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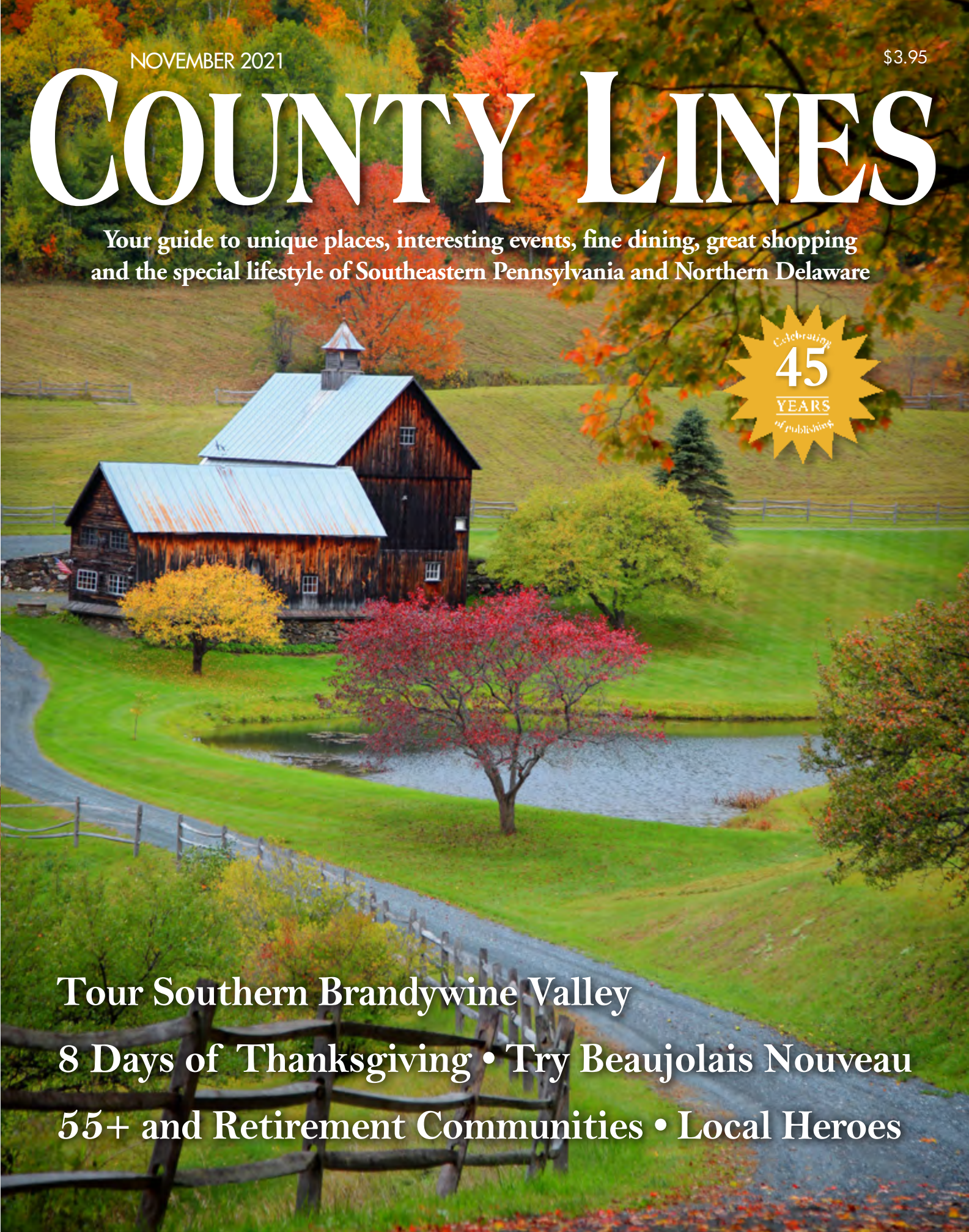
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NOVEMBER 2021

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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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### Fox Hill Farm | East Marlborough Township

Fox Hill Farm is set on 80.2 bucolic acres complete with a fabulous house, pool, pond, tennis court, barn, indoor and outdoor arenas plus a dressage ring, and cross-country course. The Archer & Buchanan designed home of 10,000 square feet represents the epitome of gracious country living. The 7 bedroom, 5.4 bath stone home features rare details like Italian marble floors and 200 year old wood floors from a French chateau. The workmanship in this home is spectacular! The large Kitchen features high-end appliances and marble counters. The Master Suite is really special! The Lower Level has a large Wine Cellar, Exercise Room, Theater, and Game Room. The Barn and Indoor Arena offer 27 stalls. Great equestrian community and located in the nationally ranked Unionville-Chadds Ford School District!

\$6,875,000



### East Bradford Township

You must see these 23.1 beautiful acres that are perfect for an investor or someone seeking to build their dream home or farm! The land is high, level, open ground close to the Borough of West Chester. The property could be divided into a possibility of seven attractive lots. West Chester School District and convenient to shopping and major commuting routes. Please call us for additional details.

\$1,085,000



### South Coventry Township

4 BR, 3.1 BA | 6200 SF | 8.6 Acres  
Great Floor Plan | Pond | 6 Stall Barn  
Geothermal Heat/Cooling | 1st Fl. Master  
\$1,725,000



### Newlin Township

5 BR, 2.1 BA | 22.4 Acs. | 6 Stall Barn  
Separate Living Unit in House | Outbuildings  
Sought-after Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools  
\$1,725,000



### Bittersweet Drive | Pocopson Township

Set on 7.3 exceedingly private acres in Pocopson Township, sits this spectacular 18,000 square foot, tutor style home featuring a spectacular main level Master Suite with "His" and "Her" bathrooms, Walk-in Closets, a private Office, and a large Bedroom. The home boasts 5 Bedrooms, 8.3 Bathrooms plus a four room guest/in-law suite easily accessed by way of the home's three level elevator. The main level Living Room, Dining Room, incredible Kitchen, and stellar Family Room must be seen to be appreciated! All of the Bedrooms enjoy En-Suite Bathrooms. The Lower Level features an amazing Wine Cellar, Theater, Game Room and second Family Room. This fabulous property is located with easy access to Wilmington plus set in the nationally ranked Unionville-Chadds Ford School District!

\$4,995,000



### West Goshen Township

Located in a great community on a quiet road near West Chester University's south campus sits this charming four bedroom, two full and one half bath home that has been freshly painted, features all energy-efficient replacement windows, hardwood floors, and low taxes!

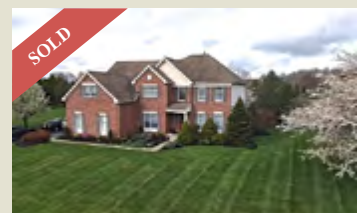
The home is "move-in" ready! Close to major commuter routes and West Chester's restaurant scene, the property is located in the sought-after West Chester School District.

\$525,000



### Kennett Township

4 BR, 2.1 BA | 1.4 Private Acres!  
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### East Bradford Township

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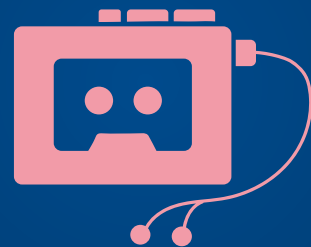
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from the  
EDITOR

November's arrived. Don a sweater. Pour some wine. Take a road trip. Prepare for the holidays. Let *County Lines Magazine* be your guide.

We all know the 12 Days of Christmas, but what about "The 8 Days of Thanksgiving"? Lauren Durante and Gabriella Ruggirello start with Friendsgiving, then Drinksgiving, and all the way to Giving Tuesday. Find out how to celebrate the season and why "Small Businesses are a Big Deal." We've got a Holiday Gift Guide for inspiration.

For our Local Hero, Madison Meinel highlights the work of the West Chester Food Cupboard, which believes no one should go hungry. She also shares ways you can help all year long.

This month's road trip lets you "Tour Southern Brandywine Valley," a place of natural beauty and architectural interest. Join Matt Freeman and visit Centreville, Hockessin, Yorklyn and more.

In "Discovering Nature with Kids," Amy Mawby of Jenkins Arboretum suggests you "think of yourself as a guide rather than a teacher." Use all your senses, then create a journal of experience.

And if you love nature, you'll enjoy the semi-finalists in our photo contest, "Celebrating Chester County." Vote for your favorite on Facebook.

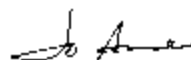
For seniors thinking of relocating, read Ed Malet's "Time of Your Life" on options for a new home: 55+ community, independent living, or personal care or assisted living. Learn more in our "Guide to 55+ and Retirement Communities."

Brandywine Table's Alyssa Thayer talks with the Fischers about their 19th-century grist mill, Castle Valley Mill, to learn how your baked goods can have that old-fashioned goodness. Read "Grit and Grain" for recipes for cornbread and more.

Try something new on November 18, Beaujolais Nouveau Day! End the harvest with a wine made especially for this event. Jessica Roberts shares history and suggestions.

And as always, we've got Family Fun and more events to make this November memorable.

Thank you for reading!

  
Jo Anne Durako  
Editor



## COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

November 2021

Volume XLV Number 3

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

**YMC Yay!** With 2,400 national locations, YMCA is the largest nonprofit community service organization in America. While many people know about the YMCA, fewer know that YMCAs have a **7th Grade Initiative**—a complimentary one-year youth membership offered to all 7th graders that includes use of all facilities. Due to Covid-19, YMCAs are extending this offer to 8th graders for the 2021–2022 school year. Register with a student ID or report card and let the fun begin! [YMCABW.org](http://YMCABW.org).



**Project Plenty.** Get creative at your Thanksgiving table with a **DIY cornucopia**. This horn of plenty will add another homemade touch for this year's family gathering. Simply mold chicken wire into the shape of a horn, create a papier mâché layer, using burlap, to cover the wire mold and wrap with straw or raffia. Stuff full of seasonal veggies and gourds, and you've built your bounty. You'll have a cornucopia of thanks for your table. [Pinterest.com](http://Pinterest.com). Advanced ideas at [MarthaStewart.com](http://MarthaStewart.com).



**Lenape Lands.** November is **Native American Heritage Month** and a perfect time to learn more about the Brandywine Valley's rich Native American history, including the Lenape, a tribe that lived in villages along waterways in the area. Places like West Chester University were built on Lenape land, and many local towns show homage to that tribe with Native names, like Pocopson and Manayunk. Check out the Native history of your town this month and the diverse cultures and traditions of its past. [WesttownPA.org](http://WesttownPA.org).

**Fall in Love.** Although wedding planning can be stressful, the Chester County History Center's **Fall Wedding Showcase**, November 14th from 1 to 4 p.m., will make planning a breeze. Bring your special someone and talk to providers, enjoy drinks, a fashion show and grand prize baskets. Vendors include local restaurants, venues, music makers and décor fit for a dream. Create a wedding you'll fall in love with. Tickets are \$5/couple and include two drinks. 225 N. High St., West Chester. [ChesterCoHistorical.org](http://ChesterCoHistorical.org).



**Candle Crazy.** Did you know that 35% of candle sales in the U.S. happen during the holidays? Whether you prefer Yankee or homemade, we always like to go local. One local option is **Homestead Studios** in Parkesburg, featuring homemade soy candles, locally sourced produce and farmhouse décor. Check out their restored furniture and try a workshop to create your own décor. Before you leave, be sure to pick a candle for your scent of the season. [HomesteadStudios.com](http://HomesteadStudios.com).







This is the moment to  
*make your move*

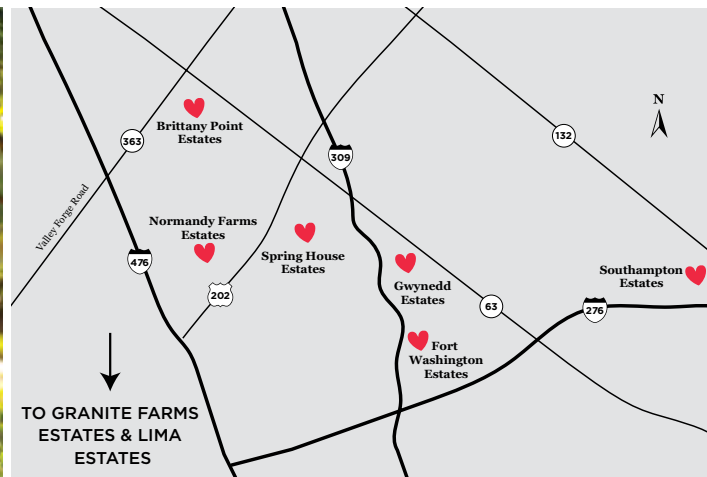


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## [November Picks] Our Picks for top events this month

### Historic Yellow Springs Fine Arts and Craft Show 2021

November 12-14



Early holiday shoppers looking for unique, handmade gifts come out to this show where more than 30 contemporary fine craft artists from across Pennsylvania display ceramics, glass, wood, paper, fiber arts, photography, jewelry and more. *Held in the Lincoln and Washington Buildings, 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Fri., 5 to 8 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$5. 610-827-7414; YellowSprings.org.*

### Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester

November 26-January 1

The streets of historic West Chester will be bathed in the glow of thousands of holiday lights and transformed into a winter wonderland. Special events include: holiday music weekends, Santa's arrival, 'Twas the Weekend Before Christmas and Happy New Year Weekend. *For details visit Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce, GreaterWestChester.com or the West Chester Business Improvement District, DowntownWestChester.com.*



### A Christmas Carol at People's Light

November 20-January 2

A fresh adaptation of the favorite Yuletide story featuring original songs and newly arranged 19th-century English carols, this retelling captures the magic, joy and generosity of Dickens' classic. While it's not a panto this year, it is music-filled, interactive fun for every age. Or stream a filmed version of *A Christmas Carol* from Dec. 24-Jan. 6 for \$25. *39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 2 & 7 p.m. \$40-\$45. 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.*

### The National Dog Show

November 20-21



The Kennel Club of Philadelphia along with hosts John O'Hurley, David Frei and Mary Carillo welcome you in celebrating the 20th anniversary of this prestigious show. Purebred dogs compete for Best of Breed, First in Group and Best in Show. Broadcast on NBC Thanksgiving Day. Due to COVID concerns, those not vaccinated (including children) will not be permitted entry. *The Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Sat., 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sun., 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$16. NDS.NationalDogShow.com.*

### "A Swingin' Little Christmas" at The Grand Opera House

December 3

Singer and comedian Jane Lynch rings in the holidays with a performance featuring poignant and hilarious takes on classic holiday tunes. Lynch, known for her iconic roles on "Glee" and in "Best in Show," is joined by actress Kate Flannery ("The Office"), Tim Davis ("Glee's" vocal arranger) and the Tony Guerrero Quintet. *Copeland Hall at The Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 8 p.m. \$48-\$54. 302-888-0200; TheGrandWilmington.org.*





# best Things To Do

Many events are coming back this fall, so take out your calendar and fill it in with fun. Please be sure to check websites often for the latest updates and for COVID protocols.

## FAMILY FUN

### THROUGH NOVEMBER 7

**Pumpkinland at Linvilla Orchards.** Larger than life figures and scarecrows illustrate the legends of the harvest season. Pumpkins are pre-harvested for your convenience. You'll also find a huge selection of straw bales, corn shocks, toys and fall decorations of all kinds. Pre-purchase tickets on website prior to visit. [Linvilla.com](http://Linvilla.com).

### THROUGH DECEMBER 19

**West Chester Railroad. Fall Foliage Express:** Nov. 7—enjoy a brisk fall afternoon ride along the picturesque Chester Creek Valley. **Santa Express:** Nov. 20–Dec. 19—join Santa for a journey through the Chester Creek Valley. **Christmas Tree Train:** Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12—take the train to Wiggins Tree Farm. Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. Visit website for times and tickets. \$10–\$30. 610-430-2233; [West-ChesterRR.net](http://West-ChesterRR.net).



### THROUGH DECEMBER

**Science Saturdays at Hagley Museum & Library.** Visitors of all ages are invited to discover solutions to science and engineering challenges. Science Saturdays are drop-in activities, so stop by during the event hours. 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Noon to 4. \$5–\$9. 302-658-2400; [Hagley.org](http://Hagley.org).

### ONGOING

**Behind the Steam: A Collection Exploration Speaker Series at Marshall Steam Museum.** This month's virtual event takes a close look at a special item in the collection and then Zooms out for a larger discussion with experts and enthusiasts. 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn, DE. 7 pm. \$5; \$30 for the year. 302-239-2385; [AuburnHeights.org](http://AuburnHeights.org).

### NOVEMBER 4, 9, 11

**Brandywine River Museum of Art Virtual**

**Children's Read Aloud.** Families with young children are invited to join Museum staff on Zoom for a morning of interactive storytelling and artwork. Each family will receive suggestions for connecting to the book at home with craft and sensory exploration ideas. 10:30 am. \$5. Visit website to register. [Brandywine.org](http://Brandywine.org).



### NOVEMBER 6–DECEMBER 19

**Weekend Public Tours at Wolf Sanctuary of PA.** Gray wolves roam their natural landscape once more. Take a guided public tour to see some of the packs, hear their stories and learn about wolf conservation and biology. 465 Speedwell Forge Rd., Lititz. Res. req., \$13–\$15. 717-626-4617; [WolfSanctuaryPA.org](http://WolfSanctuaryPA.org).

### NOVEMBER 20–DECEMBER 19

**Train Rides with Santa on Strasburg Railroad.** Santa's aboard the historic steam train on weekends to greet families as they travel down the tracks to Paradise, PA and back. Ages 11 and under receive a gift from Santa. 301 Gap Rd., Strasburg. Visit website for times and tickets. 866-725-9666; [StrasburgRailroad.com](http://StrasburgRailroad.com).

### NOVEMBER 27

**Santa on the Steps at The Saturday Club in Wayne.** The Tudor-style mansion will be seasonally decorated and serve as the backdrop for photos. Caregivers welcome and encouraged to join the photo. Benefits The Saturday Club's grant program. Register online for time slot. \$30. 117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 610-688-9746; [SaturdayClub.org/Santa](http://SaturdayClub.org/Santa).

### NOVEMBER 27

**Kennett Square's Holiday Light Parade and Tree Lighting.** Welcome in the season with this favorite holiday tradition—a family-friendly parade, music and Santa and Mrs. Claus. Downtown Kennett Square. 6:15 pm. [Historic-KennettSquare.com](http://Historic-KennettSquare.com).

### NOVEMBER 27

**Downingtown Christmas Tree Lighting.**

Music, refreshments, face painting, crafts, games and Santa. *Kerr Park, E. Pennsylvania Ave. & Park Ln., Downingtown. 6 pm; Santa arrives to light the Christmas Tree at 6:45. [DTownChristmas.com](http://DTownChristmas.com).*

### NOVEMBER 28

**Santa Parade in Media.** Santa comes through town bringing entertainment and other surprises, and his elves will collect for Media Food Bank along the way. Please contribute non-perishable food donations packed in a bag. 4 pm. Visit [SantaParade.Media](http://SantaParade.Media).

### DECEMBER 3–5

**Christmas Celebrations in Wayne.** Holiday fun for the family! Dec. 3, Christmas tree lighting on N. Wayne Ave. with carriage rides, Santa arrives, 5:30. Dec. 4, Santa at the firehouse for pictures, 10 am. Dec. 5, Christmas caroling, hot chocolate and Santa with the Radnor Historical Society at the Finley House, 113 W. Beechtree Ln., Wayne. 5:30. [Wayne-Christmas.com](http://Wayne-Christmas.com).



### DECEMBER 4

**Chester County History Center Hosts Breakfast with Santa.** Children, and those who bring them, enjoy a hot/cold buffet breakfast, a gift from Santa (for ages 2–12), and a lifetime of memories to be shared. Registration required. 225 N. High St., West Chester. \$15. 610-436-9010; [West-Chester.com](http://West-Chester.com).

### DECEMBER 4

**Coatesville Christmas Parade.** Lively event with bands, floats, antique cars, cartoon characters and entertainment. Business Rt. 30, Strode Ave. to 11th St. Starts at 10 am. [CoatesvilleChristmasParade.com](http://CoatesvilleChristmasParade.com).

### DECEMBER 4

**Santa at the Square—Marshall Square Park.** Families, friends, and pets are invited to come to the park for free pictures with the big guy in red, sip hot chocolate and munch cookies and pastries. 200 E. Marshall St. at the gazebo. 5 to 7 pm. Free, donations accepted. 610-436-9010; [West-Chester.com](http://West-Chester.com).

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

See also: Family Fun

### NOVEMBER 13 & 14

**Haverford Guild of Craftsmen Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show.** See Gift Guide in this issue. Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center, 9000 Parkview Dr., Haverford. 10 to 5. [HaverfordGuild.org](http://HaverfordGuild.org).

### NOVEMBER 13 & 14, 20 & 21

**Heron Crest Studio's Annual Art Along the Creek, Fine Art Show & Sale.** View and purchase fine art from 30+ artists. Heron Crest Studios, 3100 Mount Rd., Aston. 484-574-6018; [HeronCrestStudios.com](http://HeronCrestStudios.com).



### NOVEMBER 16–JANUARY 2

**2021 Holidays in Historic Odessa, DE.** The Wilson-Warner House will be adapted into scenes based on the classic novel *Little Women*. 201 Main St., Odessa, DE. Mon by res.; Tues–Sat, 10 to 4:30; Sun, 1 to 4:30. \$8–\$10. 302-378-4119; [HistoricOdessa.org](http://HistoricOdessa.org).

### NOVEMBER 19

**Craft + Mercantile Holiday Market.** A curated evening of over 25 local artisans, food and entertainment with live music, gingerbread decorating, hot cocoa, coffee cart, cider and more. Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. 5 to 8 pm. Free. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).

### NOVEMBER 19–21

**Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees.** Beautifully decorated trees and wreaths and events, a festival marketplace, live entertainment and activities make the weekend truly special. Brantwyn Estate, 600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. \$25. Hours: Fri, noon to 4; Sat & Sun, 10 to 4. Free. 302-235-6000; [DelawareHospice.org](http://DelawareHospice.org).



### NOVEMBER 19–JANUARY 9

**A Longwood Christmas—Fire & Ice.** Showcasing the dramatically beautiful contrast of fire and ice. Inside, trees are adorned in amber to fiery red tones complemented by icy-hued

plantings, a “frozen” succulent fountain and an alpine waterway. Outdoors, cozy up to inviting firepits, then stroll through half-a-million lights. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. \$16–\$30. Timed tickets req. [LongwoodGardens.org](http://LongwoodGardens.org).



### NOVEMBER 20–JANUARY 2

**Yuletide at Winterthur.** Celebrate the season with a one-of-a-kind holiday experience. Explore Henry Francis du Pont's mansion, enjoy



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## 2021 Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show

We are returning to the CREC for our **Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show from 10AM to 5PM on November 13th and 14th!**

With more than 60 juried artisans offering high quality, handmade, one-of-a-kind artwork in a variety of media, this is a great opportunity to get some holiday shopping done – *and support small, local businesses at the same time.*

The handcrafted work of our Juried Artists includes: Basketry, Ceramics, Fiber, Glass, Jewelry, Leather, Mixed Media, Painting, Paper Craft, Photography, Sculpture, Wood ... *and so much more!*

**10AM to 5PM ❄️ November 13th & 14th**

**Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center (CREC)  
9000 Parkview Dr., Haverford, PA 19041**

**\$5 admission (\$3 admission with this ad)**

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Visit our website for more information!  
**[www.haverfordguild.org/Fall2021](http://www.haverfordguild.org/Fall2021)**

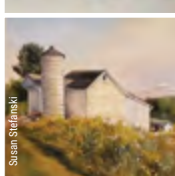


For COVID-19 alerts and safety measures we will be taking at our show,  
please visit our website at [www.haverfordguild.org/Fall2021](http://www.haverfordguild.org/Fall2021)

HGC-H2021-2

**HG**  
Haverford Guild  
of Craftsmen

Peter Handler



## Local Farm Markets

**Artisan Exchange**, 208 Carter Dr.  
Unit 13 B, West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1.  
[ArtisanExchange.net](http://ArtisanExchange.net).

**Bryn Mawr Farmers Market**,  
Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station  
lot. Sat, 9 to 1. [FarmToCity.org](http://FarmToCity.org).

**Devon Yard Farmers Market**, 25 S.  
Waterloo Rd., Devon. Wed, 11 to 2 from  
May 12. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).

**Downingtown Farmers Market**,  
Kerr Park next to Veteran's Memorial,  
Pennsylvania Ave. Sat, 9 to noon. 610-  
836-1391; [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).

**Eagleview Farmers Market**, Eagleview  
Town Center, Exton. Thurs, 3 to 6. 610-  
836-1391; [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).

**Kennett Square Farmers Market**, The  
Creamery, 401 Birch St. Fri, 3 to 6. 610-  
444-8188; [KSQFarmersMarket.com](http://KSQFarmersMarket.com).

**Lancaster County Farmers Market**,  
389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed,  
Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. 610-688 -9856;  
[LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com](http://LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com).

**Malvern Farmers Market**, Warren  
Ave. & Roberts Rd. Sat, 9 to noon.  
610-836-1391; 610-836-1391;  
[GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).

**Pete's Produce Farm**, 1225 E.  
Street Rd., West Chester. Daily 9  
to 5. Curbside pick-up, order by  
Wed, pick-up Thurs. 610-399-3711;  
[PetesProduceFarm.com](http://PetesProduceFarm.com).

**Phoenixville Farmers Market**, 200  
Mill St. Sat, 10 to noon; seniors, 9–9:30.  
Curbside pick-up, if req. by Fri, noon.  
[PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org](http://PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org).

**Pottstown Farmers Mkt.**, 100 E. High  
St. Opening every other Sat, from May 15,  
9–1. 484-948-6061; [PottstownFarm.org](http://PottstownFarm.org).

**Swarthmore Farmers Market**, 121  
Park Ave. Sat, 9 to noon. 215-733-9599;  
[SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org](http://SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org).

**Thornbury Farmers Mkt. & CSA**, 1256  
Thornbury Rd. Fri–Sat, 9–5; Sun, 11–5.  
[ThornburyFarmCSA.com](http://ThornburyFarmCSA.com).

**Thornton Farmers Mkt.**, 330 Glen  
Mills Rd. Sat, 10 to 1. [Facebook.com/ThorntonFarmersMarket](http://Facebook.com/ThorntonFarmersMarket).

**West Chester Growers Market**,  
Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to  
1. Can pre-order. 610-436-9010;  
[WestChesterGrowersMarket.com](http://WestChesterGrowersMarket.com).

**Westtown Amish Market**, 1165  
Wilmington Pk., West Chester. Thur,  
9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4. 610-492-  
5700; [WestChesterAmishMarket.com](http://WestChesterAmishMarket.com).

a concert or wine or cocktail tasting, ride on  
Mrs. Claus's Tram, eat brunch with Santa and  
more. Visit the galleries to see a magical 18-room  
dollhouse as well as new exhibitions. 5105 Ken-  
nett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur. Mon–Sun, 10 to  
5:30. Timed tickets required for Yuletide. \$6-  
\$20. 800-448-3883; [Winterthur.org](http://Winterthur.org).

**NOVEMBER 26, DECEMBER 4**

**Christmas on King in Malvern**. The Tree  
lighting will be *Nov. 26* at 6 pm and *Dec. 4*,  
will be family shopping day. Mark your calendars  
and check website for more details. Malvern-  
Business.com.

**DECEMBER 4**

**Phoenixville's Annual Candlelight Holiday  
Tour**. Decorated homes and churches, crafts,  
music, refreshments. Benefits Ann's Heart Blue,  
The Clinic, Phoenixville Area Senior Center,  
Firebird Children's Theatre and Phoenixville  
Children's Library. \$25. 4 to 8. 610-933-9181;  
[PhxHolidayTour.weebly.com](http://PhxHolidayTour.weebly.com).

**DECEMBER 4**

**57th Annual Christmas in Odessa Holiday  
House Tour**. A self-guided walking tour of pri-  
vate homes and public buildings, many dating  
from the 18th and 19th centuries, decorated  
for the holidays. Sponsored by the Women's  
Club of Odessa as a fundraiser for local student  
scholarships. 10 to 5. \$30. For tickets, 302-378-  
4900; [ChristmasInOdessa.com](http://ChristmasInOdessa.com).

**DECEMBER 4 & 5, 11 & 12**

**Kennett Square Holiday Village Market**.  
Come enjoy artisan and vintage vendors, live  
music, ice sculpture demonstrations, food  
trucks and more at The Creamery of Kennett  
Square, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square. 11 to 5.  
[KennettHolidayVillage.com](http://KennettHolidayVillage.com).



**DECEMBER 4–19**

**West Chester Public Library Holiday Home  
Tour and Holiday Door Tour**. *Dec. 4*, the Hol-  
iday Home Tour will showcase eight homes on  
the north side of the borough decked out for the  
holidays, 10 to 3, \$40. *Dec. 4–19*, the Holiday  
Door Tour is a self-guided tour of West Chester  
doors and porches decorated in holiday finery.  
Ticket includes a raffle and scavenger hunt.  
Donation requested. Benefits the library and  
community. [WCPublicLibrary.org](http://WCPublicLibrary.org).

**DECEMBER 11**

**Downingtown Christmas Parade**. Get in the  
holiday spirit and follow the parade through  
town. Business Rt. 30 (Lancaster Ave.) between  
Hunt Ave. & Rt. 113, Downingtown. 3 pm.  
[DTownChristmas.com](http://DTownChristmas.com).

**DECEMBER 11**

**18th Annual Firebird Festival in Phoenix-  
ville**. Festivities start with music and entertain-  
ment from 4 to 6 downtown. Then at 6:30 the  
procession leaves from downtown to arrive at the  
bird site around 7 pm, and the lighting of the  
Phoenix happens at 8 pm. Veteran's Memorial

Park, 192 Mowere Rd. 5 to 10 pm. Firebird-  
Festival.com.



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

### THROUGH NOVEMBER 5

**Just Another Bowl Exhibit at The Art Trust.** Featuring 50 clay artists' work, exhibiting the wide range of approaches to ceramic bowl making. 16 W. Market St., West Chester. Gallery hours, Mon–Fri, 9 to 4:30. 484-301-2784; TheArtTrust.org.

### NOVEMBER 3–JANUARY 30

**Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Art Ability Exhibit & Sale.** Artists from around the world with physical and cognitive disabilities submit

their work to this juried exhibition and sale. Virtual preview, *Nov. 6*, 6 pm, register in advance. 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. Free. Visit website for more info. 484-596-5710; MainLineHealth.org/ArtAbility.

### NOVEMBER 4–7

**45th Annual Philadelphia Museum of Art Contemporary Craft Show.** A premier show and sale of contemporary craft and design that includes 170 artists in person and an additional 25 artists participating online only. PA Convention Center, 1101 Arch St., Phila. Preview Thurs, 4 to 9 pm, tickets \$250 and up. Fri, 11

to 9; Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$5–\$25. 215-684-7930; PMACraftShow.org.



### NOVEMBER 4–7

**57th Annual Delaware Antiques Show.** The in-person show features more than 60 distinguished dealers in American antiques and decorative arts. Preview Party, Thurs, 5 to 9, tickets start at \$125. Chase Center, 815 Justison St., Wilmington. Fri–Sat, 11 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. \$25. 302-888-4803; Winterthur.org.



### NOVEMBER 11–14

**Unionville High School 45th Annual Art Gala—A Virtual Event.** Over 80 artists express their talents through diverse media. A silent auction features beautiful artwork donated by talented artists in the show, and select regional activities and outings will also be offered. Preview Nov. 11, noon. Online bidding begins Nov. 12 at 6 pm and will close Nov. 14 at 6 pm. Links available on website and Unionville Art Gala Facebook page. UnionvilleArtGala.com.

### NOVEMBER 10–JANUARY 7

**"Gifted"—16th Annual Holiday Exhibit at The Art Trust.** Give the gift of original art. *Nov. 12*, reception 5 to 8:30; *Dec. 2*, Bourbon & Bubbles, 5 to 8:30. 16 W. Market St., West Chester. Gallery hours, Mon–Fri, 9 to 4:30. 484-301-2784; TheArtTrust.org.

### NOVEMBER 20 & 21

**Antiques at Kimberton 2021 Fall Show.** This show has been in existence since the mid-1960s is still going strong, offering over 70 dealers in 10,000 sq. ft. at the Kimberton Fire Hall, 2276 Kimberton Rd., Phoenixville. Sat, 9 to 5; Sun, 11 to 4. \$6–\$7. AntiquesAtKimberton.com.

### DECEMBER 3–11

**Community Arts Center's Holiday Sale of Fine Craft & Pottery.** Featuring handmade work by members of the Potters Guild and other local vendors. 414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford. Mon–Fri, noon to 7; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 5. Free. 610-566-1713; CACHolidaySale.org.



### DECEMBER 4 & 5

**9th Annual Arts Festival Reading & Holiday Market.** Juried artists from across the country and studio artists from GoggleWorks, along with food, music, kids' programs and live artist demonstrations. 201 Washington St., Reading. 10 to 5. Free. Pre-register for this show. 610-374-4600; Goggleworks.org.

## BOOKS.....

### NOVEMBER 4, 17 & 18

**Wellington Square Bookshop. NonFiction Book Club: Nov. 4**, "Yellow Bird: Oil, Murder, and a Woman's Search for Justice in Indian Country" by Sierra Crane Murdoch. **Fiction Book Club: Nov. 17 & 18**, "Anxious People" by Fredrik Backman. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. 7 pm. 610-458-1144; WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

### NOVEMBER 16, DECEMBER 2

**Main Point Book Club via Zoom. Fiction Book Club: Nov. 16**, "The Pull of the Stars" by Emma Donoghue, 1 pm. **NonFiction Book Club: Dec. 2**, "The Book of Delights" by Ross Gay, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 484-580-6978; MainPointBooks.com.

## EQUESTRIAN .....

### NOVEMBER 7

**87th Running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.** A timber steeplechase race with a distance of 4 miles and 22 fences. Enjoy vendors, a carriage parade, and, new this year, tailgating



under tents. North of Rt. 926 and Newark Rd., Unionville. Gates open, 10:30. \$75 in advance (visit website); \$100 on the day. Benefits Chester Co. Food Bank. 610-220-3742; PaHuntCup.org.

## FOOD & BREWS .....

### NOVEMBER 13

**Fall Food Truck Frenzy at Linvilla Orchards.** A variety of delicious truck treats, music, hayrides, straw bale maze and more. 137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media. 11 to 4. Free. 610-876-7116; Linvilla.com.

### DECEMBER 4

**Valley Forge Beer & Cider Festival.** Popular local breweries and cideries will be on hand as well as producers from across the country. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Gen. adm.: 12:30 to 4 and 6:30 to 10, \$50 online in advance, \$60 on the day. VIP: noon to 4 and 6 to 10, \$60 online, \$75 on the day. ValleyForgeBeerFest.com.



## FUNDRAISERS .....

### NOVEMBER 11

**18th Annual "Wine, Wit & Wisdom"—A Virtual Event.** Author Beth Lennon, AKA Mod Betty, hosts this event. She is the author of "Retro Road Maps," a series of books full of historical facts and "cool vintage places." Also featured is her "Guide to Philadelphia Suburbs," which highlights local attractions and businesses. 7 to 8 pm. Ticket and Gala Box, \$90; extra box, \$35. 610-933-3013; Phoenixville-Library.org/Wine-Wit-Wisdom.



### NOVEMBER 20

**Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce Charity Gala, "A Night in the Big Easy."** Dinner, dancing and silent auction with great items. Rivercrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Golf Club Dr. 5:30. \$125. Visit website to register. PhoenixvilleChamber.org.

### DECEMBER 1–2

**Women's Committee of Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Holiday Boutique.** The finest boutiques participate to benefit CHOP. Merion Cricket Club, 325 Montgomery Ave., Haverford. Preview Wed, shopping and hors d'oeuvres, 5 to 9, \$150; Thurs, 9 to 5, lunch available, \$10 (\$35 for shopping and lunch). 267-426-6498; CHOPHolidayBoutique.org.

### DECEMBER 4

**2021 West Chester Charity Ball.** Celebrating 33 years of holiday tradition with dinner, music, dancing, auctions and more. Join Chester County residents and businesses in the effort to end homelessness in the community. West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St., West Chester. 6 pm. For tickets, 610-431-3598; FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball.



## MUSEUMS.....

### THROUGH FEBRUARY 6

**Delaware Art Museum. Through Jan. 2**, "Fantasy and the Medieval Past;" **Through Feb. 6**, "I Sit and Sew: Tracing Alice Dunbar-Nelson." 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.



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NOVEMBER 15 & 16

**Virtual Gallery Talk with Victoria Wyeth: Waterscapes.** Join Victoria Wyeth as she shares her personal perspectives on the art of her grandfather, artist Andrew Wyeth, and explain his fascination with painting water, from his earliest watercolors of the ocean in coastal Maine to varied views of the Brandywine River in Chadds Ford. 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 7 pm. \$25. 610-388-2700; Brandywine.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

NOVEMBER 2-DECEMBER 10

**The Grand is Back!** *Nov. 2*, Louis C.K.; *Nov. 6*, TRO plays Elton John; *Nov. 12*, Vic DiBi-



detto; *Nov. 13*, A Rock 'n' Doo Wop Dance Party; *Nov. 13*, Kris Allen; *Nov. 18*, Justin Willman; *Nov. 18*, Storm Large; *Nov. 19*, ABBA Mania; *Nov. 20*, Yolanda Adams; *Dec. 3*, "A Swingin' Little Christmas" *see this month's Picks*; *Dec. 10*, "December '63" Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons tribute. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-652-5577; TheGrandWilmington.org.

NOVEMBER 5-21

**Uptown! at Knauer Performing Arts Center.** *Nov. 5*, Cherry Cherry—Neil Diamond Tribute; *Nov. 11*, Dueling Pianos; *Nov. 20*, Max Weinberg's Jukebox; *Nov. 21*, The Linda Ronstadt Experience. For tickets and times, UptownWestChester.org.

NOVEMBER 5-DECEMBER 5

**Kennett Flash.** *Nov. 5*, Sean Rowe; *Nov. 6*, Arlen Roth; *Nov. 12*, Monkia Herzig's Sheroes; *Dec. 2*, Sarah Borges and The Broken Singles; *Dec. 4*, LaRue, Alexander, Romaine—L.A.X.; *Dec. 5*, Chris Smither. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. For times and tickets, 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

NOVEMBER 10, 13, 18

**The Colonial Theatre.** *Nov. 10*, Psychedelic Furs—Made Of Rain Tour with Royston Langdon; *Nov.*

*13*, Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band; *Nov. 18*, Jake Shimabukuro—Christmas In Hawaii. 227 Bridge St. TheColonialTheatre.com.



NOVEMBER 12 & 13

**Lancaster Symphony Orchestra Masterworks Concert.** Featuring Roberto Sierra, *Sinfonietta for Strings* and *Sinfonia No. 4* and Rachmaninoff *Symphony No. 2*. First Presbyterian Church, 140 E. Orange St., Lancaster. Fri, 7:30; Sat, 3 & 8 pm. \$36-\$77. 717-291-6440; LancasterSymphony.org.

DECEMBER 5

**Delaware County Symphony Concert.** "DCS Through the Years," featuring the music of Brahms, Johann Strauss II, Rimsky-Korsakov and more. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$20. 610-879-7059; DCSCMusic.org.

DECEMBER 18

**Schuylkill Valley Regional Dance Company 50th Anniversary Nutcracker Ballet.** Come warm your hearts and ignite your spirits in this treasured holiday classic for the whole family. Featuring over 50 dancers and professional artists. Bryn Mawr College, Goodhart Hall, 150 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr. Check website for show times. \$15-\$20. SVRDC.org.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

NOVEMBER 6

**4th Annual Phoenixville Bed Races.** Teams build a bed on wheels and race down 3rd Ave. to win the title of "Fastest Bed," raising funds and awareness for organizations that provide a bed for the homeless: Ann's Heart, Good Samaritan Services and Phoenixville Women's Outreach. Start at Reeves Park, 2nd Ave. & Main St. 8:30 to 3. Phoenixville.org.

NOVEMBER 6

**2021 Philadelphia Heart Walk.** This year you can walk at the in-person 5K event or wherever you feel inspired. Citizens Bank Park, 1 Citizens Bank Way, Philadelphia. 8 am. For more information and to register, visit 2.Heart.org.

NOVEMBER 19-21

**Philadelphia Marathon, Half Marathon and Virtul Run.** *Nov. 1-30*, Virtual Run, \$50-\$55; *Nov. 19-20*, Health and Fitness Expo, PA Convention Center, 12th & Arch Sts., Phila.; *Nov. 20*, Half Marathon, 7:30, \$140; *Nov. 21*, Marathon at 7 am, \$155. 22nd St. & Ben Franklin Pkwy., Phila. PhiladelphiaMarathon.com.

NOVEMBER 27

**Burn Off the Bird 5K.** Held annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Jaycees 5K Race & 1-mile Fun Run begin and end at Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave. Benefits the Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation to fund community events. 9 to 10:30 am. Phoenixville.org.

THEATER.....

OCTOBER 28-JANUARY 1

**The Christmas Tree Ship at Bird-in-Hand Stage.** A ship. A storm. And a Christmas tale of heroic proportions. 2760 Old Philadelphia

Pk., Bird-in-Hand. \$39. Check website for times. 800-790-4069; Bird-in-Hand.com/Stage.

NOVEMBER 9-JANUARY 2

**Rodgers and Hammerstein's Cinderella at The Fulton Theatre.** An enchanted time at the ball with a lush production, graceful dance and a contemporary take on one of the most romantic stories ever told. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

NOVEMBER 17-JANUARY 16

**Mamma Mia! at Media Theatre.** You'll rock out to "Dancing Queen," "Mamma Mia," "Waterloo" and so much more. 104 E. State St., Media. Tickets and times, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

NOVEMBER 18-21

**Waitress at The Grand Opera House.** Wilmington theater season kicks off at The Playhouse on Rodney Square with this hit Broadway musical. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Thurs-Sat, 8 pm; Sat-Sun, 2 pm. \$48-\$107. 302-888-0200; TheGrandWilmington.org.

DECEMBER 1-19

**Million Dollar Quartet at Delaware Theatre Co.** Inspired by the famed recording session that brought together rock 'n' roll icons Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins



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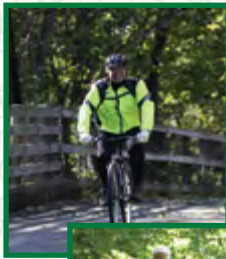


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DECEMBER 4-24

**Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer Jr. at Media Theatre.** A musical adaptation of the beloved television special. 104 E. State St., Media. See website for times. \$17-\$22. 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

### TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS .....

THROUGH NOVEMBER 29

**Open-Air Set-Ups in Phoenixville.** Businesses set up in the closed areas between 100-200 blocks of Bridge St. Fri, 4 to 11; Sat-Sun, 7 am to 11 pm. Main and Bridge Street parking lot is closed for the duration of the road closure. PhoenixvilleFirst.org.

THROUGH NOVEMBER  
Thursdays

**Outdoor Dining in Kennett Square.** The 100 blocks of East and West State St. are closed to traffic from 5 to 10 for outdoor dining. The closure is weather dependent and will continue until it gets too cold to eat outside. Check @HistoricKennett Facebook page for updates.

NOVEMBER 5, 13, 18

**1st Fridays, 2nd Saturdays, 3rd Thursdays.**  
**First Fridays: Nov. 5, Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; DowntownOxfordPA.org. **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3253; PhoenixvilleFirst.org. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com. **Wilmington Art Loop,** 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com.  
**Second Saturday Virtual Arts Stroll: Nov. 13,** Media, 484-445-4161; MediaArtsCouncil.org.  
**Third Thursday Malvern Stroll: Nov. 18,** MalvernBusiness.com.

### WEDDING SHOWCASE .....

NOVEMBER 14

**Chester County History Center Fall Wedding Showcase.** Talk with providers, enjoy a fashion show and win prize baskets. This is your opportunity to create the wedding of your dreams. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 11 to 4. \$5/couple. ChesterCoHistorical.org.

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

Send a description of your activity to [Info@ValleyDel.com](mailto:Info@ValleyDel.com) by the first of the month preceding publication.

For more events visit:

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

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# Local Heroes: West Chester Food Cupboard

BECAUSE NO ONE  
SHOULD GO HUNGRY!

Madison Meinel



Volunteers bagging produce

**C**RISP GREEN BEANS, JUICY TURKEY IN GRAVY, fluffy mashed potatoes and, of course, Grandma's special stuffing. Thanksgiving is around the corner, and many Chester County residents' mouths are already watering, thinking of the bounty to come.

Yet that reality is not shared by all our neighbors. According to the national anti-hunger organization Feeding America, in 2018 more than 43,000 individuals in Chester County experienced food insecurity. In the following years, the pandemic's economic impact has left thousands more Chester County residents struggling to put enough food on the table.

Fortunately, our area has service organizations working to end food insecurity throughout our county, not just at Thanksgiving but all year long.

For our Local Hero, we highlight the work of the **West Chester Food Cupboard** and their mission to provide fresh food and personal care supplies to those in need.

## HOW THEY STARTED

In 2009 a food cupboard previously run by Chester County Cares made the difficult decision to close their doors. Dismayed volunteers knew the resources that food cupboard provided were too valuable to lose, especially for families that depended on their support throughout the year. The volunteers banded together to open and run a new food cupboard themselves. And so the West Chester Food Cupboard was born.

Each year the number of volunteers increased, along with donations, as the community generously contributed to provide for the needs of low-income residents struggling to feed their families.

The Food Cupboard's considerable growth (now with over 200 volunteers), led to their big move in 2017 to an upgraded location on South Bolmar Street with twice the space. This large facility allows clients to stroll the aisles and shop as they'd do in a grocery store.

Despite changes over time, the Food Cupboard has stayed true to their roots—100% volunteer-run and no paid staff. The mission of providing fresh and nonperishable food to those in need continues, along with their new open-door policy to include all PA residents in need.

## WHAT THEY DO

During client hours you'll find hardworking volunteers throughout the Food Cupboard, greeting clients, collecting orders, packing carts and distributing food. Each volunteer sports a light blue t-shirt with the message "because no one should go hungry!" accented with a huge smile visible even when wearing a mask.

"We see it as our responsibility to help [our clients] and serve them with a smile, dignity and respect," says Rob Necarsulmer, the organization's vice president.

Pre-pandemic, Food Cupboard clients could come in and browse the aisles. But with current safety precautions, the group pivoted to drive-up services where volunteers take clients' orders, collect items and bring the groceries to the client's car.

The Food Cupboard puts an emphasis on making healthy options available—not just canned goods—with a wide variety of fresh produce



Inside the Food Cupboard

“Currently the Food Cupboard supports about 2,000 families and has distributed 1.2 million pounds of food and personal care items as of last year.”

donated from local farms, including Pete's Produce and Rushton Farm. Plus clients can pick up everything from non-perishable products and pantry staples to personal care supplies like toilet paper and feminine care products.

Currently the Food Cupboard supports about 2,000 families and has distributed 1.2 million pounds of food and personal care items as of last year.

And with families to serve each week, volunteers have plenty of jobs to do. Some work directly with clients—getting information and gathering groceries. Others work unpacking produce, unloading trucks and driving. And of course, there's the cleaning, sanitizing and overall maintenance of the building to handle as well.

"It's like running a small business," explains Necarsulmer. "There are bills to be paid, inventory to be counted, donations to be processed, customers to help. And we do all of that."

## REACHING FURTHER

Helping the community isn't confined to the walls of the Food Cupboard's facility.

Volunteers take part in several outreach programs including the Food Cupboard's collaboration with the Mighty Writers El Futura, a nonprofit group supplying academic support in West Grove.

In the early stages of the pandemic when schools closed their doors, many students were left without the lunch the school provided, which for too many was their main meal of the day. Instead those children were at home with a family already struggling to provide enough food for everyone. Many students attended virtual classes hungry. This lack of food led to students losing focus in class and falling behind on their schoolwork.

Mighty Writers realized early on that students weren't going to succeed in their classes if they didn't have enough to eat. And that's where the West Chester Food Cupboard came in.

The Food Cupboard extended their reach by making weekly trips to West Grove to supply food for the Mighty Writers' distribution plan. This new program provides lunch to more than 200 children on Mondays and Wednesdays, while Fridays are reserved for distributing food and household supplies to more than 200 families.

With the Food Cupboard's weekly outreach trips, they've assisted more than 335 families in need and helped keep students fed and focused for school days ahead.

In addition to their work with Mighty Writers, the Food Cupboard also helped keep 200 students fed through a variety of after-school programs.





Volunteers loading groceries into clients' cars



The Food Cupboard's drive-up services



Full carts ready to go

The Food Cupboard expanded its mission by offering an open-door policy to all Pennsylvania residents. The more families they can help, the better, they say.

"The personal connection is what it's all about," adds Necarsulmer. "There are smiles of joy and sometimes tears of relief, and those connections are why our volunteers are so loyal to the Food Cupboard."

#### HOW TO HELP

If you'd like to support the West Chester Food Cupboard—especially in the days, weeks and months after Thanksgiving that remind us of the pressing problem of food insecurity—there are several ways to help. To volunteer, Necarsulmer recommends visiting their website to learn more and contacting them by email at [wfood@gmail.com](mailto:wfood@gmail.com).

Can't make the time commitment? Consider donating money and food. Financial donations allow the Food Cupboard to purchase exactly what they need to stay open, while food donations keep the cupboard stocked and ready to help beyond the Thanksgiving season.

Our community benefits 365 days of the year from the helping hands at the West Chester Food Cupboard, and so we honor them as this year's Local Heroes. ♦

To volunteer, donate or get more information, go to [WestChesterFoodCupboard.org](http://WestChesterFoodCupboard.org).

# Become a Local Hero

## TURN YOUR COMPASSION INTO ACTION AND VOLUNTEER!

**W**E HOPE YOU'LL BE INSPIRED BY OUR November Local Heroes article and join one of the many groups in our area making a difference. If you're not sure where to start, check out the local organizations below that focus on fighting food insecurity and homelessness and helping seniors in our area. Volunteer, donate or both!

#### FOOD INSECURITY AND HOMELESSNESS

**Bridge of Hope:** Bridge of Hope serves families in Chester County who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. The families that they partner with benefit from a network of volunteers, rental assistance and intensive case management as they work to achieve long-term stability. 1 N. Bacton Hill Rd., Ste. 100, Malvern. 610-280-0280; [BridgeOfHopeInc.org](http://BridgeOfHopeInc.org).

**Chester County Food Bank:** The Chester County Food Bank is a hunger relief organization in our area working to end food insecurity. They work to provide food and build support in the neediest communities while raising awareness and engagement in the community. 650 Pennsylvania Dr., Exton. 610-873-6000; [ChesterCountyFoodBank.org](http://ChesterCountyFoodBank.org).

**Family Promise of Southern Chester County:** Family Promise is a program that works to keep families together when they are experiencing homelessness and provides meals, shelter, resources and mentorship to help them get back on their feet. Because every child deserves a home. 1156 W. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. 610-444-0400; [FamilyPromiseSCC.org](http://FamilyPromiseSCC.org).

**Friends Association:** Friends Association provides emergency shelter and prevention services for families facing homelessness or housing instability in Chester County. At Friends, they build family well-being by meeting the needs of children and parents together. 113 W. Chestnut St., West Chester. 610-431-3598; [FriendsAssoc.org](http://FriendsAssoc.org).

**Good Works:** Good Works is a nonprofit organization founded in 1988 and dedicated to repairing homes and restoring hope for low-income homeowners in Chester County. The repairs include roof repair, plumbing installation and repair, electrical rewiring, insulation, and window and floor repair. Main office, 544 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville. 610-383-6311; [GoodWorksInc.org](http://GoodWorksInc.org).

**Habitat for Humanity of Chester County:** This branch of Habitat for Humanity has helped over 150 families achieve their dream of homeownership. Their goal is to ensure homeownership is available for all by collaborating with families and individuals to build and finance affordable homes. 1847 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville. 610-384-7993; [HFHCC.org](http://HFHCC.org).

#### SENIORS

**Meals on Wheels:** Meals on Wheels is a national organization supporting more than 5,000 community-based programs across the country dedicated to addressing senior isolation and hunger. Take part in their "Let's Do Lunch" initiative, which encourages people to skip their daily lunch routine and instead deliver one lunch a month to those in need. 404 Willowbrook Ln., West Chester. 610-430-8500; [MOWCC.org](http://MOWCC.org).

**Surrey Services:** After 40 years of nurturing and growth, Surrey Services has grown into a strong community-based organization serving thousands of individuals and their families each year. Their mission is to help seniors live with independence and dignity. Multiple locations. [SurreyServices.org](http://SurreyServices.org).

**West Chester Area Senior Center:** Founded in 1975, the West Chester Area Senior Center is an independent nonprofit organization chartered by the state. They work to enrich the lives of seniors through friendship, activities, education and nourishment. 530 E. Union St., West Chester. 610-431-4242; [WCSeniors.org](http://WCSeniors.org).

Find other senior center locations at [Chesco.org/Senior-Centers](http://Chesco.org/Senior-Centers). ♦







# Discovering NATURE with Kids

YOU MAY LEARN  
MORE THAN YOU EXPECTED  
IF YOU TAKE ALONG  
A CURIOUS COMPANION.

Amy Mawby, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens



Jenkins Arboretum



IF YOU'VE EVER SPENT MORE THAN THREE MINUTES with a kid, you know that they're natural explorers with an innate curiosity. While this natural curiosity can sometimes lead to a never-ending barrage of questions (think "Why?", "Why?", "Why?" and the follow-up "Why?"), it can also result in discoveries and connections that will last a lifetime.

This season spend time with the children in your life to create opportunities for them to embrace their sense of wonder—and to rekindle yours!

## ADULTS AS GUIDES

When spending time with kids in nature, think of yourself as a guide rather than a teacher. Contrary to popular belief, adults don't have to know everything or be an expert. You just have to be willing to explore and discover right alongside the kids!

So many simple activities can lead to discovery. The best course is simply to allow kids to choose what to explore and see where that takes you. Notice what they gravitate towards and are getting excited about.

Next, sprinkle in some open-ended questions. "What are you looking at? What did you find? What do you think it looks like?" Keep observing and asking questions together.

## VENUES FOR EXPLORATION

Venturing outside doesn't have to entail a full-day road trip. The Philadelphia area—known as the Garden Capital, with 36 gardens

within 30 minutes—is rich with outdoor spaces that are free to visit, including Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens in Devon.

Short on time? Go for a walk in your neighborhood or explore in your own backyard or porch.

But before you step foot out the door for your adventure, set yourself up for success. Play clothes are called play clothes for a reason. Wear them from head to toe (even adults!) and bring back-ups. Water and snacks go a long way too. And something to wipe hands after everyone holds the worm you find.

## USING YOUR SENSES

Engaging your senses is one of the best ways to connect with nature. Here are some simple ideas to help foster curiosity this season.

- **Sight** – Use your eyes to look closely at what's around you. Change your perspective and observe what's down low on the ground and up high in the sky. Go on a color hunt with paint samples from the hardware store or download one of Jenkins' Nature Bingo or Nature Detectives activity sheets on our website. Bring along a magnifying glass or binoculars to augment your sense of sight.

- **Sound** – Listening carefully helps us find things in nature that we might not be able to see. Go on a quiet walk and count how many different sounds you hear. Remember, you don't need to be able to identify every sound, but this starts a discussion about what might have made that sound. Was it buzzing or chirping or rattling? Even just listening to the wind with your eyes closed is a wonderful





Maple Leaf Viburnum



Kids Exploring



activity. If you want to make the noises of nature even louder, cup your hands behind your ears and push your ears forward ever so slightly to increase your ability to hear. Are you trying it right now?

- **Smell** – The sense of smell is closely linked with memories, so start making some positive connections! There are so many seasonal smells to get a whiff of throughout the year. Many flowers produce sweet scents to enjoy. Some leaves, including many common herbs, are “scratch and sniff” and have a pleasing aroma when gently rubbed between your fingers. Ready to learn a new vocab word? Petrichor. It’s that wonderful, earthy smell that often comes after a rainstorm. Next time it rains, pull on those boots and try to smell the petrichor!

- **Touch** – There are tons of textures to feel outdoors. Go on a texture tour and find things that are smooth, rough, hard, soft, bumpy, lumpy and much more. Get your hands dirty squishing mud and then wash them off in the wet grass. Walk up to a tree and feel the bark or rub the fuzzy leaves of lamb’s ear. Always be respectful when handling any wildlife and be a bit cautious with touching leaves. Be on the lookout for poison ivy (leaves of three, let them be) and stinging nettle (look at the stalks). Touch can also lead to lessons on how to be respectful outdoors, regarding picking and collecting samples on others’ property or in public gardens.

- **Taste** – This is the trickiest sense of all because it’s not safe to taste most things outdoors. Taste is probably best suited for a home garden where you grow veggies or herbs. Kids are more apt to eat fresh foods that they’ve helped to grow themselves, so that’s an extra benefit of vegetable gardening. No garden, no problem! Take a walk around your local farmers market or produce aisle at the grocery store to create a taste test of local in-season fruit and vegetables.

#### NATURE JOURNALS AND PHOTO LOGS

Now that you’ve ventured outside and have a plan for nature exploration, why not integrate a creative way to capture all your discoveries? You can start a nature journal to write and draw your sensory experience or create a photo log to keep track of your findings. Both activities document the shared memories that you’re making as you cultivate the next generation of environmental stewards.

Fall and winter are wonderful seasons to get outside and engage your senses. Many plants go through dramatic changes once the cooler temperatures hit, so there are lots of differences to observe.

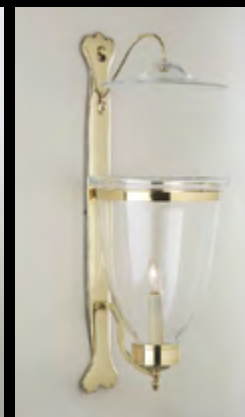
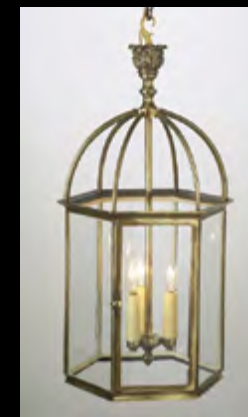
Make time to enjoy the season with the little ones in your life. You never know what you’ll discover together! ♦

PHOTOS BY CHRIS SWISHER, ANGELINA MINGER, AND LIZ PETTIT

*Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is a community-supported public garden showcasing native flora of the eastern United States and a world-class collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. The gardens are open every day of the year, and admission is always free. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 610-647-8870; JenkinsArboretum.org.*



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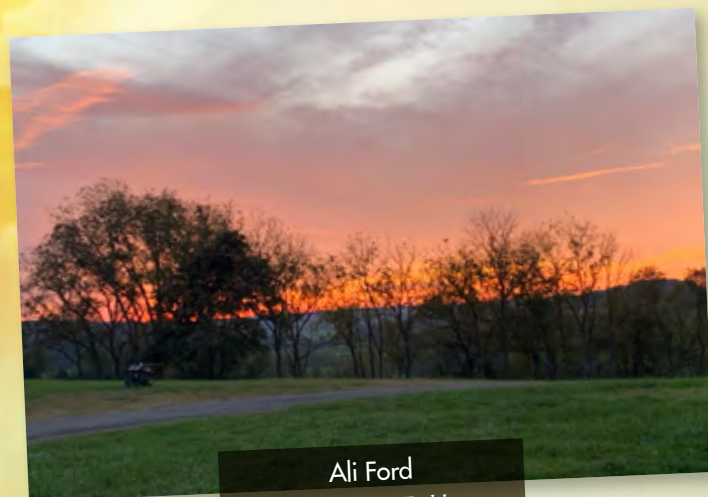


# Capturing Chester County

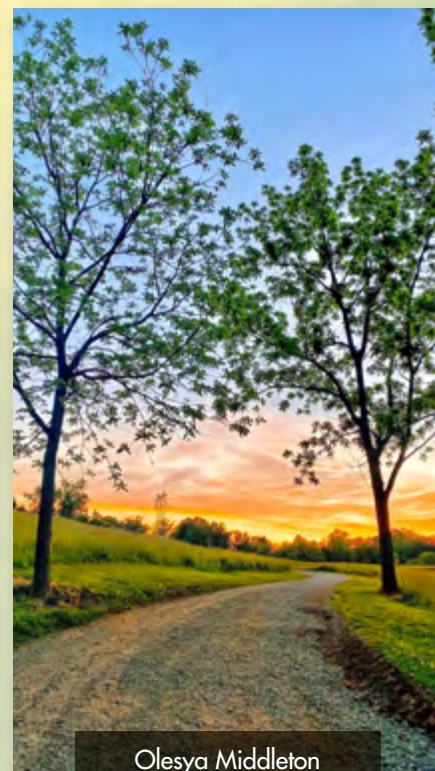
## PHOTO CONTEST

For the past six years, we've asked our readers for their most stunning images of fall in Chester County. Our semifinalist sent us beautiful photos of their favorite spots, and now it's time to pick the best one. In November we'll showcase each photo on Facebook. To vote, just *like* and *follow* us, then *like* your favorite photo. The photo with the most likes will win\* a \$100 gift certificate to Main Point Books! The winner will be announced on Facebook in late November.

\* Check the rules on our website.



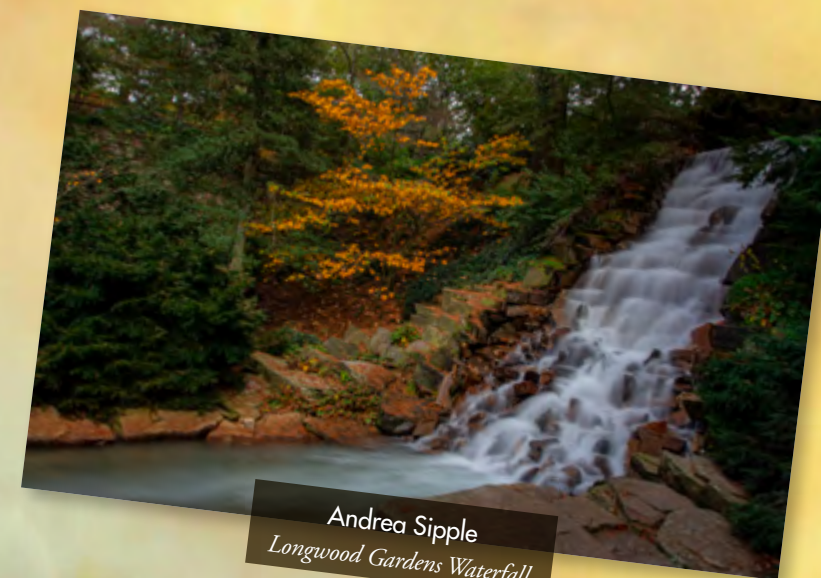
Ali Ford  
*Plantation Fields*



Olesya Middleton  
*Strouds Preserve*



Adam Travetti  
*My Chester County Barn*



Andrea Sipple  
*Longwood Gardens Waterfall*



Jade Mackay  
*Homestead View*



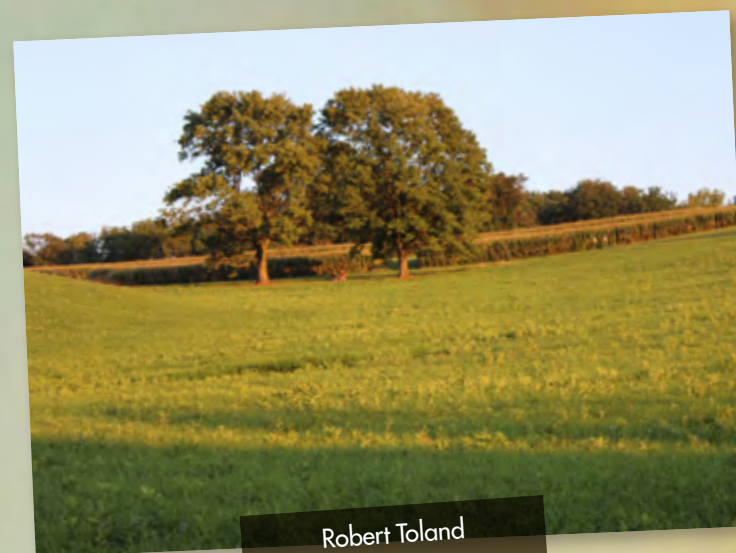
Steve Michalec  
*Styer's Peonies Farm*



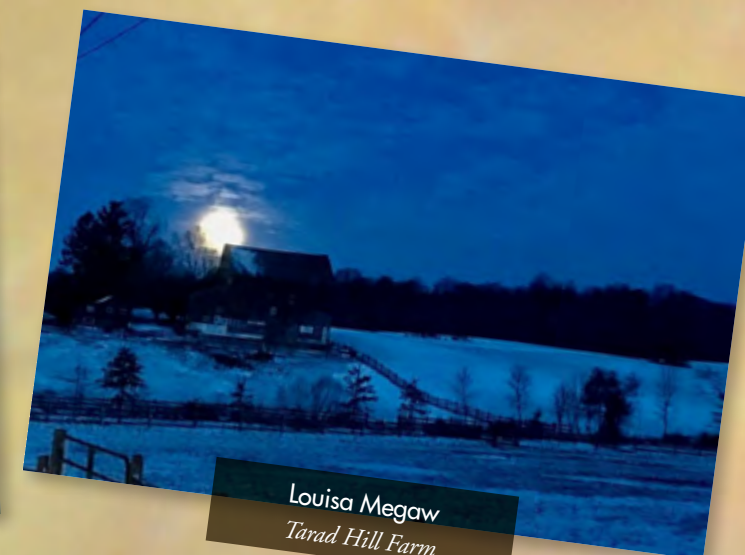
John McAlinney  
*Crebilly Farm*



Ashley Hughes  
*Deborah's Rock Farms*



Robert Toland  
*Strouds Preserve*



Louisa Megaw  
*Tarad Hill Farm*



## Touring the Southern Brandywine Valley

Matt Freeman

**W**HERE DOES THE BRANDYWINE Valley begin and end?

The waterway for the Brandywine Creek is right there on the map, but the region—that's a bit fuzzier. Still, if you drive, bicycle or walk down Creek Road heading south from Chadds Ford, the road follows the Brandywine's many meanders, sticking close by as if too enchanted to let it out of sight for long. The wooded hills and occasional stately home glide by as you pass, literally, through the Brandywine Valley.

The fabled Brandywine Creek finds its way to the Delaware border and beyond as it traverses what's also sometimes called Chateau Country—dotted with stately former du Pont homes and landmarks—but that's fuzzy too. Travel writers will sometimes say it's an area you ought to see, and then just list the famous destinations such as Winterthur.

So let's keep it simple and say there are indeed things you ought to see and do in this part of our area, a sort of borderland between southern Chester and northern New Castle Counties.

And we'll assume you've heard of those big, world-famous places—no need to revisit Winterthur, Hagley Museum, Longwood Gardens and the like. They're fabulous and worthy of a destination trip. But there's so much more.

Southern Brandywine Valley is a place of great natural beauty and architectural interest—this in-between place, with historic towns and villages to dine and shop in, natural areas to enjoy, and plenty of other things to discover along its many scenic byways.



1. Hindu Temple of Delaware
2. Penns Woods Winery
3. The Inn at Montchanin





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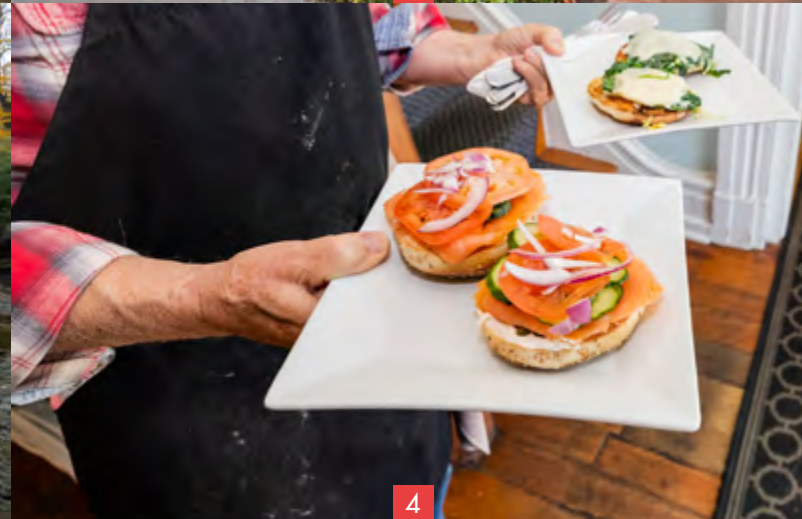
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7



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6



8

## SURPRISES ALONG THE WAY

Highways and other well-traveled roads crisscross the area, so unless you have a reason to be on those back roads there's much you can miss. For example, there's the **Hindu Temple of Delaware** on Yorklyn Road near Hockessin.

This is not one of those houses of worship based in a converted rancher. Far from it. This is a large building with an immense multi-story facade like any you'd see in South Asia. On the grounds is the largest statue of the god Hanuman in the country.

Never heard of it? This is what we're talking about. So let's keep exploring.

The **Inn at Montchanin** is another serendipitous discovery just off the beaten path. This village-like collection of cottages includes a charming inn and spa along with an equally delightful on-site restaurant, Krazy Kats, serving fine, seasonal fare. It's among the Historic Hotels of America.

Of course, most of the other tucked-away places you might want to know about are

a bit more familiar. **Penns Woods Winery** (the former Smithbridge Winery) on Beaver Valley Road just west of Route 202, obviously offers wines to taste as well as space for picnicking, along with live music and a variety of other activities.

There are, of course, other wineries and breweries in the area. For details, check out *BVWineTrail.com* or *BVBrewScene.com*.

## NATURE PARKS

If you feel like doing something outdoorsy—a popular pastime since a few springs ago, for reasons we needn't mention—there's a swath of preserves and natural areas across the region for hiking, birdwatching, fishing and just generally enjoying nature.

West to east you've got the **White Clay Creek Preserve** on the Pennsylvania side that becomes the **White Clay Creek State Park** (both named for the clay that was mined in the area) on the other side of the border. Then there's the **Middle Run Valley**

**Natural Area**, with 10 miles of biking and hiking trails linked to White Clay Creek State Park. **The Ashland Nature Center** is farther east, just off Barley Mill Road, and is the headquarters of the **Delaware Nature Society**, which has a variety of educational activities as well as outdoor recreation.

You'll also find the **Mt. Cuba Center**, a renowned botanical garden with spectacular wildflowers, **Valley Garden Park**, one of the best little-known parks with landscaped grounds perfect for wedding photos, and **Brandywine Creek State Park**, once part of a du Pont family estate, located on the other side of Winterthur Museum.

And that's by no means all. It really is an area of unusual natural beauty and charm.

## CENTREVILLE

But of course we're social animals, and if you're interested in being with other folks, there are places for that too in Southern Brandywine Valley. **Centreville** is a village with many of its 19th-century structures

on the National Register of Historic Places. It's not tucked away, exactly—it sits astride Route 52—but it does have old-world charm and offers opportunities to stroll, shop and get something to eat and drink.

**Buckley's Tavern** is a Delaware landmark, a popular eating, drinking and gathering place for many decades, with seating these days by reservation. A different option would be to get a bottle of wine at **Collier's of Centreville**, offering a well-curated inventory and owners who love to talk wine. Then walk a block or so to the **Centreville Cafe & Montrachet Fine Foods**, which has indoor and outdoor seating and serves gourmet goodies for breakfast, lunch and appetizers. Their motto: "We coddle our clients."

There's shopping too, with a collection of specialty shops sprinkled through town. **Adorn Goods** features up-scale home goods, while **Found** offers distinctive antiques. **The Marblehead Fly Fisher** has exactly what you'd expect. It's worth a stroll to discover more.

## HOCKESSIN

While there are historic homes in **Hockessin**, it's more of a commuter/bedroom town. Like Centreville it was built up around a main road—Route 41, a

well-traveled road—so it's not exactly off the beaten track. That said, there are many reasons to check it out.

**The Back Burner** is a longtime favorite New American restaurant, having started in the 1980s before moving to its current location in 2000, known for great crabcakes and pumpkin mushroom soup. **Six Paupers** is a lively bar and restaurant with a slightly upscale but easygoing atmosphere.

For shopping the **Gateway Garden Center** is a well-stocked garden supply market, and **Harvest Market Natural Foods** sells what its name suggests it's stocked with. Nextdoor is **Wild Birds Unlimited**, a kind of paradise for people who like to have a bird feeder in the yard and a pair of binoculars on the kitchen windowsill. See if you can score the popular Wingspan board game—on every birder's wish list.

That's just a sample for this not-so-small town. So if you're in the area, don't just fly through the intersection. Check it out. You're bound to discover something.

## YORKLYN

Of course, if you really want to feel like you've found something special that not everyone knows

1. Brandywine Creek State Park
2. White Clay Creek State Park
3. Buckley's Tavern
4. Centreville Cafe & Montrachet Fine Foods
5. Auburn Valley State Park
6. The Back Burner
7. The Gateway Garden Center
8. Six Paupers





1. Marshall Steam Museum
2. Dew Point Brewing Company
3. Center for the Creative Arts

about, go down Route 82 until you come into **Yorklyn**. You can't miss the historic mills along the Red Clay Creek or the charming Queen Anne mansion on a hill above them.

Once the mill owner's house, this mansion is now part of **Auburn Valley State Park**. There you can tour the mills and mansion, fish and hike, and check out a large collection of vintage steam cars at the **Marshall Steam Museum**, which, to be honest, you can't do in all that many places. The best time to visit is during monthly Steamin' Days—November 7 and 27—when you can climb into an antique automobile, board a train and experience travel as it was at the turn of the 20th century.

If the lovely winding roads have rekindled your interest in bicycling, you can stop in at **Garrison's Cyclery** on Creek Road to select from their extensive collection of local road and trail bike maps. Then head out for your personalized tour of the back roads.

But if you're thinking more about just relaxing and it's a Thursday through Sunday afternoon, you can visit the **Dew Point Brewing Company** in the Garrett Snuff Mill. It's Delaware's newest family-owned and operated microbrewery. They don't sell food, but you're welcome to bring your own to pair with a pint of Nit Wit (Belgian wit bier) or Hopworks Express (West Coast-style IPA).

The mills were padlocked long ago, and the rest of the village mostly seems dreamily detached from the hectic outside world. But there's one more place that's a going concern—the **Center for the Creative Arts**. You can take classes in a variety of art forms—music, art, dance, drama—attend an array of events, including shows where you can buy an example of the often-excellent work by some of the area's best local artists. Visit November 20 & 21 for the CCArts Artisan Show to find unique gifts.

These are just a few reasons to get off the main roads and explore this charming and often overlooked part of the Brandywine Valley. ♦

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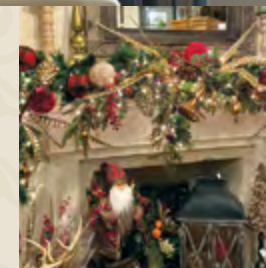
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# The 8 Days of Thanksgiving

SO MANY WAYS TO CELEBRATE THE START OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

Lauren Durante & Gabriella Ruggirello

**W**E ALL KNOW THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS, but what about the 8 Days of Thanksgiving? The week of Thanksgiving is stuffed with turkeys, holiday traditions and a cornucopia of shopping events.

Are you prepared for the special demands of the launch of the holiday season? Begin with the warm glow of Friendsgiving, work your way through supporting local on Small Business Saturday, plus online sales of Cyber Monday. And finish by giving back on Giving Tuesday. There are even more days to celebrate—Drinksgiving and Sofa Sunday anyone?

Here's our guide to an extra long week of seasonal fun and giving.

## FRIENDSGIVING

Start off the week with a Friendsgiving ... or two! Carve out time for friends the weekend before Thanksgiving, or pick a day your group prefers to sit down for a shared meal. This holiday is flexible (unlike the fourth Thursday event), with the celebration revolving around your schedule (how convenient!). Typically taking place within a week before Thanksgiving Day, Friendsgiving is the perfect way to preheat your holiday season.

The term Friendsgiving first appeared around 2007, but it really started to catch on in 2011, possibly from the influence of TV shows, like *Friends* and its popular Thanksgiving episodes featuring the cast celebrating the holiday together.

As the name implies, it's a traditional turkey day dinner with, well, friends. At first popular with college students and young adults, it's spread to all age groups. It's both a great alternative when you can't get together with your family for a traditional

Thanksgiving meal and an extra meal to share on another day with your chosen family.

Whether it's potluck or a full-on Thanksgiving feast, the formality and date are up to you! Just remember to save room for seconds.

## DRINKSGIVING

Traveling can be a headache, but traveling during the holidays can be a migraine—but so worth it. Many returning home in time for a full-on extended-family turkey dinner will be traveling extra early to make sure to arrive before the carving of the bird.

So, if you're finding yourself with an extra day hanging out in your childhood bedroom, get out and meet up with friends for drinks the night before. The Wednesday before Thanksgiving is known as Drinksgiving, a popular night out at local bars (in some places outpacing New Year's Eve).

With many folks returning home for the holiday, it's the perfect time to catch up with those you won't see on Thanksgiving Day. Drinksgiving is easier than Friendsgiving—no cooking required. Just remember to drink local and take an Uber home.

## THANKSGIVING

Not much needs to be said about the main event. So, here are some facts to share over pie.

The official Thursday for Thanksgiving has bounced around the calendar since its start in 1789. In 1939 President Roosevelt moved Thanksgiving to the second to last Thursday of November to help extend the shopping season before Christmas, yet some states ignored the change. In 1941 Congress decided to make the official holiday the fourth Thursday of November.

Thanksgiving is primarily an American holiday, although Canada celebrates it the second Monday in October, due to the earlier harvest there. And giving thanks is cel-

ebrated in cultures around the world. Liberia and the Netherlands town of Leiden are among those that celebrate an American-style Thanksgiving. Worldwide, other nations celebrate their own version throughout the year to give thanks for country-specific reasons, including Australia, Japan, Germany and India.

## BLACK FRIDAY

Oh boy! Black Friday—we all know what that means. Shoppers are hyped up, pre-dawn lines form at store entrances and retailers dream of big crowds.

Where did it all start? The term "Black Friday" has a few origin stories. The most popular comes from the 1980s when, after the boom in early holiday shopping, businesses celebrated their balance sheets turning from red to black. The holiday has spread across the world, making Black Friday a major day of shopping for gifts.

This year, take a break from the chaos and mall madness of Black Friday and instead relax in the comfort of your own home for "Small Business Eve," as we like to call it. Plan which small businesses

to visit the next day and create the perfect route to hit all your favorite locally owned shops.

## SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

It's no secret that Black Friday and Cyber Monday get the most hype, but Small Business Saturday is our favorite (sorry Thanksgiving!). Rather than fighting the lines and parking lot mess at the malls and big box stores, we suggest you support the locally owned stores that make our communities special. Why buy mass-produced when you can buy unique gifts from the Brandywine Valley? Support the specialty shops in our own backyard and spend the holidays shopping local.

After all, it's "Buy Local or Bye-Bye Local!" (See the sidebar for ways Small Businesses help our communities.)

## SOFA SUNDAY

Don't let the name fool you. Sofa Sunday isn't trying to get you to buy a new couch every year. It's the day designated for getting cozy in your best impractical loungewear, surfing the Internet for the best Cyber Monday deals and prepping your cart for when the clock strikes midnight. All from the comfort of your sofa.

With more than two-thirds of Cyber Monday shoppers spending as much, if not more, time searching for deals on Sofa Sunday

than shopping Cyber Monday, you need to be prepared. So heat up some Thanksgiving leftovers, set yourself up on your sofa, and start searching for the best sales online.

And look beyond Amazon, Target and Best Buy. After all, our local shops have on-line specials to check out.

## CYBER MONDAY

Cyber Monday was coined in 2005 after the National Retail Federation noticed a spike in on-line sales the Monday following Thanksgiving. A coincidence? Absolutely not! People were using their speedier Internet connections at their offices on Monday to get a jump on the best deals and avoid the kiddos seeing their holiday gifts too early.

Now Cyber Monday reports record-breaking sales, hitting over \$10.8 billion even in 2020! Just imagine how much money we'd be spending without the sales!

## GIVING TUESDAY

Last, but perhaps best, is Giving Tuesday. The term was first used by New York's 92nd Street Y to encourage others to do good and keep the giving spirit alive during the holidays. Since Giving Tuesday falls late in the tax year, many nonprofit groups use it to launch end-of-year giving campaigns.

Even though Giving Tuesday is linked to the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, it's blossomed into an international movement. This growth is largely thanks to social media and the push for everyone to give, collaborate and celebrate generosity, especially during the holidays.

Look out for the #GivingTuesday on social media and do your part.

Why not challenge yourself by keeping a log of all your savings from the Black Friday/Cyber Monday deals, then donate what you saved on Giving Tuesday? That's some good karma.

The 8 Days of Thanksgiving is a marathon event. Luckily, you have time to plan your menus and research your shopping. Please remember to buy local and keep the giving spirit alive through Christmas ... and beyond. ♦





# Small Businesses are a Big Deal

Did you know about 28 million small businesses operate in the U.S. alone, according to the Small Business Administration (SBA), generating 66% of all new jobs since 1995. And their special day, Small Business Saturday, promoted by American Express starting in 2010, encouraged more than 108 million people to “shop small.”

Why should you shop small on Small Business Saturday ... and every day, in our opinion? Here are some huge reasons. Need more? Read the Forbes article “43 Reasons You Should Support Small and Independent Businesses.”

- 1. When you buy from a small business, you're supporting a real person.** There's a real person behind every small business—someone who took the risk and built the business. The owner, who may be a friend, neighbor or familiar face in your community, would probably high five you for shopping there, except for, well, Covid.
- 2. Your purchases stimulate the local economy.** Small businesses generate \$68 of local economic return for every \$100 spent with them. The sales taxes they pay stay in the local economy to fund public schools, libraries, parks, firefighters and other public services. Over \$9.3 billion would be returned to our economy if every family spent just \$10 a month at local businesses!
- 3. Local businesses hire local people.** The SBA reports that local businesses *added* 8 million jobs to the American economy since 1990, while large chains *eliminated* 4 million jobs.
- 4. Successful small businesses attract more businesses (and more jobs) to the community.** Many small business owners also give back by encouraging and mentoring other entrepreneurs, and purchasing products or services from other local small businesses. It's a win-win.
- 5. Small businesses give back (more) to the community.** They donate profits, services and goods to local (rather than national) nonprofits and charities. Small businesses donate 250% more than large businesses to community causes. Plus small businesses and boutique shops add unique character to your town.
- 6. Small businesses get to know their customers.** You're not just an account number to a small business. The owner may even know your name. They strive to provide more personable, hands-on and better customer service with personalized advice and even demos!
- 7. Small businesses provide greater access to diverse products.** Local businesses respond to local demands and tastes, and small businesses have just as much access to vendors (who also determine pricing, not stores) than big box businesses do. If a small business doesn't have the products you want, ask them—they're usually more willing to order them for you.
- 8. Small businesses create a sense of community.** You're much more likely to get to know a small business owner in your neighborhood. According to a study reported in *Forbes*, the second most desirable community feature in a town is a stronger sense of community. Number 1 is more local restaurants, many of which are also small businesses.
- 9. Shopping local is green.** Shipping produces 1 billion metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> a year. And think about all those cardboard boxes and plastic packing material.
- 10. You'll feel good.** Would you rather feel the pang of guilt buying so-so coffee from a chain or a lifeless burger at a drive-through, or be entirely satisfied with your latte made locally with love and a great burger from a small business owner who serves you herself?



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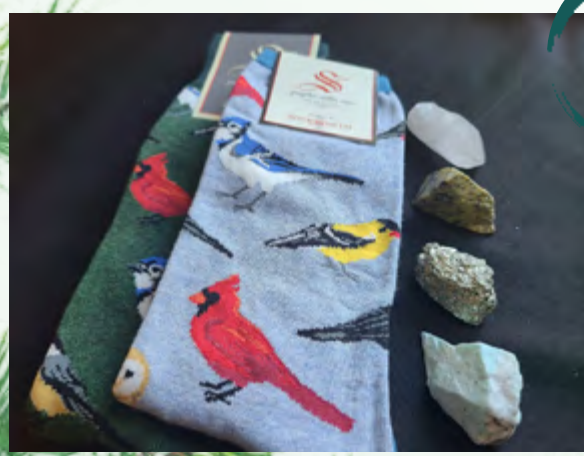
1.



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# Holiday Gift Guide

- Adom Goods, Centreville**  
*Linens by Le Jacquard Français*  
Poetic and colorful kitchen and dining linens, Le Jacquard Français has been manufactured in France since 1888. A perfect gift to wow anyone with a love for luxury linens!  
**Walk and Wine Open House**, November 17, 4 to 7  
**Holiday Open House**, November 27, Holiday Stroll, 10 to 5  
*See ad on page 45*
- Christopher Chocolates, Newtown Square**  
*Holiday Chocolates*  
Chocolate-lovers will love this shop now celebrating their 35th Anniversary! From Chocolate Assortments to Gourmet Gift Baskets overflowing with decadent treats! Gift one ... Keep one!  
**Shop Small Business Saturday**, November 27, 10 to 5  
*See ad on page 64*
- Delaware Museum of Nature & Science, Wilmington**  
*Socksmith Crew Socks*  
Have the beauty of nature on your feet with our new Socksmith nature inspired crew socks. With designs from sea life to wildlife, your feet will be stylish and warm this cold weather season.  
Shop today at the Museum Store online. Curbside pickup and shipping available.  
*See ad on page 45*
- Matlack Florist, West Chester**  
*Holiday Wreaths*  
Shop Matlack for unique gifts, greenhouse treasures and floral designs for every occasion.  
*See ad on page 23*
- Walter J. Cook Jeweler, Paoli**  
*Holiday Sparkle*  
18k Yellow Gold and Diamond Links  
Gallet Collection. By Gumuchian  
*See ad on page 10*
- Mostardi Nursery, Newtown Square**  
*Mini Poinsettias*  
Liven up your gift list with holiday greenery from local plant experts.  
*See ad on page 24*
- Merchant of Menace, West Chester**  
*Hand-crafted furniture*  
Sit back and relax on this hand-carved Zebra Wood Rocker by Tom Bazis.  
*See ad on page 19*
- Haverford Guild of Craftsmen**  
**Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show, Haverford**  
*Unique holiday gifts*  
Handwoven shawl with pockets. Created by Elisabeth Jönsson Brown.  
November 13 & 14, 10 to 5  
*See ad on page 18*



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of Your  
Life*

## WHERE SHOULD YOUR NEXT HOME BE?

Edwin Malet

**M**AYBE YOU SKIPPED YOUR USUAL AFTER-noon walk because you were “too tired.” Maybe you dropped a plate, spilled some soup or forgot to take your medication ... again.

Perhaps you’ll look around the Thanksgiving table and detect expressions of concern. After dinner, you notice, behind closed doors, your family members are talking. About you.

It’s “time.” Maybe it’s past time.

### COMMUNITIES FOR THE INDEPENDENT

Whether to move to a senior living community depends on many factors. You’ll need to do research, but as a first step, you should be aware that there several kinds of communities to choose from.

One kind—a sort of introduction to senior life—is a 55+ community. [Harrison Hill Apartments](#) is one of many in our area. Based in West Chester, Harrison Hill offers a no-frills senior lifestyle. Another description would be that it’s a place to “make your own fun”—and economically.

A second general type is called an independent living community. This is usually an apartment—but it may be a separate house, cottage or villa—that’s part of a “life plan” or “continuing care retirement community” (CCRC). But not always.

An independent living community offers a residence in a protected community, generally with convenient access to medical and other services—often meals, housekeeping and home maintenance. Many view an independent living community as a first step in a life plan/CCRC progression.

An independent living resident generally doesn’t require full-time medical care, but the proximity to such care is considered an advantage. Medical care is available on short notice. [The Mansion at Rosemont](#) is one example of an independent living facility. [Dunwoody Village](#), [Kendal-Crosslands Communities](#), [The Hickman](#) and [St. Martha Villa](#) are others in our area.

An independent living resident in some communities can have access to many of the personal care services on an à la carte basis, for example, personal hygiene, housekeeping and transportation. Dunwoody, Kendal-Crosslands and the Mansion at Rosemont, for example, offer “home care”—a kind of hybrid of the two levels of care, with the intent of letting residents remain in independent living longer.

[Friends Home in Kennett](#) offers “supportive” independent living for residents presently in need of no care. As the supportive units are in the personal care building (see below), when care is needed, no move is necessary.

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## THE NEXT LEVEL OF CARE

A third kind of community is “personal care” or “assisted living.” Practically speaking, these communities offer similar levels of care. For convenience, I’ll refer to them as personal care.

Personal care living is for those who require semi-continuous attention, generally from nurses, doctors or other trained personnel. The staff, however, are less involved in residents’ lives than in a hospital or skilled nursing facility, a fourth level of care.

The residents in personal care may occupy apartments comparable to their independent living counterparts. But they have access to meal preparation, medication management, housekeeping services, transportation and other staff-provided services to assist with activities of daily living.

A fourth level of care is a “nursing home” or “skilled nursing facility.” These are long-term, 24-hour-care facilities, staffed with medically trained personnel. Typically one goes to a nursing home or skilled nursing facility when it’s medically necessary. There are over 20 such facilities in Chester County.

## RIGHT TIME OR RIGHT PLACE

Many prospective senior living residents extol the “right time” as their deciding factor on whether to move to a senior living facility. For instance, Samantha Gordon, the Communications and Outreach Manager at The Hickman, says the right time is the “time we need an extra hand, time we are ready to enjoy our retirement, time to give our loved one a break.”

Surely, she is right. In practice, though, whether it’s the right time will also depend heavily on the place—the setting and accommodations, the services and facilities, both on-campus and off. You’ll want to consider factors such as transportation options, religious services, meal preparation, and of course access to medical services. Other considerations include the activities available, and whether they’re planned by an administrator or individually available. These considerations will determine whether your move would be a happy one.



Kendal-Crosslands



Harrison Hill Apartments

Michele Berardi, Director of Communications and Public Relations at Kendal-Crosslands Communities, for instance, points out that location is also key. She would ask if the community is near their doctors, children, where they grew up, their church and their friends.

## FRIENDS AND COMMUNITY

Terry Blair, a resident at The Mansion at Rosemont, wanted to be close to her Main Line family. She did an extensive on-line search, narrowed to three places and finally chose The Mansion. “It’s really lovely,” she says, noting that it offers transportation, trips to the opera and symphony, wellness programs, exercise, volunteering and more. And it’s close to her friends! Its Director of Marketing, Sarah Jolles, says the Main Line location is a major attraction. The residents “love where they live.”

Type of living accommodations may also be important in choosing a community. Some want a “campus feel.” Others prefer a separate apartment or cottage.

Ginna Clark, a resident at [White Horse Village](#), “loves the green grass around the buildings.” It’s a “great place to walk.” She likes the wellness center, the pool, the trainers and dining facilities. She’s also taken by the “incredible food,” the hiking trips, performances and lectures. A former resident of Swarthmore, she “couldn’t be happier at White Horse Village.”

Originally from Wilmington, North Carolina, Bruce and Karen Gibson moved into White Horse Village in Newtown Square—they referred to it as “idyllic”—to be close to their daughter and two sons. Bruce likes the garden and woodworking shop. Karen, who has had back surgery and issues with her eyes, appreciates the medical services that are widely available in the area. Bruce also considers the nonprofit philosophy of White Horse a plus.

Since 2013, Susan Fischer has called [Lima Estates](#) home, enjoying the “friendliness” and “warmth” of the community, and the fact that everything—swimming pool, gift shop, beauty parlors, transportation—



Cornwall Manor





Friends Home in Kennett



Riddle Village

is right there. She describes it as a “happy place.” Susan hasn’t needed additional services yet, but she takes comfort that personal care and skilled nursing are there if and when she needs them.

Some will choose to sacrifice the suburban settings near Philadelphia and head west to Lancaster and Lebanon Counties. Jennifer Margut, Vice President of **Cornwall Manor**, believes her residents—40% from out-of-state, 40% from central Pennsylvania, and 20% from the Philadelphia area—have chosen Cornwall because of its rural setting: trees, hills, low cost of living and small town feel. That’s retirement!

## COST

Cost is an essential consideration in choosing a new community. Cost considerations include the monthly cost, upfront costs and incidentals. Other questions to

consider: Does the community accept your long-term care insurance? How much do you have to pay when moving through the continuum of care?

Gordon at The Hickman says, “Financial considerations have a huge impact and dictate whether a person qualifies to live at a community and for how long. Communities may be private-pay based or supported through Medicaid/Medicare. It’s important to consider every cost before moving in. This means checking if there are any buy-in fees, extra fees, one-time admission fees and even amenities fees—for example if a community offers a hair salon that might be an extra cost for each use.”

Nonprofit versus for-profit status is another consideration, along with accreditations and ratings for healthcare. CARF (Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities), for example, is a kind of Good Housekeeping seal of approval and important to check out.

## TRANSITIONING

At Kendal-Crosslands Communities, transitioning from independent living to personal care is a team decision, involving the resident, social services staff, doctors and sometimes the family members. Berardi says, “Most times, residents know when it’s time, which may be when life becomes more challenging than it has to be. Aging in the right place is essential, and ... it’s one of our values of being in a community with one another. The sense of community never ceases, and each person’s human rights and

needs are always first and foremost. We preserve dignity and self-respect, and staying connected no matter where you are in your life journey is essential.”

Kristen Lammana, of **Riddle Village**, says sometimes transitioning will be triggered by the family, staff, physician or an accident. “Things like confusion, increased falls or a change in personality can be noticed by the staff. When a problem is brought to the attention of the community, our staff works together with the resident and their loved ones to put a plan into action to ensure a safe living environment.”

Dunwoody Village also takes transitioning very seriously, says Maureen Casey, its President and CEO. Dunwoody has contracted with the University of Pennsylvania to study and provide advice on the challenges residents face. And, through its home care services, it provides a diverse set of assistance—everything from shopping to dog-walking to moving trash cans—to keep residents in place for as long as possible.

There are many things to consider when selecting a move to a senior community. Closeness of family and friends, accommodations and environment, quality of health care available, philosophy of management, the future and more. For many, the wide variety of choice leads to procrastination and analysis paralysis.

Our recommendation: study and plan, but don’t wait to make your move. The good life is waiting for you. ♦



White Horse Village



# Guide to 55+ and Retirement Communities

## 55+ COMMUNITIES FOR THE FIT, ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT

There are a variety of communities in our area built and managed for active seniors living an active and healthy lifestyle with amenities geared toward that group. Whether you’re looking for a townhouse, condo, apartment or single home, these communities cater to older adults and offer settings that generally feel like resorts. They’re designed to make retirement healthier and more enjoyable.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Exton

##### Meridian at Eagleview

484-873-8110; [MeridianEagleview.com](http://MeridianEagleview.com)

#### Glen Mills

##### Ivy Creek

610-981-2740; [SeniorLivingInStyle.com](http://SeniorLivingInStyle.com)

#### King of Prussia

##### Canvas Valley Forge

844-400-6435; [CanvasValleyForge.com](http://CanvasValleyForge.com)

#### Media

##### Springton Lake Village

610-356-7297

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

#### West Chester

##### Harrison Hill Apartments

610-430-6900; [HarrisonHillApts.com](http://HarrisonHillApts.com)

see our ad on page 56

Harrison Hill’s 5 stories offer 114 apartment homes comprised of one bedrooms and one bedrooms with dens. Residents enjoy the company of others at “Monday Mingle,” holiday festivities, chili fests, ice cream socials, games and more. Harrison Hill also offers once-a-week free transportation to set destinations.

##### Hershey’s Mill

610-436-8900; [HersheysMill55Plus.com](http://HersheysMill55Plus.com)

## INDEPENDENT LIVING COMMUNITIES, WITH CONTINUING CARE AND LIFE CARE COMMUNITIES

Many seniors are currently independent, but want or need, for themselves or their spouse, to live with support—moving from independent living to assisted living, followed by skilled nursing and several kinds of specialized facilities. When the sequence is combined on a single campus, it’s called a continuing care community or life care community. Those listed have strong “independent living” programs.

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Ambler

##### The 501 at Mattison Estate

215-461-4880

[The501.com](http://The501.com); [SageLife.com](http://SageLife.com)

see our ad on page 5

Offering Independent Living, Assisted Living



and Memory Care. A short walk to downtown Ambler, it's a location nestled next to Lindenwold Castle. It's your access to walking trails and neighborhoods—and a bustling borough with its own restaurants, nightlife and shopping. And that's all just outside the walls. Inside, you get access to countless amenities, dining options, fitness facilities and so much more. It's senior living where you can do something new and different every day, and never repeat yourself.

**Cornwall**

**Cornwall Manor**  
717-273-2647; [CornwallManor.org](http://CornwallManor.org)  
see our ad on page 24

Cornwall Manor is a not-for-profit community located in historic Cornwall, PA. Providing a fulfilling lifestyle for individuals 60+ since 1949, their community is located in a natural wooded setting with a variety of independent homes and apartments, on-site health care, top-notch amenities and services and maintenance-free living. You owe it to yourself to visit Cornwall Manor.

**Exton**

**Arbor Terrace Exton**  
484-265-9610; [ArborTerraceExton.com](http://ArborTerraceExton.com)

**Downingtown**

**St. Martha Villa for Independent & Retirement Living**  
610-873-5300; [Villa.StMRehab.org](http://Villa.StMRehab.org)

**Exton**

**Exton Senior Living**  
610-594-0200; [ExtonSeniorLiving.com](http://ExtonSeniorLiving.com)



Cornwall Manor

**Glen Mills**

**Glen Mills Senior Living**  
610-358-4900; [GlenMillsSeniorLiving.com](http://GlenMillsSeniorLiving.com)

**Kennett Square**

**Friends Home in Kennett**  
610-444-2577; [FriendsHomeInKennett.org](http://FriendsHomeInKennett.org)  
see our ad on page 58

Options for seniors include Supportive Independent Living, Personal Care Services and Skilled Nursing care for more intense care. All meals, housekeeping and laundry are included. They practice the Montessori Method of Care throughout the community and are a member of Leading Age & Friends Services Alliance. Friends Home in Kennett—where friends become family.

**Kendal-Crosslands Communities**  
844-907-1800; [KCC.Kendal.org](http://KCC.Kendal.org)  
see our ad on page 61

Customizable cottages and apartments adjacent to Longwood Gardens on an over 500-acre, accredited arboretum campus. Two LifePlan Communities and two 50+ neighborhoods. Amenities: several indoor and outdoor pools, art studios, gardens, hiking trails, dog park, tennis courts, therapy, fitness, multiple dining venues, two libraries and putting greens, all with 5-star rated healthcare. Member of Leading Age, FSA and accredited by CARF-CCAC.

**King of Prussia**

**Anthology of King of Prussia**  
484-392-5011; [AnthologyKingOfPrussia.com](http://AnthologyKingOfPrussia.com)  
see our ad on page 9



Luther Acres

Anthology of King of Prussia is now open. Tucked among 122 acres at The Village at Valley Forge, a new mixed-use community in Montgomery County, Anthology of King of Prussia invites residents to enjoy a rich and vibrant lifestyle. Contact them today and learn about their limited time savings options of up to \$10,000.

**Lancaster**

**Homestead Village**  
717-397-4831  
[DiscoverFarmstead.org](http://DiscoverFarmstead.org)  
see our ad on page 71

Situated on 90 beautiful, tree-lined acres, Homestead Village has a charming small-neighborhood feel, and is just minutes from the trendy and vibrant shopping, dining and cultural opportunities of downtown Lancaster. Residential options include cottages, villas, and spacious carriage homes. Apartments at Homestead Village are dual-licensed for personal care, so residents can get extra help, if needed, without an extra move.

**Malvern**

**Echo Lake**  
484-568-4777  
[LivingAtEchoLake.com](http://LivingAtEchoLake.com); [SageLife.com](http://SageLife.com)  
see our ad on page 5

The Main Line's newest retirement community—retirement living, reinvented. At the leading edge of the “aging well” movement, Echo Lake has a comprehensive fitness and wellness center, innovative dining built around the latest trends in nutrition and a catalog of programming that dares you to explore ... think resort,



Kendal-Crosslands Communities



Echo Lake



Daylesford Crossing



White Horse Village



Anthology of King of Prussia



Dunwoody Village





You've worked hard for these carefree days and now it's time to enjoy them. A day at our continuing care retirement community might include a session in the floral design studio, a book discussion group, and outdoor yoga. There's always something interesting to do at Dunwoody Village. Contact us today to find out more.



A Continuing Care Retirement Community

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[www.HarrisonHillApts.com](http://www.HarrisonHillApts.com)

think country club, think spa ... then let your imagination run wild. Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care.

### Manheim

#### Pleasant View Retirement Community

717-665-2445; [PleasantViewRC.org](http://PleasantViewRC.org)

### Media

#### Riddle Village

610-891-3700; [RiddleVillage.org](http://RiddleVillage.org)

see our ad on page 2

Riddle Village is a Lifecare community that offers amenities including a fitness center, putting green, indoor parking, personal trainer, four unique restaurants, a flexible dining program and much more. Riddle Village has 10 spacious apartment styles ranging from studios to three-bedroom apartments.

### Multiple Locations

#### Acts Retirement-Life Communities

888-521-3651

[AboutActs.com/CountyLinesMag](http://AboutActs.com/CountyLinesMag)

see our ad on page 14

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484-653-1200

[SeniorLifestyle.com/Property/Pennsylvania/Wellington-At-Hersheys-Mill/](http://SeniorLifestyle.com/Property/Pennsylvania/Wellington-At-Hersheys-Mill/)


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**Millcroft Senior Living**  
302-366-0160; [FiveStarSeniorLiving.com](http://FiveStarSeniorLiving.com)

Rehoboth  
**The Lodge at Truitt Homestead**  
302-727-0936; [TruittLodge.com](http://TruittLodge.com)

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**Forwood Manor**  
302-529-1600; [ForwoodManorDE.com](http://ForwoodManorDE.com)

**Foulk Manor North**  
302-478-4296; [FoulkManorNorth.com](http://FoulkManorNorth.com)

**Foulk Manor South**  
302-655-6249  
[FoulkManorSouth.com](http://FoulkManorSouth.com)

**Shipley Manor**  
302-477-8813; [FiveStarSeniorLiving.com](http://FiveStarSeniorLiving.com)

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# Trying Something Nouveau!

BEAUJOLAIS NOUVEAU DAY  
IS COMING.

— • —  
Jessica Roberts

These wines can't be sold  
before 12:01 a.m. on the  
third Thursday of November.

IF YOU LOVE A SPRIGHTLY CELEBRATION OF wine, be sure to mark November 18 on your calendar this year. What started as a French tradition among vineyard workers has grown into a worldwide holiday known as Beaujolais Nouveau Day. This end-of-harvest celebration focuses on a new wine that's made especially for this event.

This special wine is grown in the Beaujolais region of France and made with the gamay grape. Like pinot noir, the wine has a flavor profile that's light-bodied, fruity and slightly floral with a heaping amount of acidity and low tannins. Beaujolais nouveau is typically a red wine, but more producers are releasing a rosé version as well. When done in nouveau style, the grapes are picked and quickly crushed and bottled, producing a unique flavor profile that's sought out by wine lovers of all levels.

Beaujolais Nouveau Day brought attention to the small wine-making region within France and made the wine very profitable. There are about 2500 farmers growing grapes for this wine and producing over 20 million bottles per year. Roughly 40% of that wine is exported, primarily to the United States, Japan, Great Britain, Canada and China.

Before the 1950s, Beaujolais nouveau wine was made for vineyard workers to celebrate the end of the harvest and to congratulate them on their hard work for the year. Popularity increased when local shops in Paris started to carry and advertise this early-release wine. Soon, the race to provide the freshest vintage of nouveau wines to Paris started.

Producer and businessman Georges Duboeuf was a key player in the rise of Beaujolais nouveau wines. In the 1970s, Duboeuf promoted contests for vineyards to race to Paris and encouraged the start of many festivals throughout Paris.

By the 1980s, other countries became invested in this wine as well as the festival surrounding it. In 1985, stricter laws were passed for the yearly release of the Beaujolais nouveau wine, including one controlling the release date. These wines can't be sold before 12:01 a.m. on the third Thursday of November.

For those of us in the U.S., this date works perfectly for picking up this lovely wine for Thanksgiving sipping, since that's the fourth Thursday of November.

So, where do you find Beaujolais nouveau? Most wine shops carry it. Look for George Duboeuf's Beaujolais Nouveau in red



and rosé styles. Both wines will be listed at affordable prices, around \$13, so you can stock up.

For the red version, you'll notice bright flavors of strawberries and currants with an enticing perfume to accompany the fruitiness of this wine. It pairs well with traditional holiday fare and charcuterie. The rosé carries notes of white peach and a touch of citrus. Pair this with fresh fruits, light cheeses or a variety of desserts. Serve both wines chilled.

Because of the nature of its release, you'll find this wine in late November and possibly early December, but probably not later in the year. Be sure to pick up a few bottles when you see it! Its peak drinkability is in the first year.

If Beaujolais nouveau wines are new to you, I hope you give them a try and taste the magic. Look for the bright and colorful

poster that accompanies the stack of equally vibrant wine labels. Just ask if you can't find it because you don't miss out before it sells out for this year.

Start the holiday season with friends and family with something new to sip. Enjoy while also staying safe.

Le Beaujolais Nouveau est arrivé! ♦

*Jessica Roberts has worked with Fine Wine & Good Spirits for six years, taking the position of Wine Specialist a year and a half ago. What began as a hobby soon blossomed into a satisfying career. Jessica works at the Premium Collection store in Phoenixville. Stop by for one of her tastings or just to ask a question. Learn more at FWGS.com.*







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

**Wine Day.** November isn't all about the turkey—it's also about the wine. Start toasting on the 1st with **International Xinomavro Day** (a Greek wine), next celebrate the 7th with a special **Merlot**, and November 11th is all about **Tempranillo**. Then on to **National Zinfandel Day** and



**Beaujolais Nouveau Day** on November 17th and 18th. Finally, November 24th is **World Carménère Day**. The turkey doesn't have to be left out—Zinfandel and Beaujolais pair well with the light and dark meat.

**Square Up.** Downingtown is the new location of Chester County's first **Santucci's Original Square Pizza**, started in Philadelphia and claiming to be the original square pizza (hear that Picas?'). Now run by the fourth generation, Santucci's serves up upside-down toppings (cheese on the bottom, sauce on top) and its signature square shape. Or try an entrée, like orecchiette served with sausage and broccoli rabe. Stop in for casual indoor dining and patio dining, BYOB. 379 W. Uwchlan Ave. [SantuccisPizza.com](http://SantuccisPizza.com).



**Latte Love.** Fresh imported Brazilian coffee is arriving in Phoenixville at **Cafe com Leite**, opening late 2021. Serving the best leite (Brazilian coffee and milk), paired with a traditional Brazilian breakfast bread, like crunchy and light Pão Francês rolls and sweet fluffy coconut Pão Doce rolls. The cafe will also serve pastries, sandwiches, empanadas, natural juices and more for dine in and to go. For updates on their grand opening, follow them on Instagram @theCafeComLeite. 117 Main St., Phoenixville.

**Comin' In Hot.** Turn up the heat in West Chester this fall with **FIRE Nashville Hot Chicken** and savor smokin' Southern flavor with Nashville's mind-blowing, hot chicken wings. Too hot to handle? Spice isn't all they're serving. Try their salads or sweeten your wings with Peach Habanero or Hot Honey. Pick appetizers, fries, tater tots and deep fried corn to take away the sting. Just make sure to leave room for dessert. 126 E. Gay St. [FireHotChicken.com](http://FireHotChicken.com).



**DIY Pumpkin Sauce.** Pumpkin season isn't over yet. Keep p-spice flavors in your coffee, dessert or breakfast with **home-made pumpkin sauce**. Start with a simple syrup of equal parts water and sugar. Once it bubbles, reduce the heat and stir in a tablespoon of pumpkin puree, condensed milk and pumpkin pie spice, to taste. Or, skip the last two steps, and use a dash of pumpkin flavored creamer. Add a cinnamon stick, store in the fridge in an airtight container, and enjoy.





# Grit and Grain

LOCAL FAMILY-OWNED MILL USES TRADITIONAL METHODS TO BRING QUALITY GRAINS AND FLOURS TO THE REGION.

Alyssa Thayer

NOVEMBER IS A TIME WHEN MANY OF US REACH for heirloom family recipes to honor our histories and celebrate the season. We do our best to recreate childhood favorites, but often are left wondering, “Why did it seem more delicious back then?” And while nostalgia certainly plays a part, so too does the evolution of our ingredients.

“It’s the difference between tasting a store-bought tomato in December and a garden-picked tomato in July,” explains Fran Fischer, who owns and operates **Castle Valley Mill** with her husband, Mark. That’s her way of comparing generic off-the-shelf flour to the stone-ground products created with their antique buhr mills in Doylestown.

Mark’s grandfather, Henry Fischer, was a master miller in Germany and immigrated in search of opportunity. In 1947 Henry purchased the Castle Valley Mill property, which included a farmhouse and an abandoned 1800s grist mill. After some renovations, the house became the family’s primary residence and the barn and machinery his perpetual pet project.

Having always enjoyed visiting this special place, Mark and Fran jumped at the opportunity to purchase it in 1997. Mark shared his grandfather’s interests, and when graced with a bit of extra time, he began restoring one of the smaller mills.



Castle Valley Mill sits on the picturesque banks of Neshaminy Creek in historic Bucks County.



Mark and Fran Fischer run Castle Valley Mill with support from their kids, Deming, Curran and Liesel

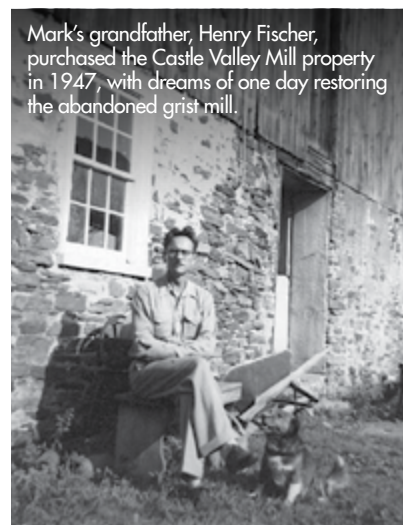
On the first day Mark got the mill up and running, he handed Fran a pile of freshly milled flour to try out. She brought it into the kitchen to use in her grandmother’s old banana bread recipe. Fran remembers pulling the bread from the oven, slicing it and giving it a taste. “I couldn’t believe how delicious it was,” she says. She grabbed another slice and ran it down to Mark, saying, “You’ve got to try this.”

From there, the Fischers began selling their products locally, and it wasn’t long before chefs and bakers came knocking. Before they knew it, they had a burgeoning business on their hands.

Prior to the pandemic, 90% of their business was wholesale. But that all changed in March of 2020 when the hospitality sector slowed to a halt. After a nerve-racking first week of diminishing orders, the tides changed. The *New York Times* and *Food and Wine Magazine* spotlighted Castle Valley Mill as a place to purchase flour online—during the home bread making frenzy—and the flood gates opened. Suddenly, they could hardly keep up with demand.

Today, Castle Valley Mill sells their flours, rolled oats, cleaned whole berries, grits and pasta online and at various retail locations (full list on their website). While wholesale numbers have begun to steady, they’re excited to see their new following of enthusiastic home bakers and chefs seems to be holding strong.

As we plan our menus, order our birds, and sharpen our knives in preparation for the upcoming holidays, let’s do so with the intention of supporting our local food system and bringing our family heirloom recipes to life!



Mark’s grandfather, Henry Fischer, purchased the Castle Valley Mill property in 1947, with dreams of one day restoring the abandoned grist mill.

## Recipes

*The mission of Castle Valley Mills is threefold: help farmers keep farming, use the traditional technology of the 1800s and provide really good food to the community. The ingredients and recipes below support all three goals (emphasis on really good food) and we hope will serve to introduce you to the wonderful world of stone-ground flours and grain berries.*

### Cornbread

*When days get shorter and the air gets crisper, cornbread is simply a staple. Enjoy it warm, slathered with butter or use the recipe below to turn it into stuffing/dressing. Whatever you call it, it’s delicious!*

- 1 C. CVM Cornmeal
- 1 C. CVM Soft Wheat or Spelt Flour (whole or bolted)
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- ½ tsp. baking soda
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1½ C. buttermilk (You can substitute whole milk with lemon juice or vinegar to sour it.)
- 4 Tb. melted butter or oil

**Optional:** sweeten with 2 Tb. sugar or maple syrup

Preheat oven to 425°F and grease a cast-iron skillet. Mix together dry ingredients and set aside. Whisk together eggs and buttermilk. Add in dry ingredients. Mix gently (batter will be lumpy). Add melted butter and stir until just blended. Pour into greased skillet and bake for 25–30 minutes. Serve warm! Serves 6–8.

### Cornbread Stuffing



*In honor of all the holiday feasting on the horizon, we turned this already fabulous cornbread recipe into something even more scrumptious—stuffing. The richness of the butter, mirepoix and savory herbs, elevate the hearty cornbread into something worth roasting a turkey for.*

- ¾ C. butter (if salted, leave out additional salt)
- 1 large onion, diced (3 C.)
- 1 large onion, finely chopped
- ½ tsp. each, salt and pepper
- 3 large carrots, finely chopped
- 3 celery stalks, finely chopped
- 2 Tb. fresh sage, minced

## Grain 101

Unless you’re an artisan baker or grain-centric chef, you may have a few questions when glancing over Castle Valley Mill’s menu of products: what is bolted flour, what’s a grain berry, how do I substitute? Here’s a primer to get us all started.

**Wheat/Grain Anatomy** – The wheat seed is made up of bran, germ and endosperm and is protected by a husk around the outside. The bran and germ provide the bulk of the nutrition, while the endosperm is just the starch. Generic flour is almost exclusively endosperm and is fortified to replace the nutrients lost in the commercial milling process.

**Stoneground** – This method of milling (as contrasted with industrial high-speed steel rollers) processes the grain more slowly and at lower temperatures to preserve the flavor and nutrients. Fran likes to say, “Everything that’s contained in the seed goes into the flour.”

**Bolted Flour** – Bolting is an old miller’s term that means ‘to sift.’ After the grain is milled, the bolting process is used to remove some of the coarsest bran to give a finer consistency to the flour, which offers bakers a higher rise.

**Keep Cool** – Because stoneground wheat contains more protein and fat, Fran recommends keeping it in the fridge or freezer (40°F and below) to retard oxidation. “We want people to get what they paid for,” she says. Flours can stay fresh in the fridge for up to 6 months and in the freezer for up to a year.

**Hard Wheat** – This is higher in protein and gluten. It tends to work well with stretchy/chewy doughs like bread, doughnuts and pasta.

**Soft Wheat** – This is lower in gluten and higher in starch. It works great in crumbly-textured recipes like biscuits, cookies and quick bread.

**Subbing In** – Fran says their bolted or whole flours tend to need more hydration than commercial flours. When using their products, either add more liquid or cut back on the flour, as well as let the dough or batter sit for 20 minutes before baking.

**Ancient Grains** – Just like we have ancestors, our grains are also products of a long line of growing, selecting and modifying. Ancient grains are defined as any variety that has remained largely unchanged through the years. Modern wheat has been bred for high yields and easy harvesting, not for flavor and nutrients. The good news is, the traditional bygone varieties are still available and seem to be making quite a comeback.

**Emmer/Einkorn/Spelt** – These are early varieties of wheat and offer more fiber, protein and antioxidants than their modern cousins.

**Rye** – While most people equate rye to pumpernickel bread, there’s a subtle nuttiness to rye that makes it wonderful in all sorts of applications, like the rum cake in this article.

**Grain Berries** – These little gems are grains that have been cleaned but not ground into flour. They’re often boiled to make a great breakfast cereal, cold grain salad or risotto.

**The Final Word:** Fran says folks should think of their CVM products as ‘peasant food’—simple, not hard to use, minimally processed and true to this area’s Colonial roots.



- 1 Tb. fresh thyme, minced (may also use a combination of marjoram and thyme)
- 1 batch skillet cornbread (see recipe above)
- 2 large eggs, beaten
- 1 C. chicken broth

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Heat all but 1 tablespoon of butter over medium heat. Once fully melted and bubbling, add onion, salt and pepper, and saute for 5 minutes. Then add carrot, celery and herbs and saute until carrot is soft and onion and celery are translucent (about 15 minutes). Remove from heat.

Use the last tablespoon of butter to grease a large baking dish.

Using cooled cornbread (can be baked up to 2 days prior), tear or chop into ½ inch pieces.

*\*Note: If using an extremely crumbly cornbread, arrange pieces onto a baking sheet and bake at 375°F for 15 minutes. If using a bread that holds together well, skip this step.*

Add cornbread cubes into saute pan with veggies and toss to combine. Arrange bread and veggie mixture into the bottom of your baking dish.

In a medium-size bowl, whisk together eggs and broth. Pour over bread-filled baking dish and toss gently to combine and coat.

Bake for 35 minutes at 425°F or until liquid has been baked out and top layer has become brown and crisp. If the stuffing seems to be getting too toasted too quickly, cover with aluminum foil for remaining bake time.

Serves 6.

Autumn Emmer Pilaf



Whether you enjoy them warm or cold, emmer berries are a great grain option to add to your repertoire. Even after cooking, they maintain a delicious texture and delightful nutty flavor. This wholesome salad can be tailored to any season, this one just happens to highlight some of our fall favorites!

Grain:

- 1½ C. emmer berries (can also use wheat/grain berries, if substituting, consult cooking directions)
- 1 Tb. olive oil

Vegetables:

- 4 C. vegetables, cubed (we used a combination of winter squash and root vegetables)
- 2 Tb. olive oil
- Pinch of salt and pepper

Sherry Maple Vinaigrette:

- 2 Tb. oil
- 3 Tb. sherry vinegar
- 1 Tb. maple syrup
- 1 tsp. mustard
- ½ tsp. salt
- ½ tsp. pepper

Optional:

- ⅓ C. toasted nuts
- ⅓ C. dried cranberries or cherries

Preheat oven to 425°F.

Bring a saucepan of water to a boil and add emmer berries. Turn down to a simmer and allow to cook covered for 50 minutes. When cooked, drain excess water. Toss with olive oil and set aside to cool.

Add vegetables to a large bowl and toss with olive oil, salt and pepper. Arrange on a cookie sheet making sure not to crowd. Bake for 40–45 minutes or until soft browned. Mix and turn veggies halfway through.

Add cooled grain and slightly cooled veggies to a large serving dish.

Whisk together all vinaigrette ingredients. Pour half the mixture over grains and veggies. Toss to combine. Taste to decide if you'd like more dressing.

Top with your choice of nuts and dried fruit.

Serves 4–6.

Polenta Fries

We loved a good polenta even before we tried it baked, coated in butter and cheese, and dipped in a tasty aioli ... now it's safe to say we love it even more. Enjoy these as a fun appetizer or satisfying savory side. Just don't expect leftovers.

For Polenta Fries:

- 2 C. water
- 2 C. milk
- 1 C. CVM grits
- 1 green onion, finely minced (make with ramps in the spring)
- ½ C. grated Parmesan cheese
- Olive oil baking spray
- Salt and black pepper to taste
- 3 Tb. salted butter, melted

For Lemon Aioli:

- ½ C. olive oil-based mayo
- 1–2 Tb. fresh lemon juice
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper

Preheat the oven to 425°F.

In a medium saucepan, bring water, milk and grits to a boil. Slowly whisk in the polenta, and half of the minced green onion (leaving some for the aioli), ¼ cup Parmesan. Season with salt. Con-



tinue stirring polenta until it's soft and thick, about 30 minutes. Turn the heat off, cover the pot, and let the polenta sit for 5 minutes.

Line an 8"×8" square baking dish with parchment paper. Spread the polenta in an even layer in the baking dish. Freeze for 15–20 minutes, until set, or place in the fridge for 1 hour.

Lift the polenta from the baking dish and cut into ¼"-thick "fries."

Place the fries on a baking sheet covered with parchment paper. Spread fries in an even layer, spray with olive oil baking spray, and sprinkle with salt and pepper. Bake for 15 minutes. Then carefully flip and spray with oil. Bake 15–20 minutes more, until extra crispy.

While the fries are baking, mix together the melted butter and remaining green onion.

Remove the fries from the oven and gently toss with the butter and the remaining Parmesan.

For Aioli:

Mix all ingredients in a bowl until smooth and creamy. Serve alongside the polenta fries.

Serves 4–6.

Rum Cake

The deep rich flavors of the butter, brown sugar and rum seep into the cake and pair perfectly with the nutty notes of the rye. Once you bring this one to the table, it's sure to become a new family favorite!

Cake:

- ¼ C. milk
- ⅓ C. sour cream
- ⅓ C. dark rum
- 1 C. butter
- 1¾ C. granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 3 large eggs
- 2 large egg yolks
- 2¼ C. CVM bolted rye flour
- 1½ tsp. baking powder
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- ½ tsp. salt

For the sauce:

- ½ C. butter
- 1 C. brown sugar
- ¼ C. rum
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract

Whisk the milk, sour cream and rum together in a liquid measure and let the mixture come to room temperature.

Preheat the oven to 350°F and make sure an oven rack is placed in the middle of the oven.

In a large bowl or stand mixer, whip the butter on medium speed for 1 minute. Add the granulated sugar and beat for 4–5 minutes more. Mix in the vanilla.

Add the eggs and egg yolks, one at a time, mixing just until combined in between additions. Scrape down the sides of the bowl.



In a separate bowl, combine dry ingredients (flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt). Add a third of the dry ingredients to the egg batter and mix just until combined. Add half of the milk/sour cream mixture and mix.

Add another third of the dry ingredients, mixing just until combined. Add the last half of the milk/sour cream mixture and beat until just combined.

Add the remainder of the dry ingredients and mix, scraping down the sides of the bowl.

Grease and flour a bundt pan, using butter or shortening.

**Tip:** Make sure every crevice of the pan is coated!

Pour batter evenly into the pan and bake at 350°F for about 50 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean.

While the cake is baking, make the sauce. Add sauce ingredients to a saucepan over medium heat and stir well until butter has melted and mixture is smooth. Bring mixture to a boil, stirring, and boil for 2 minutes.

Allow the cake to cool in the pan for at least 15 minutes before trying to take it out of the pan.

**Tip:** Fran likes to remove the cake first, to make sure it comes out easily, then wipe the pan clean and put the cake back in it.

While the cake is still in the pan, poke little holes all over the surface and gently pour most of the sauce over, reserving just a little. Allow the cake to soak up the glaze. Then invert the cake onto a plate or serving platter. Spoon remaining glaze over top and serve.

Serves 10. ♦

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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## FOR THE WINE CONNOISSEUR

APPETIZER <small>Cheese, crackers, cured meats</small>	1 <sup>ST</sup> COURSE <small>Soups, salads, vegetables</small>	2 <sup>ND</sup> COURSE <small>Turkey, ham, dark meats</small>	DESSERT <small>Cheesecake, apple pie, pecan pie</small>
<b>SPARKLING</b> <small>A brut style pairs with fried or fatty appetizers.</small>	<b>PINOT GRIGIO</b> <small>The dry, fruity citrus flavors match with salads.</small>	<b>CHARDONNAY</b> <small>Rich, full-bodied and oak-aged match earthy dishes.</small>	<b>RIESLING</b> <small>Ranging from dry to sweet, pair it with fruit-focused desserts.</small>
<b>MOSCATO</b> <small>Sweet with a fizz, the bubbles cleanse the palate.</small>	<b>SAUVIGNON BLANC</b> <small>Pineapple and grass notes pair with green vegetables.</small>	<b>ROSÉ</b> <small>Dry or sweet, this fruit-driven style matches saltiness.</small>	<b>TAWNY PORT</b> <small>Rich nuttiness that matches pecan, almond or hazelnut desserts.</small>
<b>VINHO VERDE</b> <small>Effervescent, crisp and light to match salty foods.</small>	<b>GEWÜRZTRAMINER</b> <small>Semi-sweet apricot and spice aromas pair with rich soups.</small>	<b>ZINFANDEL</b> <small>Smoky, fruit-forward notes match well-seasoned red meats.</small>	<b>LATE HARVEST</b> <small>Very sweet and pairs well with sweet, confectionary desserts.</small>



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