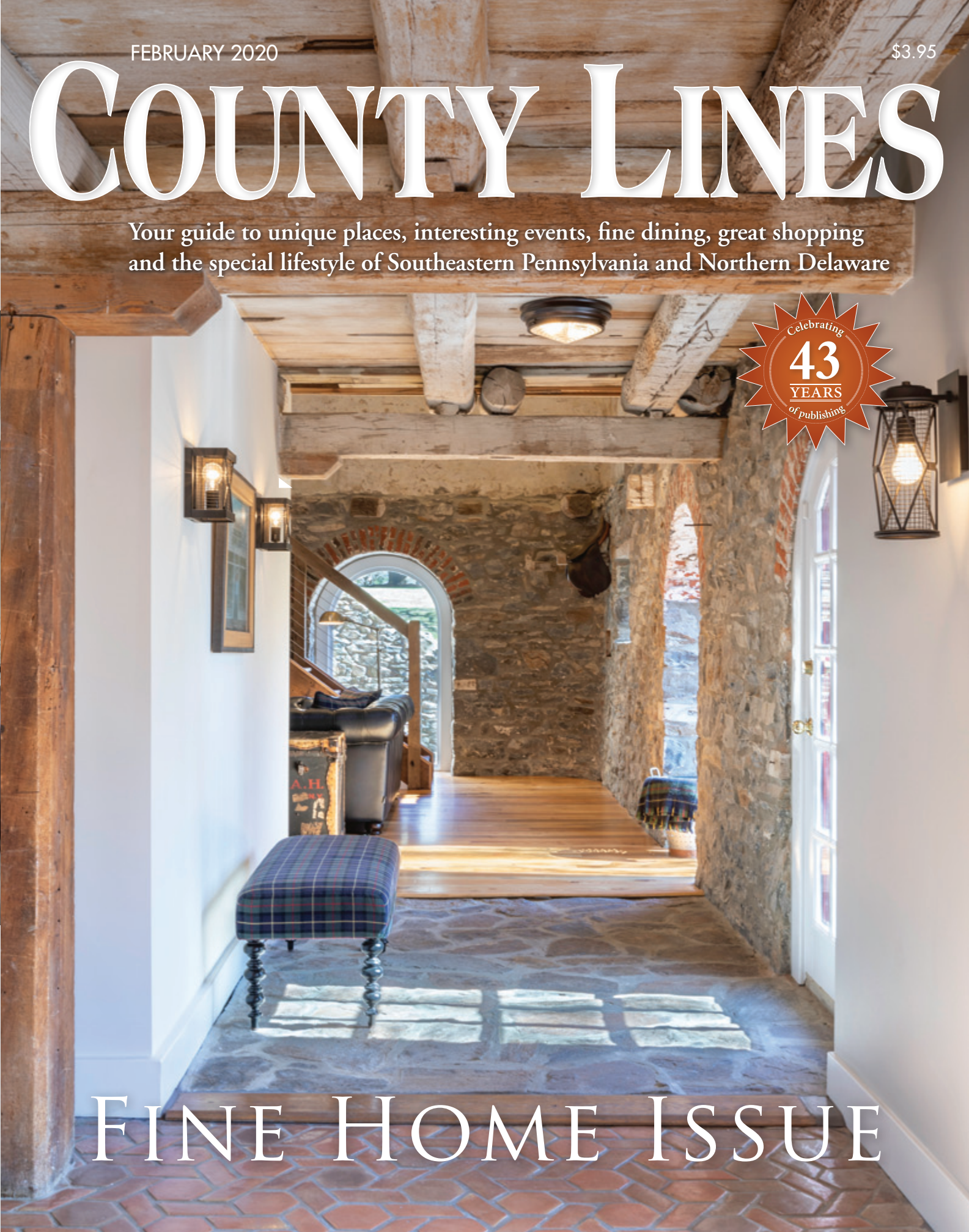
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Birchrunville

63 Acres | Converted Barn | Pool
Par 3 Golf Hole | Apple Orchard
Pond | Subdivision Possible
\$3,400,000



NEW PRICE

Near Marshallton

4 BR, 4.1 BA | 61.3 Acres | Great Views!
Fabulous Floor Plan | Volumes of Space
Large Barn | Grand Pool Area | A Showcase!
\$2,970,000



NEW LISTING

Chester Springs

Antique 4 BR, 1.1 BA | 57.4 Acres
Abuts Bryn Coed Preserve | Barn w/15 stalls
Great Easement Potential | Oversize Ring
\$2,890,000



West Marlborough

3BR, 2.1 BA | 59.2 Acs. | Great Stable
Allowed to Build Primary Residence
Heart of Equestrian Area | Great Schools
\$2,490,000



NEW LISTING

Unionville

4 B\$, 3.2 BA | 54.5 Acres | Pool
Fabulous Master Suite | Stable
Perfect for Entertaining | Tennis Court
\$1,990,000



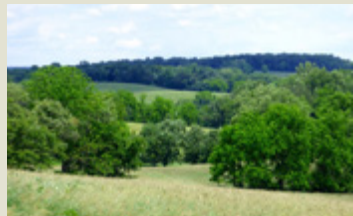
Unionville

4 BR, 3.2 BA | 20.5 Acres | Private!
New Construction - Pick from 4 models
Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools!
\$1,749,000



West Marlborough

6 BR, 3.1 BA | 35 Acres
Indoor Arena Possible | Pond
24 Stall Barn | Unionville Schools
\$1,699,000



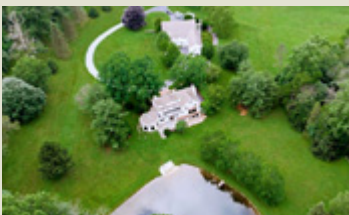
West Marlborough

46.2 Acre Parcel | On quiet country road
Midst of equestrian area | Protected views
Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
\$1,685,000



Unionville

77 Acres | Mix of Open & Woodlands
Fabulous Views of Protected Countryside
Equestrian Area | Unionville Schools
\$1,685,000



Warwick Township

6 BR, 5.1 BA | 22.5 Acres | Very Private!
Historic Farmhouse, Stone Barn & Pond
Near 535 Ac. Warwick Park | Priced to Sell!
\$1,075,000



NEW PRICE

Honey Brook

3 BR, 2.2 BA | 7.8 or 4 Acres
Spacious Great Room with Kitchen
Super Master Suite & Bath | Lg. Garage
\$662,500



NEW PRICE

Chadds Ford

5 BR, 3 BA | c.1844 | 2.1 Acres
New Kitchen | Stunning Master Bath
Well Off Road | Great Fairville Location
\$647,000



NEW PRICE

East Bradford

5 BR, 3.1 BA | 2 Private Acres
Open Floor Plan | Large Family Room
Newer Kitchen | West Chester Schools
\$599,900



NEW PRICE

East Fallowfield

4 BR, 2.1 BA | 2 Private Acres | Pool
Stunning Paneling | High-end Kitchen
Very Impressive Library | Updated Baths
\$580,000



NEW PRICE

Near ChesLen Preserve

4 BR, 3 BA | 1.3 Acres | Great Views!
Stunning Kitchen & Baths | Good Location
Unionville Schools | Near Cheslen Preserve
\$510,000



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Great Commuting Location
\$219,900



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The "Barron's Winner's Circle Top 1200" is a select group of individuals who are screened on a number of different criteria. Among the factors that advisors are assessed include their assets under management, revenues, the quality of service provided to clients, and their adherence to high standards of industry regulatory compliance. Portfolio performance is not a factor. Please see Barrons.com for more information.

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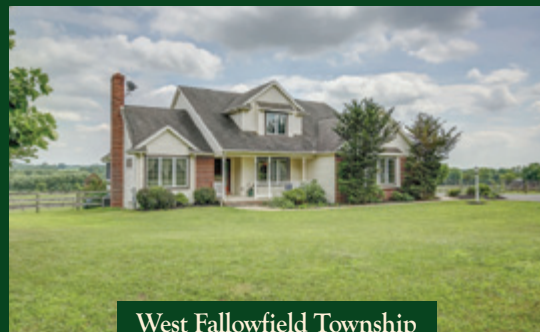
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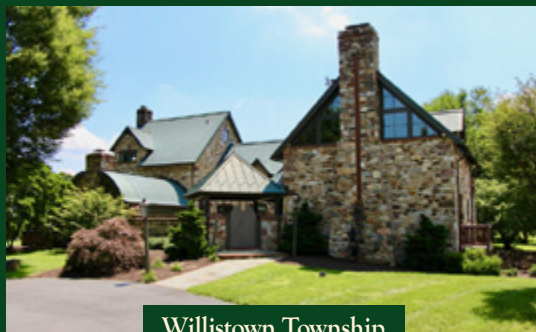
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West Fallowfield Township

Turn-key horse property w/custom built house along w/34 stall barn, wash stalls, heated tack room & feed room. Generously sized paddocks & pastures and all-weather ring on 13 acres.

Price Upon Request



Willistown Township

Exceptional award winning custom home in Radnor Hunt on 10 acres - amazing views and privacy!

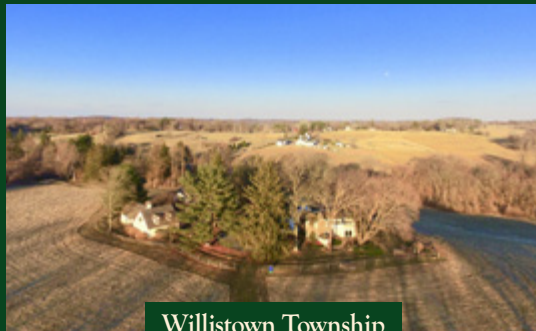
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Newlin Township

Custom 4BR timber frame home with 2 fireplaces on 4+ acres w/ pool & spa, stream and beautiful country views. Includes 2nd one acre parcel. Located in the Unionville School District.

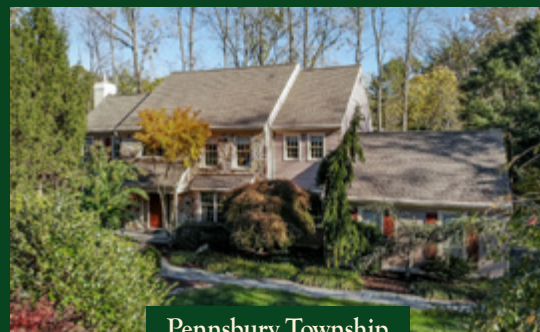
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Willistown Township

Unbeatable "ride out" location. Charming home, 2 car garage, squash court & studio. Spectacular views, manageable barn & large tractor shed on 14 acres.

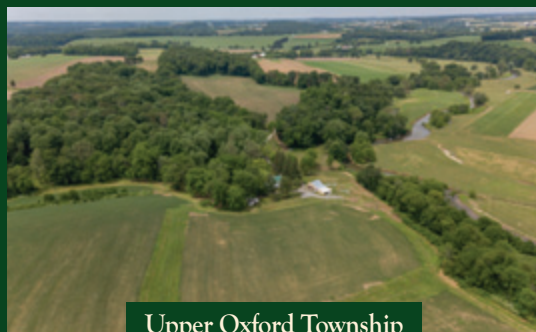
Price Upon Request



Pennsbury Township

A pastoral setting surrounded by horse farms & agricultural security zone, adjacent to the historic Brandywine Battlefield. Beautifully updated 4BR, 2.5B home w/open floor plan.

Price Upon Request



Upper Oxford Township

Octorara Creek Farm - stunning views overlooking Octorara Creek with modest, older farmhouse, various outbuildings, lovely fields & meadows on 52+/- acres (additional acreage available).

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from the EDITOR

For February we're focusing on homes and schools, plus plenty of articles to keep you excited about living in *County Lines* country.

Our first home, on our cover, is Greystone Barn, built in the 1830s and transformed into a unique and comfortable family home. Matt Freeman describes how it's now a "place of abundant visual and historic appeal." Just check out the orange and blue kitchen!

For an earlier barn conversion—a 1730s barn transformed in the 1940s—read "Bubbles' Bank Barn." Ed Malet talked with Peter Moore, who grew up in this Media bank barn, about the interesting home on property formerly owned by the Wood family, of Wawa fame.

Our third home, Fox Hill Farm, on 80+ acres, includes a vineyard, full equestrian facilities and a gracious Georgian stone home. As Laurel Anderson writes, it "mixes the best of Chester County charm with touches of Old World elegance ... All it needs is its next caretakers."

There's more on homes in our realtor interviews in "From the Experts," sharing insights on this spring's market. And check out our "Fine Homes & Design Resource Guide" and "Kitchen Inspiration" for ideas for your home if you're staying put.

Jane Dorchester's "Preserving History in West Chester" tells us about the properties and people receiving awards in the Borough's historic preservation efforts.

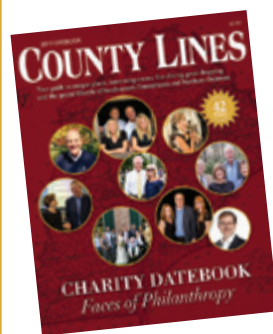
As for schools, some of the country's finest independent schools are in the Delaware Valley. Barbara Kraus-Blackney, of ADVIS, explains why you should "Make the Choice of a Lifetime: Choose an Independent School." Plus, we include "A Guide to Area Independent & Private Schools Open Houses."

Other issue highlights include Natural Lands' Kirsten Werner's report that Bald Eagles are back, Emily Hart's visit to Downingtown and Exton, and Malcolm Johnstone's new book, *For the Union*. Finally, Brandywine Table's Alyssa Thayer shares a holistic approach to wellness through nourishing foods and warming soup, "Taking Stock."

We hope you make the most of February with our Best Local Events coverage.

Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COMING IN

March

Charity Datebook

Profiles of Local Philanthropy
Medical Giving • Datebook Calendar
Fundraising Fun • Gala Fashions
Books • Wine • Brandywine Table



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

February 2020

Volume XLIII, Number 6

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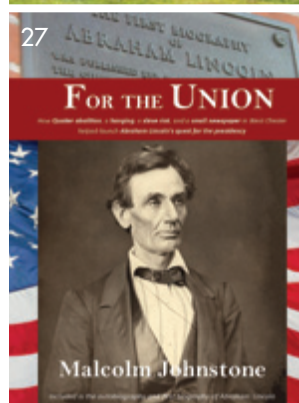
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Cover photo of Greystone Barn by Austin Eterno. Top photo on this page of Greystone Barn by Ben Williams Photography.



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[Good to Know]

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

.....
Music for All. Music education should be available to everyone, and for the kids of Coatesville this is now a real possibility. **Build-A-Band Music Education** has provided music classes to more than 400 students in the Coatesville School District, from English-language learners to the academically gifted. More than 80% of students pay only part, or nothing, to take these classes. Instead costs are covered by donations Build-A-Band receives. Bravo to sharing the gift of music! LisaWolfeMusic.com.



.....
Perfect Prescriptions. Shouldn't you know how you'll react to new medicine *before* you take it? That's the thinking at **StoneView Labs**, a West Chester medical office that uses pharmacogenomics (PGx) testing. PGx testing determines how your genetics will cause your body to respond to prescribed medications. And since your genetics don't change, the results are applicable for life! Who knew a simple cheek swab could lead to a lifetime of ideal medication prescription choices? StoneViewWC.com.

.....
Vote for Change! Over the past few years, voter engagement on college campuses has been growing, and **West Chester University** is at the forefront. WCU received a Gold Seal from ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge, an organization encouraging campuses to help students be active and informed citizens. The Gold Seal was awarded to campuses with 40–49% voter participation in the 2018 Midterm Election—West Chester's was 43.8%. A worthy recognition for our local university's great work!



The Art of Reading. Did you know the Delaware Art Museum Store is now an independent bookstore? In addition to the store's gifts and souvenirs, you'll find a selection of books for sale, too. Avid readers will enjoy the bookstore's book clubs, like the Well-Read Black Girl Book Club or the DelArt Readers—both meet monthly. Keep an eye on the calendar for open mics, writers' gatherings, conferences and more. *2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. DelArt.org.*



.....
Growing Gardens. Blooming orchids, lighted fountains, lush woods and meadows—**Longwood Gardens** is a top PA tourist destination attracting 1.5 million visitors a year. And soon there will be even more to see, with a \$200 million expansion—its biggest—in the works. Plans include repairing and renovating the Orchid, Banana and Nuttery buildings, building a new conservatory, along with improving the physical plant (pun intended). A Kennett treasure continues to flourish! *1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. LongwoodGardens.org.*



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February Picks

Our Picks for top events this month

Philly Home & Garden Show

February 14-16

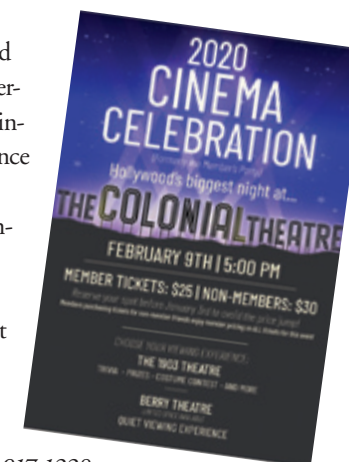


Stroll through more than 7500 square feet of inspirational gardens showcasing new gardening techniques, ideas and must-have products for 2020. Shop the flower shop, garden market and succulent bar and kick back and relax in the Wine Garden. Special guests Eric and Lindsey Bennett of HGTV's *Desert Flippers* and Barry Williams who played Greg on *The Brady Bunch*. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Rd., Oaks. Fri., 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$9-\$11. PhillyHomeAndGarden.com.

2020 Cinema Celebration at The Colonial Theatre

February 9

Gather your friends on the red carpet and prepare for an entertaining look back at the year-in-film. Select a viewing experience in the 1903 theater featuring interactive trivia, costume contest and more. Or, choose a quiet viewing experience in the Berry Theatre. Enjoy light fare, dessert and one beverage (beer and wine available for sale). 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 5 p.m. \$35. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.



Lititz Fire & Ice

February 14-15

Feel the warmth at this free, family-friendly event in downtown Lititz. The ice festival features live ice carvings, food trucks, music, shopping and more. Bundle up for the Fire Show on Fri. & Sat., 5 to 9 p.m. Lions Chili Cook-off, carnival and vendor fair on Sat., at Warwick High School, 301 W. Orange St., Lititz, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Fun starts at 5 p.m. on Fri. For more information visit LititzFireAndIce.com.

Paint Out Chadds Ford

February 6-March 14

Celebrate local art and artists as they harken back to a time when early American painters such as Howard Pyle, Mary Cassatt, Andrew Wyeth and N.C. Wyeth were inspired by the beauty of the Brandywine Valley landscape. Painting takes place on Feb. 6, 7 and 8 and the public is invited to an Artists Reception and Wet Paint Sale on the 8th from 6 to 8 p.m. \$15. Artwork will be on display and available for purchase through March 14. Barn Visitor Center, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.



Shakespeare in Love at People's Light

February 26-March 29

A stage adaptation of the 1998 Academy Award-winning film about the young playwright who finds his muse in a beautiful, intelligent noblewoman with dreams of the stage. Their affair is the inspiration for Shakespeare's next play, *Romeo and Juliet*. Recommended for ages 13+ due to mild sexual situations and some profanity. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Phone 610-644-3500 or visit website for times and tickets. PeoplesLight.org.



best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH FEBRUARY Wednesdays

Story Time at Reads & Company. Every Wednesday morning at 11 am back at the Reading Rocketship at Reads & Company Bookshop, 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 484-920-3695; ReadsAndCompany.com.

FEBRUARY 1

Winter Carnival & Super Science Saturday at Montgomery School. Kids will enjoy face painting, hands-on projects, games, science experiments and more. 1141 Kimberton Rd., Chester Springs. 11 to 1. Free. 610-601-4342; MontgomerySchool.org.

FEBRUARY 1

Cabin Fever Saturday at Historic Sugartown. Put away the video games and come out to Historic Sugartown to play the way kids did during the 1700s and 1800s. Enjoy kid-friendly crafts and old-fashioned games. 690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 11 to 2. \$6. 610-640-2667; HistoricSugartown.org.



FEBRUARY 9

Family Second Sundays at Delaware Art Museum. Create art, listen to stories, sing songs and have lunch at the museum. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$10 donation. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

FEBRUARY 17, MARCH 14

Longwood Gardens Presents OrKid Days. Explore orchids first hand at discovery stations, enjoy interactive story reading and join in a family seek-and-find in the orchid-filled Conservatory. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 11 to 2. Free with gardens admission, \$12-\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 29

Pancake Breakfast and Maple Sugaring Celebration at Tyler Arboretum. Learn how maple sugar is turned from sap into syrup, then satisfy your appetite with Tyler's famous all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast. Snow date Mar. 7. 515 Painter Rd., Media. 8 to 1. \$10-\$16, under 2 free. 610-566-9134; TylerArboretum.org.



MARCH 7-8

57th Gem, Mineral & Fossil Show. The show features exhibits of mineral, lapidary and fossil specimens, displays from regional and university museums, fine dealers of minerals, fossils, gems, jewelry and lapidary supplies, demonstrations and a children's table. DoubleTree by Hilton, 4727 Concord Pk., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 5. \$4-\$6. 410-392-6826; DelMinSociety.net.



MARCH 9, 14

WCU-Live! Missoula Children's Theatre Presents The Emperor's New Clothes. The Children's Theatre company recruits more than 50 local students to take part in an original musical adaptation. Mar. 9, auditions at Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 4:30. Mar. 14, performances, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, University Ave. & S. High St., West Chester. 2 and 5 pm. \$7-\$10. 610-436-2266; WCUpa.edu/Live; MCTInc.org.

ART, CRAFT & ANTIQUES.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY 1

2020 CraftForms at Wayne Art Center. An international juried exhibition of contemporary crafts. Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. Mon-Fri, 9 to 5; Sat, 9 to 4. Free. 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org.

JANUARY 29-FEBRUARY 2

Malvern Retreat House Art Show & Sale. Featuring over 100 juried artists. The theme this year will be "Water." Jan. 30, complimentary wine and cheese social, 5 to 8. Malvern Retreat House, McShain-Horstmann Family Life Center, 315 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. Wed-Sat, 10 to 7; Sun, 10 to 4. Free. Benefits Malvern Retreat House. 610-644-0400; MalvernRetreat.com.

JANUARY 31-FEBRUARY 9

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur 47th Annual Fine Art Show & Sale. Featuring nearly 100 artists' works in a variety of mediums, the show opens with a catered preview reception with the artists on Jan. 31, from 6 to 9, \$75 in advance, \$85 at the door. Academy Mansion, 560 Sproul Rd., Villanova. Art on display Sat & Sun, noon to 4. Free. NDAPA.org/ArtShow.

MARCH 13-15

38th Annual Chester County Antiques & Art Show. The show features fine collections from an expanded range of 42 antiques dealers. Benefits the collections, conservation and educational activities of Chester County Historical Society. Church Farm School, 1001 E. Lincoln Hwy., Exton. Fri, Preview Party, early admission at 5 (\$200); 6 pm admission (\$150). Show hours: Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. \$15. 610-692-4800; ChesterCoHistorical.org.



AUTOMOBILE SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 7-17

2020 Philadelphia Auto Show. Recognized by the industry as one of the top auto shows in the country, with vehicles from more than 40 manufacturers. Feb. 7, Black Tie Tailgate, 7 pm, benefits the Dept. of Nursing at Children's Hospital of Phila. Tickets \$275 and up. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Philadel-

phia. Check website for hours. \$7-\$14. 215-418-2000; PhillyAutoShow.com.



BOAT SHOWS.....

FEBRUARY 26-MARCH 1

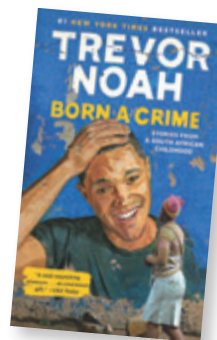
The Atlantic City Boat Show. Celebrate life on the water. Climb aboard hundreds of boats for every budget and lifestyle. Atlantic City Convention Center, One Convention Blvd., Atlantic City, NJ. Wed-Fri, 11 to 8; Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 6. \$17. 718-707-0716; ACBoatShow.com.



BOOKS.....

THROUGH FEBRUARY

Main Point Books. Feb. 15, Girls in Capes: Escaping Exodus by Nicky Drayden, 5 pm; Feb. 16, Writer's Coffee House, noon to 2; Feb. 18, Fiction Book Group: The Weight of the Piano by Chris Cander, 1 pm; Feb. 27, Non-Fiction Book Group: Trevor Noah, Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 484-580-6978; MainPointBooks.com.



BRIDAL SHOWS.....

MARCH 1

Bliss Bridal Show & Expo. Enjoy this fun, interactive wedding planning experience with 50 local wedding experts, tastings and hors d'oeuvres, a live show unveiling the latest gowns, dresses and formalwear, raffle prizes and more. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. Noon to 3:30. \$10. 610-917-9300; BridalEvent.com.

FILM.....

FEBRUARY 27-28

13th Annual Trail Creek Outfitters Wild & Scenic Film Festival. Enjoy two nights of ac-



claimed independent short films highlighting outdoor adventure, environmental concerns, and beautiful cinematography. Light refreshments of local food and drinks offered. Benefits Stroud Water Research Center and The Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County. Chester County Historical Society, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 7 pm. \$35; two nights, \$55. 610-268-2153; StroudCenter.org.

FOOD & BREWS.....

FEBRUARY 6

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merce Annual Banquet. Celebrate those who stood out above the rest during the previous year as the Chamber's outstanding citizens and businesses. The Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, 1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern. Cocktails, 5:30, dinner, 6:45. \$125 and up. 610-696-4046; GWCC.org.

FEBRUARY 22
Schuylkill River Greenways Heritage & Hops. Join a beer tasting and lunch at Root Down Brewery then a screening of the documentary "Poured in PA" at the Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 11 to 2. \$30. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiver.org.

FUNDRAISERS.....
FEBRUARY 21-23
Unite for HER—Pink Invitational. Over 3,600 athletes compete to raise funds to support the women of Unite for HER. Enjoy a vendor fair and gymnastics at all levels. Pennsylvania Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Phila. Daily 8 am to 10 pm. \$15-\$20. For more information, UniteForHer.org.



FEBRUARY 22
Philadelphia Heart Ball. Enjoy a heart-healthy dinner, then dance and celebrate all who give their time to the American Heart and Stroke Associations. Simeon Fdn. Auto Museum, 6825-31 Norwitch Dr., Philadelphia. 6 to 11:30. \$1000. 215-575-5204; PhiladelphiaHeartBall.Heart.org.

FEBRUARY 22
Jump! For Willowdale Steeplechase. Party the night away with music and dancing, a photo booth and a silent auction. Benefits Stroud Water Research Center, Penn Vet's New Bolton Center and Quest Therapeutic Services. Yellow House, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. 8 to 11. \$65. 610-444-1582; WillowdaleSteeplechase.org.

FEBRUARY 27
9th Annual Empty Bowls Event at Red Clay Room. Benefits the Kennett Food Cupboard. Soup and salad are served, attendees enjoy a silent auction and take home a handmade bowl. 423 Dalmatian St., Kennett Square. Lunch, 11:30 to 1:30; dinner, 6 to 8. \$30. 610-925-3556; KACOnline.net.

FEBRUARY 29
Cheers for CHOP. An evening of live music, cocktails, dancing and an incredible silent auction. Benefits the Division of Urology at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia. The Fillmore Philadelphia, 29 E. Allen St., Philadelphia. 7 pm to midnight. CheersForChop.edu.



FEBRUARY 29
2020 Lights of Life Mardi Gras Gala. The Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition hosted this year's gala to honor the lives of breast cancer survivors. Purchase a tribute of celebration or a memorial to their legacy. Dover Downs Hotel and Casino, 1131 N. DuPont Hwy., Dover, DE. DBCC.EJoinMe.org/LOLInfo.

MARCH 1
Chester County Futures "Strikes for Futures" Event. An afternoon of food, fun and bowling benefiting Chester County Futures, a program providing academic, mentoring and scholarship support for disadvantaged Chester County youth. Palace Bowling and Entertainment, 977 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. 3 to 5 pm. \$30. 610-458-9926; CCFutures.org.

GARDENS.....
THROUGH MARCH 22
Longwood Gardens—Orchid Extravaganza. The conservatory transforms into a tropical oasis featuring an astonishing display of orchids. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 9 to 6. Timed tickets req., \$12-\$23. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 8
Philadelphia Flower Show. The world's



leading floral and garden designers will immerse visitors in the sights, scents and tastes of a "Riviera Holiday," the theme for this year's show. **Feb. 28**, Gala Preview, 6 to 10, \$350 and up. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Phila. Check website for times and special events throughout the show. \$17-\$35. 215-988-8800; TheFlowerShow.com.

MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH APRIL 12, 2020
Delaware Art Museum. *Through Jan. 26*, "Posing Beauty in African American Culture." *Through Apr. 12*, "Angela Fraleigh: Sound the Deep Waters." 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12, Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.
THROUGH JUNE 14, 2020
Brandywine River Museum of Art. *Feb. 1-June 7*, "Votes for Women: A Visual History." *Feb. 1-June 14*, "Witness to History: Selma Photography of Stephen Somerstein." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9:30 to 5. \$6-\$18. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.



MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....
JANUARY 21-FEBRUARY 23
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Jan. 23-24*, Joe Conklin Comedy Show; *Jan. 26*, Bee Gees Gold, 7, \$40; *Feb. 8*, The Music of Elton John; *Feb. 9*, Opera tutti presents *The True Story of Cinderella*; *Feb. 13*, The Linda Ronstadt Experience; *Feb. 14*, Jazz Cocktail Hour presents "An Evening of Love Songs" featuring Laurin Talese & Quartet; *Feb. 15*, Live at the Fillmore: The Definitive Tribute to the Original Allman Brothers Band; *Feb. 16*, Marc



Cohn; **Feb. 21**, Kenny Rogerson Comedy; **Feb. 23**, Chanting & Chocolate; **Mar. 7**, Tusk. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

JANUARY 23
Delaware Art Museum Performance Series. The Black Iris Project: "A Mother's Rite." The Black Iris Project is a ballet collaborative that celebrates diversity and Black history. "A Mother's Rite" is about how a mother copes with the loss of her child to a racially-motivated murder. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 6 pm. \$10-\$25. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

JANUARY 24-MARCH 7
The Keswick Theatre Presents. *Jan. 24*, Artie Lange; *Jan. 25*, Steven Wright; *Jan. 31*, Voyage—A Tribute to Journey; *Feb. 1*, Kal Penn; *Feb. 7*, Michael Feinstein & Haley Reinhart; *Feb. 8*, Who's Bad (Michael Jackson Tribute); *Feb. 15*, 38 Special; *Feb. 16*, Eddie Levert—Songs and Stories of the O'Jays; *Feb. 19*, Queensrÿche; *Feb. 21*, Elvin Bishop and Charlie Musselwhite Duo; *Feb. 22*, America—50th Anniversary Show; *Feb. 23*, Spyro Gyra; *Feb. 25*, Masters of Illusion; *Feb. 28*, Franco Escamilla; *Feb. 29*, The Robert Cray Band; *Mar. 6*, Greatest Love of All: A Tribute to Whitney Houston with Belinda Davids; *Mar. 7*, Tom Papa. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Visit website for times and tickets. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.



JANUARY 26
Tri-State Jazz Society Concert at Community Arts Center. Capital Focus Jazz Band. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. 2 to 4:30. \$10-\$20. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 1
Valley Forge Casino Resort. David Brighton's Space Oddity: The Ultimate David Bowie Experience. 8 pm. \$30. 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. 610-354-8118; VFCasino.com.

FEBRUARY 7
WCU—Live! Flamenco Vivo—Carlota Santana. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30. \$15-\$27. 610-436-2266; WCUPa.edu/Live.



FEBRUARY 9
Immaculata Symphony Youth Concert. The symphony performs a program entitled "The Color of Sound." Afterward, children are invited on stage to meet the musicians and their instruments. Immaculata College, Alumnae Hall, 1145 King Rd., Immaculata. 3 pm. \$10. ImmaculataSymphony.org.

FEBRUARY 12
Friday Night Live Concert at Community Arts Center. Step into a ballroom speakeasy. Listen to 1920s acoustic jazz with the Blackbird Society Orchestra. 414 Plush Mill Rd.,

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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. Bryn Mawr train station parking lot. *Through Apr., 1st, 3rd, & 5th Sat, 10 to noon.* FarmToCity.org.

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

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

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 113 E. State St. *From Jan. 31-Apr., biweekly on Fri, 3 to 5:30.* 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.

Media Farmers Mkt., Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. *Through Apr., 1st & 3rd Sun, 10 to noon.* 215-733-9599; MediaFarmersMarket.com.

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. *Through Apr., 1st, 3rd & 5th Sat, 10 to noon.* 610-436-9010; WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

Westtown Amish Mkt., 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. *Thurs, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 8; Sat, 8 to 4.* 610-492-5700; WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

Wallingford. 7 to 10. \$10–\$15. 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org.

FEBRUARY 13
Delaware Art Museum Performance Series. Vibraphonist Joel Ross performs with his Good Vibes ensemble. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 8 pm. \$25–\$35. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

FEBRUARY 14
Point Entertainment Presents ... Ukulele master Jake Shimabukuro and virtuoso mandolin-



player, Sierra Hull. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 8 pm. \$29.50–\$49.50. 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

FEBRUARY 15–MARCH 5
Longwood Gardens Performance Series. *Feb. 15,* Carlene Carter; *Feb. 21,* Irish music with Altan; *Feb. 28,* Berlin Philharmonic Piano Quartet; *Feb. 29,* Joey Alexander Trio; *Mar. 1,* Curtis Student Recitals; *Mar. 3,* Dreamers' Circus; *Mar. 5,* The King's Singers. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Check website for many more performances, times and tickets. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MARCH 1
The Keswick Theatre Presents The New Shanghai Circus. Astonishing athletes defy gravity and execute breathtaking feats as they



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bring more than two thousand years of Chinese circus traditions. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. 4 pm. \$19.50–\$50.50. 215-572-7650; KeswickTheatre.com.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....
THROUGH FEBRUARY, Thursdays
West Chester Birding Club Field Trip. Founded in 1910, this is one of the oldest continually active bird clubs in the country. The field trip is to Exton Park, where surrounding wetlands have been a popular birding spot for years. 800 E. Swedesford Rd., Exton. 8:30 am. Free. WestChesterBirdClub.org.



THEATER.....
THROUGH FEBRUARY 9
The Children. A 2018 Tony Award nominee by

Lucy Kirkwood. Recommended for ages 13+ due to mature themes. People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Check website for times and tickets. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

JANUARY 29–FEBRUARY 23
Eleanor: An American Love Story. Chronicles the story of the shy young aristocrat who was destined to become First Lady. The Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Check website for times and tickets. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

FEBRUARY 12–MARCH 1
Outside Mullingar. Tony Award nominee for Best Play from the author of *Doubt*. A romantic comedy set in rural Ireland. Delaware Theatre Company, 200 Water St., Wilmington. Check website for show times and tickets. 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
THROUGH MAY, First Saturday
Escape Brandywine. Escape Brandywine places participants into roles of spies on the eve of the Battle of Brandywine inside the c.1725 John Chads House. Players have to solve puzzles that lead to General Howe's battle plans and then escape to deliver them to George Washington. Barn Visitors Center, 1736 Creek

Rd., Chadds Ford. 10 am, noon or 2 pm. \$28. 610-388-7376; ChaddsFordHistory.org.

FEBRUARY 7, 8, 20
First Fridays, Second Saturdays, Third Thursdays. Feb. 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; ArtLoopWilmington.org.

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

Feb. 20, Third Thursday Malvern Stroll, MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

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

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

For more events visit:

CountyLinesMagazine.com

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West Chester BID's Executive Director Talks About His Book on Our Local History

Four score and seven years ago ... well-known words. So well-known you probably don't need the next sentence to identify the source.

So much is known about our 16th president, but do you know his connection to our area? Though never stepping foot in West Chester himself, Abraham Lincoln does have important ties to the town.

Malcolm Johnstone's first book, *For The Union*, tells the story of Lincoln's presidential campaign and the role West Chester played in helping him become the Republican presidential nominee. The book also examines how West Chester developed an enduring culture of equal rights and political influence.

The heart of Johnstone's book includes a reprinting of the first published biography of Lincoln, published in 1860 in the heart of West Chester, in what's now known as the Lincoln Building. The biography was initially published in a local newspaper, *The Chester County Times*, as an editorial piece, about 3,000 words long.

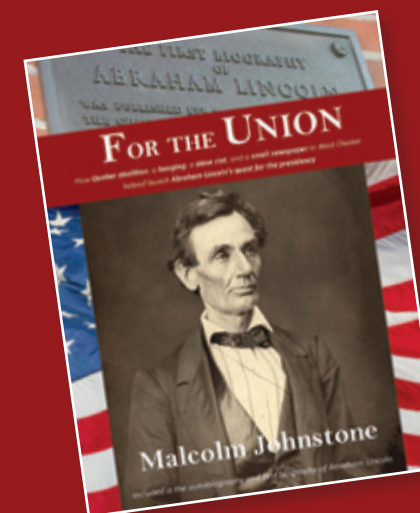
Stories of community leaders and their roles in propelling Lincoln to the presidency give texture to the history in *For The Union*. There are conversations between Lincoln and former Chester Countians, like Jesse Fell, who had an office at the Lincoln Building and gathered autobiographical material for the biography.

Even now, our community commemorates Lincoln. Each year before the Christmas Parade, the Gettysburg Address is read from the balcony of the Lincoln Building as part of a competition among school children dressed as the former president. In addition, the Chester County Historical Society preserves a collection of Lincoln artifacts periodically on display. And during weekday business hours visitors can explore the writings of Lincoln at the Lincoln Building (28 W. Market St.), now home to the Chester County Community Foundation and the tea house, The Lincoln Room.

"His legacy certainly lives here," says Johnstone. And this book is another step in preserving that legacy.

We'll tip our hat—our stovepipe hat—to that!

~Mercedes Thomas



We recently chatted with **Malcolm Johnstone** to learn a little more about his book and his inspiration behind writing it ...

Is this the first book you've written?

I've worked with authors and publishers on books about West Chester, but *For The Union* is the first book I've authored. It's a collaborative effort with a great team from the Chester County Community Foundation, like Karen Simmons, Jamison Ludgate and Cierra Ecknerode. And Victoria Flickinger has been an outstanding editor. It's been an exciting project.

What inspired you to write this book?

There are only two copies left in the world of the original biography of Abraham Lincoln. One is at the Chester County Historical Society—but it was misplaced in the 1990s. Later, when it turned up again, I was part of a small group of enthusiasts able to view it. When I saw it, I thought, 'We're seeing an important part of our history. The story of how this happened needs to be told.'

When can Lincoln fans buy this book?

There are two editions planned for the book. In February, a deluxe edition is being offered as part of a fundraiser for the Chester County Community Foundation. Then in April, a paperback edition will be offered. Readers can find specific information at DowntownWestChester.com.



Learn more about Malcolm Johnstone and *For the Union: How Quaker abolition, a hanging, a slave riot, and a small newspaper in West Chester helped launch Abraham Lincoln's quest for the presidency* at the website: DowntownWestChester.com

Careful Comeback

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands

THE RETURN OF THE BALD EAGLE IS THE STORY OF A REMARKABLE SPECIES REBOUND.

ON A WET MORNING THIS PAST MARCH, PRESERVE Manager Darin Groff and Assistant Caleb Arrowood drove sign posts into the slushy mud at Bryn Coed Preserve. The Preserve encompasses 520 acres in Chester Springs, including the headwaters of the Pickering Creek. About 300 yards away, a massive nest of sticks is visible at the top of a white pine and, out of view, is a female Bald Eagle incubating three eggs.

BACK FROM NEAR EXTINCTION

Once a common sight in North America, Bald Eagles declined precipitously in the mid-20th century, largely due to habitat loss, hunting and the widespread use of DDT, a pesticide that caused their eggs to be too fragile. At their lowest point, only 487 nesting pairs of Bald Eagles remained in North America.

In 1940 Congress passed The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, which prohibited commercial trapping and killing of the birds. It took another 27 years before the Bald Eagle was protected under the precursor to the federal Endangered Species Act.

Thanks to conservation efforts, by the 1990s breeding populations of Bald Eagles could be found across most of North America. And, in 2007 the species was removed from the federal Endangered Species list.

The recovery is considered one of the most successful and remarkable species rebounds in history.

CONTINUING THREATS

Bryn Coed is just one of many of Natural Lands' nature preserves that offers ideal feeding and nesting habitat: abundant wetlands with high water quality for hunting and foraging, and mature trees for perching and nesting.

Yet, threats to our national bird remain. Today, human activity and habitat loss are the Bald Eagle's most significant challenges. The species is particularly sensitive to nearby human activity—even well-meaning, curious hikers.

In fact, human activity is the leading cause of nest failure in Pennsylvania, according to Pennsylvania Game Commission biologist Patti Barber. "The single biggest threat to Bald Eagle nests in Pennsylvania is human disturbance," she said.



Bald eagle at Conowingo
PHOTO COURTESY BILL MOSES

The Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act prohibits any activity that's likely to interfere with the birds' normal breeding behavior. Federal regulations require people to keep a distance of 660 feet from an active eagle nest, although the PA Game Commission recommends a 1,000-foot "buffer zone."

Still, Barber advocates educating the public rather than trying to keep them in the dark. "The best protection for eagle nests is to have people that care about them," she said. "If we hide them all, we'll be separating people from them. We want people to be attached to these nests, and we want to keep society engaged with eagles."

The signs Darin and Caleb are installing at Bryn Coed encourage visitors to stay on the trail and keep dogs on a leash with educational information to incentivize compliance. "If people wander too close to the eagles' nest, they'll probably abandon it," Darin explains. "Bald Eagles use the same nest for years—even decades—so now that Bryn Coed is open to visitors, we don't want the eagles to feel threatened."

BALD EAGLES 101

There's no question that Bald Eagles are among the most compelling species of wildlife. One of the largest birds in North America, an adult Bald Eagle can be nearly 38 inches long, have a wingspan of more than 80 inches, and weigh as much as 14 pounds.

A female Bald Eagle is larger than her male counterpart. Though both sexes will incubate eggs, the female spends more time doing so and her size makes her better suited to shelter both eggs and her young from harsh weather. The male's smaller size reflects his abilities as a fast and nimble hunter.

Bald Eagles typically don't mate until four or five years of age. And once paired up, they mate for life. They construct their nests from sticks, re-using and adding material to them year after year. Called "aeries," these large nests can grow to 6 feet wide and 10 feet high. The largest nest ever recorded was more than 9.5 feet in diameter and 20 feet tall.

The pair of birds at Bryn Coed Preserve have been using the same nest site for the past four years, so it's still a moderately sized aerie.

Eagles' eggs require about 35 days of incubation. The hatchlings develop most of their feathers within the first month, hop around the nest at six to seven weeks, and begin to fly at three months. They leave their parents in the fall.

Bald eagles can have a wingspan of over 80 inches
PHOTO COURTESY BILL MOSES



With careful habitat management and just enough positive interest by visitors—provided they admire from a distance—we expect to see Bald Eagles flying around Bryn Coed Preserve for many years to come.

"Even though I see them fairly often, I still stop what I'm doing to watch them," said Darin. "If this place had become a housing development, they'd be gone. It's awesome to know our work saving land is also saving eagles." ♦



Bald eagles' nests are called "aeries" and can be 6 feet wide and 10 feet tall
PHOTO COURTESY BRIAN JOHNS

Natural Lands is dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature's wonders while creating opportunities for joy and discovery in the outdoors for everyone. As the Greater Philadelphia region's oldest and largest land

conservation organization, Natural Lands—which is member supported—has preserved more than 125,000 acres, including 44 nature preserves, totaling more than 23,000 acres. Some 2.5 million people live within five miles of land under the organization's protection. Land for life, nature for all. NatLands.org.

Preserving History in West Chester

Jane E. Dorchester, Founding Preservation Awards Committee Chair
Photos by Timlyn Vaughan Photography

Let the winners of this year's Historic Preservation Awards
help you explore some West Chester treasures.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR, WEST CHESTER HOSTS A full calendar of exciting events and activities for residents and visitors alike. Choose from mega-events like the QVC West Chester Christmas Parade and Benchmark Twilight Cycling Classic or smaller gatherings like the recent Holiday Home Tours and annual Gettysburg Address contest on the balcony of the historic Lincoln Building.

None of these events would be the same without the charming backdrop of West Chester's carefully preserved historic buildings. Many groups and individuals are behind the long-term efforts to keep the character of these buildings, streetscapes and neighborhoods intact. And each year, one group takes the time to recognize ongoing efforts to that end.

West Chester Downtown Foundation's annual West Chester Preservation Awards ceremony celebrates the preservation of

West Chester's historic character with awards focusing on three areas—Bricks and Mortar projects, Preservation Service efforts and Legacy recognition. At the ninth annual ceremony this past October, seven awards were presented to further the mission of elevating awareness and appreciation of West Chester's rich character and encouraging its preservation.

AND THE WINNERS ARE ...

This past year, five Bricks and Mortar Awards recognized a wide variety of construction projects of sterling quality that demonstrate creative ways buildings and their settings can be preserved, restored or rehabilitated. Winners may mark the award with a plaque installed on the building.

One of the oldest continuously occupied structures in the Borough, Fountain Green, 320 N. Church Street, won in recognition

100 West Virginia Avenue (Mary Thomas House)



of the efforts by its owner and project architect, Frens and Frens, to correct years of damage caused by misguided renovation of the exterior. The distinctive exterior brickwork is laid in Flemish bond—the long side of the bricks alternating with the short side. The solution preserved the visibility of the bond while protecting the bricks from further damage. This project serves as an abject lesson in the fragility of brick buildings and how to correct seemingly fatal damage to them.

Attributed to celebrated architect Frank Furness, 100 West Virginia Avenue (Mary Thomas House), was recognized as an excellent example of how sensitive additions and careful maintenance can preserve an important historic house while still meeting the needs of a modern family. A large kitchen and living area “ell” were added to the home's south elevation and designed to complement the original house. Changes made during the owners'

37 years of occupancy demonstrate the care taken in preserving this important building's original design and historic character.

Although modern parking garages rarely make a positive contribution to the visual appeal of their surroundings, the Bicentennial Garage is an important exception.

Bicentennial Garage, 20 S. High Street, won an award because it is an outstanding example of how utilitarian buildings can be designed to fit into the historic fabric of West Chester. Its design complements the scale and character of the adjacent 19th- and 20th-century buildings, and it stands out because it does *not* stand out.



Bicentennial Garage



Dale Frens received the 2019 Legacy Award



The Preservation Service Award recognized the West Chester Town Tours

Designed by Philadelphia architect Henry T. Price, **Elbow Lane**, 620 N. Matlack Street and 125-127 Elbow Lane, received an award in recognition of the ongoing stewardship of this unique enclave of houses by the owners of the properties. These Hobbit-like houses feature architectural elements salvaged by Price from the 18th- and 19th-century houses razed to make way for the Benjamin Franklin Bridge. The three eccentric cottage-style homes are an eclectic and intriguing contribution to the Borough.

In a time when public institutions too often opt for demolition of their historic resources, West Chester University chose to rehabilitate the exterior of **Anderson Hall**, 725 S. Church Street, to preserve its historic character while modernizing the interior. This project was recognized for the sensitive rehabilitation of the exterior of this building, the largest anchor for “The Quad,” the historic heart of WCU’s campus. These improvements will insure the building remains a valuable academic facility for years to come.

MORE WINNERS

The **Preservation Service** and **Legacy Awards** recognize contributions to the better understanding of the history of West Chester and the need to preserve the physical evidence of that history.

In recognition of 25 years of telling the story of West Chester’s history and celebrating its historic architecture, the Preservation Service Award went to the **West Chester Historical and Architectural Review Board** for their West Chester Town Tours. The tours are part of the annual county-wide Town Tours and Village Walks program created by Jane L. S. Davidson. The well-attended walking tours help people personally experience the Borough’s history and architecture.

The **2019 Legacy Award** was presented to **Dale Frens**, of Frens and Frens Architects, because of his lasting impact on West Chester’s historic character and fabric. For over 34 years, Dale has been instrumental in the preservation, restoration or rehabilitation of an astonishing 76 properties located throughout the Borough, including the Historic Chester County Courthouse, the Lincoln Building and the David Townsend House, along with donating countless hours of service to nonprofit cultural and historic organizations. Dale’s work represents some of West Chester’s most significant architectural projects of the last 30 years and has created a lasting impact on West Chester’s historical architectural character.

YEAR TEN

The Tenth Annual Preservation Awards will kick-off in April with nominations closing in June. For details, check with the West Chester BID office or on-line at DowntownWestChester.com. Winners are announced in July, and the Awards Ceremony is scheduled for October 15, 2020.

Please help recognize projects that have enhanced West Chester’s historic character and fabric by submitting a nomination. ♦

Jane E. Dorchester has worked in the preservation field since 1983, specializing in historic property research, historic resource inventories and surveys, and national register nominations. She earned a Master of Science in Historic Preservation from the University of Pennsylvania and currently heads a historic preservation consulting firm. JEditionspu@gmail.com; 610-431-3737.



Elbow Lane, 620 N. Matlack Street



Anderson Hall, West Chester University



Dovetailing the Old and New: Exton and Downingtown

Emily Hart

VISIT FOR A BITE TO EAT, A BIT TO DRINK AND MORE PLEASURES

IF, IN THE 1700S, YOU WERE A HORSEBACK RIDER HEADED north from Turk's Head (now West Chester) through Lenni-Lenape country, or you were a Conestoga wagon driver leaving Philadelphia for Hickory Town (now Lancaster), you'd have consulted the map for places to stop for provisions. Depending on your needs, you might have stayed at the crossroads (now called Exton), or conducted your business at Milltown (now Downingtown).

Since then, we've traded wagons for cars, paper maps for cell-phones with GPS and learned new town names. Yet the bustling

businesses of Exton and Downingtown are still top spots for a bite to eat, a bit to drink and other goods. Clever purveyors are weaving together new-fashioned treasures with time-tested techniques and historical traditions to keep folks coming to town.

ON THE TABLE IN EXTON

Schoolhouse Woodworking—6,000 square feet of woodshop with modern tools and showroom—dovetails the best of a Colonial carpenter and joiner's shop with all the conveniences of Exton

Square Mall where it's located. Tended by woodworker-owner and television personality Jeff Devlin and his St. Bernard, Gretel, the shop has something to see in every direction: handmade tables, pretty wooden bowls, bins and boxes with dovetail joints.

Find workbenches laden with walnut and other woods ready to become cutting boards in DIY classes and custom cabinetry with a local blacksmith's hardware. Devlin offers furniture and home décor items reminiscent of the past and grounded in the present.

"There's beauty in the old," says Devlin. "The scratches on a kitchen table—the backbone of a house—that come from everyday life become the stories we tell over time."

For a brass doorknob to enter your home, a chandelier to illuminate your dining table or candlesticks to grace it, head to **Ball and Ball**. Family members of the antique hardware reproduction and restoration company trace their roots to armor makers for English royalty in the 1600s and a Philadelphia silversmith in the 1700s and 1800s.

Meals and mugs served up in Exton have a hint of history, too. Known in early America as griddle cakes or johnnycakes, the breakfast—and lunch and dinner—stack of pancakes is still a favorite at many modern restaurants.



Jeff Devlin's Schoolhouse Woodworking



Ball and Ball's showroom



Eagleview in Exton



Pancakes from Bright Spot Cafe



Computer rendering of Iron Hill Exton's interior



Duling Kurtz House and Country Inn



Ship Inn



Vickers Restaurant



Exton Place



Downingtown Log House



R Five Wines



Chicago Dawg at Gourmet Barndawgs



Brandywine Valley Bread Company

In **Eagleview**, the new **Bright Spot** café offers 21st-century pancakes perfect for National Pancake Week beginning February 24th this year. One option comes from batter swirled with peanut butter and concord grape jelly. The cannoli pancake features layers of cannoli filling and chocolate chips. The guaranteed sell-out is the spectacular apple pie pancake with pecans and local apples heaped with whipped cream. Enjoy them with acclaimed homemade sausage, fresh squeezed orange juice and great coffee at a table or the counter with cell phone charging stations. Owners Tom and Shannon Marie bring their old-fashioned friendly service and family traditions table-side at the cheery sunflower-themed café.

Just steps from the café, the ever-popular barrels and tankards that pleased travelers centuries ago arrive later in 2020 at **Iron Hill Brewery and Taphouse**. The new location will feature in-house brewing and an innovative kitchen.

For period fine dining in Exton with wonderful ambiance and flavors, there's elegant **Duling Kurtz House and Country Inn**, **Vickers Restaurant** in a charming 1820s farmhouse, and historic **Ship Inn** where wayfarers have come for a meal and cup of cheer since the late 18th century.

What to wear while you're there? The boutique, **Exton Place**, has just the right Brighton bag, Pandora bracelet or Kendra Scott earrings.

A TASTE OF DOWNINGTOWN

It might not be Milltown any longer, but Downingtown still knows how to eat, drink and be merry. A short wagon's ride from the iconic **Downingtown Log House** built around 1705, you'll find modern tavern owners, bakers, wine, bread, beers and dogs.

For award-winning Syrah, local cheeses, charcuterie including homemade pâté and a comfortable gathering spot for conversation, look for the new **R Five Wines** tasting room on Lancaster Avenue, targeting a late January opening.

Its name comes from the former designation of the local SEPTA train line (the R5) that Kieran Robinson and Kristie Shepard unknowingly rode together before they actually met, studied wine-making in France, married, started a winery in California and began working toward dreams of a tasting room and their own vineyard in Chester County. The Robinsons' combined experience includes picking grapes, working on the crush pad and a multitude of other jobs at wineries near and far.

Keeping the brick interior and exposed ductwork of the turn-of-the-century building, the Robinsons have added deep red wainscoting under a long bar, leather-backed stools and wooden tables to provide a relaxed environment for sipping their wines by the glass, bottle or flight: whites including Chardonnay, rosé for spring and reds including Grenache, Syrah and blends.

For beer lovers in your crowd, look for local beers including Victory in the R Five tasting room's cooler.

At an unassuming little bakery tucked into Caln Village Shopping Center, explore organic sourdough breads and treats from recipes to be cherished during any era: bountiful whole wheat loaves, olive oil focaccia and morning buns that would lure the latest sleeper out of bed. If resisting the temptation to eat a sticky bun before arriving home is futile, dig in at the bright yellow tables on the sidewalk outside **Brandywine Valley Bread Company's** front door.

Whether you hold that hot dogs have their origins in German sausages, Coney Island diners or Chicago fare, there's a taste of history behind the new trend at **Gourmet Barndawgs**. Owner and top dawg Barney Flores traded his Miami fire fighter's helmet for a chef's hat and, since November 2019, dishes up authentic Chicago Dawgs with a pepper kick, vegetarian Maharaja Dawgs with mango chutney and yogurt sauce with cilantro, and delectable brisket and Cuban sandwiches. If George Washington would have lunched there, he would have said the Downingtown Destroyer Dawg—always the first to be sold out—was “slammin',” as described by one of its social media fans.

For the best of the past and present, saddle up or grab your keys. There's something good in these towns. ♦

Kitchen Inspiration

We love seeing new kitchen designs—whether looking at photos or on a tour of local homes. Both are great ways to discover what's new and to begin planning how to upgrade our own kitchen. Here are a few sources of inspiration, along with photos from a kitchen tour fundraiser.



This challenging renovation in an 1800s Chester County home in Malvern called for a more modern kitchen that maintained the historical integrity of the house. The plan required three small rooms become one larger living area.

The owners' wish list included specific appliances, ample storage space as well as a fireplace ... yes, a challenging design. Using custom cabinetry and finishes, the changes fit perfectly with the overall feel of the historic home.

The result is a clean transition on one single wall that joins the breakfast room, kitchen area and living room. It's a great space to spend time with family. (See the fireplace view of this kitchen on the back cover of this issue of *County Lines Magazine*.)

PHOTO COURTESY:
Sugarbridge Kitchens & Baths



Historical references feel right at home when positioned in this modern open floor plan.

Enter the room with its mullion doors meeting a wood countertop, alternate colored interior and furniture-shaped base moulding. A butler's pantry is no longer hidden—instead it becomes the focal point to a sink wall, sitting front and center.

The formal bar with its framed mirrored backsplash, wood brackets and glass doors is taken out of the hallway nook and integrated at the entrance to the living space.

Modernly traditional, classic, light, bright and comfortably accessible is what it's all about!

PHOTO COURTESY:
JAY GREEN ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHY FOR
Main Street Cabinet

This functional modern kitchen provides the utmost in efficiency and design.

Deep drawers in the base cabinets offer the maximum use of space—all the better for storing and organizing cookware, dishes and even pots and pans. These drawers can be pulled out all the way, allowing you to see everything inside so nothing gets lost. No more bending and squatting while searching dark shelves!

And deeper-than-normal wall cabinets (by Candelight Cabinetry of painted maple finished in designer white) provide even more storage without adding more cabinetry to the space.

Under-cabinet and recessed LED lighting provides all the light you'll need in this cook's dream of a kitchen.

PHOTO COURTESY:
Madsen Kitchens & Bathrooms



A key feature of this dream kitchen is the high vaulted ceiling, accented with exposed rustic salvaged barn beams that frame the structural lines above.

In addition to the central island, there's a large farm sink, contrasting stone and wood countertops, professional grade oven, cooking surface and exhaust system, floating shelves with a running bond, natural stone backsplash and a coffee bar within arms reach. Note the striking range hood surround featuring scrolled plaster corbels and a recessed, repurposed wood beam.

Other details include beaded shiplap wall boards, convenient pantry with ample countertop space, plus random width, solid white oak flooring, custom cabinetry and millwork.

Opposite the kitchen island (see inset) is an oversized fireplace—complemented by a unique soapstone herringbone firebox, raised stone hearth and copper lined storage niches—perfect for winter nights.

PHOTO COURTESY:
E.C. Trethewey





For more kitchen inspiration ...

The annual Notable Kitchen Tour & Chef's Tasting fundraiser for the Philadelphia Orchestra takes guests through a variety of distinctive kitchens in our area. Last November the 10th annual self-guided tour visited six beautiful homes in Newtown Square, Wayne, Villanova and Gladwyne.

Participants sample bites from Aneu Catering, At the Table, The Bercy, Aux Petits Delices and more as they admired enviable kitchens and stunning table displays.

Here are a few photos to inspire you to mark your calendar for the 2020 tour.



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Greystone Barn

Story by Matt Freeman
Photos by Austin Eterno

A historic Chester County barn becomes a modern family home filled with bold colors and open space while still preserving the bank barn's essential nature.

Adam Travetti had no checklist that morning, and the idea of converting a historic barn had never crossed his mind. But when he turned off South Concord Road in West Chester and rolled to a stop, he knew at first sight he was looking at his family's future home.

Travetti and his wife, Laura, had decided it was time for them and their young son, Keating, to move from their relatively small home in Philadelphia's Rittenhouse Square to something outside the city. Travetti is an avid art collector, but if you ask him what the vision was for their new home, he talks less about design trends and more about mood. He wanted it to be comfortable for family and friends, he says. He wanted it to be fun.

But first there was some work involved, and for that Travetti assembled a team that included architect Peter Archer and Peter's own team at the West Chester-based firm Archer & Buchanan. The builder was Michael R. Rhile Carpentry. Laura Travetti was very involved as well, and in particular made a whirlwind research effort to find lighting that complemented the finished work.



Ordinarily, converting a barn from a shelter for animals to a home for people involves dividing and shaping the empty space inside. But the Travetti barn had been converted to a home in the 1970s, and it had four floors that were fairly isolated from one another. The task here was to open up those floors to each other.

Today, you can stand on the bottom floor and look up into the second-floor loft and surrounding rooms, or stand on the second floor and look down or around. There are vantage points where you can look into five or six different spaces. And from every vantage point, there's an outpouring of visual interest.

Copper lamps that recall the historic stamped-metal lanterns from centuries ago cast a warm glow through the upper regions, and a ceiling fan that's styled on farm windmills turns slowly above as well. From a fireplace in the ground-level den, an intensely blue metal chimney extends up 30 feet, helping to tie the floors together.



One of the first things you learn about the Travettis is they have little fear of bold colors, as demonstrated by the vividly orange and blue retro kitchen appliances from Big Chill in Colorado.



The barn, built in 1830, is technically a “bank barn,” built into the side of a hill. This design functions to help regulate the temperature in winter and summer.

The team updated the electrical systems to modern standards. Geothermal heating and air conditioning systems, often seen in historic homes where feasible, weren’t practical here. But as a bank barn, the structure was taking advantage of geothermal averaging for a couple of centuries already.

The builders did seal the structure to keep the heat and coolness in, and Travetti is delighted with its energy efficiency. “It’s a big cocoon,” he says.

Reclamation of historic materials was certainly a theme of the project. The kitchen shelving is from a 1930s warehouse in Erie,

PA. The floors are heart pine reclaimed from rivers in Florida, where centuries underwater changed the logs’ chemistry to make them denser than normal. They have the grain patterns of pine but a different texture. “They feel like granite,” Travetti says.

Where possible, the barn’s historic nature shines through, whether in the stone of an expansive wall or the heavy timbers preserved and exposed where possible. (See the cover of this issue for an example.)

In fact, there was a part over the dining room (pictured in the following pages) where the past removal of some support logs had caused the second floor to bow nine inches into the first. The builder put in a steel support—and then hollowed out a timber to put around it and keep the look authentic.



If you enter the home via a hardscaped land bridge on the high side, you find a large living room that Travetti intends as a homage to the midcentury modern flavor the former residents had favored. The furniture is long, low and austere, and the large window is divided into Mondrianesque rectangles.

Other windows in the home look into other parts of the barn. In fact the entire structure has been opened up not only from floor to floor but to the outside as well.

The idea, Peter Archer says, was to let in as much natural light as possible, a thing your average working barn tends to lack. “To me, natural light is crucial to just about any space,” Archer says.

In the kitchen particularly windows were added that let Keating and the rest of the family enjoy looking at the wildlife—deer, foxes, even a family of woodchucks that can be seen roaming about the grounds.



Like many owners of historic homes, Travetti talks about the duty to preserve and pass on this piece of the community's heritage. But like the others, he's made it his own, with the help of the team.

Travetti has created a place of abundant visual and historic appeal, a place that friends like to visit, and a place where he and his wife and young son can look together at the deer and foxes roaming the grounds—the fun and comfortable home he imagined that first day. ♦

Travetti readily credits the team he put together with helping to realize his original vision. Archer adds that having everyone be “simpatico” is his own favorite way to work. And Travetti also freely admits that a sympathetic team can help keep each other from going wrong.

Travetti originally wanted more posts in the upstairs loft railing, but the architectural team said it would block the view. On reflection, Travetti saw the sense of that.

When Travetti suggested getting modern doors from Home Depot, he laughs remembering how firmly Archer dismissed that idea. Without missing a beat, Archer replied that solid wood doors were obviously the option that fit the context of this project with its solid structure, stone walls and massive beams.

The architects wanted a staircase on the east wall, but Travetti wasn't sure about that either at first. He admits how he now appreciates that it improves the flow through the house.

RESOURCES

Architect: Archer & Buchanan Architects

Builder: Michael R. Rhile Carpentry

Floors: Goodwin Company

Landscaper: KJM Landscaping



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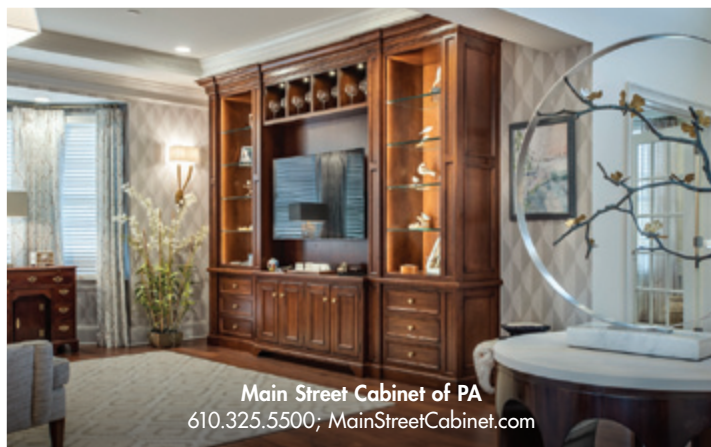
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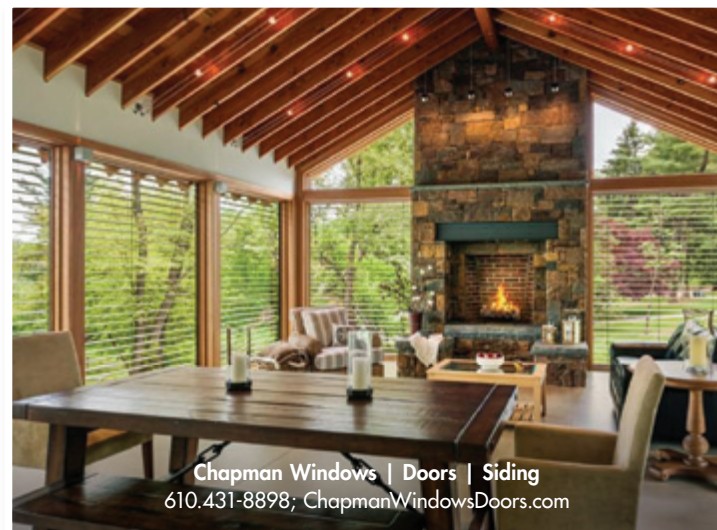


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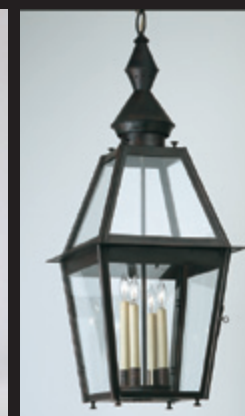
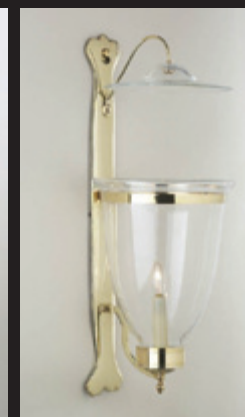
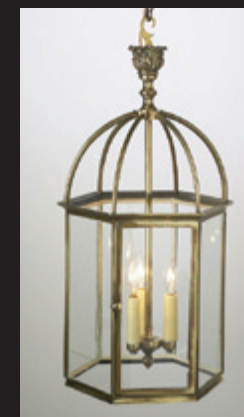


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Bubbles' Bank Barn

A 1730s BARN IS TRANSFORMED INTO A FAMILY HOME ... IN THE 1940s

Edwin Malet

IT'S THE MID-1940S. AN OLD DAIRY BARN SITS IN THE middle of a vast pasture belonging to the Wood family (of Wawa fame, long before they launched the first Wawa store in Lima). Built in the 1730s, the barn burned at the turn of the 20th century and was rebuilt with timber from the remains of several chestnut trees which were felled because of the devastating blight.

THE MOORES' FIRST HOME

A woman in her late 20s is on the roof of the barn, repairing the roof deck. In a rare moment of frustration, she is tired and crying. Could she and her husband transform this dairy barn into a home? Today this may sound like an HGTV show, but it was not a common project in the 1940s.

Elizabeth "Bubbles" Moore had studied as a nurse, managed a string of watch stations during the war on the Maine coast looking out for U-boats, hunted deer and trapped lobsters, and tended the horses that carried health care workers to visit their rural patients. Her husband, E. Townsend Moore, a veteran of the World War II Navy, was now employed by Sun Oil in Marcus Hook as a shore captain. They needed a home.

The couple had bought the bank barn on the Wood's property at the urging of their real estate agent who saw its potential: the country setting, the stream and woods, the 20-inch thick stone walls. The barn's organic design would allow entry at three levels, afford protection from the north wind with ample sun on the southern exposure, and enable the ground's cool air to circulate naturally upward in summer. The framing of chestnut, without nails, with mortise and tenon joints, and the broad stall doors could be preserved.

This was a special structure, even though they initially had to shovel out manure from the former dairy barn.

DIGGING IN

The Moores' house was an early example of a barn conversion so popular today (see the feature story in this issue for a modern version).

Back in the 1940s, though, on that day on the roof, Bubbles was regretting the decision to undertake the project. The repairs and renovations would take forever, she thought, although later, it would be featured in *Better Homes and Gardens*.



Townie Moore on the roof.

Bubbles Moore repairing the barn roof.

The dairy barn, formerly owned by the Wood family



The first big step, besides clean-up, was to replace the roof boards: a massive task. Next, to install walls, windows, ceilings, floors, heating, plumbing.

Slowly, however, the plan came together. Step-by-step, doing the work largely themselves, the couple created their living space. The first floor was outfitted with yellow pine floors, walls, ceiling, a half-bath, a living room (which served as the original bedroom; see photo below). A kitchen was added, resembling a milk house.

Windows were punched out of the stone foundation. Stone fireplaces and brick chimneys were laid. A long utility room was fitted in the space where cows had taken water and hay.

Townsend, who spent weekends studying woodworking, outfitted the house with furniture and cabinets made in his workshop. Beds, tables, cabinets—many of which are still in the house.

The whole family—including two sons and a daughter—lived on the first level. The ceilings were low, perhaps 90 inches. But the effect was warm and cozy, and there was still about 30 feet of living space towering above to be developed.

EVER UPWARD

During the renovation of the second level, the living space opened up. Once filled with hay, the space became the family's private living quarters.

Two large sunlit bedrooms, a study and a large bathroom were fashioned on this level. The south-facing wall of the barn was replaced with one about 15 feet back from the perimeter. Running the length of the house, a covered deck looks out on the hillside; beneath is a well-shaded dry-brick patio.

And then there was the third floor. "The bridge" on the east side, where hay wagons once pulled up to off-load, became the third-

Elizabeth "Bubbles" Moore

Many may have heard of Bubbles Moore, the colorful character who lived in this early barn conversion. She had lived a full life, only partially consumed with the build-out of her home in the bank barn, where she passed in 2018 at the age of 99. Her pet pig, given to neighbor E.B. White, lives on as a character in *Charlotte's Web*.

Bubbles always loved horses and was a member of the Rose Tree Hunt Club, a fence judge at Radnor Hunt Club, an organizer of Dressage at Devon, and named a "regional legend" by the U.S. Pony Club. Also an avid gardener, Bubbles competed for 52 years at the Philadelphia Flower Show, making "niches"—display boxes with flower arrangements as their theme.

Once a tomboy, Bubbles was courageous and energetic, and lived life to the fullest: an inspiration to all who knew her.



The interior of the converted barn is accented by chestnut beams and furniture crafted by Townie Moore.

During the conversion, the huge barn loft was left perfectly intact. The ceiling shows the skeleton of the barn with beautiful hand hewn beams.



level entrance to the home. A paneled entry room leads to the center hall with oak flooring. To the east, there's a master suite of bedroom, dressing room and bathroom. To the west, are two large bedrooms and hall bath.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Finally, there remained the unfinished barn loft—a massive space, perhaps 20 feet to its peak, the original chestnut timber framing on display. A brick chimney rises to the roof, which appears solid, although light peers through in several places. Two hay forks, and a track running the length of the roof, loom on the ceiling.

The living space on three levels below is about 4500 square feet. If finished, the attic would add perhaps another 1700.

But it would be another huge project. And one for the next owners.

The home, on land under a conservation easement, was put on the market in 2019 and is still available. Peter Moore, the younger of the two sons, showed me around, reminiscing about life there. For “someone with the interest and means,” he sighs, “it’s really a magical place.” ♦

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Barbara Kraus-Blackney
President, Association of Delaware Valley Independent Schools (ADVIS)

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well as the opportunity and encouragement to explore a wide range of extra-curricular interests—particularly in sports and the arts.

In addition, independent schools support their students’ strengths and interests, foster critical thinking and a life-long passion for learning. The goal is to prepare your child, not just for tests, but for life. Although, of course, test preparation is a part of the educational mission—and is needed as a path to college—this skill is merely a means and not an end.

Instead, the key goal of independent schools is to produce independent people.

SHARED MISSION

Independent schools vary in size, grade levels served and specific mission. Yet what they all share in common is a strong commitment to the highest standards of educational quality and the well-being of children. Independent schools strive to create diverse school communities that reflect the real world and are leading innovation in teaching and learning practices that a 21st-century global education requires.

Virtually all independent school graduates matriculate to college. Studies show that a higher percentage complete college in four years. In fact alumni who return to their schools after their freshman year consistently report how well prepared they were for college.

Independent schools also inculcate life skills that carry students beyond college. Research shows that a higher percentage of independent school graduates maintain a healthy lifestyle, pursue outside interests and give back to their community.

Educators at independent schools believe the primary factors that contribute to these successful outcomes are:

- Small school and class size, which allow each child to be known,
- Teachers that students remember for life because high quality teaching encourages passion and curiosity,
- Education of the whole child, including mind, body and spirit,
- Diverse school communities that reflect real-world demographics and

- Availability of financial assistance—36% of students in ADVIS schools receive financial aid.

WHAT IS AN INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

So, what is an independent school and how is it different from a private school? First, let’s clarify some terms.

Though most people use the term “private school” when talking about independent schools, there are important differences. All independent schools are private, but not all private schools are independent.

Independent schools are governed by a board of trustees solely responsible for the school. These schools are supported by tuition, charitable contributions and endowment income, rather than government or church funding. These conditions make independent schools free to determine their own educational mission and how to best achieve it.

Independent schools also inculcate life skills that carry students beyond college.

In contrast, private schools can be for-profit or not-for-profit, and many are faith-based, governed and partially funded by a church board or larger denominational entity that determines mission and curriculum. While 10% of schools in the U.S. are private schools, just 1% are truly independent.

Independent schools vary greatly. By their very nature each independent school determines its own mission and educational program.

There are schools of all sizes, types and settings. You’ll find larger PreK–12 schools and very small elementary schools, boarding and day schools, special needs schools, single-gender and coed schools, religious and secular schools, and rural, urban and suburban schools.

Some independent schools are dedicated to serving marginalized communities. Others are traditional and still others are progressive. While some schools are formal, others are informal—for instance, some schools require uniforms and others have relaxed

dress codes. At some schools, students may call their teachers by their first names, while other schools use titles and surnames.

Despite these differences, what all independent schools have in common is a fundamental commitment to student well-being and helping children thrive by achieving personal and academic excellence.

HOW TO FIND THE BEST MATCH

There is an independent school for every child. But with so many options, it can be overwhelming to know how and where to begin looking for the right school.

There are many resources available to help parents select a good match for their child, including the websites of individual schools.

In addition, the ADVIS website is designed to help with your search. After exploring the resources on the site and developing a list of schools based on geography, your child’s needs and interests, and your family’s values, you may want to visit each school, either by attending an open house, or contacting those

schools for a campus visit.

You’ll find helpful information at ADVIS.org, and be sure to check out the Family Resources section. Additional details about buses, financial aid and using 529 plans for tuition are available from each school.

Choose an independent school—it’s the investment of a lifetime. ♦



ADVIS is a nonprofit association that works to support and strengthen its member schools through professional development and to inform families about independent private education. Its 130 member schools in PA, NJ and DE educate 45,000 students in the Greater Delaware Valley region. Learn more at ADVIS.org and Twitter@advisschools.

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Sixth Grade Entrance Exam	January 25, 2020
Fourth Grade Practice Exam	March 7, 2020
Experience ND Day for Parents	March 18, 2020
Fourth Grade Practice Exam	May 2, 2020

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A Guide to School Open Houses

With so many fine schools in our area, *County Lines* is here to help make this very important selection process easier by listing select schools, open house dates and times, entrance exams and information sessions so you can plan your visit.

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr

Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr

480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.

610-527-3915

SHABrynMawr.org

Established in 1865, Sacred Heart Academy (SHA) is

an international, independent, all-girls, K-12 Catholic school on the Main Line. SHA is a proud member of the International Network of Sacred Heart Schools. The school has been committed for over 150 years to educating girls through faith, intellect, service, community and personal growth.

Open House: (All School): Feb. 12, 4:30 pm
(Kindergarten Discovery Day): Feb. 1, 9 am

Scholarship/Entrance Exam:

(5th, 6th Gr.): Feb. 1, 8:45 am

Parent Visit Day: May 7, 9 am, Register online

Chester Springs

Montgomery School

1141 Kimberton Rd.

610-827-7222; MontgomerySchool.org

At Montgomery School, every day presents new opportunities for discovery, exploration and growth, where students and faculty have the freedom to push academic boundaries. Small class sizes within an expansive 60-acre campus create a rich and challenging academic environment that builds confident learners and leaders from the earliest ages and is a place of joy and community inspiring a lifelong love of learning.

Tour Morning: Feb. 12, 8:30 to 10:30 am

Open House: Apr. 29, 6:30 to 8 pm

Community Fair: May 30, 10 to noon

Daily tours available all year

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Online Info Sessions: Visit PAcyber.org

Devon

Delaware County Christian School

905 S. Waterloo Rd. 610-353-6522; DCCS.org

Lower Campus, Pre-K-5

See listing under Newtown Square

Kennett Square

Upland Country Day School

420 West Street Rd.

610-444-3035

UplandCDS.org

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Open House: Apr. 22

Malvern

Malvern Preparatory School

418 S. Warren Ave.

484-595-1100

MalvernPrep.org

Malvern Preparatory School is an independent Augustinian School for young men in grades 6 through 12. Malvern Prep offers its students a nurturing, Catholic community in which they can grow and become the best possible version of themselves. The curriculum balances rigorous academics, extracurricular commitment, spiritual development and Christian service, providing an experience that places students at the center of learning.

Preview Morning: Apr. 23, 8:30 am

Entrance Exam: Feb. 8, 8 am

Practice Entrance Exams:

Apr. 18, May 16, 8 am

Villa Maria Academy High School

370 Central Ave.

610-644-2551

VMAHS.org

Villa Maria Academy is a Catholic, college preparatory school educating young women to be critical thinkers, creative problem solvers and collaborative citizens with strong communication skills. Rigorous academics, combined with innovative real-world experiences and extensive extracurricular opportunities, prepare young women with the skills and the confidence they need to meet the challenges of the future.

7th Gr. Practice Exam: Mar. 15 or Apr. 4

Preview Breakfast:

(Gr. 6 and 7, with families): Apr. 22 or 24

Visit Villa Days: (Gr. 7): May 12 or 13

Sat. Feb. 1
11 AM-1 PM

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Villa Maria High School



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Centreville Layton School



Malvern Preparatory School



Delaware County Christian School



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Media

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125 W. Third St.

610-565-1960; MPFS.org



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Open House: Apr. 3, 9 am

RSVP to MPFS.org/rsvp

Newtown Square

Delaware County Christian School

462 Malin Rd.; 610-353-6522; DCCS.org



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Open House: (Lower Campus): Apr. 7, 9:30 to 11:30
(Upper Campus): Apr. 2, 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Villanova

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur

560 Sproul Rd., 610-971-0498; NDAPA.org



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Experience ND Day for Parents: Mar. 18

Practice Exams: (Gr. 4 & 7): Mar. 7 or May 2

West Chester

Goshen Friends School

814 N. Chester Rd.,

610-696-8869; GoshenFriends.org

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Open House: Feb. 2, 1 to 3

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SaintAgnesSchool/WC.org



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Register: SHAbrynmaur.org



Goshen Friends School



The Tatnall School



Wilmington Friends School



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PENNSYLVANIA

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Open House: First Wed. each month, 9 to 11 ♦



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From the Experts ...

Mercedes Thomas

BE PREPARED FOR THIS YEAR'S SPRING REAL ESTATE MARKET!

Holly Gross of the Holly Gross Group

This spring we're going to see properties across the board—both in price and location—selling well because of the strong economy. Our economy has been doing well, and when the economy does well, so does the real estate market. It's noteworthy that sales of properties on the higher end have picked up, and I think that trend is going to continue this spring.

We're also seeing more young buyers who have started their families and saved for their down payment. They're ready to move out of urban areas to homes with more land. Many of these buyers grew up in suburban and rural areas and want their young families to share that experience in a more country setting with bigger yards and a little distance from their neighbors.

Buyers and sellers alike should prepare now, as this season will likely be competitive. Sellers, get your homes ready and presented well. And buyers, be ready to act quickly once you find that perfect home.



Meghan Chorin with the Meghan Chorin Team

Right now buyers are willing and waiting for the market to "pop." Our upcoming spring market depends on the weather, so when this pop happens is unpredictable.

If you're interested in buying this season, the best thing to do now is get pre-approved for a mortgage. If you have your financing lined up and ready, you'll be able to move more quickly when you find your dream home. The spring market can be competitive, so preparation is key.

Buyers should also take this time to study the market—do drive bys, attend open houses and decide what you truly want in your new home. Tell your realtor and be specific, so they're able to keep their eyes and ears open. This makes the realtor's job easier and lets them start looking for you now, so you can find and close on your dream home sooner.



Margot Teetor of Re/Max Preferred

Current inventory has been very scarce recently for affordable properties for young families and buyers. I'm hopeful the upcoming spring market will change that.

I'm also hoping properties that went on the market in late fall will sell during the spring market. There's a buyer for every property, but sometimes it takes time to find the right buyer.

What's popular now are open spaces and open floor plans. Buyers really like homes with kitchens, dining and family rooms opened up to one another. I'm also seeing more buyers who want a main bedroom on the first floor—either for guests or a master bedroom for an aging family member.

Sellers should keep in mind that most buyers are busy and want the home in great shape—move-in ready. Make that listing shine, and wait for the offers to roll in!



Mark Willcox of Country Properties

The type of properties I work with are often rural historic properties—ones embodying a sense of history. These distinctive properties have a certain allure to buyers who can afford them and are passionate about protecting them.

With the press of new construction, historic properties are much less available. I get excited to work with buyers enthusiastic about preserving and creating a family homestead they can pass down to their heirs to treasure.

There are certain features of historic properties that make them more desirable—pointed fieldstone, large corner stones, porches, wavy or bubble glass, random width hardwood floors, handsome fireplaces, high ceilings, original woodwork and cabinetry.

Buyers interested in historic properties should hire a realtor knowledgeable about those properties, and recruit experienced architects who can educate and advise them through the inevitable process of restoring the property while keeping it authentic. Your realtor can help you find the right experts to talk to.



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Laurel Anderson

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It's enough to make dreams come true and produce a good Bordeaux blanc mix—affectionately called Brandywine Blanc and bottled under the house label, Fox Hill. Perfect for storing in your 1200-bottle wine cellar with tasting room big enough for a major fundraiser.

If your dreams are equestrian themed, Fox Hill Farm has two large barns (with 27 stalls) and an indoor riding arena, as well as outdoor regulation dressage arena, sand jumping ring and cross-country eventing course with water jumps for you to enjoy.

Prefer trail riding? Hack to the Laurels Preserve, go fox hunting with the Cheshire Hunt, or spend the day riding on the many local bridle trails accessible from the farm.

Another option: let a trainer lease the equestrian facilities and two-bedroom barn apartment to groom future Olympians on your income-producing property.

You can also hike the grounds beneath specimen trees—Penn oak, copper beech, spreading willows, white and heritage birch and many more trees—play tennis on the turf court, fish in the stocked pond, or relax by the well appointed pool.

There's much to enjoy at Fox Hill Farm.

THE SEARCH

The owners of Fox Hill Farm created the family home they'd wanted for years, reminiscent of horse farms and vineyards from their past. After living on a Chester County farm and searching for the right property—with an interlude in Italy—they returned to find the right site.

Unfortunately, that property came with the wrong farmhouse. So, the owners worked with Archer and Buchanan Architecture and Curtis Cruse Construction to create a stately, traditional Chester County stone home that offered all the light, space and modern amenities possible. The result is a gracious seven-bedroom, nine-bathroom dream home of 11,000 square feet spread over four levels.

THE HOME

With exterior walls of local stone gracing the Georgian design and interior floors and beams of reclaimed wood, the home looks to have centuries of history, not a mere dozen or so years. The mix of old and new details throughout is masterful.

The striking front-to-back foyer's checkerboard floor of black and white Italian marble is the foundation for tall ceilings and grand proportions, punctuated by a graceful staircase. Enter a charming music room with grand piano on herring-bone-patterned floors of 200-year-old French oak, then on to the elegant formal living room. Next is the dining room with custom painted walls by Wilmington artist Bryan Cohen that curve up to the ceiling, decorated with images of local birds on delicate tree branches.

An exquisite hand-crafted tiger maple butler's pantry and bar area, by Chuck Ginty of Unionville, connects to the large kitchen with breakfast nook at the back of the house. The kitchen's reclaimed Pennsylvania farmhouse wood floors and salvaged beams give warmth to the large sunny space. Marble counters, farmhouse sink, custom cabinets and Lacanche range are a cook's delight.

To the front of the home is the comfortable family room perfect for informal gatherings.

Large modern windows throughout allow views of the rolling hills and access to porches, patios, verandas and other inviting outdoor spaces.





OTHER LEVELS

A luxurious master suite comprises one end of the second floor—bedroom, with balcony, walk-in dressing room with built-ins, and master bath. The bathroom includes every amenity across its Jerusalem stone floors, from steam room, separate shower, separate toilets with a bidet to a copper-clad soaking tub with window view.

Down the hall are three additional bedrooms with two baths plus a guest bedroom with access to a large balcony and an en suite bathroom.

The third floor includes a spacious home office as well as two additional bedrooms and bath, with eaves and angles to give each room character.

The 2,000-square-foot lower level offers a wide variety of entertainment areas. The spacious family room, with walkout through French doors, allows space for relaxing, TV watching, playing pool and much more.

A separate, magical media room is designed to evoke the inside of a Moroccan tent, conjuring memories of a family vacation. A yoga studio and home gym afford space for meditation or exercise.

Perhaps the most intriguing draw to the lower level is the 1200-bottle wine cellar with huge tasting room—a fitting feature of a property with its own vineyard, planted by the family years ago and producing about 2500 bottles a year.

This stunning property mixes the best of Chester County charm with touches of Old World elegance in a home filled with exquisite details. All it needs is its next caretakers. ♦

For more about this unique 80.2-acre property with vineyard, stables and 2006 stone home, offered at \$7,995,000 in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, contact Margot Mohr Teetor, RE/MAX Preferred, 610-476-4910 (cell). Visit MargotMohrTeetor.com; watch the video on the website.



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

Chil(i) out. There's nothing quite like a bowl of hot, spicy chili topped with sour cream and plenty of cheese on a wintery day. So plan to indulge on the fourth Thursday of February—the 27th this year—**National Chili Day**. Celebrate by eating a big bowl of chili at



Saloon 151 or **Barnabys**, two top restaurant winners of the 2019 West Chester Chili Cook-Off. You can start early and DIY or sample chili at the Lititz Fire and Ice Chili Cook-Off on February 15.

Sweet Talk. Those chalky candy hearts, called **conversation candies**, are a popular treat around Valentine's Day. But where did they come from? Back in 1847, a Boston pharmacist named Oliver Chase joined the lozenge craze, using a new machine he invented to press lozenges into perfect discs. His brother Daniel figured out how to print words on the candy with vegetable dye, creating an early version of today's candy hearts. A sweet little legacy.



A Valentine's Day to Remember. This Valentine's Day, think outside the box for a gift as unique as your sweetheart. Meat lovers will enjoy a salami bouquet, and those with a sweet tooth will appreciate the effort—and great aroma—involved in homemade chocolate truffles. Need more ideas? Make a heart-shaped pizza, chocolate ramen or Doritos roses. All perfect for the one as quirky as you are.

Bon Appetit. Grab that special someone and enjoy a memorable dinner at **Louette's BYO** during the Guest Chef Series. On February 5, they welcome Chef John Patterson from The Inn at Shelburne Farms in Vermont, who boasts over 20 years of experience at restaurants including Philly's Fork, Kennett Square's Talula's Table and Conshohocken's Blackfish. In March, famed Chef Pierre Calmels of Bibou in Philly cooks. Reservations are \$100/person for the six-course menu. *106 Bridge St., Phoenixville. LouettesBYO.com.*



Make Mine The Gritty. Don your Flyers jersey and head over to P. J. Whelihan's to try their mascot-inspired drink, **The Gritty**. Made with Three Olives orange vodka, Grand Marnier, orange juice and a splash of Grittergy from Red Bull Orange Edition, The Gritty is a limited-time cocktail named after the beloved orange troll. It's the perfect companion to your choice of wings as you cheer on the Flyers. At all 17 P. J. Whelihan's locations. *PJsPub.com.*



Taking Stock

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO WELLNESS
THROUGH NOURISHING FOODS
AND WARMING SOUPS

Alyssa Thayer

IT'S ONLY FEBRUARY, BUT ACCORDING TO *US NEWS AND World Report*, about 80% of us have already given up on our New Year's resolutions. A large percentage of those abandoned aspirations fall into the health and wellness category, which got us thinking—how do we create lifestyle changes that are sustainable and lasting?

According to **Annmarie Cantrell**, a healing foods chef and educator and founder of **Cucina Verde**, the key is to adopt holistic guiding principles rather than an extreme new diet. "I actually hate the word diet," she admits.

Around 25 years ago, Annmarie learned about the power of nutrition personally. She was working as an early childhood and special education teacher when she began to feel chronically ill. After seeing doctor after doctor to no avail and taking countless rounds of antibiotics, she was fed up and looking for answers. It was an integrative health practitioner who finally cracked the case, helping her pinpoint and eliminate foods that had been making her sick for so long.



Preparing for a wellness fair at Ursinus College

As she started to feel better, she became hungry (pun intended) for more information and began taking classes and researching how food affects the mind and body. Eventually, she enrolled in the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts, where she learned about ancient food philosophies, including the Chinese Five



Annmarie in the kitchen

Elements Theory and the Indian Ayurvedic System, and how to prepare healing meals.

In 2009 she left her teaching job to pursue her cooking and food education full time. Since then, she's worked with individuals and families and more recently has begun teaching nutrition and cooking classes.



Fermentation samples

Annmarie also runs a fermented foods business, selling sauerkrauts at local farmers' markets. "It's a great opportunity to talk to people about gut health," she says, noting that lacto-fermented foods help rebalance the digestion system and boost immune systems. Even as she touts the benefits of sauerkraut, she acknowledges it isn't for everyone.

Above all else, Annmarie urges folks to eat intuitively and listen to their bodies—nutritional needs can differ from one person to another and are always changing. Our bodies' needs vary depending on many factors including where we are in our lives and the season of the year.

Winter, Annmarie says, is a time to slow down and turn inward. She recommends meditating, taking a soaking bath and enjoying warm soups and broths. It's with that in mind that she curated the recipes in this month's column to help us nourish ourselves from the inside out.



Chicken Broth

Grandmas since the dawn of cooking have known the power of a bowl of homemade chicken soup. This savory broth is delicious on its own, or as the base for almost any soup recipe.

- 3-4 chicken carcasses, leftover from roasted chicken, or 2-3 chicken backs (available from farmers)
- 4 qts. cold water
- 1 large onion quartered (skin on, optional)
- 2-3 carrots, peeled and cut into large chunks
- 2 celery stalks, including leaves
- 2-3 garlic cloves (peeled or unpeeled)

Place water and chicken bones in a large stockpot. Place over medium flame and bring up to heat gently. Avoid boiling the stock.

Spoon away any scum that rises to the top before adding in vegetables. Return to a simmer and cook for 3 to 6 hours. Add more water as needed to keep the bones covered.

Remove the bones. Strain the broth and let cool.

Store in the refrigerator for up to 7 days or freeze.

Makes 4 quarts of stock.

Fish Broth

When we think stock, we don't always think of seafood, but that stock has a beautiful light flavor. Use mild white fish, as oily fish (such as salmon) can become rancid during cooking. Great options include sole, turbot and snapper. TIP - Talk to your fishmonger. They'll often give you the bones from their fillets for free.



Hot and Sour Soup

This is a hearty, flavor-packed soup made with an Asian-style broth, vegetables and rice noodles. It's thickened with arrowroot rather than cornstarch, as arrowroot tends to be easier to digest.

- 4 C. broth
- ½ lb. shitake mushrooms, sliced
- 1 daikon (long white Japanese radish), cut into matchsticks
- 1 carrot, cut into matchsticks

Where do we start?

So you're on board and ready to start your holistic transformation ... now what? Annmarie suggests starting in the pantry.

- **Oust Rancid Oils** – Don't let the name 'vegetable' oil fool you. These highly processed oils (including canola and soybean oil) are anything but healthy. They're often hiding in processed foods and store-bought salad dressings. Replace them with olive oil, coconut oil, ghee and butter. Yup, that's right. That's a green light for butter with bonus points for organic and grass-fed! "Fat isn't the enemy," she explains. "We need it to help satiate us."
- **Purge the Processed** – Ultra-processed foods tend to have unhealthy additives, preservatives and GMO ingredients (Genetically Modified Organisms) in them, which wreak havoc on our bodies. A good rule of thumb—if you can't pronounce the ingredient, it's probably not good for you.
- **Opt for Organic** – Fresh is better than processed, but that isn't the end of the road. Look for organic dairy and meat products to eliminate unwanted toxins. Even better, local and pasture-raised products are the top rungs on the nutritional ladder.
- **Select Sweets Wisely** – You don't have to say goodbye to all desserts—balance and quality are the keys. It's fine to add a little sweetener to your recipes now and then, but some are better than others. Annmarie recommends less processed options such as raw honey, maple syrup or coconut sugar.

- 2 T. butter
 - 2 onions, roughly chopped
 - 1 carrot
 - ½ C. white wine
 - 1 whole carcass of fish, gills removed and washed thoroughly
 - 4 qts. cold water
 - 1 bunch parsley with stems
 - 1 bay leaf
 - 3 sprigs thyme
- Melt butter in a large stockpot. Add onion, carrot and cook until softened (about 30 minutes). Add wine and boil. Add fish carcass and enough cold water to cover.

Bring to a slow simmer and skim off any scum that rises to the top. Add parsley, bay leaf and thyme.

Turn heat to low. Cook for about 1 hour, skimming as needed.

Remove the bones. Strain the stock. Cool and store.

Makes 4 quarts of stock.

Note: This broth is tastiest when fresh, but it can be made ahead. Simply transfer to an airtight container and freeze.

1 C. Napa or green cabbage, thinly sliced
1 Tb. apple cider vinegar
1 Tb. soy sauce or tamari
2 Tb. hot pepper sauce or 1 tsp. red pepper flakes
adjusted to preferred spice level
2 tsp. arrowroot dissolved in 4 tsp. cold water
1 egg, beaten
1 scallion, chopped
2 tsp. freshly grated ginger juice*
Sea salt to taste
Rice noodles, pre-cooked according to package

Heat broth and bring to a low simmer. Add vegetables and cook until they are tender, about 10 minutes. Add vinegar, soy sauce and hot pepper.

Taste and adjust seasoning. Stir in arrowroot slurry and cook on low until broth thickens.

Add beaten egg and stir quickly to combine. Stir in ginger juice. Place rice noodles in bowls. Add soup over top to the bowl and garnish with scallion.

Serves 4 cups or 2 bowls of soup.

**Note: To make ginger root juice, simply grate a 1-inch piece of fresh ginger on a microplane or small side of a grater. Squeeze the pulp over a bowl to release the ginger juice. If this is too messy, place the shredded ginger in a piece of cheesecloth before squeezing.*

White Bean Sausage and Broccoli Rabe Soup

This delicious recipe hails from Northern Italy and is a perfect way to use leftover sausage. Choose your favorite white beans to bring to the party, like cannellini, northern, or Navy. Pair with a crusty bread.



3 Tb. butter or olive oil
½ lb. sausage, pork, chicken or turkey
3 cloves garlic, minced

Broth Basics

Broths have been around since the time of our early ancestors when throwing away any part of an animal or harvest was unimaginable. As it turns out, not only are broths a great way to use food scraps, they're also extremely nutrient-dense and easily digested. Because nutrients in broth are so easily absorbed, they're perfect for someone coming off an illness, whose body needs to put energy into repairing and healing, rather than breaking down food. Annmarie prepares both vegetarian and bone broths in her classes, adding mushrooms and fortifying herbs to make them delicious and healing.

BONE BROTH TIPS:

- **Quality is king** – Try to use bones from grass-fed, pastured, organic animals. Seek out the cartilaginous bones—feet, knuckles, wings—for the highest nutritional value.
- **Know your local farmer** – Your local animal farmer (or butcher) may be able to give you a deal on bulk products.
- **Build your 'stock' pile** – Begin to freeze bones after making a chicken or turkey, and save them for making stock.

VEGETABLE BROTH TIPS:

- **Forage for flavor** – Onion, carrot, celery are classic, but try garlic, leek, shallot, pepper, parsnip, celery root and greens.
- **Cruciferous caution** – Vegetables like broccoli and cabbage can leave a strong and somewhat bitter taste. Instead of using for broth, add these hearty veggies at the end, as part of a composed soup. See broccoli rabe recipe.
- **Spice it up** – Fresh, as well as dried bay leaves, parsley, thyme and peppercorns are all great flavor boosters
- **Immune enhancers** – Give yourself a boost with the help of astragalus root, ginger, turmeric root, dried shiitake mushroom, garlic, nettle, elderberry and seaweeds (such as kombu and dulse, which also add a delicious umami note).
- **Save the scraps** – Just as for bone broth, veggie kitchen scraps should be saved in your fridge or freezer for use later in broth. Save stems, tops, peels—it's all good.

1 head broccoli rabe*
Crushed red pepper to taste (optional)
2 C. cooked white beans
3–4 C. chicken stock
Sea salt to taste
Parmesan cheese for serving

Heat butter or olive oil in soup pot. Use enough to just coat the bottom of the pan. Add sausage links and brown on each side.

While sausage is cooking, wash broccoli rabe well and chop.

Heat remaining olive oil in a saute pan and add garlic. Let cook about 30 seconds. Add chopped broccoli rabe and coat with oil.

Add crushed red pepper flakes and let broccoli rabe cook until soft, about 5 minutes. Add a bit of water if broccoli rabe begins to get too dry or is burning. Set aside.

When sausage is cooked, remove from pan and let cool a bit. Slice sausage and place in soup pot.

Add cooked broccoli rabe and cooked white beans. Cover with chicken stock.

Bring to a boil, lower heat and simmer for about 15 minutes. Season with sea salt. Serve warm with Parmesan cheese.
Makes 4 cups or 2 bowls of soup.

**Note: No broccoli rabe, no problem. You can substitute regular broccoli florets or even kale as the vegetable element to this dish.*

Coconut Fish Curry

This 30-minute meal is extremely nourishing and satisfying. Perfect for a chilly winter night.

2 shallots, minced
5 cloves garlic, minced
½ inch knob fresh ginger, grated
1 chili pepper, thinly sliced
1 lb. white fish (cod, haddock)
1 Tb. butter, ghee or coconut oil
1 tsp. mustard seeds or ground mustard
1 Tb. chili powder
1 tsp. turmeric
1 C. stock (either chicken or fish)
1, 13.5-oz can coconut milk
3 chopped tomatoes
Sea salt to taste

Juice of 1 lime
Fresh cilantro, chopped

Cut fish into chunks and set aside.

Heat butter in a large pan. Add shallot, garlic, ginger and chili and cook on medium-high heat until softened.

Add mustard seed or powder, chili powder and turmeric. Stir in stock and coconut milk. Once combined, add in the fish and tomatoes.

Bring to a boil. Simmer for 20 minutes. Season with sea salt. Serve with lime juice and chopped cilantro.

Makes 4 cups or 2 bowls of soup. ♦

Alyssa Thayer found her love of food at an early age, frolicking around her mother's organic farm and eating her weight in berries and snap peas each summer. She is a self-proclaimed urban farm girl, whose mission is to bring inspired ideas to life, passionate people together, and good food to every table.



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