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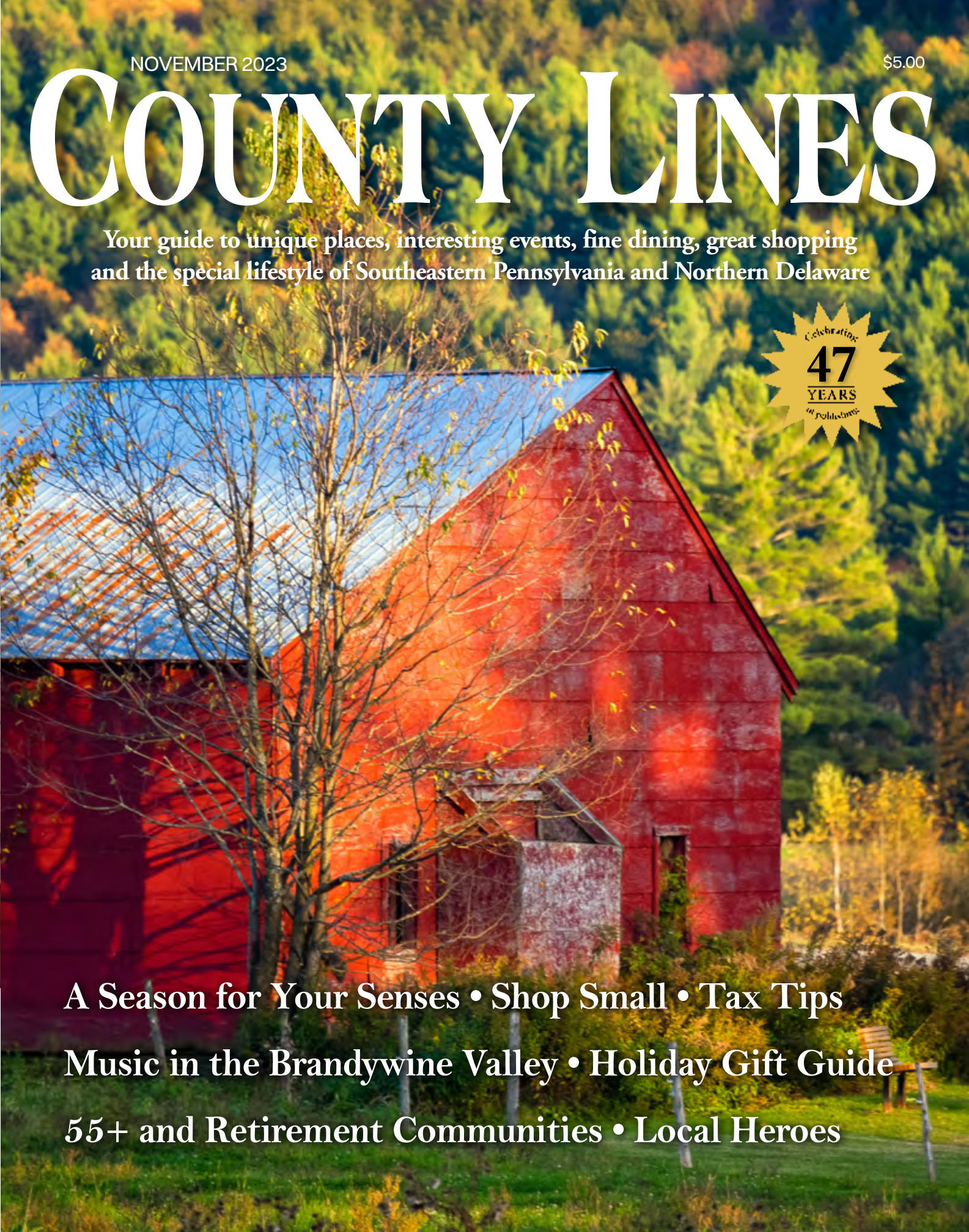
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NOVEMBER 2023

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Set on 33 acres in the heart of Unionville's famed equestrian area and right next to Plantation Field, this is a rare opportunity to live in the prettiest valley in the countryside. At the epicenter of 35,000 contiguous acres of conserved land, the four bedroom, two and a half bath home is comprised of an older section constructed c.1900 with a c.2001 custom addition that provides abundant light and airiness. The first level features a gourmet Kitchen with high end appliances, plenty of granite counter space, an abundance of cabinet storage. The open concept Kitchen-Family room has a fieldstone constructed Rumford fireplace flanked by two atrium doors that open to a large Patio constructed with block pavers leading to the private in-ground Pool, with views across the property. Numerous windows floods this room with volumes of natural light. The c.1900 section contains a lovely Living Room with access to the south facing front porch. Also accessing the front porch is a quiet Office which has become a "Must Have". There is also a cozy Den. Upstairs is a restful Primary Suite set in the c.2001 addition that has a gorgeous Full Bathroom complete with an antique "Ball and Claw" tub. Three additional bedrooms and a hall bathroom, plus the home's laundry, round out the upper level. The farm also includes a detached three car garage and a three-stall stable with loft storage above as well several fenced paddocks. There is the potential for numerous paddocks to be added, plenty of level land to add a ring or expand the barn. The Agricultural Conservation Easement does not preclude an indoor riding arena and allows for minor subdivision and the creation of an additional residence. Farms in this remarkable location rarely come on the market. Located in the nationally ranked and highly sought after Unionville-Chadds Ford School District and enjoying low taxes.



\$2,150,000



### Bittersweet Drive | Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools

Set on 7.3 exceedingly private acres in Pocopson Township, sits this spectacular, Tudor style home featuring a wonderful main level Primary 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!

\$3,595,000



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from the  
EDITOR

November. Days may be shortening, but the lights in *County Lines* country are glowing. “Making Music in the Brandywine Valley” by Elizabeth Hughes also brightens our world. Discover a vibrant music community along with concerts to add to your calendar. For more on music, Malcolm Johnstone discovers conducting demands more than just waving your arms in “View from the Podium.”

Looking to southern Chester County this month, Emily Hart explores in “A Season for Your Senses.” Hop in your car and find mead, cider, Mexican food, ice cream — all homemade, all delicious. To the north, there’s Binky Lee Preserve. Once planted in hay, it’s now meadow and forest. Read about the transformation in Kirsten Werner’s “Seeing the Forest for the Trees.”

Through the art of botanical pressings, your favorite native plants can live on. All you need are scraps paper, heavy books, patience and Jenkins Arboretum’s Kayla Cannon’s article “Pressed Plants.”

Senior communities dot our landscape, offering a host of choices for retiring seniors along with amazing luxuries, writes Ed Malet in “Choosing a Senior Community.” And, check out our “Guide to 55+ and Retirement Communities.”

Thinking ahead? Read “End of Tax Year Strategies” by Melissa Hawes of Miles Financial Management, Thanksgiving recipes with a twist in Brandywine Table’s “Field to Feast with Toad Stop Farm,” plus beer and wine pairings for Thanksgiving.

If Christmas is on your mind, check out “Snag a Spot on Santa’s Nice List” by Erin McGinniss, and shop small November 25 ... and always! Plus “West Chester Glows with a Thousand Lights.”

Finally, did you know one in 30 American children are homeless? Even wealthy Chester County is not exempt. In “Local Heroes,” by Shannon Montgomery, learn how the Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children has helped and how you can, too.

As always, we have the Best Local Events and plenty of Family Fun.

Thanks for reading.

Jo Anne Durako  
Editor

## COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

November 2023

Volume XLVII Number 3

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## COMING IN December

### HOLIDAY ISSUE

West Chester for the Holidays  
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Holiday Performances • Window Shopping  
Holiday Celebrations in Our Area



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Each Friday in November, we invite you to visit with a representative from four of our favorite jewelry designers. They will display an exclusive selection of their fall 2023 collections, carefully assembled to compliment the personally curated assortment of fine and artisan jewelry in our showcases. Light refreshments will be served.



## **SUNA Bros. | NOVEMBER 3 | 2-6pm**

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**Rudolf Friedmann | NOVEMBER 10 | 2-6pm**  
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**Pesavento | NOVEMBER 24 | 2-6pm**  
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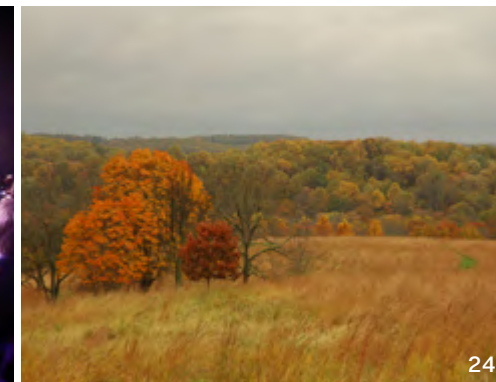
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# [Worth Knowing]

## End of Tax Year Strategies

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO LOWER YOUR 2023 TAXES.

Melissa Hawes, Miles Financial Management

“YEAR-END TAX PLANNING IS LIKE A GAME OF chess; to be successful, you must anticipate your opponent's moves and position your pieces strategically to minimize your tax liability.” That's the advice of an anonymous source. Luckily there's better — and more specific — advice to help reduce your taxes in 2023 and to plan for 2024.

### MAXIMIZE YOUR RETIREMENT CONTRIBUTIONS

This is an easy and obvious place to start for 2023 and to do every year. More specifically:

- Contribute to your company's traditional 401(k) plan, which is pretax for federal income tax purposes. You can contribute the lesser of your total compensation, up to \$22,500 for 2023, with an additional “catch-up” contribution of \$7,500 if you're 50 or over.
- If your company matches a percentage of your 401(k) contribution, take advantage up to that full percentage. It's like “free” money.

- If a company plan is not an option, set up an IRA. Traditional tax-deferred IRA contributions can be made up to the greater of your total compensation, but not to exceed \$6,500. Again, an additional \$1,000 “catch-up” contribution is available for those 50 or over.

### MAXIMIZE ITEMIZABLE EXPENSES

If you're unsure whether to take the standard deduction or itemize on your 2023 return, here are some common itemizable expenses you may be able to accelerate before the end of the year to tip the scales. Start with your charitable contributions.

- If you're considering cash donations in 2023 and 2024 to your favorite charity, combine both year contributions and make them in 2023 to maximize your itemized expenses for tax year 2023.
- Use a credit card to make a donation by year-end and not pay the balance until your next payment cycle, while still taking the itemized deduction in 2023.

- Clean out your closet and donate to Green Drop or Goodwill. The “It's Deductible” app can capture the fair market value of each item. Surprisingly, those donations add up quickly, plus you purge unwanted items. Remember to keep your donation receipt.
- If you're in the higher long-term capital gain bracket of 20%, consider donating appreciated investments instead of cash. If you're able to itemize, donations of publicly traded shares owned over a year result in a donation equal to the full current market value of shares at the time of gifting. Plus, if you donate shares worth more than you paid for them, you avoid the capital gains tax that would result from their sale.

### MANAGE INVESTMENT GAINS AND LOSSES

If you have taxable brokerage investment accounts, consider certain tax planning opportunities.

- For capital losses that were recognized earlier in the year or capital loss carryovers from prior years, selling appreciated shares before year-end will eliminate or reduce your overall tax liability.
- If your income is too high to benefit from the 0% capital gain rate, but you have children or grandchildren who may be in that bracket, then gift appreciated shares to them. They can sell the shares at the lower tax rate and pay for some of their education expenses. Note: This strategy is subject to the Kiddie Tax Rules for those under 24.

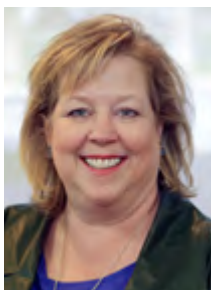
### PLAN AHEAD FOR BENEFIT ENROLLMENT

While it may be too late to take advantage of some 2023 strategies, think about next year. Consider either enrolling in your company health flexible spending account (FSA) or health savings account (HSA). FSA accounts use pre-tax dollars to reimburse qualified medical expenses up to the \$3,200 for costs like your annual doctor visit copays, dental, vision and prescriptions.

Another option is to enroll in your company high-deductible health plan (HDHP) and establish a pre-tax health savings account (HSA), which is usually provided by your employer. Qualified medical expenses can be paid with pre-tax money from HSA contributions. The annual pre-tax contribution limit in 2024 for individual coverage under a HDHP is \$4,150 and \$8,300 for an individual with family coverage.

These are just a few tax-savings ideas. Consult your tax advisor for other year-end opportunities and 2024 planning. And, checkmate! ♦

*Melissa Hawes, CPA, CGMA, is licensed as a certified public accountant in PA and NY and is head of Miles Financial Management, founded in 2003 and named after her son. Her team provides financial accounting and tax guidance to businesses and individuals, with expertise ranging from basic accounting and tax management services to more in-depth services such as outsourced chief financial officer/controller services. Located in Malvern. MilesFinancialMgt.com.*



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## [Good to Know]

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

Happy Trails. This fall, take a scenic hike or bike ride along the **Schuylkill River Trail**, named the most beautiful trail in the state by Visit PA. Currently 75 miles long, including a 30-mile stretch from Philadelphia to East Coventry Township, it will be nearly 120 miles long once completed. Be sure to stop at a few Chester County landmarks along the way, like the Phoenixville Foundry and Valley Forge National Historic Park. [VisitPA.com](http://VisitPA.com).



PHOTO CREDIT: MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

Stream Local. Tune into Netflix this month for **Rustin**, a new biopic about gay civil rights activist and West Chester native Bayard Rustin. Produced by Barack and Michelle Obama's Higher Ground Productions, the film stars Colman Domingo as Rustin, alongside Chris Rock and Glynn Turman, and tells the story of this influential figure who helped Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. organize the 1963 March on Washington. Available to stream November 17. [Netflix.com](http://Netflix.com).



Pages in the Park. Before it gets too cold, take your kiddos to West Chester's brand-new **Story Walk in Hoopes Park**. A partnership between the Borough and West Chester Public Library, the town's first and only story walk features 19 markers on a quarter-mile path through the park, each with pages from a children's book, changing seasonally. The first featured book is *Señorita Mariposa* by Ben Gundersheimer, a bilingual story about monarch butterfly migration. 700 Hoopes Park Ln., West Chester. [West-Chester.com](http://West-Chester.com).




Delco Story. Looking for a new read? Check out **Comedy of Errors** (Outskirt Press), the latest novel from local author and painter George H. Rothacker. It's the fictional autobiography of a boy growing up in Delaware County in the 1950s and '60s, featuring local landmarks like the Philadelphia Chewing Gum Corporation, 69th Street and Upper Darby High School. Find it at Main Point Books or Amazon, and listen to the author-narrated companion podcast at [Buzzsprout.com](http://Buzzsprout.com).



Nature Preserved. Did you know over 30% of Chester County is protected land, and that keeps growing? **French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust** recently acquired two more properties, adding over 175 acres. The first is 138+ acres, located along portions of French Creek near Warwick and East Nantmeal Townships, including forest, meadow and agricultural lands, plus a nearly 5,000-foot vegetated stream corridor. The second is a 37.6-acre agricultural property in East Coventry Township with a 1700s farmstead. Hooray for conservation! [FrenchAndPickering.org](http://FrenchAndPickering.org).













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## November Picks

Our Picks for top events this month

### The Rosettis — An Exhibition at The Delaware Art Museum

Through January 28



The work of Pre-Raphaelite founder Dante Gabriel Rossetti, alongside that of his wife, artist Elizabeth Siddal, and his siblings, writers Christina and William Michael Rossetti, are the subject of this major international exhibition organized in partnership with Tate Britain. Check the website for special events happening during this exhibit including “Pre-Raphaelite Promenade: The DelArt Gala” on Nov. 11. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed.–Sun., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$17–\$25. [DelArt.org](http://DelArt.org).

### Good Food Fest

November 5

Join a celebration of local food and agriculture with a farmers market, live music, food trucks, a pouring room, culinary demos, kids activities and more. Hosted by Growing Roots Partners and made possible by Kimberton Whole Foods. *Kimberton Fair Grounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. VIP early entry at 10 a.m., \$25; general admission, \$10. [GoodFarmsGoodFood.com](http://GoodFarmsGoodFood.com).*



### Harvest — 11th Annual Chef Tasting Event

November 9



Featuring unique farm-to-table culinary creations from top chefs, with offerings from wineries, breweries, spirit vendors and zero-proof nonalcoholic beverages. The evening also features auctions, a wine grab and live musical entertainment. Benefits Unite for HER. *Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. 5:30 p.m. \$175–\$250. [UniteForHER.org/Harvest](http://UniteForHER.org/Harvest).*

### A Christmas Carol at People's Light

November 15–December 31

Enjoy a fresh approach to Charles Dickens' classic. Infused with



original music and traditional English carols, this jubilant retelling of the beloved Yuletide ghost story is the perfect way to celebrate the holidays. *Haas Stage, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, 610-644-3500; [PeoplesLight.org](http://PeoplesLight.org).*

### Santa Claus is Coming to Town — in Media

November 26

Begin with a Block Party at Veterans Square, at 2:30 with food, music, games, giveaways and lots of surprises. Then the Fun Run/Walk at 4:15 at State St. and Veterans Square. Finally, Santa leads the way for the parade at 5 p.m. (map available on the website). Please contribute nonperishable food to the Media Food Bank or unwrapped, new toys for CityTeam, benefitting local families. Rain date, Dec. 3. *[SantaParade.Media](http://SantaParade.Media).*





# best Local Events

## FAMILY FUN

**THROUGH NOVEMBER 5**  
**Pumpkinland at Linvilla Orchards.** A family tradition featuring lots of activities including hayrides, pick-your-own apples and mazes. 137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media. Daily 8 to 6. Visit website for tickets. Linvilla.com.

**NOVEMBER 5–DECEMBER 17**  
**West Chester Railroad. Fall Foliage Express:** Nov. 5, Enjoy a brisk fall afternoon along the picturesque Chester Creek Valley. **Santa Express:** Nov. 18–Dec. 17, join Santa for a journey through the Chester Creek Valley. **Christmas Tree Train:** Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10; take the train to Wiggins Tree Farm. Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. \$10–\$35. Times and tickets, WCRailroad.com.



**THROUGH NOVEMBER**  
**First Sundays**  
**Steamin' Day at Marshall Steam Museum.** Climb into an antique automobile or board one of the trains and experience what it was like to travel at the turn of the 20th century. Enjoy kids activities and crafts, then tour the 1897 mansion that was home to three generations of the Marshall family. Auburn Heights, 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn, DE. 12:30 to 4:30 pm. \$4–\$12. AuburnHeights.org.

**NOVEMBER 5**  
**West Chester Railroad Halloween Special.** Wear your favorite costume and ride to the Glen Mills station. Explore the historic station and picnic grove and collect a few treats while on the train. Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. Noon and 2 pm. \$18–\$22. WCRailroad.com.

**NOVEMBER 11**  
**Family Edition – Pints on the Preserve.** Families are invited to meet for a few hours of fun and exploration. Make crafts to take home, go on a fall scavenger hunt, roast marshmallows, enjoy lawn games and snacks available for purchase (cash-only). Pints for the grown-ups, too. All activities are free, but registration is requested. ChesLen Preserve, 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 2 to 4. Free. NatLands.org.

**NOVEMBER 25 & DECEMBER 9**  
**Celebrate the Holidays in Downingtown.** Nov. 25, Tree Lighting Ceremony with refreshments, music, face painting, crafts, games and Santa. Log House Field next to the Gazebo. 6 pm. Dec. 9, the hometown Christmas parade features local bands, dancers, scouts and the arrival of Santa Claus. Starts at Beaver Creek Elementary School and travels Rt. 30 to East Ward Elementary. 3 pm. DTownChristmas.com.



**NOVEMBER 25–DECEMBER 16**  
**Making Spirits Bright Holiday Music Series.** Local performers entertain with favorite holidays songs on the steps of the courthouse on High Street, 2 to 3 pm. Nov. 25, St. Agnes Parish Combined Chords; Dec. 2, Uptown Singers; Dec. 9, TBD; Dec. 16, Bishop Shanahan Liturgical Choir. Catch Santa cruising through the borough on a classic fire truck. GreaterWestChester.com.

**DECEMBER 1**  
**West Chester Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting.** Tree lighting at 6:30 pm on the lawn of West Chester's Historic Courthouse and the West Chester Christmas Parade at 7 pm features marching bands, cheer squads and dance teams, culminating with Santa on his very own custom-made float. Details at GWCC.org.

**DECEMBER 1 & 2**  
**Christmas Celebrations in Wayne.** Dec. 1, enjoy carriage rides, arts and crafts, carolers, tree lighting and Santa's arrival, 5:30 to 8, tree lighting at 7:30 pm. Dec. 2, Radnor Memorial Library Elves for Shelves Fun Run and 5K at 8 am and the Santa Parade, 9:45 am down Lancaster Ave. with Santa pictures on the vernada of Rosalie Restaraunt, Wayne Hotel, 139 E. Lancaster Ave. WayneBusiness.com.



**DECEMBER 2**  
**Breakfast with Santa.** Come over to the Chester County History Center to meet Santa and enjoy breakfast. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 9:30 to 11 am. \$15. Pre-reg. req. West-Chester.com.

**DECEMBER 2**  
**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.

**DECEMBER 2**  
**Santa at Marshall Square Park.** Come join WC Parks and Recreation to welcome in the holidays. Santa will be on hand in the gazebo for pictures with the entire family (no charge and pets are very welcome). Food trucks, holiday crafts and live music on hand for all to enjoy. Marshall Square Park, 405 N. Franklin St., West Chester. 4:30 to 6:30. West-Chester.com.

**DECEMBER 9**  
**American Helicopter Museum Presents SantaFest 2023.** Santa arrives via helicopter at 11 am, ready to hear children's wish lists in Santa's Workshop. Bring your cameras to take pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus. 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 10 to 3. \$7–\$10. HelicopterMuseum.org.

## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

**NOVEMBER 17–19**  
**Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees.** Beautifully decorated trees and wreaths plus events, a festival marketplace, live entertainment make the weekend special. Brantwyn Estate, 600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. \$25. Fri, noon to 4; Sat & Sun, 10 to 4. Free. DelawareHospice.org.

**NOVEMBER 17–JANUARY 7**  
**A Longwood Christmas.** "A Very Retro Christmas" is the theme this year. Reminisce amid a vintage Christmas street scene, make new memories amid dazzling, vibrant light displays—including some super-sized surprises—and revel in the radiance of retro at every turn. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. \$16–\$30. Timed tickets req. LongwoodGardens.org.

**NOVEMBER 18–JANUARY 7**  
**Yuletide at Winterthur.** Explore the house decorated in all its finery with its signature traditions including the dried flower tree, artistic Christmas trees inspired by Ann Lowe gowns and a spectacular table set for Christmas dinner. 5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE. Timed tickets required. Winterthur.org.

**NOVEMBER 24–JANUARY 1**  
**Holidays at Hagley.** Returning this year with the theme, "Treasures and Traditions," and will featuring Holiday Home and Garden Tours, the sixth-annual Gingerbread House Competition, Santa Days, Holiday Nights Tours and more. Hagley's Library & Soda House, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, Hagley.org.

**NOVEMBER 24–JANUARY 2**  
**Gingerbread House Competition.** Professional builders include: Cakes and Candies by Maryellen, Carlino's, John Serock Catering, Kilwins West Chester, Yori's Church Street Bakery and The Master's Baker. To vote: visit display locations and scan the QR code there. GreaterWestChester.com.



**NOVEMBER 25**  
**Christmas on King in Malvern.** Food trucks, beer garden, live music, facepainting and visits from Mrs. Claus and Santa's elves from 4 to

6. The holiday spectacular performances take place in Burke Park where you can visit and take photos with Santa, try your hand at cookie decorating and enjoy the s'mores station. King St. Noon to 4. MalvernBusiness.com.

**NOVEMBER 29–DECEMBER 2**  
**Brandywine Museum of Art Annual Holiday Critter Sale.** Delightful, distinctive ornaments and tabletop decorations handmade using natural materials, each with its own unique personality and expression—no two are the same. Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd.,

Chadds Ford. Preview Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs–Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 3. Brandywine.org.



**Happy Holidays**

**White Horse Construction, Inc**

Parkesburg, Pa 19365 ph: 610-593-5559

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



**Bryn Mawr Rehab Craft & Vendor Fair.** The fair, sponsored by Bryn Mawr Rehab's Volunteer Auxiliary, features a variety of crafts and products, such as animal collars, jewelry, artisan woodwork, children's books and more. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, 414 Paoli Pike, Malvern. 10 to 4. [MainLineHealth.org](http://MainLineHealth.org).

**A Dickens of a Christmas Weekend in Kent County.** Step back into 1840s London and experience the holiday season as Charles Dickens imagined it. This two-day event includes carriage rides, entertainment, home tour, food, book talks, merchandise and more. Fri, 5 to 9 pm; Sat, 8 am to 6 pm. [MainStreetChestertown.org/Dickens-Festival](http://MainStreetChestertown.org/Dickens-Festival).

**Feel The Holiday Spirit in Phoenixville.**  
*Dec. 1*, First Friday Holiday Edition and tree lighting downtown, 6 to 8 pm; *Dec. 2 & 3, 9 & 10, 16 & 17*, Phoenixville Winter Market in the Main & Bridge Street parking lot from noon to 6 pm featuring vendors of unique, handcrafted items and various holiday activities.  
PhoenixvilleFirst.org.

**Phoenixville's Candlelight Holiday Tour.** Decorated homes and churches, crafts, music, refreshments. Benefits Phoenixville Area Senior Center. Begins at 3 at the Senior Center with vendors and crafters. Soups and sandwiches available. Tour begins at 4. 153 Church St., Phoenixville. \$25. 4 to 8. PHXHolidayTour.Weebly.com.

**Christmas in Odessa Holiday House Tour.** A self-guided walking tour of private homes and public buildings, many dating from the 18th and 19th centuries, decorated for the holidays. Greens sale at the Fieldstone Stable, 202 Main St., Odessa, DE. Sponsored by the Women's Club of Odessa as a fundraiser for student scholarships. 10 to 5. \$30. [ChristmasInOdessa.com](http://ChristmasInOdessa.com).

**Holiday Home Tour in Strasburg.** Festively decorated homes in historic Strasburg, showcasing churches with unique holiday decor from the 1700s to modern time. Times and tickets, 717-687-3534; [StrasburgHeritageSociety.org](http://StrasburgHeritageSociety.org).

**Candlelight Tours at the Muhlenberg House.** Savor the sights, sounds\ and smells of an authentic Pennsylvania German Christmas. Interpreters in authentic period clothing will share stories from the Muhlenberg family in each room. Stock up on holiday gifts in the gift shop. 201 W. Main St., Trappe. Sat, 3 to 9; Sun, noon to 4. \$5. [HistoricTrappe.org/Events](http://HistoricTrappe.org/Events).

**Kennett Square Holiday Village Market.** Shop dozens of artisan and vintage vendors while enjoying live music, festive cocktails, food trucks and more. The Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square. 11 to 5. [KennettCollaborative.org](http://KennettCollaborative.org).



West Chester Public Library Holiday Home Tour and Holiday Door Tour. *Dec. 2*, the Holiday Home Tour features eight homes in the Borough decked out for the holidays. 10 to 3, \$40. *Dec. 2-17*, the Holiday Door Tour is a self-guided tour of West Chester doors and porches decorated in holiday finery. Make a donation and receive a map and a list of scavenger hunt items to look for among the decorations. [WCPublicLibrary.org](http://WCPublicLibrary.org).



**Christmas in Kennett and Longwood Gardens.** Park in Kennett Square and enjoy shopping, dining and strolling. Then catch the shuttle and revel in A Longwood Christmas at Longwood Gardens. Reservations required. 1:30 to 6:30. \$16–\$30. [LongwoodGardens.org/Events-Performances/Events/Christmas-Kennett](http://LongwoodGardens.org/Events-Performances/Events/Christmas-Kennett).

**THROUGH NOVEMBER 3**  
**Figments (Of Your Imagination)—Exhibit**  
**at The Art Trust.** Celebrating the fantasy/  
 dreams/nightmares of the season through con-  
 temporary art, featuring four artists whose work  
 invites remembrances and storytelling. 16 W.  
 Market St., West Chester. [TheArtTrust.org](http://TheArtTrust.org).

**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. [FarmToCityMarkets.com](http://FarmToCityMarkets.com).

**Market at Coverdale Farm Preserve,**  
543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fri, 2 to 7; Sat,  
10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 3. DelNature.org.

**Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr**  
Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania  
Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).

**Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town**  
**Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. Thurs, 3 to**  
**6:30. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).**

**Kennett Square Farmers Mkt.,** 401 Birch St. Fri, 3 to 6. [KSQFarmersMarket.com](http://KSQFarmersMarket.com).

**Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389**  
W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6  
to 4. [LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com](http://LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com).

**Malvern Farmers Market**, Burke Park,  
26 S. Warren Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. 484-753-6363;  
GrowingRootsPartners.com.

**Media Farmers Market**, Edgemont St.  
between Front & State Sts. Sun, 10 to 1.  
[FarmToCityMarkets.com](http://FarmToCityMarkets.com).

**New Garden Growers Market,**  
8934 Gap Newport Pk., Landenberg.  
Sat, 9 to noon. Facebook.com/  
NewGardenGrowersMarket.

**Phoenixville Farmers Market,**  
200 Mill St. Until, Nov. 18, Sat, 9 to  
noon; Nov. 25–Dec. 23, Sat, 10 to noon.  
[PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org](http://PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org).

**Pottstown Farmers Mkt.,** 100 E. High St. Nov. 25, 10 to 3. [PottstownFarm.org](http://PottstownFarm.org).

**Swarthmore Farmers Market**, 121 Park Ave., next to Swarthmore Borough Hall. Through Nov. 18, Sat, 9 to noon. [SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org](http://SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org).

**Thornbury Farmers Mkt. & CSA, 1256**  
Thornbury Rd., West Chester. Thurs–  
Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 9 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5.  
[ThornburyFarmCSA.com](http://ThornburyFarmCSA.com).

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

**West Chester Growers Mkt.,**  
Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1.  
[WestChesterGrowersMarket.com](http://WestChesterGrowersMarket.com).

**West Reading Farmers Mkt., 598 Penn Ave. Sun, 9 to 1. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com).**

**Westtown Amish Market, 1165**  
Wilmington Pk., West Chester.  
Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4.  
WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

**Bryn Mawr Rehab's 28th Annual Art Exhibition & Sale.** An international juried exhibition and sale that features work by artists with physical and cognitive disabilities and hearing and visual impairments. Special events throughout the exhibition. [MainLineHealth.org/Specialties/Rehab-Art-Ability](http://MainLineHealth.org/Specialties/Rehab-Art-Ability).

**The Gift of Art Sale at Delaware Valley Art League.** Over 40 artists showcase and sell their work just in time for holiday gift-giving. Newtown Presbyterian Church, 3600 Goshen Rd., Newtown Square. Cocktail party Fri, 4 to 7. Sat, 11 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. Free. DelawareValley-ArtLeague.com.

**Chester County Craft Guild Fine Craft Fair.** Fine craft artists display and sell their handmade works at Chester County Art Association, 100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. [ChesterCountyCraftGuild.org](http://ChesterCountyCraftGuild.org).

**Winterthur's 59th Annual Delaware Antiques Show.** The in-person show features more than 60 distinguished dealers in Ameri-

**Made in Philadelphia Holiday Market.** Local artisans, designers, crafters and jewelers offer their holiday-inspired handmade goods and gifts. Dilworth Park, west side of City Hall, 1 S. 15th St., Philadelphia. Sun–Thurs, noon to 8; Fri–Sat, noon to 9. [MadeInPhila.com](http://MadeInPhila.com).

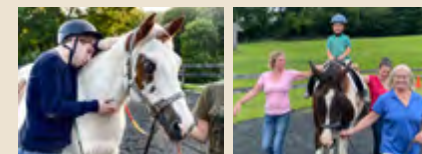
**Holiday Market at The Saturday Club.** Shop local small businesses, artisans and entrepreneurs at this annual market at the historic Clubhouse, 117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 10 to 2. Free. [SaturdayClub.org](http://SaturdayClub.org).

**Haverford Guild of Craftsmen Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show.** Shop from over 60 juried artists for high quality handcrafted works of basketry, ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, wood and more. Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center, 9000 Parkview Dr., Haverford. 10 to 5. \$5. [HaverfordGuild.org](http://HaverfordGuild.org).



## A young girl wearing a pink long-sleeved shirt and a pink riding helmet is riding a light-colored horse. A woman with blonde hair, wearing a bright pink short-sleeved shirt and a dark skirt, is standing next to the horse, smiling and holding the girl's leg. Another person wearing a brown hat and sunglasses is partially visible behind the horse. The background shows a green field and a wooden fence.

To Benefit Children, Young Adults, and Adults with Special Needs and Life Challenges Through the Experience of Equestrian Therapy.



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- Live and Silent Auction items include fabulous trips and getaways, spa packages, golf outings, jewelry, art and baskets of cheer.
- Enjoy savory hors d'oeuvres, buffet stations, and complimentary beer and wine.
- Event to be held in Winterthur Visitor Center, with free shuttle to and from parking lot.
- To purchase tickets electronically and be pre-registered for the auctions, please visit this website: <https://reins-life.betterworld.org/events/mane-event>. Or use the QR code for website below.





**NOVEMBER 17**  
**Craft and Mercantile.** A curated evening market celebrating local makers and artisans alongside live music, food, drink, and arts and crafts activities. Eagleview Town Center, 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. 4 to 8 pm. Free. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

**BOOKS.....**  
**NOVEMBER 2, 15 & 16**  
**Wellington Square Bookshop. NonFiction Book Group:** *Nov. 2, North of Normal* by Cea Sunrise Person, 7 pm. **Fiction Book Group:** *Nov. 15 & 16, The Extraordinary Life of Sam Hell* by Robert Dugoni, Wed, 2 pm, Thurs, 2 & 7 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

**EQUESTRIAN.....**  
**NOVEMBER 5**  
**89th 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 County Food Bank. PAHuntCup.org.



**FOOD & BREWS.....**  
**NOVEMBER 5**  
**Good Food Fest.** See November Picks.  
**NOVEMBER 5-11**  
**Fall Restaurant Week in Media.** Area restaurants will be offering a variety of specials. Reservations are highly recommended. Visit for a list of participating restaurants. MediaRestaurantWeek.com.

**NOVEMBER 11**  
**Food Truck Frenzy at Linvilla Orchards.** Enjoy a wide variety of food truck fare along with music, hayrides, pony rides, face painting, beer, wine and the straw bale maze. 137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media. 11 to 5. Linvilla.com.

**FUNDRAISERS.....**  
**THROUGH NOVEMBER 5**  
**41st Annual French & Pickering's Annual Auction.** *Through Nov. 5*, online auction. *Nov. 4*, in-person auction—enjoy cocktails, auctions

and delicious food. Benefits French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Stonewall Golf Club, Bulltown Rd., Elverson. 6 pm. Tickets \$125 and up. FrenchAndPickering.org.

**NOVEMBER 4**  
**Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania 19th Annual 1940s Swing Dance.** Jump, Jive & Swing to the big band playing live among the historic trains. Dress to impress in your best 1940s vintage attire or military uniform and enjoy light refreshments. Benefits the museum. 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. 7 to 10. \$20–\$25. RRMuseumPA.org.

**NOVEMBER 4**  
**Casino Night at West Chester Area Senior Center.** Casino games, dinner, drinks and auctions. Proceeds support the services seniors rely on to remain as healthy, active and as independent as possible. 530 E. Union St., West Chester. 6:30. \$60. Each ticket includes 50 playing chips. WCSeniors.org.

**NOVEMBER 4**  
**Stand Up Comedy: Comedy to Break the Stigma.** Four Philly comics gather to raise mental awareness for the benefit of The American Foundation of Suicide Prevention. Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. For mature audiences. 8 pm. \$30. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

**NOVEMBER 4**  
**6th Annual Phoenixville Bed Races.** Race teams will build, decorate and race beds on wheels to raise funds for two Phoenixville organizations that provide shelter for the homeless and to win the title of “Fastest Bed.” Start at Reeves Park, 2nd Ave. & Main St. 11 am, race begins at noon. PXVBedRaces.org.

**NOVEMBER 11**  
**Living Beyond Breast Cancer's Annual Black-tie Gala—Butterfly Ball: Life in Bloom.** One of LBBC's most important events features an evening of cocktails, dinner, dancing and auctions. Loews Philadelphia Hotel, 1200 Market St., Philadelphia. 5:30 pm. Tickets \$400 and up. LBBC.org.

**NOVEMBER 18**  
**Phoenixville Chamber of Commerce Charity Gala.** “A Masquerade at the Opera” is the theme this year. Dinner, dancing and silent auction with great items. Rivercrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Golf Club Dr. 5:30 to 10:30. Tickets \$150 and up. PhoenixvilleChamber.org.

**NOVEMBER 18**  
**Pennsylvania SPCA's 11th Annual Bark & Whine Gala.** Join the most important fundraising event of the year and a night to celebrate the Rescue's mission with cocktails,

dinner, music and dancing, auctions and adoptable pets. URBN (Navy Yard) 5000 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$350 and up. PSPCA.org.



**NOVEMBER 21**  
**Phoenixville Public Library Presents Wine, Wit & Wisdom.** The library's largest fundraising event will include a silent auction, wine tasting, sit-down dinner and acclaimed bestselling author of *Beware the Woman*, Megan Abbott. RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Rivercrest Dr., Phoenixville. 6 to 9 pm. Tickets \$95 and up. PhoenixvilleLibrary.org.

**DECEMBER 2**  
**35th Annual West Chester Charity Ball.** Friends Association celebrates over 200 years of serving families in our community. The Charity Ball has helped in their mission to end homelessness in Chester County. Enjoy dinner, music, dancing, auctions. West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St. 6:30 pm. For tickets, FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball.

**HOME & GARDEN TOUR.....**  
**NOVEMBER 11**  
**Home and Garden Tour at Stoneleigh.** Dazzling displays of native plants, ancient trees and landscape designs by the Olmsted Brothers are highlighted on this guided exploration of Stoneleigh as well as the spectacular Tudor Revival Main House. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 10:30 to noon. \$15. NatLands.org.

**MUSEUMS.....**  
**THROUGH JANUARY 7**  
**Winterthur Museum.** “Ann Lowe: American Couturier,” featuring 40 iconic gowns, many that have never been on public display. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5. \$8–\$22. Winterthur.org.

**THROUGH FEBRUARY 18**  
**Brandywine Museum of Art.** *Through Jan. 21*, “Allan Freelon: Painter, Printmaker, Teacher.” *Through Feb. 18*, “Abstract Flash: Unseen Andrew Wyeth” opening in the newly renovated Andrew Wyeth Gallery and featuring 38 never-before-seen abstract watercolors.

*Through Feb. 25*, “Rooted: Family and Nature in Contemporary Children's Book Illustration.” Rt. 1, Chadds Ford. Wed–Mon, 9:30 to 4:30. \$8–\$20. Brandywine.org.

**MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....**  
See article Making Music in the Brandywine Valley in this issue.  
**NOVEMBER 1-30**  
**At The Grand in Wilmington.** *Nov. 1*, Pink Martini Featuring China Forbes; *Nov. 2*, Sons of Serendip; *Nov. 4*, The Moth—True Stories Told Live; *Nov. 9*, Masters of Illusion; *Nov. 10*, Deadgrass; *Nov. 11*, The Rock Orchestra Plays David Bowie; *Nov. 18*, Graham Nash; *Nov. 18*, Musicians Giving Back: A Tribute to the Legends of Motown, at the Baby Grand; *Nov. 24*, The Underwater Bubble Show; *Nov. 30*, Tab Benoit with The Dirty Dozen Brass Band. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

**NOVEMBER 3-DECEMBER 1**  
**Uptown! at Knauer Performing Arts Center.** *Nov. 3*, Dave Matthews Tribute Band; *Nov. 4*, The Brit Pack; *Nov. 11*, Better Than Bacon; *Nov. 16*, Sara Michaels; *Nov. 17*, AM Radio Tribute Band; *Nov. 18*, Killer Queen; *Nov. 25*, Superunknown: A Tribute to the Legacy of Chris Cornell; *Dec. 1*, The Holiday Cheer

Show. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.



**NOVEMBER 3-JANUARY 7**  
**Longwood Gardens Performance Series.** *Nov. 3*, organist Peter Richard Conte and trumpeter Rodney Marsalis; *Nov. 10*, Bria Skonberg; *Nov. 11*, Piaf! The Show; *Nov. 17-Jan. 7*, A Longwood Christmas. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. LongwoodGardens.org.

**NOVEMBER 5**  
**Kennett Symphony Concert: Reimagined Concert Experience.** Featuring Ludwig Van Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral)*. Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall. 3 pm. \$50. KennettSymphony.org.

**NOVEMBER 5**  
**Chester County Choral Society Chamber Ensemble Concert.** Presenting “The Music of Living.” The concerts will highlight Brahms, Britten, Biebl, Billy Joel and more. Daylesford Abbey, 220 S. Valley Rd., Paoli. 3 pm. No tickets, donations accepted at the door. ChesCoChoral.org.

**NOVEMBER 7-17**  
**The Colonial Theatre.** *Nov. 7*, Nick Lowe's Quality Rock & Roll Revue; *Nov. 10*, An Evening with Judy Collins; *Nov. 11*, 10,000 Maniacs with Leigh Nash; *Nov. 17*, A Musical Conversation with Valerie June, Rachel Davis, Thao & Yasmin Williams. Times and tickets, 610-917-1228; TheColonialTheatre.com.

**NOVEMBER 7-DECEMBER 30**  
**American Music Theatre—The 2023 Christmas Show: The First Noel.** This year's all-new holiday show features your favorite seasonal songs, dancing, wondrous costumes, breathtaking sets and all the endearment of a perfect fireside family moment. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.

**NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 17**  
**VoxAmaDeus Holiday Concerts.** *Nov. 17*, *Brahms Requiem*, a German Requiem and Alto Rhapsody with additional works; *Dec. 1, 3, 5*,

# Celebrate the Holidays in Kent County Maryland

PLAN YOUR HOLIDAYS  
[KENTCOUNTY.COM/EVENTS](https://kentcounty.com/events)

Betterton | Chestertown | Galena | Millington | Rock Hall

20 County Lines | November 2023 | CountyLinesMagazine.com

CountyLinesMagazine.com | November 2023 | County Lines 21



♫ **17, Handel's Messiah**, performed on original Baroque instruments; **Dec. 9 & 10, Renaissance Noël**, celebrating the glorious Renaissance Christmas music of Old Europe. Multiple locations. Times and tickets, 610-688-2800; VoxAmaDeus.org.



**NOVEMBER 25-26**  
**Winter Wonderland Musicales at Media Theatre.** Experience the magic of the music and start your holiday season in concert and hear



your favorite songs sung in festive style. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

**DECEMBER 2 & 3**  
**Lancaster Symphony Orchestra Performs Handel's Messiah.** Handel's masterpiece returns to kick off the holiday season at First Presbyterian Church, featuring outstanding soloists and the Lancaster Symphony Chorus. 140 E. Orange St., Lancaster. Fri, Sat, 7:30; Sat, 2:30. \$60-\$90. LancasterSymphony.org.

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES**  
**NOVEMBER 5**  
**46th Annual Radnor Run.** Register to be an in-person or virtual participant in the 5-Mile Race, 2-Mile Trail Walk, or ½-Mile Kids Fun Run. Benefits the American Lung Association. Radnor Township Building, Encke Park, 301 Iven Ave., Radnor. Reg. 7 am, race, 8:30. \$30-\$40. 800-LUNG-USA; Lung.org/RadnorRun.

**NOVEMBER 25**  
**Burn Off the Bird 5K.** The Jaycees 5K Race & 1-mile Fun Run begin and end at Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville. Benefits the Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation to fund community events. 9 to 10:30 am. Phoenixville.org.

**THEATER**  
**THROUGH NOVEMBER 12**  
**Kings of Harlem at Delaware Theatre Company.** Celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first Black-owned, all-Black professional basketball team in history. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

**THROUGH DECEMBER 30**  
**Our Christmas Dinner at Bird-in-Hand Stage.** A holiday musical igniting memories that will remind you of the true meaning of Christmas. 2760 #A Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Times and tickets, 717-768-1568; Bird-In-Hand.com/Stage.

**NOVEMBER 15-DECEMBER 31**  
**A Christmas Carol at People's Light.** See November Picks.

**NOVEMBER 17-19**  
**Million Dollar Quartet Christmas at The Playhouse.** This holiday reimagining brings together Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Jerry Lee Lewis and Carl Perkins for a celebration featuring holiday hits. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

**NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 30**  
**A Christmas Carol: The Musical at Dutch**

**Apple Dinner Theatre.** A season classic! 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.

**NOVEMBER 17-DECEMBER 30**  
**Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat at Fulton Theatre.** The bright lights of Vegas meet the age-old story of brotherly love and betrayal. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

**NOVEMBER 18-DECEMBER 23**  
**It's A Wonderful Life at The Candlelight Theatre.** Based on the Frank Capra film, this heartwarming classic is one of the most popular Christmas tales ever written. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.

**NOVEMBER 22-DECEMBER 24**  
**A Christmas Carol Comedy at Hedgerow Theatre.** A favorite holiday tradition with a playful take on a yuletide classic. 64 Rose Valley Rd., Media. Times and tickets, 610-565-4211; HedgerowTheatre.org.

**DECEMBER 5-JANUARY 14**  
**Mary Poppins at Media Theatre.** Come watch as the magic unfolds before your eyes. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

**DECEMBER 6-24**  
**Peter and the Starcatcher at Delaware Theatre Company.** Upending the century-old legend of Peter Pan with a wildly theatrical reboot. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

**TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS**  
**NOVEMBER 3, 11, 16**  
**1st Fridays, 2nd Saturdays, 3rd Thursdays.** First Fridays: Nov. 3, Lancaster City, 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. 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. 11, Media, MediaArtsCouncil.org.  
Third Thursday Malvern Stroll: Nov. 16, MalvernBusiness.com. ♦

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# Seeing the Forest for the Trees

## 30 YEARS AT BINKY LEE PRESERVE

Kirsten Werner, Natural Lands

DARIN GROFF WAS 19 WHEN HE BEGAN WORKING for Natural Lands. It was 1990. George H. W. Bush was in the White House, the internet was in its infancy, and cigarettes had just been banned on domestic flights. And Binky Lee Preserve, an 89-acre property in Chester Springs, had just been donated to Natural Lands by the Seiple family, who had named the farm after a beloved horse.

“Most of the land was in hay back then,” Darin recalls. “Harvesting it was a challenge because Binky Lee is so hilly, and we worried we’d flip the tractor. This land isn’t suited for farming — it’s way too steep and the soil just erodes. It’s meant to be a forest.”

Binky Lee, like the rest of southeastern Pennsylvania, had been a forest for millennia before it was colonized by Europeans. When William Penn first visited in 1682, almost 99% of the nearly 29 million acres that’s now Pennsylvania was covered in trees. Adequate rain, rich soil and moderate temperatures make our region

ideal for forest growth. In fact, if you leave the land to its own devices, farm fields, meadows and even lawns will quickly give way to woody plants.

So, Darin started planting trees. White oak, American sycamore, white pine, sugar maple, ash and hickory, just to name a few. About 50,000 trees over the decades, with help from land stewardship colleagues and volunteers.

Thirty-three years later, Binky Lee Preserve is a thriving example of the transformative effect of afforestation (establishing a forest where no recent tree cover existed). A third of the 112-acre property is wooded with the balance as meadow, which Darin — who’s been preserve manager there for two decades — mows annually to control woody and invasive plant growth.

Natural Lands stewardship staff plant seedlings in rows spaced about 10 feet apart, leaving enough room for mowing, which keeps invasive plants at bay. While this even planting pattern may

look unnatural at first, other native species — like tuliptree and spicebush — fill in the gaps through natural succession. Once the trees are large enough and begin shading the ground beneath — usually after about a decade — the land stewards can stop mowing and simply spot treat invasives as needed.

Each seedling is protected by photodegradable tree tubes, which shelter the tender plants from deer and create a mini-greenhouse to stimulate early tree growth.

The final step in an afforestation project is to help these new forests establish healthy understories. Nature often provides this essential layer on its own as seeds drop from nearby trees or helpful birds, but Natural Lands often accelerates this process. Planting hardy native shrubs that can outcompete invasive species helps establish the forest understory more quickly, protecting our investment and minimizing maintenance needed for these new woods to thrive.

The oldest of Binky Lee’s new forests are more than 30 years old. But all that work is worth the wait.

These woods create essential habitat for wildlife, including birds that rely on dense forests for food, breeding, shelter and migration corridors. They bolster important ecological services like slowing and soaking up floodwaters, producing oxygen, drawing carbon from the atmosphere, and cooling temperatures. When planted along streams, they prevent erosion, reduce flooding, and help improve aquatic life and water quality.



“The woods bolster important ecological services like slowing and soaking up floodwaters, producing oxygen, drawing carbon from the atmosphere, and cooling temperatures.

What’s more, creating and improving forest habitat is perhaps the most cost-effective way to tackle the climate crisis. As trees grow, they absorb and store the carbon dioxide emissions that are driving global warming. In its January 2020 report, “CarbonShot,” the World Resources Institute suggested that reforestation and afforestation will be key for the U.S. to have any hope of reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Despite the incredible impact trees can and will have on climate in the coming decades, changing weather patterns and rising temperatures require us to adjust what species we include in afforestation projects.

Northern tree species that are close to the southern extent of their range face increased stress and population decline, while southern or temperate species are spreading northward. Natural forest regeneration is threatened as vulnerable seedlings succumb to weather extremes like drought and deluges. Forest pests and pathogens, as well as invasive species, are expanding their

range as temperatures warm, taking advantage of stressed trees.

“We’ve begun selecting more climate-resilient species for Natural Lands’ afforestation projects. We’re putting in more American sycamore, hackberry, boxelder, black gum and eastern hophornbeam,” says Darin. “Instead of red oak, we’re selecting black oak, white oak and chestnut oak species.”

Darin adds, “The climate is changing so rapidly — tree species don’t have time to adapt. So, we adapt instead.” ♦

*Natural Lands is dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature’s wonders while creating opportunities for joy and discovery in the outdoors for everyone. As the Greater Philadelphia region’s oldest and largest land conservation organization, member-supported Natural Lands has preserved more than 135,000 acres, including 42 nature preserves and one public garden. Nearly 5 million people live within 5 miles of land under Natural Lands protection. Land for life, nature for all. NatLands.org.*

PHOTOS COURTESY OF BILL MOSES AND NATURAL LANDS





# VIEW FROM THE PODIUM

## IT'S MORE THAN JUST WAVING YOUR ARMS

Malcolm Johnstone

A FEW DECADES AGO, I PUT TOGETHER A concert featuring music I'd arranged for a small orchestra, choir and soloists. I was to be the conductor. On the evening of the performance, I stepped onto center stage, faced the ensemble, opened my music score and, to my bewilderment, found a note. It was titled "Directions for the Conductor."

I opened it and read "Wave your arms until the music stops, then turn around and bow." I looked up to see all eyes on me, accompanied by smiles. I smiled back, gave a discreet thumbs up, and we began an evening of music. Whatever success there was that evening resulted from the talent and hard work of the musicians. All I did was ... wave my arms.

That experience raises a question: Does an orchestra really need a conductor? The short answer is a good conductor is an essential member of the group. And the longer answer is to achieve the performance level audiences have come to expect, a conductor must bring at least five qualities to the podium to add value.

The first quality is leadership. It's quite literally the hands of the conductor that keep each player in sync with the rest of the ensemble. And leadership happens when trust and respect between the conductor and the orchestra are established. The tempo of the

music, the volume of the instruments and the expression of the musical phrases need to be conveyed and understood from the first rehearsal.

Great leadership sometimes demands actions beyond the podium. Years ago, I witnessed amazing leadership at the Santa Barbara Symphony Orchestra. During a performance of an avant-garde work — one that might challenge listeners — there was a sudden, but mild, agitation from the front rows. Audience members began to walk out of the theater. The conductor initially turned to glare at the rudeness but then saw smoke pouring from below the stage.

Without missing a beat, the conductor stopped the music, directed orchestra members to exit the stage, then turned and silently directed the audience to the exits. The conductor was the last to leave, baton in hand. The next day's front page of the local newspaper complimented the conductor on his quick action, acknowledging how dangerous a fire in a crowded theater can be. The joke backstage was the conductor got a standing ovation for saving lives.

The next and most obvious function of the conductor is as the beat-keeper. That job is to set the tempo of the music and keep time for the orchestra. It's the conductor's baton in the right hand that keeps the beat, and only the conductor who determines the tempo.



Michael Hall, Music Director and Conductor of the Kennett Symphony

The third function is to keep the various sections of the orchestra together and to bring them in at the right time. The conductor cues each section of the orchestra, again using only a gesture. There can be as many as 20 sections and up to 100 performers for the conductor to manage. This alone demands complete knowledge of each section and when they should enter and cease. The conductor also adjusts the volume and expressiveness of each section as needed, using the left hand.

A few years ago, an experiment took place with a studio orchestra, the type that records soundtracks for movies and TV. They played a symphonic movement with a conductor and had no apparent problems. Then the movement was repeated without a conductor. The result was clearly ragged sounding, as the instrumental sections struggled to play their parts in unison.

The fourth duty is being a teacher and communicator. Creating memorable music is worked out at rehearsals, when conductors provide the musicians with suggestions of how their section can best play its part. Players sitting inside the orchestra can't hear what the audience will hear. In all ways, the conductor represents both what the composer intended and the audience expects.

Finally, for music to be inspiring to the listener, there must be a clear understanding of the appropriate musical expression. Michael Hall, Music Director and Conductor of the Kennett Symphony, shared with me his background for achieving excellence in the art of conducting.

"So much can be learned by watching and listening to other great conductors," Hall said. "It takes years to develop the emotional attentiveness needed to fully understand the complexities of musical expression and, at the same time, there must be an awareness of the audience expectations. When we achieve that, we're able to keep the audience delighted — even inspired — throughout an evening of music."

To bring out the best in an orchestra, teamwork is the key. And all teams need a leader, sometimes with baton in hand, to meet every challenge and opportunity. ♦

*For an entertaining YouTube video, see Rainer Hersch's "Does an orchestra need a conductor?"*

*Malcolm Johnstone is the Community Engagement Officer for Arts, Culture and Historic Preservation for the Cultural Alliance of Chester County, an initiative of the Chester County Community Foundation. A graduate of the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, he trained as a classical musician.*

“For music to be inspiring to the listener, there must be a clear understanding of the appropriate musical expression.”





# Making Music

## in the Brandywine Valley

EXPLORE OUR REGION'S MUSIC SCENE  
THIS SEASON AND BEYOND

Elizabeth Hughes



PHOTO CREDIT: SKYLER COLE

THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY IS KNOWN FOR charming towns, pastoral countryside and scenic vistas. It's also home to a vibrant arts scene, including a very busy music community. From student groups to professional orchestras, the performing arts are thriving in our area.

As the end of the year approaches, many local ensembles are gearing up for fall and holiday concerts, making it the perfect time to discover a new favorite. Here are just a few of the talented groups — symphony and pops orchestras, as well as early music ensembles — bringing music to the region, along with their upcoming performances.

### SYMPHONY AND POPS ORCHESTRAS

The Brandywine Valley has a number of talented orchestras, both symphonies and pops. While symphony orchestras tend to focus on classical music, pops orchestras have a wider repertoire, including popular music and show tunes. Here's what's new with some of our local orchestras.

### CHESTER COUNTY POPS ORCHESTRA

Comprised of 65 musicians from across the county, the Chester County Pops Orchestra has brought a pops, jazz and light-classic repertoire to southeastern Pennsylvania since 2005. They have sev-

eral performances throughout the year, including a patriotic concert in July and the fan-favorite Halloween Series.

The Chesco Pops are getting ready for two holiday concerts in December. The first show is at First Presbyterian Church of West Chester on December 8, and the second show on December 10 is at Phoenixville Area Middle School, where guests are asked to donate nonperishable food. Both performances include a variety of old and new holiday favorites, featured vocalists and a special appearance by Santa Claus.

For tickets and more performances, visit [ChescoPops.org](https://www.chescoPops.org).

### DELAWARE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

The Delaware Symphony Orchestra has a long and storied history, dating back to the early 19th century when it was founded as Alfred I. du Pont's Tankopanicum Orchestra (meaning "the rushing waters of the Brandywine River"). Delaware's only professional orchestra brings symphonic music to thousands with Classics and Chamber Series performances, as well as special family-friendly performances and community outreach programs.

The DSO's 118th season features a diverse lineup of artists and repertoire that audiences of all ages can enjoy. Next up in the Classics Series (featuring the full orchestra) is "¡Música Bravo!" featuring Argentinian-Italian conductor Michelle Di Russo. This concert



includes Spanish folk melodies and works by Hispanic composers and is performed at Wilmington's Grand Opera House (November 10) and Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes (November 12).

Then get into the festive spirit with "Holidays at the Hotel," December 12 at the Hotel Du Pont's Gold Ballroom. Part of the Chamber Series, this intimate performance by a smaller ensemble features Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* and *Aria: Grosse Herr* as well as Tchaikovsky's *Serenade for Strings*. Their season continues through April.

For tickets and more performances, visit [DelawareSymphonyOrchestra.org](https://www.DelawareSymphonyOrchestra.org).

### KENNETT SYMPHONY

Established in 1940, the Kennett Symphony is the only professional symphony orchestra in Chester County. It's comprised of nearly 70 talented musicians from across the Mid-Atlantic, including Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, New York and New Jersey. In addition to traditional concerts, the Kennett Symphony engages young musicians in their educational programming, including young artists competitions, the Children's Chorus (fall concert on November 18 at West Chester University) and "instrument zoos" — a hands-on experience for kids to learn about different instruments.

On November 5, the Kennett Symphony invites you to a "Reimagined Concert Experience." Seated in the round at Mendenhall Inn's Grand Ballroom, with food and drink available, you'll hear the orchestra perform Beethoven's *Symphony No. 6 (Pastoral)* in a casual, friendly setting.



Their 2023–24 season continues into the New Year with "Cultural Resonance," March 17 at WCU's Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre. Second in their Masterworks series, the concert features *Piano Concerto in One Movement* by composer Florence B. Price, the first African American woman to have a symphonic work performed by a national orchestra, with piano soloist Maxim Lando.

Later, look forward to their Family Concert (April 14) and performances at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library (May 11) and Longwood Gardens (June 23).

For tickets and more performances, visit [KennettSymphony.org](https://www.KennettSymphony.org).

### EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLES

In addition to resident orchestras, our region is home to premier early music ensembles. These groups specialize in European classical music from the Baroque era and earlier, with a focus on historically informed performances — meaning they try to recreate the music as accurately as possible for the historic period.

### BRANDYWINE BAROQUE

Based in Delaware, Brandywine Baroque offers chamber music concerts on period instruments, often featuring national and international guest performers. They're known to perform rare and previously unpublished manuscripts, playing music that would be otherwise unheard by modern audiences.

In November, Brandywine Baroque performs "Music for a While," a program of 17th-century English music by a consort of five viols (an early member of the violin fam-



1. West Chester University Wind Symphony
2. Delaware Symphony Orchestra
3. Brandywine Baroque
4. VoxAmaDeus

ily, played upright). See them at The Barn at Flintwoods in Wilmington (November 10 and 12) or the Lutheran Church of Our Savior in Rehoboth Beach (November 11). The Sunday matinee on November 12 will be followed by a recital from acclaimed harpsichordist Jean Rondeau.

For tickets and more performances, visit [BrandywineBaroque.org](https://www.BrandywineBaroque.org).

### VOXAMADEUS

This year, VoxAmaDeus celebrates its 37th concert season. Founded in 1987 by Romanian-born, Julliard-trained maestro Dr. Valentin Radu, this talented ensemble specializes in historically informed performances of High Renaissance, Baroque and Classical period music for both voice and instruments. Vox musicians perform on authentic instruments, including actual



## Even More Concerts

There are many more ensembles that call the Brandywine Valley home. Mark your calendar for more music.

**Immaculata Symphony Fall Concert — “Magical Stories.”** November 4, 7:30 p.m. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University. [ImmaculataSymphony.org](http://ImmaculataSymphony.org).

**Chester County Concert Band Fall Concert.** November 5, 2:30 p.m. Fugett Middle School, West Chester. [CCBand.org](http://CCBand.org).

**Main Line Symphony Orchestra Fall Concert.** November 17, 8 p.m. Valley Forge Middle School, Wayne. [MLSO.org](http://MLSO.org).

**Rose Tree Pops Concert.** November 19, 3 p.m. Delaware County Christian School, Newtown Square. [RoseTreePops.org](http://RoseTreePops.org).

**Delaware County Symphony — *Aus Deutschland*.** December 3, 3 p.m. Meagher Theatre, Neumann University. [DCSMusic.org](http://DCSMusic.org).

**Immaculata Symphony Christmas Concert — “The Holly and the Ivy.”** December 3, 3 p.m. Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University. [ImmaculataSymphony.org](http://ImmaculataSymphony.org).

ancient instruments as well as highly accurate reproductions of Baroque instruments.

On November 17, VoxAmaDeus heads to the Kimmel Center in Philadelphia for a program titled “Brahms Requiem,” featuring works from Johannes Brahms. Next up is their rendition of Handel’s *Messiah*, a holiday tradition for over three decades, this year at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Chestnut Hill (December 1), Daylesford Abbey in Paoli (December 3), St. Mark’s Church in Philadelphia (December 15) and St. Katharine of Siena Church in Wayne (December 17).

For more holiday magic, the Vox Renaissance Consort (voices and period instruments) performs their annual “Renaissance Noël” concert on December 9 at the Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields in Chestnut Hill and on December 10 at Bryn Mawr College’s Great Hall.

For tickets and more performances, visit [VoxAmaDeus.org](http://VoxAmaDeus.org).

## SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY GROUPS

Several of our local educational institutions host performances that are open to

the public. Featuring both professional and student musicians, these concerts are a great way to support arts education in our area.

## THE MUSIC SCHOOL OF DELAWARE

Serving residents of Delaware, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Maryland, The Music School of Delaware is the only state-wide, accredited community music school in the country. Between the Wilmington and Milford branches, the school hosts over a hundred public performances a year.

On November 12, the Wilmington Community Orchestra performs “An Afternoon at the Opera,” featuring excerpts from operas including Rossini’s *Barber of Seville* and Bizet’s *Carmen*. The concert will be held at the school’s Wilmington Concert Hall and livestreamed.

There are also two Faculty & Friends concerts this month — chamber music performances by faculty artists, alumni and guest musicians — “Serafin and Friends” on the 8th at the Wilmington Concert Hall and “The Grandeur of the Baroque” on the 17th at Avenue United Methodist Church in Milford.

Next month, the Delaware Youth Symphony Orchestra performs on December 9 at the Wilmington Concert Hall (also livestreamed).

For tickets and more performances, visit [TheMusicSchoolOfDelaware.org](http://TheMusicSchoolOfDelaware.org).

## WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY’S WELLS SCHOOL OF MUSIC

West Chester University’s renowned Wells School of Music holds over 200 concerts annually, from faculty and student recitals to large ensemble performances to accomplished visiting guest artists. Plus, most concerts are free to the public.

November 18 marks the Symphony Orchestra’s holiday concert, “Tis the Season(s).” The orchestra and guest violin soloist, Robyn Bollinger, perform Astor Piazzolla’s *The Four Seasons of Buenos Aires* and

Tchaikovsky’s *Symphony No. 1 in G Minor, “Winter Dreams,” Op. 13*.

And on the 19th, the Wind Symphony and Concert Band combine for a special performance. The Concert Band celebrates the 100th anniversary of Ralph Vaughan Williams’ *Folk Song Suite*, and the Wind Symphony features this year’s Wind Symphony Concerto Competition winner as well as Alfred Reed’s iconic *Russian Christmas Music*.

Return on December 9 for the 102nd annual Holiday Program. A staple of the WCU holiday season and community event since 1921, this concert highlights the Symphony Orchestra, combined choirs and Criterions jazz ensemble, featuring Monteverdi’s “Beatis vir.”

PHOTO CREDIT: ROB KELLER



West Chester University’s Holiday Program

As a musical bonus, there are three more chances to see the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band before they head to Pasadena, California for the Rose Parade. See them at home football games on November 4 and 11, or make the trek to Warwick High School in Lititz for the Cavalcade of Bands Championships on November 4.

For tickets and more performances, visit [WCUPA.edu/Music](http://WCUPA.edu/Music).

The local music scene is one of the many things that make *County Lines* country special — especially during the holiday season. With performance venues spanning the region, it’s likely there’s a performance or two near you. We hope you enjoy local music and support the arts, all year round. ♦

## Local Heroes: Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children

Ribbon-cutting at the newly renovated Family Center

## HELPING FAMILIES BATTLE HOMELESSNESS FOR OVER 200 YEARS

Shannon Montgomery

ALL ACROSS AMERICA, FAMILIES ARE STRUGGLING with homelessness. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, adults and children in families make up around 30% of the homeless population. And the National Center on Family Homelessness reports that 2.5 million children — one in 30 — are homeless.

Though it’s the wealthiest county in Pennsylvania, Chester County is not exempt from the family homelessness crisis. On any given night, over 400 individuals and families are experiencing homelessness in Chester County. This is due in large part to a lack of affordable housing — for every 100 extremely low-income rental households in Chester County, there are only 22 affordable and available rental homes. Rents in highly desirable Chester County are, sadly, too high for too many families.

Fortunately, there are resources available for families in need. For over 200 years, Friends Association for Care and Protection of Children has been helping children and families find a safe place to stay.

## ENDING FAMILY HOMELESSNESS

With roots in the Quaker tradition, Friends Association was founded in 1822 by a group of abolitionist women to provide a

home for Philadelphia children who’d lost their parents, many of whom had escaped slavery. Though the organization has evolved through the centuries, its mission has always centered on the protection and welfare of children. In 2010, Friends Association shifted its focus entirely to ending family homelessness in Chester County. In the last fiscal year, they served 1,772 individuals across 640 families.

What sets Friends Association apart from other organizations is their dedication to keeping families together. As Chief Development Officer David James explains, “In Chester County, not unlike anywhere else in the U.S., if a family is experiencing homelessness, they could be split up.” Mothers and young children typically go to family shelters, while fathers and adolescent boys (14 and older) may go to single-male shelters — and not necessarily the same one.

To prevent this, Friends Association maintains a Family Center in West Chester. The center consists of six apartments, where entire families live together — the only shelter of its kind in Chester County. This includes any and all family structures, including single- and two-parent, multi-generational and LGBTQ+ families.

“However you define family, we’ll support you,” says James. Families live independently in the Family Center for 90 to 120 days, working with their case manager to secure permanent housing, cre-





## The 35th Annual Charity Ball

On Saturday, December 2, Friends Association hosts its 35th annual Charity Ball at the West Chester Golf and Country Club, with hors d'oeuvres, a live band, dancing, plus live and silent auctions. If you can't make the event, you can still participate in the online silent auction, open the week before the Charity Ball until December 2 at 9 p.m.

In addition, the week before the Charity Ball marks the annual Fund for Friends fundraiser. An anonymous donor will match donations up to \$25,000 to support Friends Association's holiday and year-round programming. Learn more at [FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball-2023](https://FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball-2023).

ate a housing stability plan, increase income and access benefits.

This fall, Friends Association unveiled new renovations at the Family Center, working with architects to make trauma-informed design decisions. This includes "softer colors, incorporating natural light, plants and foliage, space for children to play, and making the design as stress-free as possible," James says. Notably, one apartment was upgraded to be ADA compliant — the county's only such accessible unit.

## NEW INITIATIVES

In addition to the newly renovated Family Center, Friends Association has several new programs aiming to prevent and eliminate homelessness.

The Eviction Prevention Case Resolution (EPCR) program helps families facing eviction stay in their homes. The first of its kind in Chester County, the program offers free legal representation, financial assistance and social service support to families facing eviction.

Eviction prevention is a key component to ending homelessness, James says. "In addition to being the right thing to do, it's always easier to help people stay where they are than to find them a new place to live." Since its inception in September 2020, EPCR has served over 700 households.

Friends Association's newest venture is the NIA House in Coatesville. Named for the Swahili word for "purpose," it houses women who have been recently released from incarceration, giving them the space

they need to reconnect with their children or grandchildren and secure long-term stable housing.

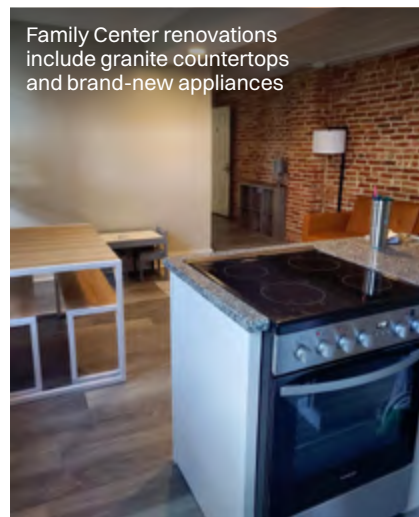
Like the Family Center, NIA House incorporates trauma-informed design. "It's the most loving, inviting place possible, with several dedicated rooms set up in a special way to feel safe with children," says James. It's also an authorized member of the Sisterhood Alliance for Freedom & Equity (SAFE) Housing Network, founded by Top 10 CNN Hero Susan Burton.

## GET INVOLVED

To end family homelessness in Chester County, Friends Association needs help from the community. Luckily, there are many ways to get involved.

Each November, Friends Association holds a Thanksgiving gift card drive. Instead of a traditional food drive, they accept donations of grocery store gift cards. This empowers Friends Association families to make their own choices of what to prepare and serve for Thanksgiving dinner. Later, Friends Association will run a holiday drive, collecting unwrapped gifts and other wishlist items for families.

All year round, Friends Association needs your help. Volunteers can join the Turn-Over Team, which helps prepare Family Center apartments for new families. This includes deep cleaning, painting, and stocking the kitchen and bathroom (departing families keep all linens, food and supplies). Volunteers can also join the Beautification Crew, which tends outdoor



spaces, or participate in the Meal Train program, which provides home-cooked meals to welcome new families to the center. Contact Karina Olmeda, Director of Community Engagement, to learn more.

For over two centuries, Friends Association has helped children and families facing homelessness — all while keeping families together. As James explains, "We focus on families because massive studies show that if families are able to stay together and heal together, the higher the probability that they succeed."

The dedicated people of Friends Association do heroic work, and for that reason we honor them as this year's Local Heroes. ♦

*Friends Association can't do this work alone. To learn more, including volunteer and donation information, visit [FriendsAssoc.org](https://FriendsAssoc.org).*

# Be the Change!



THIS HOLIDAY SEASON AND BEYOND, THERE are many local organizations making our community a better place. Become a Local Hero yourself by volunteering with one or more of these nonprofits.

## HOMELESSNESS & FOOD INSECURITY

**Bridge of Hope:** Ending homelessness through help from partners. 1 N. Bacton Hill Rd., Ste. 100, Malvern. 610-280-0280; [BridgeOfHopeInc.org](https://BridgeOfHopeInc.org).

**Chester County Food Bank:** Addressing food insecurity in Chester County. 650 Pennsylvania Dr., Exton. 610-873-6000; [ChesterCountyFoodBank.org](https://ChesterCountyFoodBank.org).

**Family Promise of Southern Chester County:** Working to end homelessness by providing meals, shelter, resources and mentorship. 1156 W. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. 610-444-0400; [FamilyPromiseSCC.org](https://FamilyPromiseSCC.org).

**Good Samaritan Services:** Responding with compassion to homelessness and poverty across Lancaster and Chester Counties. Locations in Phoenixville, Coatesville and Lancaster County. 1-888-477-0025; [GoodSamServices.org](https://GoodSamServices.org).

**Good Works:** Repairing homes for low-income homeowners. 544 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville. 610-383-6311; [GoodWorksInc.org](https://GoodWorksInc.org).

**Habitat for Humanity of Chester County:** Serving low-income families by providing an affordable place to live. 1220 Valley Forge Rd., Ste. 16, Phoenixville. 610-384-7993; [HFHCC.org](https://HFHCC.org).

**Home of the Sparrow:** Supporting single women and mothers experiencing or threatened by homelessness. 969 E. Swedesford Rd., Exton. 610-647-4940; [HomeOfTheSparrow.org](https://HomeOfTheSparrow.org).

**West Chester Food Cupboard:** Providing a variety of fresh and nonperishable healthy food items to West Chester residents in need. 431 S. Bolmar St., West Chester. 610-344-3175; [WestChesterFoodCupboard.org](https://WestChesterFoodCupboard.org).

## HUMAN SERVICES

**Care Center Foundation:** Aiding low-income families through education and social uplift programs. 127-129 S. Matlack St., West Chester. 610-436-6226; [CareCenterFoundation.org](https://CareCenterFoundation.org).

**Casa Guanajuato Kennett Square:** Promoting and preserving Mexican and Latino culture, traditions and customs. 645 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. 610-335-6327; [CasaGuanajuato.org](https://CasaGuanajuato.org).

**Chester County Anti-Human Trafficking Coalition:** Working to eliminate modern-day sex and labor slavery through public awareness, legislation, law enforcement and referral services to victims and survivors. P.O. Box 302, West Chester. [CCATOffPA.org](https://CCATOffPA.org).

**Chester County Opportunities Industrialization Center:** Helping economically disadvantaged individuals. 22 N. 5th Ave., Coatesville. 610-692-2344; [CCOIC.org](https://CCOIC.org).

**Community Volunteers in Medicine:** Providing free healthcare to low-income individuals and families. 300 Lawrence Dr., West Chester. 610-836-5990; [CVIM.org](https://CVIM.org).

**Domestic Violence Center of Chester County:** Programs, intervention and advocacy to combat domestic violence. Offices in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Phoenixville and Oxford. 610-431-3546; [DVCCCCPA.org](https://DVCCCCPA.org).

**LCH Health & Community Services:** Improving the health and wellbeing of people and communities by providing high-quality healthcare, resources and social services. Locations in Kennett Square, Oxford and West Grove. 610-444-7550; [LCHCommunityHealth.org](https://LCHCommunityHealth.org).

**NAACP, West Chester, PA Branch:** Ensuring a society in which all individuals have equal rights without discrimination based on race. P.O. Box 196, West Chester. [WCPANAACP.org](https://WCPANAACP.org).

**Oxford Area Neighborhood Services Center:** Assisting people experiencing crisis or sudden hardship. 35 N. 3rd St., Oxford. 610-932-8557; [OxfordNSC.org](https://OxfordNSC.org).

**Phoenixville Area Community Services:** Helping people overcome food insecurity. 101 Buchanan St., Phoenixville. 610-933-1105; [PACSPHx.org](https://PACSPHx.org). ♦





# Pressed Plants:

## Bringing the Outside in with Botanical Crafts



### KEEP THE TRADITION FROM FADING AWAY

Kayla Cannon, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

THE BEAUTY OF A SPREADING sugar maple, a bank of phlox in full bloom or a clump of arching ferns has few rivals. Native plants are enjoyed to the fullest when grown in your own garden, yet slipping a bit of their loveliness into the rest of your life — from your kitchen decor to your quiet reading time — is simple. Through the art of botanical pressings, your favorite native plants can grace every hour

of the day. All that's required is scrap paper, a couple of heavy books and patience.

#### TRADITION

Pressing and drying flowers to preserve them has engaged people for centuries, since some of the earliest human civilizations. After European travelers were impressed by the Japanese practice of *Oshibana* (which used pressed plant

material as the medium for stunning artwork), pressing became a popular pastime for women of the Victorian era. Not only did it encourage creative expression, plant pressing also enabled women to practice botany during a time that considered science a masculine pursuit.

Even Emily Dickinson, perhaps best known for her poetry, pressed plants to create an herbarium that demonstrated



both scientific meticulousness and attentive artistry. Botanists also made pressings to exhibit the species they discovered on research trips.

Today, pressed plants continue to play roles in both science and art, from inspiring clothing designs to preserving the genetic information of endangered plants.

Although any plant can be a candidate for pressing, preserving portions of native species this way is extra special. The process of collecting and drying flowers, leaves and stems might cause you to notice details that escaped you before, such as the fine fuzz on new oak leaves or the subtle color variations on coneflower petals. If you press plants in multiple seasons, you'll begin to develop an intimate acquaintance with the schedule of our local flora, noticing when the sugar maples leaf out or the asters finish blooming.

Crafting with your dried collections can reveal unexpected beauty in the shapes of leaves or the color tones of grasses. Ready to join the tradition?

#### COLLECT

Take a sharp pair of scissors, a small basket to hold your findings and an open mind, and head out into a space where you have express permission to gather — such as your own garden! Herbaceous flowers, leaves and stems can be gently snipped from their plant (as if you're harvesting culinary herbs). Take only as much as you can press in about 30 minutes — more will just wilt and be wasted. And follow the one-in-ten rule — for every one flower



or leaf you take, leave at least ten behind to ensure the sources of your pressings continue to thrive.

Beyond these precautions to be a responsible artist, the types of plant material you can press are as wide as your curiosity and attentiveness. Still, certain textures and shapes have more predictable results than others. Here are a few tips to help you get started.

Flat pieces dry readily and keep their shape. Leaves in particular look very similar pressed and fresh, and many outlines that get lost in the woodland masses are truly wonderful in artwork.

For example, sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) has delicate points that are particularly lovely on tiny, young leaves. Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*) and violet (*Viola spp.*) are heart shaped. Ferns have marvel-



ous lacy forms that often repeat themselves in miniature upon each frond, so a single frond can be divided into many tiny ferns.

Fragile petals, such as those of garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), often stick to the paper they're pressed on. Leaving the flower attached to its stem and permitting it to dry folded on its side rather than flat makes the whole piece sturdier and can create more interesting results than the flowers alone. Other native plants that press beautifully as composites of flower, stem and leaf include sweet pepperbush (*Clethra alnifolia*), ironweed (*Vernonia noveboracensis*) and hairy alumroot (*Heuchera villosa*).

Thick or fleshy plant material is best avoided, but individual petals often make great pressings where whole flowers are impossible. Prime petal-pressing prospects include purple coneflower (*Echinacea pur-*

*purea*), black-eyed Susans (*Rudbeckia spp.*) and tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*).

CAPTURE

Preserving your basketful of plant material as quickly as possible increases the quality of the dried results. Start by laying a few sheets of clean, blank paper (avoid colored print) on the cover of a heavy book. Over this, place a single layer of whole flowers, single petals, grasses or leaves. Make sure none of these materials are touching each other and they're broken into the sizes you'd like them to be in the final product.

Once you've filled the paper, lay two or three more sheets of paper on top of the plants, taking care not to shift them around too much. You can place another layer of plants in the same way upon this paper. When you've used all your plant material, top it all off with a few more sheets of paper and another heavy book. Set the whole plant press somewhere it will remain undisturbed, preferably in a warm, well-ventilated room.

You have some time to plan what you'll do with your pressings.

After two or three weeks, lift the top book and the first sheets of paper to check

on your pressings. If they feel crisp, fragile and papery, they're fully dried. Gently remove each from the paper and slip them into an envelope to store them. Keep them out of sunlight and many flowers and leaves retain their color for years.

CREATE

Botanical pressings can be affixed to any flat surface with diluted white, nontoxic glue. Spread the glue over the backs of the pressed plants with a small paintbrush and smooth them down where you want them. After the glue has dried, protect the completed artwork with laminate or a clear protective sealant, such as polycrylic finish.

Excellent objects to start decorating with your dried flowers and leaves include bookmarks (cut from cardstock), journals, electrical outlet covers, coasters and lampshades.

Your imagination is the limit! ♦

IMAGES COUTESY OF JENKINS ARBORETUM & GARDENS

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is a 48-acre 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. Plan your visit by visiting Jenkins online at [JenkinsArboretum.org](http://JenkinsArboretum.org).



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# A Season for your Senses

Emily Hart



Guenevere Calabrese-Finley during construction

IF A TASTE OF DAHLIA-COLORED HONEY WINE, A bite of butter pecan ice cream melting into chocolate mousse cake, and a view of heirloom apple orchards from beneath the boughs of a gigantic maple tree decked in fall foliage call to you, keep reading. And have your car key handy. Southern Chester County holds some delightful surprises for you this month.

## ALL ABUZZ

One toe over the threshold of the meadery and the fragrance lured me in — like sweet honey and a sunny field of fresh hay and wildflowers. When I first met a co-owner of [Philadelphia Mead Company](#), honey, water and red ruby plums were fermenting inside.

Weeks later on my return to the Parkesburg production site, the *melomel* — mead with fruit — was finished, aged and bottled. Bearing a distinctive label with a golden bee, bottles and cases of

traditional mead (honey wine), melomel and *bocchet* mead with caramelized honey were packed and ready to ship.

We cracked open a bottle of melomel and poured a taste of transparent liquid the color of a rosy coral-pink dahlia. Mmmmm. A bottle will grace my Thanksgiving table.

Brothers Steve and Rich Kassabian, owners of the meadery, are Renaissance and business men by nature. They're well-versed in the production and history of mead as humans' oldest fermented beverage, as well as its many cultural and literary aspects. Pottery pieces indicate that mead was known thousands of years ago. Recipes for honey wine show up around the world as early as the 1300s. Fans of *Beowulf*, *The Odyssey* and *Lord of the Rings* will impart details about the mead loved by literary characters.

Available through their website, at festivals and by pickup in Parkesburg, the meads produced there — some with local honey and



Old Stone Cider red flesh apple



some from a larger distributor in a neighboring county — are lovely and tasty for holiday feasts and winter sipping by the hearth, as well as for culinary adventures in the glass and in entrees from the oven.

### MAKE IT A PAIR

Looking for a sweet accompaniment to the mead? Dazzle your tastebuds with **Neuchatel Chocolate's** honey-filled chocolate with an embossed bee, found in their Oxford shop. Take a deep purple box of those or the delectable truffles to your next dinner party.

For a pairing that belongs together forever, head to the new **Butter Pecan Café** in Coatesville where, the owner says, her food is made with love. Two friends and I shared “Buddy Burgess” cake with a scoop of the café’s homemade butter pecan ice cream. There was silence for a moment after our forks were lifted. The creamy, buttery, salty, nutty flavors began to seep into the exquisite combination of rich chocolate frosting, cake, mousse and chips. Bits of crunchy pecan paired perfectly with the cake’s velvety texture. Two words then burst forth to describe the spectacular work of art for chocolate lovers: “triumph” and “MORE!”

### THE ART OF CREATIVITY

In **Calabrese Performing and Creative Arts Center** at the new Shoppes at Kennett Pointe, Guenevere Calabrese-Finley realizes her creative dreams this fall to help others realize theirs. Beyond providing music studios, a vast room for movement and theater rehearsals, plus a special room with space and art supplies — including a hot glue gun bar — for engaging hands and minds of all ages, the center for creative wellness has another special purpose. “It’s a place for people to lean into their feelings, to express those and their authentic selves in their work,” says Guenevere. “It’s where they can feed their souls.”

The Center’s decor reflects the Calabrese family’s endeavor. Wooden floors are like Guenevere’s father’s guitar. White walls with black trim represent the keys



Old Stone howlers and growlers

“Hank’s is still a place where you can linger over all-day breakfast, lunchtime tasty Greek salads and gyros or a homestyle BLT at a booth under a Wyeth print.



Hank’s Place

of her mother’s piano. Splashes of vibrant color reflect her sister’s work in theater and Guenevere’s passion for all the arts she’s bringing to the center.

Walk into the oasis after maneuvering a crazy world. Float out. “Sometimes,” she says, “all you need is an invitation to create, sing, paint or dance and be yourself.”

### HOWLERS AND GROWLERS

Another friend clued me in on her secret getaway — **Old Stone Cider** in Lewisville, near the Maryland border.

In the middle of a beautiful farm with orchards and evergreens, sit with your pup under a spectacular maple that’s turning yellow to enjoy a nip in the air. In November,

view the last apples in the orchard before final harvest and spot your Christmas tree to cut in a few weeks. Grab a bite from a food truck. While kids draw with chalk on the walkway or make their way through a slushie, sip cider — hard cider that is — crafted from heirloom apples grown there. Head into the rebuilt red Pennsylvania bank barn bordered by seasonal flowers tended by co-owner Evan’s mother and covered in fast-flying skippers and fritillary butterflies. Pick a table constructed from the old barn’s wood to relax with what’s on tap.

All on the premises, apples with white, pink or red flesh, with names like Hidden Rose and Winter Red Flesh, move from orchard to press, then to tanks for fermen-

tation and carbonation. Stored in kegs, the perfect cider ends up in your glass or a growler or howler (half a growler) jug to take home.

### WORTH ANOTHER TRIP

There’s no better time than now to return to a new old favorite. The same flowers and good cooking we loved at **Hank’s Place** in Chadds Ford are now in Kennett Square. At its Birch and Broad Streets location since last year, Hank’s is still a place where you can linger over all-day breakfast, lunchtime tasty Greek salads and gyros or a homestyle BLT at a booth under a Wyeth print.

Looking for great gifts as we head into shopping season or to find an old new





Japanese lunchbox cake Oso Sweet



Paleteria y Neveria Manantial

favorite? Pop into pop-up shops at Artful Gardens and Design and Old Stone Cider.

Close to Willowdale, **Artful Gardens and Design** sells purses of repurposed leather from Spain, table runners from Provence, RainCapers — waterproof capes with fine art designs of Van Gogh, Monet and others — and more.

Old Stone Cider in Lewisville also offers special gifts by beekeepers and blacksmiths in addition to their apples and cider.

### FOR MORE FUN

**OsoSweet Bakery Café** at the Chadds Ford Village & Barn Shops has desserts just right for autumn. Eat in or take away small, beautiful Japanese lunchbox cakes as wonderful to look at as they are to eat. The rich chocolate middle is covered in browned butter maple frosting and delicate icing flowers. Or dig into a parfait of chocolate cake and caramel, perfect with coffee.

Want a Mexican ice cream escape all year round? Head to **Paleteria y Neveria Manantial** in Avondale. One scoop of Oreo flavor at a summer festival in Kennett and I was hooked. So later I went exploring — geographically and culinarily — ending up at their shop. It was nearly impossible to choose from all the colorful, mouth-watering options, but my customized selection was a winner. The three-scoop waffle bowl held Oreo (one of their most popular flavors) that originally drew me in, pistachio and avocado topped with chocolate sauce, strawberries, a mound of whipped cream with sprinkles, and pink and yellow sugar cookies.

If there's room for nutrition after dessert, pick up the best burrito in town or a fabulous fully loaded taco salad — cilantro rice, corn, black beans, guacamole and sour cream and additional options including shrimp — from **Michoacana Grill** in Kennett Square. On a sunny day, eat outdoors under a red umbrella.

Not enough time for another mouthful of goodness, view of beauty or adventure to fill your sense of curiosity? Tomorrow's another opportunity. ♦

Visit [BrandywineValley.com](http://BrandywineValley.com), [KennettCollaborative.org](http://KennettCollaborative.org), [OxfordMainstreet.com](http://OxfordMainstreet.com).



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# Choosing a Senior Community

## in County Lines Country

### SO MANY OPTIONS

Edwin Malet



**Y**OU'VE MADE A CHOICE. FOR whatever reason — health, safety, lifestyle — you've decided to move to a senior community. But that's not the end of it. There are many more choices to make.

No need to buy a ticket to Florida, though. You should know that *County Lines* country is an excellent place to retire. For example, Caring.com, which considers health care, senior living and housing, transportation, quality of life and affordability, ranks Philadelphia 24th, Lancaster 7th and Wilmington 8th overall among cities nationally. Plus there are 25 independent living, 37 assisted living and 14 continuing care retirement communities ranked above 4.0 out of 5.0 within 12.5 miles of West Chester.

Still, there are many factors to consider. Here are some to help you in that process.

### HOW HEALTH MAY INFLUENCE CHOICES

Your health, both currently and in the future, may determine which type of community you should choose. Can you walk? Will you drive? Do you need to be near a particular doctor or hospital? Can you perform the general activities of daily life — cooking, vacuuming, laundry, taking out the garbage, changing a light bulb, shoveling the walk? Will you remember how to take care of yourself?

Your answers will help determine whether an Independent Living or Assisted Living community is a better fit. With Independent Living, you generally must perform the activities of daily living on your own. While with Assisted Living, you'll get help with these daily activities including bathing, dressing, laundry, medication management and the like.

### A WORD ON RELIGION

For some, religion may be a deciding factor in choosing a facility. For instance, **St. Martha's Villa** in Downingtown is a Catholic institution, while **Kutz Senior Living** in Wilmington celebrates Jewish traditions and values. **The Hickman** in

West Chester and the **Friends Home in Kennett** are both Quaker in background. All these communities accept residents of other faiths as well.

As you go west to Lancaster County, the communities become Christian in their orientation. **Landis Homes** strongly supports Sunday morning worship, prayer groups, Bible studies and Christian education. **Brethren Village**, **Luther Acres**, **Cornwall Manor** and **Garden Spot** also emphasize Christian activities and values. If you're not religious, or of a different religion, you should be aware of their orientation.

### LOCATION, LOCATION, LOCATION

Consider whether you'd prefer an urban, suburban or rural environment. Next, decide if you'd prefer to live in a studio, apartment or a spacious home. Also decide if you'd prefer to shop for yourself or dine on site three times a day. And you may love to swim, play pickleball, frequent the theater, work with wood tools or participate in other activities. You can have some, but not all, in every community.

### COMMUNITIES IN TOWN

There are several senior communities within walking distance of a town. For instance, The Hickman in West Chester is close to the downtown district. One resident there declares she "feels cared for every day in a loving and kind environment" and "especially enjoys the restaurant-style dining experience and the delicious, nutritious meals." Another feels "very connected to our lively and tight-knit community."

In Wilmington, only a few blocks from the Delaware River, Kutz Senior Living is another in-town choice, along with **Lodge Lane**, its Assisted Living facility, offering studios and apartments.

Similarly, the Friends Home in Kennett is at the edge of downtown Kennett Square.

### 55+ COMMUNITIES IN THE SUBURBS

**Hershey's Mill** is a 55+ community with an 18-hole golf course, tennis and

pickleball courts, biking, shuffleboard and, according to Director of Marketing Jack Keeley, "almost any other sport you can imagine." The community consists of 800 acres and over 1,700 homes in a gated community with 24/7 security.

For 55+ seniors, **Canvas Valley Forge** offers apartments and all King of Prussia has to offer. Allure Lifestyle Communities, which owns Canvas, says the location "can't be beat. Residents enjoy ... countless activities each day, from fitness classes to happy hours and everything in between, with all the shopping, dining and entertainment of [KOP] Town Center just steps from their front door."

**Honeycroft Village** by Cedar Knoll Builders is a 55+ community in Cochranville, about eight miles from West Grove, offering houses that can be over 4,300 square feet. There's a clubhouse, indoor pool and a fitness center.

### LIFE PLAN COMMUNITIES IN CHESTER AND DELAWARE COUNTIES

You may prefer a Life Plan community in Chester or Delaware County. They all have indoor pools, fitness centers, clubs and activities and are also within a 10-minute drive of town.

**Kendal-Crosslands** offers several communities located in the vicinity of Longwood Gardens and Kennett Square is committed to ensuring that the later years of life are filled with the potential for love, growth, friendship, peace, and dignity through services and communities that allow residents to thrive. Sitting on 500 acres, its amenities include tennis courts, miles of hiking trails and more. But there's a long waiting list — another factor to consider.

**Freedom Village** in Coatesville is all apartments, in a five-story building near the Brandywine YMCA. It features lifelong learning classes and lectures, trails, library, arts and crafts room, woodshop, putting green, movie theater and many clubs.

Sitting on 96 acres in Newtown Square, **White Horse Village** has five restaurants, a vibrant arts program, an auditorium,

gardens and outdoor courts of various kinds. Residents are especially friendly and enthusiastic, say residents John and Dianne Hirt. "We really have a community here, and that's a big deal with us. We like to be friendly and outgoing and work with people. This place does it all."

Also in Newtown Square, **Dunwoody Village** offers small apartments and homes of over 4,000 square feet, spread out over 83 acres only a few miles from the Main Line and Media. For entertainment, it has a putting green, pickleball courts and much more.

**The Mansion at Rosemont** has a 10-acre nature preserve, a performing arts center, a grand ballroom and more than 30 clubs. On the Main Line and about 2.5 miles from Bryn Mawr Hospital, it features studios, one- and two-bedroom apartments.

With apartments of up to three bedrooms, **Riddle Village** in Media is adjacent to Riddle Hospital. It has a town hall, woodshop, outdoor recreational courts, putting greens, koi pond and fire pit. Resident Steve Marrone says, "There's a strong sense of community, and the residents and staff are so friendly. It's located in a convenient part of Delaware County, and the hospital is next door."

Part of ACTS, **Lima Estates** and **Granite Farms** are southwest of Media. Lima consists of 54 acres of one- to three-bedroom apartments and has a clubhouse, library, restaurants and theater. Granite Farms has almost the same set of amenities and an assortment of one-bedroom apartments.

### GO WEST

Another option is the Life Plan Communities in Lancaster County, where most have pools and fitness centers.

On over 90 acres west of the thriving Lancaster City arts and cultural scene, **Homestead Village** has a therapy pool, pickleball court, library, crafters room, woodshop and walking trails. Christina Gallagher, Director of Marketing, describes Homestead Village as "casually elegant." From opportunities for wellness, volunteerism and continuing education, "being a



Luther Acres



Honeycroft Village



Freedom Village



White Horse Village



## Understanding The Terms

In this overview, we're taking some liberties. For example, we refer to Personal Care Homes and Assisted Living as essentially the same. Both types of facilities offer assistance with activities of daily life.

We also refer to Continuing Care Retirement Communities and Life Plan Communities as equivalent. There may be small differences, but not much.

Often, an Independent Living facility is denominated as a 55+ community, referring to minimum age of residents. The theory is that here you require no assistance with activities of daily life. This is often a first step in your continuum of care of a Life Plan Community.

At the other end of the care and housing spectrum, Skilled Nursing facilities provide a higher level of health-care. Similarly, Memory Care requires specialized care in units specifically designed for it. In general, we don't discuss these two types of facilities here.



The Mansion at Rosemont



Dunwoody Village



Riddle Village



Lima Estates



The cost for an Independent Living community ranges from about \$3,200 to \$8,000 per month.

resident at Homestead Village means you'll be supported in many ways."

In New Holland, Garden Spot offers homes and apartments up to three bedrooms. The community has its own greenhouse, theater, store, park, gardens and chapel. Resident Charlie Hunsaker found Garden Spot "met all our criteria: friends we knew and loved had already moved there, housing, a beautiful campus and a Christian community."

Several other Christian communities are located in Lititz. Landis Homes has a reputation for providing excellent care while also offering a wide variety of opportunities for residents to engage in an active lifestyle. The beautiful campus features woods, a wetland, many walking paths and is surrounded by farmland yet is close to many conveniences.

Luther Acres resident Ruth Lohmeyer was moved when visiting "dear, older friends. Seeing their enjoyment and the care they received convinced me that Luther Acres — and Lititz — would be a wonderful place to live during my retirement years." Luther Acres has horticultural, wellness and healthcare centers, as well as a woodshop, theater and two libraries.

Also in Lancaster County, Brethren Village has an arts room, gardens, library, model train club, and woodwork and craft shop.

Beyond Lancaster County, near Hershey, is Cornwall Manor, consisting of two nearby campuses of 85 and 105 acres, with apartments and homes up to three bedrooms. It also has greenhouses, a library, and recreational and craft rooms. Jennifer Margut, VP for Marketing and Public Relations, says, "If a natural, mature wooded setting with walking trails, excellent services and amenities, maintenance-free living, a variety of residential living options, sound financial management, close proximity to educational and cultural opportunities, and first-class medical facilities are on your 'must have' list ... you will discover [Cornwall is] a unique and charming place to live."

### FINALLY, COST

The cost to live at one of these senior communities will be a significant, possibly determinative, factor. Often a down payment or entry fee is required. To that, you'll have to add the monthly costs. Insurance may play a role, but for most, plan on consulting a financial advisor.

FamilyAssets.com provides a tool to allow you to compare monthly costs of different facilities. Basically, though, the cost for an Independent Living community ranges from about \$3,200 to \$8,000 per month. For a Personal Care Home, add \$600 to \$2,000 per month to that.

While this is a substantial investment, remember the costs of your housing, health care, sports and entertainment, meals and other costs add up. But for many, that's offset by convenience and security. And the company you keep and the friends you make, which can't be measured in dollars. ♦

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
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# 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 Cochranville

**Honeycroft Village**  
484-643-3078; [CedarKnollBuilders.com](http://CedarKnollBuilders.com)  
see our ad on page 56

Honeycroft Village is a 55+ lock-and-leave, active-lifestyle community located in the bucolic countryside of southern Chester County. Featuring 60 acres of open space, convenient sidewalks and beautiful street lighting, residents enjoy a state-of-the-art clubhouse, fitness center, heated indoor pool and spa, lawn care and snow removal.

Honeycroft Village has everything you need to start making your dreams a reality.

**Exton**  
**Meridian at Eagleview**  
484-873-8110; [MeridianEagleview.com](http://MeridianEagleview.com)

**Glen Mills**  
**Ivy Creek**  
610-981-2740; [SeniorLivingInStyle.com](http://SeniorLivingInStyle.com)

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

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Fort Washington Estates | Granite Farms Estates | Gwynedd Estates | Lima Estates  
Normandy Farms Estates | Southampton Estates | Spring House Estates





# See The Difference

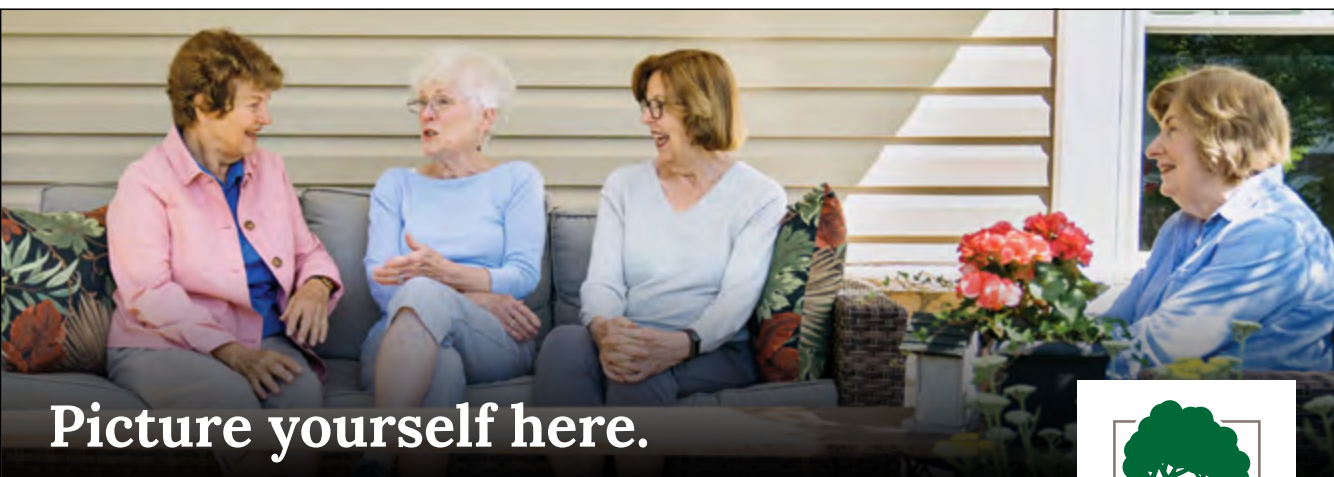
## Discover life's possibilities at Freedom Village at Brandywine.

Live well, dine in style, and connect with friends in our vibrant community. Enjoy an inclusive culture where you're welcomed like family, and explore the freedom of a maintenance-free lifestyle and remarkable amenities in charming Chester County. Plus, with smart Life Care options and award-winning health services, retirement has never been so secure and worry-free.

**What will your retirement look like at Freedom Village at Brandywine?**

**Call 484-288-2200 and find out.**

FVBrandywine.com | 15 Freedom Blvd., | West Brandywine, PA 19320



## Picture yourself here.

Discover vibrant senior living with first-class amenities in a beautifully scenic setting. Come see for yourself!

**Act now to secure 2023 rates! Call to learn more.**  
**(610) 546-2852**

**WhiteHorseVillage.org**

535 Gradyville Road | Newtown Square, PA

Independent Living | Personal Care | Skilled Nursing | Memory Support



### 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 53

"Harrison Hill is more than a community; it's a neighborhood!" 55+ Independent Residents enjoy Monday Mingle, holiday festivities, chili fests, ice cream socials, bar-

becues and more! Harrison Hill's 5 stories offer 114 apartment homes comprised of one bedroom and one bedroom with dens, all with walk-in showers.

**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)

#### Cornwall

**Cornwall Manor**

717-274-8092; [CornwallManor.org](http://CornwallManor.org)

see our ad on page 54

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)

#### 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)

**Kendal-Crosslands Communities**

844-907-1800; [KCC.Kendal.org](http://KCC.Kendal.org)

see our ad on page 52

Located adjacent to Longwood Gardens on an over 500-acre accredited arboretum campus, the community provides two LifePlan Communities and two 50+ neighborhoods with customizable cottages and apartments. Amenities include indoor and outdoor pools, art studios, outdoor gardens and indoor hydroponic lab, hiking trails, dog park, tennis courts, pickleball, 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**

484-390-5307

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





©2023 KENDAL

## Walk the walk...

Rooted in Quaker values with an engaging spirit of community, our 500-acre campus is the perfect setting for fulfilling connections, relaxing diversions and interesting discoveries. If you're looking for a community of friends that will help you thrive, you'll find it here. We foster an environment that promotes mutual respect, equity, collaboration and growth.

**Call 610.388.1441 or visit**  
<https://info.kcc.kendal.org/countyline>

**KENDAL~CROSSLANDS**  
*Communities*

*Together, transforming the experience of aging.®*



Scan QR code using your smart phone to learn more.

Adjacent to Longwood Gardens!



Not-for-Profit Life Plan Communities Serving Older Adults in the Quaker Tradition

### Lancaster

#### Homestead Village

717-397-4831; [DiscoverFarmstead.org](http://DiscoverFarmstead.org)

see our ad on page 47

Situated on 90 beautiful, tree-lined acres, Homestead Village has a charming small-neighborhood feel and is just minutes from the vibrant 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. New Luxury Apartments at The Townstead, now available to reserve, coming in 2024.

### Willow Valley Communities

717-464-6800

[WillowValleyCommunities.org](http://WillowValleyCommunities.org)

### Lansdale

#### Meadowood Senior Living

484-998-4444; [Meadowood.net](http://Meadowood.net)

### Malvern

#### Echo Lake

484-568-4777

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

### 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 58

Riddle Village is a Life Care 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

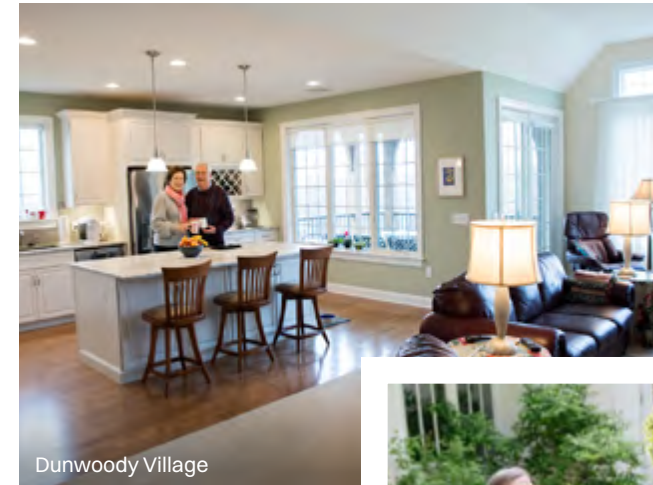
#### Acts Retirement—Life Communities

888-521-3651

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

see our ad on page 48

For over 50 years, Acts Retirement—Life Communities have offered the residents



Dunwoody Village



The Hickman



White Horse Village



## HARRISON HILL

55+ RENTAL COMMUNITY



## CHESTER COUNTY'S AFFORDABLE, LUXURY RENTAL COMMUNITY FOR ADULTS OVER 55

- Open Floor Plans for 1BR Apts & 1BRs with Dens
- Kitchens w/ Granite & Cherry Cabinets
- Washer Dryer & Walk-In Showers in every Unit.
- Fitness Center, Media Room & Social Areas on every floor.
- Peace of Mind, Secure, Cost Effective, Independent Senior Living
- Social Community of Residents

1015 Andrew Drive  
 West Chester, PA 19380  
 610.430.6900

Mon–Fri 9AM–4PM  
 Sat & Sun 10AM–4PM

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



# Retire to the country... ...and leave the traffic behind!



## Cornwall Manor is an active senior community situated on 190 beautiful wooded acres

- Many lifestyle options, including apartments and homes
- Lower cost of living – variety of fee options and we'll even help towards your moving expense!
- A full spectrum of amenities, services, continuum of health care and organic farm available on site
- Single-site non-profit community with \$32 million benevolent care fund



**Discover Cornwall Manor - The new nature of senior living!**  
717-274-8092 ☎ [cornwallmanor.org](http://cornwallmanor.org) ☎ Cornwall, PA  
**Easy drive from Philadelphia; located just off the Pennsylvania Turnpike**



the opportunity to celebrate the good life on campuses buzzing with activity and rich with amenities. And with maintenance-free living and Acts Life Care, residents enjoy a lifestyle that allows them to enjoy the things they love most without the worry.

### Luthercare

*Luther Acres, Lititz  
St. John's Herr Estate, Columbia  
Spang Crest, Lebanon  
717-626-8376; [Luthercare.org](http://Luthercare.org)*

see our ad on page 43

Experience Luthercare, offering not-for-profit Continuing Care Retirement Communities in southcentral PA, and discover beautiful maintenance-free apartments and cottages, fantastic amenities and programs and peace of mind for tomorrow. Here, residents have time to do what they love and take comfort in knowing a network of services is available.

### Newtown Square

#### Dunwoody Village

610-359-4400  
[Dunwoody.org](http://Dunwoody.org)

see our ad on page 56

Located on 83 picturesque acres in a suburban setting, Dunwoody Village is a Life Care community that offers its residents Independent Living, Personal Care, Skilled Nursing and Memory Support, as well as Rehabilitation and Home Care to both residents and the outside community. Call to schedule a tour of their expanded and newly renovated Community Building and join their waiting list.

#### White Horse Village

610-558-5000  
[WhiteHorseVillage.org](http://WhiteHorseVillage.org)

see our ad on page 50

White Horse Village is a friendly and vibrant senior living community situated on 96 picturesque acres neighboring a state park. First-class amenities include a tavern, dining venues, fitness center, pool/spa, bocce, art studio, woodshop, hiking trails, library, gardening, shuffleboard and more. Their exceptional programs, cultural events, delicious food and spacious residences cater to a range of lifestyles.



Honeycroft Village



Homestead Village

## It's Your Playground. Bring it to Life.

Here at the Main Line's premier boutique Life Plan Community, residents are empowered to shape a future of their own design. We offer open spaces to explore, places to go, room to grow and discover, and an ever-widening landscape of cultural and social programs to catch. We invite you to call today to schedule a visit.

## The Mansion at Rosemont

a human g d community



WELCOME TO  
LIFE PLAN COMMUNITY LIVING  
(610) 632-5835 | [TheMansionAtRosemont.org](http://TheMansionAtRosemont.org)

INDEPENDENT LIVING | PERSONAL CARE | MEMORY SUPPORT





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 fitness class. There's always something interesting to do at Dunwoody Village. Contact us today to find out more.



**A Continuing Care Retirement Community**

★★★★★  
Five-Star Rated Healthcare

Paw Pet Friendly



I'm ready... *for fun!*



**(610) 359-4400 | [www.dunwoody.org](http://www.dunwoody.org)**

3500 West Chester Pike • Newtown Square, PA 19073-4168

Independent Living • Rehabilitation • Personal Care • Skilled Nursing • Memory Support • Home Care



Honeycroft Village Community, an Active 55+ Lifestyle Community is low maintenance so you can enjoy all the best things in life. Residents enjoy resort-style amenities with included lawncare and snow removal, a state-of-the-art Clubhouse with pool and fitness center, bocce ball courts, community gardens and outdoor gathering area. Enjoy what matters most in your life by getting back the time to live more intentionally at Honeycroft Village.

**484-643-3078**

101 Honeycroft Boulevard Cochranville, Pa 19330

*Honeycroft Village Community, your time well spent.* • [www.cedarknollbuilders.com](http://www.cedarknollbuilders.com)



## Paoli

### Daylesford Crossing

610-640-4000; [DaylesfordCrossing.com](http://DaylesfordCrossing.com)  
[SageLife.com](http://SageLife.com)

## Phoenixville

### Spring Mill Senior Living

610-933-7675; [SpringMillSeniorLiving.com](http://SpringMillSeniorLiving.com)

## Rosemont

### The Mansion at Rosemont

610-632-5835

[TheMansionAtRosemont.org](http://TheMansionAtRosemont.org)

see our ad on page 55

The Mansion at Rosemont is a premier boutique Life Plan Community set amid the lush grounds of the historic Beaupre Estate in the heart of the Main Line. Boasting unmatched architectural beauty in addition to newly renovated apartment homes and cottages, the only thing more beautiful than the community itself is the warmth of the people who call it home.

## West Brandywine

### Freedom Village at Brandywine

484-288-2200; [FVBrandywine.com](http://FVBrandywine.com)

see our ad on page 50

Life is good here ... The best retirement is when you have more time to do what you want, with an abundance of choices for dining, socializing, fitness and fun. At Freedom Village at Brandywine, you can enjoy a carefree, maintenance-free lifestyle where you're welcomed like family. Their Life Care plan gives you access to a full continuum of care if you ever need it. Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, Skilled Nursing and Rehab. Visit them today.

## West Chester

### Barclay Friends

610-696-5211; [BFKendal.org](http://BFKendal.org)

### The Hickman Friends

**Senior Community of West Chester**

484-760-6300; [TheHickman.org](http://TheHickman.org)

see our ad on page 58

The Hickman is a nonprofit senior living community in beautiful West Chester.



The Mansion at Rosemont



Freedom Village at Brandywine



Riddle Village



# A LIFESTYLE You've Waited For!

You spent a lifetime doing it all to get where you are today. Now it's time to think about your future. Riddle Village may be the perfect fit for your next chapter in life.

**Give us 60 days; we give you the future!**

Reach out today to learn more about our apartment renovation program and how we can have you living your best life in just 60 days.

*Riddle Village*

[RiddleVillage.org](https://www.RiddleVillage.org) | (610) 891-3700 | 1048 West Baltimore Pike, Media, PA 19063

**The Hickman Award-Winning Care**

Non-Profit • Quaker Values • Over 130 Years

[thehickman.org](https://thehickman.org) | 484-546-7101

ARTFUL HOME & EPICURE

# ADORN

GOODS

*for all your perfect gifts and fine food*

5712 KENNETT PIKE CENTREVILLE, DE (302) 575 9657

Guided by Quaker traditions since 1891, The Hickman provides individualized care and assistance to older individuals in a vibrant living community. The Hickman is a short distance from award-winning health systems, restaurants, theaters and specialty boutiques. When You're Here, You're Home.

### Wellington at Hershey's Mill

484-653-1200

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

### Wyomissing

### The Highlands at Wyomissing

610-775-2300; [TheHighlands.org](https://TheHighlands.org).

## DELAWARE

### Newark

### Millcroft Senior Living

302-366-0160; [FiveStarSeniorLiving.com](https://FiveStarSeniorLiving.com)

### Rehoboth

### The Lodge at Truitt Homestead

302-727-0936; [TruittLodge.com](https://TruittLodge.com)

### Wilmington

### Forwood Manor

302-529-1600; [ForwoodManorDE.com](https://ForwoodManorDE.com)

### Foulk Manor North

302-478-4296; [FoulkManorNorth.com](https://FoulkManorNorth.com)

### Foulk Manor South

302-655-6249; [FoulkManorSouth.com](https://FoulkManorSouth.com)

### Shipley Manor

302-477-8813; [FiveStarSeniorLiving.com](https://FiveStarSeniorLiving.com)

### Somerford House Assisted Living

302-266-9255

[SomerfordHouseNewark.com](https://SomerfordHouseNewark.com) ♦

Please visit our online Guide at  
[CountyLinesMagazine.com](https://CountyLinesMagazine.com)



Acts Retirement-Life Communities



LutherCare



Cornwall Manor





# Snag a Spot

## on Santa's Nice List

### SHOP SMALL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

Erin McGinniss

**R**ING A LING, HEAR THEM RING! SILVER BELLS are telling you it's Christmas time in our towns. Yes, the holiday season is chugging towards us like the Polar Express on Christmas Eve, and it's time to consider how good you've been this year. Did you recycle religiously? Were you focused, or on Facebook, during business Zooms? How about those New Year's resolutions you made way back in January?

Regardless of your answers, there's one sure way to guarantee yourself a spot on Santa's "nice" list this year ... shop small!

It's time to ditch the competitive, elbow-throwing, mall-madness ways of Black Friday and switch to a simpler, do-good and feel-good approach to holiday shopping. Small Business Saturday on November 25 is the perfect way to begin. You may remember that no less than American Express created Small Business Saturday back

in 2010 during the Great Recession to bring more buzz to small businesses. It was wildly successful, making this the 13th annual nationwide celebration! And then there was the "Buy local or bye-bye local" refrain a few years back that still holds true.

#### WHY SHOP SMALL?

So, why shop small? What difference does it make, wandering downtown through the warmly lit, red and green garland-festooned streets instead of the starkly lit aisles of Target?

For starters, shopping small gets you — and your community — more year-round bang for your holiday buck. When you buy from a small business, you walk away with more than a unique treasure. You also reduce carbon emissions, create job opportunities and build a stronger community.



Step inside a small shop for a one-of-a-kind, handcrafted gift to put under the tree. As you tap your card across from the smiling face at the counter, think about where the sales tax is going, and smile back. Small businesses' tax revenue stays within the local economy, supporting public schools, service workers and so much more. Wouldn't you rather support the families of your community than a distant billionaire?

Mom-and-pop shops add charm and economic roots to a town that national corporations simply don't. Save yourself the time and trouble of online orders and returns on gifts that are not quite what you thought (despite reading 42 5-star reviews), and get exactly what you can see and touch at a chic boutique nearby. Along with free gift wrapping and no headaches from delayed deliveries or porch pirates.

#### THE REASON FOR THE SEASON

Still not convinced? Why *stroll* when you can *scroll* from the comfort of your blue-lit laptop, you ask? Why brave the winter cold when a worldwide marketplace lies just beneath your fingertips?

Though shopping online may seem easy, getting out and about is the best way to feel the warmth of the season. In-person holiday shopping is a more memorable and

enjoyable experience — a gift to yourself — compared to yet another scroll and a click.

So this year, vow to bundle up, head to town and let the local shopping commence! Smile at passersby, start that conversation with the shop clerk and maybe even treat yourself to hot cocoa from a locally owned coffee shop. You're sure to feel the holiday magic in no time.

#### TAKING TO TOWN

Not sure where to begin? At the end of November, head to Downtown West Chester where Small Business Saturday is a weekend-long event. Yes, you read that right. From Friday, November 24, through Sunday, the 26th, enjoy free parking, reusable bags, special events and giveaways, plus a window decorating contest where you choose the winner. John O'Brien, Executive Director of the Business Improvement District, says, "This is the most important weekend for our retail community. If you want to support local small businesses, this is the weekend for you!"



Christmas tree in West Chester

'Tis the season to dust off your ugliest sweater and sew your heart onto its sleeve, but it doesn't have to end there. After you check off the final gifts from your list, indulge in the delights of an independently owned restaurant, grab some friends to watch a local light show or parade, and drop a dollar to that guitarist strumming on the sidewalk.

Then, add "shopping small" to your list of New Year's resolutions, and feel the difference a good deed can make all year long. ♦



## CHESTER COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Nonprofits that make a difference, *now & forever*



28 W. Market St., West Chester, PA 19382 | 610.696.8211 | chescocf.org



Join us... AS WE KICK OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON & CONTINUE ALL THROUGH DECEMBER.

# Holiday OPEN HOUSE



Starting  
**NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

**SPECIAL WEEKEND HOURS:**  
**November 4 & 5, 11 & 12**  
Saturday 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Sunday 12 - 4 p.m.

Our store will be filled with holiday home décor, floral designs, wreaths, ornaments, reindeer, Santas, candles & more!

*Featuring...* Door Prizes & Specials

Beautiful themes & colors displayed on 5 fireplaces & 8 trees!



Mon. - Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
[www.HeritageDesignInteriors.com](http://www.HeritageDesignInteriors.com)



Stop in or call  
for an appointment:  
**717-354-2233**

**1064 East Main St. (Rt. 23) | New Holland, PA**  
Located one block west of the intersection of Routes 23 & 322 in the town of Blue Ball.



## West Chester Glows with Thousands of Lights

### CHRISTMAS PARADE & HOLIDAY WEEKENDS IN WEST CHESTER

WHEN NEIGHBORS FROM ACROSS THE area returned for West Chester's Hometown Christmas Parade last year, kicking off a month of festivities during "Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester," it was like Christmas came early — and it did.

"There was so much anticipation, it really did feel like we were all kids again on Christmas Eve. From children to adults, everyone was giddy to be together, and this year's festivities will inspire even more families to capture the true holiday spirit," said Katie Walker, President of the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber has been working on organizing this year's parade and festivities since last winter.

Want to extend that Christmas Eve feeling? Then head to West Chester every weekend from Thanksgiving through New Year's for more lights and sparkling decorations than ever. You'll also find the Making Spirits Bright Holiday Music Series, a Gingerbread House Competition, Christkindlmarkt, free photos with Santa and more.



#### Celebrate in West Chester

**Nov. 24-Jan. 2:** Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester — Six weekends of holiday festivities with thousands of twinkling lights, the Making Spirits Bright Holiday Music Series, Gingerbread House Competition, Christkindlmarkt, free photos with Santa and more.

**Dec. 1:** Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m.;  
West Chester Christmas Parade at 7 p.m.

Details at [GWCC.org](http://GWCC.org).

The West Chester Tree Lighting is December 1st at 6:30 p.m. with performances on the lawn of the Historic Courthouse, alongside the stunning 25-foot-tall decorated tree. Then at 7 p.m., West Chester's Hometown Christmas Parade begins with dozens of marching bands, cheer squads and dance teams, culminating with Santa on his custom-made float. Gabc meteorologist Adam Joseph returns as emcee, joined by WMMR radio host Kathy Romano of *The Preston & Steve Show*.

This year's festivities are supported by more than 50 area sponsors. "We're thrilled to be the title sponsor for a third year in a row and plan to continue to support our community and local businesses for years to come," said Michael J. Duncan, President & CEO, Chester County Hospital. "We look forward to celebrating the holiday season with our friends, families and neighbors, as we welcome visitors to beautiful downtown West Chester."

Light up your holidays with a visit to West Chester this season. ♦

~ Kristen Stewart





1.



2.



6.



3.



4.



7.



5.



8.

# HOLIDAY Gift Guide

## 1. Holiday Sparkle

Emerald cut morganite and violet sapphire ring set in 20k rose gold by SUNA Bros. Designed and made in NYC.  
Walter J. Cook Jeweler, Paoli  
[ad on page 8](#)

## 2. Unique Holiday Gifts

Shop for one-of-a-kind artisan gifts: basketry, ceramics, fiber, furniture, glass, jewelry, painting, paper craft, photography, sculpture, wood and more!  
Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show, November 11 & 12, 10 to 5  
Haverford Guild of Craftsmen, Haverford  
[ad on page 22](#)

## 3. Mini Poinsettias

Liven up your gift list with holiday greenery from local plant experts.  
Mostardi Nursery, Newtown Square  
[ad on page 23](#)

## 4. Holiday Home Decor

Floral designs, wreaths, ornaments and more to decorate every room and mantel.  
Holiday Open House, begins Nov. 2 and runs through December.  
Special weekend hours Nov. 4 & 5, 11 & 12  
Sat., 10 to 5; Sun, noon to 4  
Heritage Design Interiors, New Holland  
[ad on page 62](#)

## 5. Portmeirion's Botantic Garden

A whimsical assortment of floral designs is a thoughtful addition to your table setting. A true British classic!  
"dish"functional, Malvern  
[ad on page 37](#)

## 6. For Artful Homes & Epicures

Fine holiday linens from Le Jacquard Français.  
Open House, November 25  
Adorn Goods, Centreville  
[ad on page 58](#)

## 7. Holiday Wreaths

Shop Matlack for unique gifts, greenhouse treasures and floral designs for every occasion.  
Holiday Preview, November 17 & 18  
Matlack Florist, West Chester  
[ad on page 66](#)

## 8. Gifts of Nature & Science

Shop the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science Museum Store for nature and science-inspired books, toys, activity kits, home decor, jewelry and more. Or, give the gift of membership.  
Delaware Museum of Nature & Science  
[ad on page 66](#)



GIFTS, GREENHOUSE,  
AND FLORAL DESIGN  
IN THE HEART OF CHESTER COUNTY

Join us for our  
Holiday Preview!  
November 17th & 18th

MATLACKFLORIST.COM

Delaware Museum  
of Nature & Science

Give the  
gift of Discovery

This holiday season, give the gift of membership  
to the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science

- ✓ Year-round free admission to the museum
- ✓ Free admission to reciprocal museums and science centers across the U.S.
- ✓ Discounts on camps, events, and store purchases

In November and December, save 10% on  
purchases of gift memberships. (Level 2 and up).

[delmns.org/membership](http://delmns.org/membership)

4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807  
[delmns.org](http://delmns.org) | 302-658-9111

# Pairings for Thanksgiving

For the Beer Fan

<b>Appetizer</b> Choose a light beer with a clean finish, nothing too hoppy or heavy	<b>Kolsch</b> Germany's favorite session ale	<b>Radler</b> Light lager with grapefruit	<b>Wit Beer</b> Bright with notes of coriander & orange peel
<b>1st Course</b> Choose Belgian-style beers with fruity, spicy notes that pair well with salads and veggies; cuts into bitterness	<b>Blonde ale</b> Candy sugars & spices galore	<b>Fruit lambic</b> Dry, low ABV flavor explosions	<b>Geuze</b> Blends of aged & young lambic
<b>2nd Course</b> Choose lagers or something with heft	<b>Altbier</b> Crisp, flavorful & dry	<b>Dunkel</b> Balanced hops & malt sweetness	<b>West Coast IPA</b> Hop forward with a malt backbone
<b>Dessert</b> Choose sweet, dark or malted beers	<b>Oatmeal Stout</b> Grainy, silky, full mouthfeel	<b>Rauchbier</b> Smoky wheat malts & ever-changing character	<b>Kellerbier*</b> Unfiltered lager

\*Note: This is a personal favorite option for any course, any day.  
Recommendations from James Mullally, co-owner of Bierhaul, Thornton

10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL  
Cutest Pet  
Photo Contest!

Congratulations to our winner:

**WHISKEY!**

We would like to thank all the adorable animals that participated. And a special thank you to **Concord Pet Foods & Supplies** for contributing the prize!

KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR OUR  
NEXT PHOTO CONTEST

☆☆ COMING SOON ☆☆

COUNTY LINES  
MAGAZINE

FOR THE

**WINE CONNOISSEUR**

<b>APPETIZER</b> Cheese, crackers, cured meats	<b>1<sup>ST</sup> COURSE</b> Soups, salads, vegetables	<b>2<sup>ND</sup> COURSE</b> Turkey, ham, dark meats	<b>DESSERT</b> Cheesecake, apple pie, pecan pie
<b>SPARKLING</b> A brut-style wine pairs with fried or fatty appetizers.	<b>PINOT GRIGIO</b> The dry, fruity citrus flavors match with salads.	<b>CHARDONNAY</b> Rich, full-bodied and oak-aged flavors match earthy dishes.	<b>RIESLING</b> Ranging from dry to sweet, pair it with fruit-focused desserts.
<b>MOSCATO</b> Sweet with a fizz, the bubbles cleanse the palate.	<b>SAUVIGNON BLANC</b> Citrus, melon and grassy notes pair well with lighter first course dishes or greens.	<b>ROSÉ</b> Dry or sweet, its fruitiness complements and doesn't overpower rich, savory holiday foods.	<b>TAWNY PORT</b> Rich nuttiness that matches pecan, almond or hazelnut desserts.
<b>VINHO VERDE</b> Effervescent, crisp and light notes match salty foods.	<b>GEWÜRZTRAMINER</b> Dry or sweet, floral, spice and apricot aromas pair with rich soups or sweet potatoes.	<b>ZINFANDEL</b> Rich, fruit-forward notes match well-seasoned meats.	<b>LATE HARVEST</b> Very sweet and pairs well with confectionary desserts.

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

**Borough Buzz.** Known for his beloved pizza, Speer Madanat takes on another cheesy quest by opening **Steaks West Chester** (Peter Clark's former spot). Dream about delish cheesesteaks on La Baguette Magique bread. Head downtown for a West Coast wine experience at **Turks Head Wines**, opening soon. The Bottle Shoppe will feature a curated selection of handcrafted California wines. Book a private tasting or take a class. 698 E. Market St. @SteaksWestChester. 120 N. Church St. @TurksHeadWines.



**Sip Sustainably.** Practicing peace, love and coffee, Media's new **Cafesphere** is brewing! Baristas serve up locally roasted Ox coffee, matcha, chai and their Polish specialty, raspberry herbata tea, all in eco-friendly cups. Settle into a cozy nook by the fireplace and enjoy the naturally lit space decorated with work by local artists. Then, try the Nutella and banana baguette, Margherita croissant or sip hibiscus sangria from their cocktail menu. 25 E. State St., Media. [Cafesphere.Cafe](http://Cafesphere.Cafe).



**Refrigerator Refresh.** Is your fridge running? Maybe it's searching for a hot shower! When was the last time you showed it some TLC? Luckily, **Clean Out Your Refrigerator Day** is right around the corner, just in time for the holidays. On November 15, toss the takeout from two weeks ago and make room for your mom's homemade mashed potatoes and the Thanksgiving leftovers to come. You won't regret the refreshing feeling of a clean fridge.

**Canned Cocktails.** Coming soon to Kennett Square — the first ever brick-and-mortar **Top Dog Spirits Distillery**. Pennsylvania-based and affiliated with Boardroom Spirits, Top Dog currently distributes four flavors including Whiskey



Lemonade and Blood Orange Margarita. In the 2,500-square-foot distillery, the brand will sell retail and experiment with new flavors. Next year, the space will transform into a tasting room where customers can socialize, eat and try new products. 110 E. State St., Kennett Square. @TopDogCocktails.

**Giving Gobbles.** The recently expanded **West Chester Food Cupboard** is prepping for Thanksgiving, and you can help! Bake another pie, buy an extra can of corn or put that free supermarket turkey to better use by donating to those in need. Donations can be dropped off early and stored in onsite fridges and freezers. For pickups, check the website for hours and arrive before Thanksgiving Day. 431 S. Bolmar St., West Chester. [WestChesterFoodCupboard.org](http://WestChesterFoodCupboard.org).





# Field to Feast with Toad Stop Farm

## CONVENTIONAL AND NON- CONVENTIONAL INSPIRATION FOR YOUR THANKSGIVING TABLE

Courtney H. Diener-Stokes



Becky Brett, owner of Toad Stop Farm

THE FIRST TIME BECKY BRETT SPOTTED A TOAD when tending to the fields at her new farm, she was ecstatic. Just the idea of them wanting to spend time there was the inspiration behind the farm's name: **Toad Stop Farm**. "Having that biodiversity is so important, and it's amazing to have a place where toads and other critters want to hang out," she says.

Brett highly values her relationship with the land. "You're trying to manage nature to some degree, so it's good to be a part of that natural cycle as much as you can," she says. That cycle includes being in sync with the seasons. Fall is a time when she looks forward to a lack of humidity and cooler weather as her body begins shifting to a welcome change of pace. "The days are getting shorter and there's not much time to have to work after going strong all summer."

It was October of last year when Brett set out on her own to farm land in Chester County after working with a local CSA (community supported agriculture) for seven years. She saw an increased demand for CSAs and seized the opportunity to branch out.



Sankanac CSA at Camphill Village Kimberton Hills is just one that had a waiting list. "I refer those families [we can't accommodate] to farms like Becky's, Knee High Farm and Kimberton CSA," says Erin Throop, Sankanac's farm manager.

Brett's CSA members receive their shares through the beginning of November, when they're greeted with a hefty array of fall goodies, from butternut squash to radishes and Napa cabbage to arugula.

Her three dogs, Toby, Molly and Lila, are regular fixtures at the farm, along with her husband, Colin, who's usually put to work when he visits after working as a chef at Kimberton Whole Foods.

Thanksgiving for the Brett family usually bypasses the traditional route and often centers on a theme stemming from a recent place of travel among extended family. "We've done Greek and Italian," Becky says.

For Throop of Sankanac, she'll be having more traditional Thanksgiving fare with family at the Village. Her husband, Dylan, has a tradition of making cranberry relish, and their son usually pitches in to help grind it up.

Now Throop's sights are focused on season-end projects, such as planting garlic and mulching strawberries, along with putting a majority of the land to rest by planting cover crops. "It gives a nice closure when we can thank the soil for everything it's given us and then begin planning the next season," Throop says.

Read on to get inspired by some traditional and unexpected twists on recipes as you contemplate your menu for Thanksgiving.



Becky's husband, Colin, and their three rescues

### Scalloped Sweet Potatoes

While Becky Brett grows most of the food that's featured in their dishes at home, she credits her husband, Colin, as the culinary mastermind in their kitchen. Colin has a love of sweet potatoes that compelled him to use them in a traditional scalloped potato recipe. The Gruyère cream sauce tones down the natural sweetness of the potatoes. Pairs perfectly with turkey at your holiday table.

Serves 6 to 8



5 lbs. garnet sweet potatoes, sliced 1/8-inch rounds (leave skins on)  
3 1/2 C. heavy cream  
1/4 C. maple syrup  
1 1/2 tsp. Himalayan pink salt  
1 tsp. thyme  
1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
1/2 tsp. nutmeg  
2 C. Gruyère cheese, grated

In a large stockpot, cover sweet potatoes and bring to a boil. Cook until barely tender when pierced with a fork.

Drain potatoes in a strainer, handling gently.

Preheat the oven to 375°. In a saucepan, heat cream, syrup, salt, thyme, cinnamon and nutmeg until it just begins to boil. Add cheese and turn down heat, cooking until melted.

Cover the bottom of a greased 9"x13" pan with the potato slices and pour cream mixture evenly over potatoes. Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Bake for another 10 to 15 minutes uncovered, until the top begins to brown.

Refrigerate leftovers in a sealed container for up to three days.

### What's in a Fall Share?

Despite owning and operating her own small-scale farm for just over a year, Becky Brett has been farming since 2015. It's important for Brett to grow high quality produce that's not only good for the community, but also for wild-life, pollinators and the environment.

Brett's CSA members receive a weekly share of six to 10 fresh vegetables for 23 weeks. In the fall season, members can expect such bounty from the farm as broccoli, cabbage, carrots, beets, kale, Swiss chard, bok choy, tatsoi (similar to bok choy), kohlrabi, winter squash, radishes, spinach, head lettuce, salad mix, turnips, garlic, onions and culinary herbs. In addition to offering CSA shares, Toad Stop wholesales to Kimberton Whole Foods, Red Dog Market and Vesta Kitchen.

To learn more visit [ToadStopFarm.com](http://ToadStopFarm.com).

### An Intentional Community in Kimberton

Camphill Village Kimberton Hills is a dynamic farming, gardening and handcrafting intentional community that includes over 40 adults with developmental disabilities. Over 100 Kimberton Hills residents, living and working side by side, create a caring community for people of all ages and varied abilities.

The nonprofit organization is located in Kimberton, Chester County, on a 432-acre estate. Sankanac CSA is among the vocational opportunities for Camphill residents.

To learn more about Sankanac CSA visit [CamphillKimberton.org/Sankanac-CSA](http://CamphillKimberton.org/Sankanac-CSA).

### Swiss Chard Dip

This is Becky's take on her mom's signature spinach dip that she's made as an appetizer for a Thanksgiving meal. Based on what she has on hand, Becky likes to switch up the spinach for Swiss chard. If you prefer the traditional route to this crowd-favorite dip, spinach is particularly sweet this





time of year after being exposed to its first light frost. You can choose dairy alternatives to make this vegan. After cooking, garnish with a sprinkle of chopped flat-leaf parsley to add color. Can be served warm or cold. Pairs well with sliced raw vegetables or crackers.

Serves 4 to 6  
8-oz. container plain yogurt from Seven Stars Farm  
8-oz. container sour cream  
8-oz. block of cream cheese, softened  
1½ C. shredded cheddar cheese, divided  
1 large bunch of Swiss chard (or fresh spinach), rinsed, stems removed, chopped or torn into small pieces.

Preheat oven to 350°. Spray a 1-quart dish with nonstick cooking spray and set aside.  
In a large bowl, add yogurt, sour cream, cream cheese and ½ cup cheddar cheese. Stir to combine.  
Add chopped greens and stir to thoroughly combine.  
Spread the mixture evenly in a prepared 1-quart baking dish and sprinkle one cup of cheddar cheese on top.  
Bake for 20 minutes or until the dip is bubbly and the cheese is melted. Broil for an additional two to three minutes until the cheese begins to brown.  
Refrigerate leftovers in a sealed container for up to two days.

No-Cook Cranberry Relish

Erin Throop and her husband, Dylan Babitch, residents of Camphill Village Kimberton Hills, usually make a cranberry relish to take to their family gathering on Thanksgiving. The relish, that's chunky in texture and is the perfect combination of tart and sweet, pairs perfectly with turkey. Leaving the peel on the orange adds lots of flavor to this colorful relish that will liven up any plate's presentation. Erin credits the recipe and tradition of making the relish to Dylan, who uses a meat grinder to chop everything up, but you can use a food processor instead.

Serves 6 to 8



12-oz. bag of fresh cranberries  
1 orange, quartered, seeds removed (keep peel on)  
2 apples, cored and quartered (Honeycrisp recommended, keep peel on)  
2 to 3 T. honey

Place cranberries, orange quarters and apple quarters in a food processor and pulse just enough so ingredients are broken down, but remain chunky.  
Place relish in a large bowl and add two tablespoons of honey. Stir to combine. Add an additional tablespoon to taste, if you prefer a sweeter relish.  
Place in a sealed container and chill for at least one hour before serving.  
Refrigerate leftovers in a sealed container for up to five days.

Lacinato Kale Salad with Watermelon Radish and Citrus Dressing

Heirloom watermelon radishes add a colorful pop of pink to this hearty kale salad that pairs well with Thanksgiving fare. The four primary ingredients for this salad can be found at your local farmers market this time of year or will likely be in your CSA share this month. Throop likes to let the salad sit for one hour after dressing it, to enable the kale to soften. After softening, the salad will appear smaller, so if you're intending to serve a large group, be sure to increase the recipe accordingly. Pairs well with a carb-heavy Thanksgiving feast.

Serves 4 to 6



**Dressing Ingredients:**  
¼ C. extra virgin olive oil  
Juice of a whole lemon  
1 T. honey  
½ tsp. salt  
½ tsp. garlic powder

**Salad ingredients:**  
1 large bunch of lacinato kale, rinsed, torn or chopped into small pieces (remove the thick stem by pulling off the leaves)  
2 large beets, peeled and shredded

Watermelon Radish Facts

Watermelon radishes get their name from their bright pink interior and pale green skins that resemble a garden-variety watermelon, but these radishes don't taste anything like the juicy melons. With a mild flavor that's slightly sweet and peppery, this heirloom Chinese daikon radish is a root vegetable in the same family as arugula, broccoli and turnips.  
In contrast to a standard radish, a watermelon radish's size is closer to a beet's. These specialty radishes can be eaten raw, cooked or pickled. When eaten raw, as in the lacinato kale salad featured in this column, they have a crisp texture.



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2 large carrots, shredded  
2 medium watermelon radishes, peeled and cut into matchsticks  
¼ C. pumpkin seeds, toasted

**Making the dressing:**  
In a small Mason jar, add olive oil, lemon juice, honey, salt and garlic powder. Seal with a lid and shake well to combine.

**Making the salad:**  
Place kale in a large salad bowl and add beets, carrots and radish. Dress with the citrus dressing and toss well to combine and fully coat the greens. Place in the refrigerator for at least one hour before serving.  
When ready to serve, re-toss the salad and sprinkle toasted pumpkin seeds on top.

Refrigerate leftovers in a sealed container for up to two days. ♦

Courtney Diener-Stokes is an award-winning journalist, author, food writer, photographer and food stylist. Most recently she co-authored the Kimberton Whole Foods Cookbook and Farmhouse Manna: Nourishing Recipes and Rituals for Head, Heart, Hands & Soul. She lives in the Oley Valley countryside with her husband, three children, two Babydoll Southdown sheep, a flock of bantam chickens and a Bernedoodle named Daisy.



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