

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

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COUNTY LINES

Your guide to unique places, interesting events, fine dining, great shopping
and the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware



Wedding Issue

Wedding Stories, Venues & 21st-Century Gifts
West Chester Happy Hours • Summer Dining
Bog Gardens • Travel Books • Star Athletes



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Newlin Township

Abuts the ChesLen Preserve!

This marvelous home is set on 16+ acres abutting the 1,282 acre ChesLen Preserve where you can walk or ride for miles. The 4 bedroom, 5.1 bath home features a chef's kitchen plus an impressive Living Room with a soaring ceiling featuring arched wooden beams. This summer, you will love the view from the deck and the pool. The farm also has a charming Guest House with 3 bedrooms and two baths. For the equestrian, there is a nine stall barn and several pastures, a newer tractor and machinery shed plus a pond. The farm is located in the sought-after Unionville-Chadds Ford School District and convenient to Wilmington and the Route 1 corridor. The property represents a significant value and ideal living opportunity.

\$3,700,000



NEW LISTING



Upper Uwchlan Township

Near March Creek State Park

This handsomely set 4 bedroom, 3.1 bath home enjoys protected views from the two-tiered rear deck and patio. The property has a two car attached garage plus a detached 2 car heated garage with lots of storage above. The Kitchen features high end appliances like Wolf plus ample quartz counters and the cabinets offer an abundance of storage. The luxurious primary bathroom features an oversize shower with stunning tile work. The dining room has attractive wainscoting and there is hardwood flooring throughout the main level. The family will love the finished lower level that includes a full Bathroom and an Office. Located in the sought-after Downingtown Schools and near March Creek State Park.

\$728,000



East Fallowfield Township

Adjacent to Unionville Equestrian Area

This unique offering is comprised of two parcels. One is a private 39.9 acre parcel with a fully restored antique stone bank barn with ample stalls and an on-grade loft affording significant hay and equipment storage. There are several turnout sheds as well as several fenced paddocks plus a c.1790 stone home in need of restoration. Abutting this parcel and on a separate tax parcel, is a one acre lot with three bedroom, two bath home in good condition. This offering is adjacent to the sought-after Unionville Equestrian Area. There are no restrictive easements against further subdivision. This is an opportunity for a builder or a conservation minded individual looking to preserve a special parcel and enjoy the significant tax benefits!

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from the
EDITOR

Summer! School is out. Our grills are hot. Gardens are in full bloom. Weddings fill every weekend. Ready for fun ... and the latest issue of *County Lines*?

Friendship becomes love becomes life. Carol Metzker writes about the tales behind the celebrations in "Love Stories Behind the Weddings." Shannon Montgomery adds key insights and advice for guests at the nuptials in "21st-Century Wedding Gifts." And folks in the planning stages should peruse our "Guide to Wedding Venues & Services" for sites and services for the big day.

Our "Chester County in Bloom" photospread shares the finalists in our photo contest. Check them out and vote for your favorite on Facebook. Gardeners will also enjoy an article by Jenkins Arboretum's Nate Braddock about bog gardening: "Backyard Bogs." Get to know some otherworldly plants: Venus flytraps, pitcher plants, ladies tresses, cardinal flowers and blue flag irises.

Take an armchair trip to Ireland with Main Point Book's Shelley Laurence in "Travel the Emerald Isle ... Without Leaving Your Couch." And learn about outstanding local student athletes — some first in the state, others hoping for the Olympics and the WNBA — in Ed Malet's "A Dozen Star Athletes."

Our food coverage includes Cara Corridoni's wonderfully useful "Cheers! It's Happy Hour in West Chester," Liz Tarditi's "Sizzling Selections: The Best Wine Pairings for Your Barbecue Feast," and our "Summer Dining Guide," highlighting great places for gathering with friends and family. Yum and cheers!

Juneteenth is an appropriate time to remember "Bayard Rustin, A Renaissance Man," writes Malcolm Johnstone. A friend of Martin Luther King, this West Chester native and civil rights activist is getting some overdue acclaim. His is a fascinating story.

As always, we have the Best Local Events coverage, including plenty of ideas for Family Fun ideas for June.

Thank you for reading.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COMING IN *July*

ANNUAL GUIDEBOOK

Guide to the Area

Fall Arts Guide • Beer Gardens

Wilmington Happy Hours

Best Local Events • Newcomer's Guide

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

June 2024

Volume XLVII Number 10

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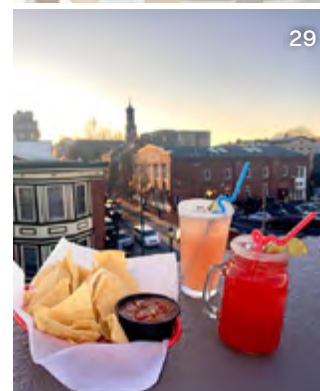
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Cover photo and top photo on this page by Still Wild Visuals.



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

Grow for Gold. Got a green thumb? Enter the **Grow for It!** home garden contest, expanded from Pottstown and Boyertown to surrounding townships (check website for eligibility). Sponsored by Mosaic Community Land Trust, Pottstown Health & Wellness Foundation and Building a Better Boyertown, this year's contest will award cash prizes in seven categories, including Outdoor Oasis, Edible Garden and Youth Gardener. Registration is open through June 21. HomeGardenContest.com.



Succession, WCU-style. This summer, West Chester University bids **President Christopher Fiorentino** farewell after a 41-year career. In his seven years as president, Dr. Fiorentino welcomed WCU's largest first-year class and most diverse student population, implemented the Dub-C Autism Program to support students on the spectrum, and opened the 175,000-square-foot Sciences & Engineering Center and The Commons. **Dr. Laurie Bernotsky** is slated to start as the next president on July 1. WCUPA.edu.

Prizes for Preservation. Last fall, *County Lines'* headquarters at Franklin Corners was honored at the **West Chester Preservation Awards**. Now it's your turn to promote preservation. The West Chester Downtown Foundation's awards recognize projects that highlight the borough's historic character in three categories: Bricks and Mortar Awards for architectural projects, Preservation Service Awards for educational and advocacy projects, and the Preservation Legacy Award for major contributions to preservation. Nominations are open through June 10. WCDF.org/Preservation.



PHOTO CREDIT: TIMLYN VAUGHAN PHOTOGRAPHY

Shopping Spree. This spring, downtown West Chester welcomed two new stores.

On East Gay Street, **DRK MTTR** stocks a curated collection of all-black vintage and contemporary women's clothing, shoes and accessories. On North High Street, **Nightingale Materials** offers premium art supplies and gifts, plus workshops and classes for all skill levels in their studio. Visit both during the Open-Air Market. *128 E. Gay St., West Chester: DRKMTTR.us. 118 N. High St., West Chester: NightingaleMaterials.com.*



Mighty Media. Big news for Delco: Media is one of *Money* magazine's **50 Best Places to Live** in the U.S. The folks at *Money* highlighted Media's rustic farmers market, vibrant restaurant scene and nearby Ridley Creek State Park. They also cited the borough's low unemployment rate, high median income and school performance, summarizing it as "a walkable Philly 'burb with parks, restaurants and good schools." Other featured locales include Portland, Maine and Sacramento, California. Money.com.



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June Picks

Our Picks for top events this month

Town Tours & Village Walks

June 6-August 15



Welcome to West Chester

Join the 30th Town Tours kickoff and West Chester's 225th anniversary at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. Upcoming tours: **June 13**, Coventryville; **June 20**, Main Street at Exton; **June 27**, Upland Farm; **July 11**, Highland Orchards; **July 18**, White Horse Village; **July 25**, Baird House; **Aug. 1**, Baptist Church in the Great Valley; **Aug. 8**, Village walk at Coventry Woods; **Aug. 15**, Yellow Springs. Tours begin at 5:30 p.m. and last tour leaves at 7 p.m. For details visit ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours.

Join the 30th Town Tours kickoff and West Chester's 225th anniversary at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. Upcoming tours: **June 13**, Coventryville; **June 20**, Main Street at Exton; **June 27**, Upland Farm; **July 11**, Highland Orchards; **July 18**, White Horse Village; **July 25**, Baird House; **Aug. 1**, Baptist Church in the Great Valley; **Aug. 8**, Village walk at Coventry Woods; **Aug. 15**, Yellow Springs. Tours begin at 5:30 p.m. and last tour leaves at 7 p.m. For details visit ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours.

6th Annual Havertown Irish Festival and Crafter Village

June 8

Top Irish bands from Ireland and stateside are featured along with Irish dancers, a Crafter Village offering handmade crafts by over 90 artisans, food trucks, a beer garden and a children's fun zone. *The Kelly Center for Music, Arts and Community*, 50 E. Eagle Rd., Havertown. Noon to 8 p.m. Free. KellyCenter.org.



9th Annual Wayne Music Festival

June 8

The festival features a wide range of musical genres and acclaimed artists from all over the country on three stages, as well as over 75 local restaurants and vendors, family-friendly activities, beer gardens and more. N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 1 p.m. to 10 p.m. Free. WayneMusicFestival.com.

3rd Annual Jasper Street Jam

June 14 & 15

The festival features six great bands playing Texas swing, American roots, blues, Brazilian jazz and rock 'n' roll. This family-friendly event includes 2SP Brewing Co., Scooped Ice Cream, street food and arts & crafts for children inside Media Arts Council. BYO lawn chair if you'd like. Rain date, June 16. *Between Jackson & Monroe Sts. (enter through Media Arts Council at 11 E. State St.), Media. 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. \$10; 12 and under, free. MediaArtsCouncil.org.*



Off By One at People's Light

June 12-July 7



Multi-award winner David Strathairn stars in this poignant world premiere, where a wrong-number text brings strangers together in a web of curiosity and memory. Written by Emmy Award-winner

Joseph Dougherty and directed by Abigail Adams. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

best Local Events

FAMILY FUN

THROUGH AUGUST

The Franklin Institute Presents The Art of the Brick. An exhibit by artist Nathan Sawaya is a critically acclaimed collection of inspiring artworks made exclusively from one of the most recognizable toys in the world: the LEGO brick. *Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St., Philadelphia. Daily 9:30 to 5. \$39-\$43. FI.edu.*

THROUGH OCTOBER 31

Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport. Gather your family or closest group of friends and plan a visit to the 12 inspiring attractions across Wilmington & the Brandywine Valley. With the Passport you can explore at your own pace or spread your visits across the entire spring, summer and fall. *For tickets, VisitWilmingtonDE.com/Passport.*

JUNE 1

Historic Newtown Square Day. A community celebration with demonstrations, Revolutionary War and Native American reenactors, art, tours of historic sites, sheep shearing, music, children's activities. *1742 Square Tavern, Rt. 252 & Goshen Rd., Newtown Square. 10 to noon. Free. 610-975-0290; HistoricNewtownSquare.org.*



JUNE 1

The Great American Backyard Campout. Bring your camping gear, set up under the stars and enjoy a night outside with your family. Activities include camp cooking and fire making demonstrations, fishing, ceremonial campfire program, s'mores and more. Must be accompanied by parent/guardian. Rain date, June 15. *Willows Park, 490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Villanova. Free. Radnor.com/Campout to register.*

JUNE 2

Malvern's 156th Parade and 208th Memorial Ceremony. The Upper Main Line Memorial Assoc. sponsors this event that begins on *King St. at the fire station and ends at Memorial Park on Monument Ave. Malvern-MemorialParade.com.*

JUNE 2-NOVEMBER 3

First Sundays Steamers' Days at Auburn Heights. 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. Tour the 1897 mansion that was home to three generations of the Marshall family. *3000 Creek Rd., Hockessin DE. 12:30 to 4:30. \$8-\$15. AuburnHeights.org.*

JUNE 8

Strawberry Harvest Celebration at Highland Orchards. Two Animal Rescues (with adoptable animals), live music, food trucks, local vendors, games, activities for all ages, beer garden, goats and lots of strawberries. *1000 Marshallton-Thorndale Rd., West Chester. 10 to 4. HighlandOrchards.net.*



JUNE 14-16

Chester County Balloon Festival. Balloons from all over the country are highlighted, along with a Special Shaped Balloon



Rodeo, untethered and tethered balloon rides and a walk-thru balloon. In addition, you'll enjoy a beer garden, live music, great food, crafts, kid zone and more. The festival benefits the Boy Scouts Troop 52, Chester County Hero's Fund, local police, fire and fire police plus EMS. *Willowdale Steeplechase, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. \$10-\$22. Visit website for hours. CCBalloonFest.com.*

JUNE 22

Ryerss Farm Family Fun Day. Fun for the whole family with pony rides, hay rides, a horse bounce house, crafts, games and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs. Rain date, June 23. *Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines, 1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. Noon to 4 pm. Donation options on website, RyerssFarm.org.*



JULY 4

Annual Good Neighbor Day in Downingtown. Start the day with the Run for Life (5K, 10K & 15K) and 5K Freedom Walk at 8 am. Then enjoy fabulous food, crafts, music, bike decorating and lots of other fun activities, all benefiting area emergency providers. Fireworks at dusk. *GoodNeighborDay.com.*



JUNE 8

HISTORICAL Society of Phoenixville's Annual Strawberry Festival. Enjoy the day starting with a flea market at 8 am and continuing with food, entertainment and children's games, hamburgers, hot dogs, ice cream and, of course, strawberries. *204 Church St., Phoenixville. 10:30 to 3. HSPA-PA.org.*

ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

THROUGH JUNE 2

Frog Hollow Art Show. Presented by the Diving Cat Studio Gallery, local artists exhibit creative styles in art and craft in a uniquely restored 1790s four-story gristmill house. A special interview with Markels Roberts by Michaela Majoun 7 pm Friday. 1655 Hollow Rd., Chester Springs. Fri, Preview Party, 5 to 9 pm; Sat-Sun, 10 to 6. 484-919-8774; FrogHollowArtShow.com.

JUNE 2

Kennett Square Clover Market. Featuring 100 carefully curated vendors with a wide variety of handmade and vintage goods along with food trucks, live music, beer and wine, free kids crafts and many additional shopping and dining options in town. In the parking lot at 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 10 to 4. TheCloverMarket.com.



JUNE 15

7th Annual Phoenixville Art Street Festival. Join fellow art lovers for performances and demos, browsing original pieces from over 50 specially-selected artists showing works in ranging media and techniques. 100-200 blocks of Bridge St. 11 to 5. PhoenixvilleChamber.org.

JUNE 22 & 23

PA Guild of Craftsmen Summer Fine Craft Fair. Artisans offer contemporary fine crafts including jewelry, functional and decorative pottery, men's and women's wearables and upscale home furnishings. Foundry 48 Event Center, 100 W. Millport Rd., Lititz. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$10. PACrafts.org.

BOOKS.....

JUNE 1-15

Wellington Square Bookshop. Classics Book Club: *June 5*, The Trial by Franz Kafka, 2 pm. **Meet the Author:** *June 1*, And Then You Apply Ice by Pamela Gwyn Kripke, 1 pm; *June 15*, Soundtrack by Alison Cupp Relyea, 1 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

JUNE 18, 27

Main Point Books. Fiction Book Group: *June 18*, Kunstlers in Paradise by Catherine Staples, 1 pm. **NonFiction Book Group:** *June 27*,

Empire of Pain: The Secret History of the Sackler Dynasty by Patrick Radden Keefe, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

CAR SHOWS.....

JUNE 1

Ales & Petals—Cars & Motorcycles of England Car Show. Enjoy food, live music, craft beers and tour one of the largest British motoring shows on the East Coast with over 250 classic British cars and motorcycles. Historic Hope Lodge, 553 Bethlehem Pk., Ft. Washington. 10 to 4. \$5-\$10. HistoricHopeLodge.org/Ales-Petals-Car-Show.

JUNE 22 & 23

2024 Philadelphia Concours d'Elegance. Cool Cars for Kids, Inc. presents a showcase of classic and historic automobiles. Visit with



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the Phillie Phanatic, enjoy face painting, balloon animals and food trucks. Proceeds support the Rare Diagnoses Center at Children's Hospital of Phila. Preview Gala Fri, cocktails, dinner, concours preview and auction, 6 pm, \$225. Simeone Automotive Museum, 6825-31 Norwich Dr., Philadelphia. Sat, 10 to 3, \$35. CoolCarsForKids.org.

EQUESTRIAN.....

THROUGH JUNE 2

Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. See Olympic-caliber riders, junior classes and Lead Line or come for the fun outside the ring at North America's oldest and largest outdoor multi-breed horse show. Visit the Country Fair's midway attractions and boutiques. Benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital. 23 Dorset Rd., Devon. DevonHorseShow.net.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29

Fridays & Sundays

Brandywine Polo. Spectators picnic and tailgate at the grounds. 232 Polo Rd., Toughkenamon. Friday Twilight Polo—gates open at 5; match at 5:30. Sun, gates open at 1:30; match at 3, \$15–\$20. Cancelled for rain or extreme heat. 610-268-8692; BrandywinePolo.com.

FESTIVALS & PARADES.....

JUNE 1

Delaware County Pride Parade. The Pride Parade will run along State Street for one mile and loop around Media. Enjoy a variety of activities including music, dancing, vendors and more. 104 E. State St., Media. 10:30 to noon. VisitMediaPA.com/Event/Delco-Pride-Parade.

JULY 4

4th of July Celebration at Wilson Farm Park. Bring your lawn chairs and a picnic dinner and enjoy great music from Just For Fun DJ Joe Griffith. Fireworks show begins at dusk. Food trucks and Kona Ice will be available. 500 Lee Blvd., Wayne. 7:15 to 9:15 pm. Treddyffrin.org/Departments/Parks.

JULY 4

Garrett Hill–Rosemont 4th of July Parade. Decorate your bikes and floats to ride in this year's parade. Registration and start are at Rosemont Business Campus, 919 Conestoga Rd., Bryn Mawr, at 9:30. The parade ends at Clem Macrone Park, where there will be entertainment, refreshments and games. GarrettHillPA.com.

FOOD & BREWS.....

THROUGH JUNE

Pints With A Purpose Happy Hour. Exton Region Chamber of Commerce and Locust Lane Craft Brewery join to raise funds for many

organizations benefiting from the happy hours. Locust Lane Craft Brewery, 50 Three Tun Rd., Malvern. Visit Business.ERCC.net/Events.

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER
Wednesdays**

Dining Under the Stars in Media. Stroll. Shop. Dine. Restaurants set up tables on State Street, which is closed from Jackson to Orange for this summer-long outdoor dining event. Check VisitMediaPA.com for participating restaurants.

JUNE 1

Willistown Conservation Trust Barns & BBQ. Take a glimpse into some of Chester County's iconic barns. Two self-guided barn tour opportunities: The Morning Tour, 9 to 11, \$50 and Evening Barn Tour and BBQ Dinner, starts at 2, \$300. BBQ attendees end the evening with a cocktail hour, three-course meal and live music. Benefits the Trust's conservation works. 925 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. WCTrust.org.



JUNE 2-7

Restaurant Week Supports the Red, White & Blue on the Culinary Coast. Diners can enjoy either menu discounts or prix-fixe menus at restaurants in Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, Lewes and Coastal Delaware. Benefits military and first responders. Beach-Fun.com/Restaurant-Week.html.

JUNE 4, 18, SEPT. 17, OCT. 1

Food Truck Tuesdays in King of Prussia. You can enjoy live music, games, giveaways and delicious food during your lunch hour. Visit website for a complete lineup and directions to food trucks. VisitKOP.com/FTT.

**JUNE 5–AUGUST 28
Wednesdays**

Summer Nights at Hagley. Bring the whole family and a picnic for summer fun in a beautiful outdoor setting. Or sample local food trucks. Dogfish Head craft beer and Woodside Farm Creamery ice cream are available for purchase. 200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 5 to 8 pm. Hagley.org.

JUNE 7 & 8

Farm to Fare at Mount Hope Estate. Savor a meal of fresh-from-the-farm foods. Enjoy a cash

Local Farm Markets

- Artisan Exchange,** 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net.
- Berwyn Farmers Market,** 573 E. Lancaster Ave. in Handel's parking lot. Sun, 10 to 1. CulinaryHarvest.com.
- Bryn Mawr Farmers Market,** Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. Sat, 9 to 1. 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.
- Eagleview Farmers Mkt.,** Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. Thurs, 3 to 6:30. GrowingRootsPartners.com.
- Kennett Square Farmers Mkt.,** 600 S. Broad St. Fri, 3 to 6. KSQFarmersMarket.com.
- Lancaster County Farmers Mkt.,** 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. 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.
- New Garden Growers Market,** 8934 Gap Newport Pk., Landenberg. Sat, 9 to noon. Facebook.com/NewGardenGrowersMarket.
- Newtown Square Farmers Mkt.,** 3625 Chapel Rd. Fri, 3 to 6. Facebook.com/NewtownSquareFarmersMarket.
- Oxford Village Mkt.,** 3rd and Locust Sts. Tues. noon to 5; Sat, 9 to 1. DowntownOxfordPA.org.
- Phoenixville Farmers Market,** 200 Mill St. Sat, 9 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.
- Pottstown Farmers Mkt.,** 100 E. High St. Every other Sat starting May 11, 9–1. PottstownFarm.org.
- Royersford Farmers Market,** 2nd Ave. across from Victory Park. Sat, 9 to noon. RoyersfordFarmersMarket.com.
- Swarthmore Farmers Market,** 121 Park Ave., next to Swarthmore Borough Hall Sat, 9 to noon. 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.
- 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.
- West Reading Farmers Mkt.,** 598 Penn Ave. Sun, 10 to 1. WestReadingFarmersMarket.com.
- Westtown Amish Market,** 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4. WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

For more visit the *Chester County Farm Guide* online at ChesCoFarming.org

bar cocktail hour and live music at 6 pm, then a 4-course dinner where the mixologist will create a cocktail for each course at 7 pm. Barn & Barrel at Mount Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. \$85. PAREnFaire.com.

JUNE 8

Great Chefs Event for Alex's Lemonade Stand. Taste delectable food and bid on fabulous auction items. More than 30 superstar chefs from across the country come together and serve their signature tasting dishes. Join the movement to end pediatric cancer. Urban Outfitters Headquarters, Bldg. 543, 5000 S. Broad St., Phila. 1 to 4 pm. \$250. AlexsLemonade.org.



JUNE 9

Kennett Summerfest Wine & Food Festival. Brandywine Valley wines and culinary delights come together along with live music

and a curated selection of artisan vendors in the heart of Kennett Square on the 100 block of S. Broad St. 3 to 7 pm. \$60–\$100; designated driver, \$20. KennettSummerfest.com.



JUNE 15

Brews at the Battlefield. Beer enthusiasts mingle with the passionate brewers behind the beverages. Learn about the brewing process, discover unique flavors and gain insights into the world of craft beer. Benefits the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. Must be 21. 1491 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. 5 to 8 pm. \$16–\$45. BrandywineBattlefield.org.

JUNE 20, AUGUST 15

Summer Pop-up Biergartens at Historic Sugartown. BYO chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy live music, beverages from Locust Lane Craft Brewery, Manatawny Still Works and Chaddsford Winery and delicious foods from

food trucks onsite. 260 Spring Valley Rd., Malvern. 5 to 8. \$10. HistoricSugartown.org.

JUNE 21-23

Celtic Fling and Highland Games. Enjoy traditional pipe bands and Celtic rock bands. Savor delicious Celtic cuisine, fresh brewed ales, wines, ciders and more. Mount Hope Estate & Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Fri. night concert, at 5; \$29.95; Sat–Sun, gates open at 11 am, \$13.95–\$33.95. PAREnFaire.com.

FUNDRAISERS.....

JUNE 7

Natural Lands Stardust! Celebration. Celebrate the gift of open space at this annual summer celebration and fundraiser with an evening of cocktails, supper and merriment under the stars. Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden, 1829 East County Line Rd., Villanova. 6:30 to 9:30. Tickets start at \$200. NatLands.org.

JUNE 15

Habitat For Humanity Hops for Homes Beer Festival. Brewers will be pouring beer, cider and, new this year, wine. Enjoy live music, food, games, vendors and a photo booth, all for a good cause. This event is for adults 21 and over. Exton Square Mall Parking Lot, Exton. Noon to 4. \$40–\$60. HFHCC.org.

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JUNE TO AUGUST

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Honey Brook • Kennett • Malvern • Oxford • Paoli • Parkesburg
Phoenixville • Spring City • Treddyffrin • West Chester

WWW.CCLS.ORG

JUNE 20

Summer Solstice Celebrity Bartender Event. Enjoy a pint drawn by celebrity guest bartenders Dick Vermeil, Fox29 meteorologist Drew Anderson, Elvis and more. and generously tip (cash only) your appreciation to benefit a new Breast Health Center at Chester County Hospital. World of Beer, Main Street Exton. 5:30 to 8:30. For details call 610-738-2725 or email CCHWomensAuxiliary@gmail.com.

JUNE 22

Kennett On Top. The Rotary Club of Kennett Square hosts a party ... no speeches, no program, just fun on top of the roof of the Kennett Square Parking Garage. Enjoy great food, live music, beer, wine and a signature cocktail. Live music will get you dancing. Benefits the local community. 100 E. Linden St., Kennett Square. 6 to 9 pm. \$100. KennettSquareRotary.org.

GARDENS.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 27

Festival of Fountains at Longwood. Stroll through the gardens with brilliantly blooming annuals and perennials and discover the Illuminated Fountain Performances and live music in the beer garden. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Thurs-Sat, 9:15 pm. \$18-\$25. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JUNE 30

Delaware Art Museum. "The Artistic Legacy of James E. Newton: Poetic Roots," an exhibition by Anna Bogatin Ott. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10 to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12, Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 15

Brandywine Museum of Art. *Through June 9*, "Jamie Wyeth: Unsettled." *Through Sept. 15*, "Every Leaf & Twig: Andrew Wyeth's Botanical Imagination." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed-Mon, 9:30 to 4:30. \$8-\$20. Brandywine.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT.....

THROUGH OCTOBER

Thursdays

Concerts at King of Prussia Town Center. Enjoy live music on the green at King of Prussia Town Center. 155 Village Dr. (in front of Davio's), King of Prussia. 6 to 8 pm. For a complete lineup visit KingOfPrussia-TownCenter.com.

JUNE 1-28

Bryn Mawr Twilight Concerts. *June 1*, Tom Rush accompanied by Matt Nako; *June 2*, Dan Bern + Jeffrey Gaines; *June 13*, Merion Concert Band, (free); *June 15*, Livingston Taylor; *June 22*, Lizzie No; *June 28*, Craig Bickhardt + John Flynn (free). Concerts through Aug. 30. The Gazebo, 9 S. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. 7 pm. \$15. 610-864-4303; BrynMawrTwilightConcerts.com.

JUNE 1-29

The Keswick Theatre. *June 1*, That Motown Band; *June 7*, Jessie's Girl; *June 10*, Roger Daltrey; *June 12*, Dungeons and Daddies; *June 14 & 15*, The Musical Box; *June 18*, The Church & The Afghan Whigs; *June 19*, Happy Together Tour 2024; *June 20*, Countess Luann; *June 21 & 22*, Get The Led Out; *June 28*, Stanley Clarke N 4Ever, Bob James; *June 29*, Silversun Pickups. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.



JUNE 2-15

National Music Festival—10th Anniversary Year. Kent County is transformed into a hub of music featuring performances to suit virtually every taste. Historic Chestertown, MD. Some concerts are free, others require a ticket. For times and tickets visit NationalMusic.US.

JUNE 2-28

At The Grand in Wilmington. *June 2*, The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with Cary Elwes; *June 8*, Pink Floyd Tribute Band, Floyd Nation; *June 13*, Tom Papa: Good Stuff Tour; *June 14*, Joe Jackson Solo and the music of Max Champion; *June 16*, Father's Day Comedy Show with a twist of R&B; *June 23*, The Beach Boys;



June 28, Classic Albums Live Performs The Eagles' Greatest Hits. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

JUNE 2-30

Long's Park Summer Music Series. *June 2*, Monophonics; *June 9*, Good Shot Judy; *June 16*, Snacktime; *June 23*, Carolyn Wonderland; *June 30*, The U.S. Army Band, "Pershing's Own." Concerts through Aug. 18. Long's Park Amphitheater, Rt. 30 & Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. 7:30 pm. LongsPark.org.

JUNE 6-29

American Music Theatre. *June 6*, Paul Anka: Seven Decades Tour; *June 8*, Napoleon Dynamite Live! 20th Anniversary Celebration; *June 9*, The Lettermen & The Buckingham; *June 12*, Daniel O'Donnell; *June 15*, Ricky Skaggs & Kentucky Thunder; *June 16*, Mark Lowry with Special Guests Endless Highway and The Sound; *June 20*, Invincible: A Glorious Tribute to Michael Jackson; *June 21*, Newsboys; *June 22*, The Happy Together Tour; *June 23*, The Australian Pink Floyd Show; *June 26*, Kenny G Live; *June 27*, The Wallflowers; *June 29*, The Beach Boys. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.

JUNE 7-30

Upper Merion Concerts Under the Stars. *June 7*, Say She She; *June 9*, Cracker; *June 16*, The Lone Bellow; *June 19*, Kathleen Edwards; *June 21*, Badfish: A Tribute to Sublime; *June 28*, DakhaBrakha; *June 30*, Nick Lowe & Los Straitjackets. Concerts through Sept. 15. Township Bldg. Park, 175 W. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia. 6 pm. Visit website for tickets. UMTownship.org.

JUNE 8-30

Kennett Flash. *June 8*, Atomic Light Orchestra: A Tribute To E.L.O.; *June 14*, Better Tan Bacon; *June 16*, Mallow Hill; *June 27*, Joe Deninzon & Stratospheerius; *June 28*, BKora Duets: Madou Sidiki Diabaté and Salif Bamakora; *June 29*, Sug Daniels Band; *June 30*, Buffalo Nichols Trio w/ special guest Samantha Rise. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. Times and tickets, 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

JUNE 9-23

West Goshen Summer Concert Series. *June 9*, children's music with Lolly Hopwood; *June 15*, TBD; *June 23*, The Chatterband. Guests are asked to bring a dry good item for West Chester Food Cupboard. West Goshen Community Park, N. Five Po ints and Fern Hill Rds., West Chester. Concerts through Aug. 18. 6:30. Free. WestGoshen.org.

JUNE 12-AUGUST 11

Delaware County Summer Festival. This popular Delco tradition offers everything from



Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, the date on which enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, finally received the news they were free.

There are many events throughout Chester County. Visit CultureChesCo.org.

**June 4, 22
Coatesville**

The planning committee is working on these events.

- *June 4*, 20 Men Project – Panel & Exhibit. 6 to 9 pm.
- *June 22*, Bowling Scholarship Competition, 6 to 8 pm.

Check the website closer to June event for complete details.

**June 8-27
Kennett Square**

• *June 8* – lantern making presented by Kennett Heritage Center at the Kennett Library, 320 E State St.

• *June 15* – Fish Fry Lunch Box at New Garden Memorial UAME Church, 309 E Linden St.

• *June 16* – Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tour, 1 pm. CCCVB at Longwood, 200 Greenwood Rd., Kennett Square.

• *June 21* – Ruth Naomi Floyd Presents Frederick Douglass Jazz Works Longwood Gardens, 6:30.

• *June 22* – African Marketplace at the Creamery, 401 Birch St., noon to 6.

• 54th Massachusetts re-enactors presented by Kennett Heritage Center at the Kennett Library.

• *June 23* – Freedom's Dinner Table, 6 pm. Lincoln University, 1570 Baltimore Pk., Lincoln University.

• *June 27* – Kennett Underground Railroad Center presents author PJ Piccirillo at the Kennett Library.

**June 16
Phoenixville Celebration**

Activities to engage the community and shed light on the importance of African American history with reenactors, music, art, dance, drummers, street theater, magic, soul food and storytelling. 2 to 6 pm. 200 block of Bridge St.

**Juneteenth Celebration in
West Chester**

• *June 15* – WC NAACP Juneteenth Flag Recognition Ceremony, 10 to noon, The Charles A. Melton Center, 501 E. Miner St.

• *June 15* – Freedeom Festival at The Melton Center.

• *June 19* – Reenactment of Juneteenth, WC Historic Courthouse followed by Freedom Walk to Bethel AME, 334 E. Miner St.

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JUNE 15
Summer Solstice Music Festival. A family-friendly music festival supporting live local music and celebrating the start of summer. Benefits and held at Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, 1760 Unionville Wawaset Rd. 2 to 10 pm. \$25-\$75. WayKool.com.

JUNE 16, 30
Miller Park Summer Concert Series. *June 16*, Basic Cable; *June 30*, Slippery Band. Concerts through Aug. 25. Food trucks and 50/50 raffle at concerts. Albert C. Miller Memorial Park, 220 Miller Way, Exton. 6 pm. Free. WestWhiteland.org.

JUNE 19-AUGUST
Summer Concert Series at Anson B. Nixon Park. Come out to the park for a relaxing evening with great music. Bands to be announced. 405 N. Walnut St., Kennett Square. 6:30 pm. Free. AnsonBNixonPark.org.

JUNE 20
Concert in the Parks. Bring a chair or blanket and kick back to enjoy live music. Bands TBD. Food trucks on site. Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St.; West-Chester.com.

JUNE 20, 27
Summer in the Park Concerts at Wilson Farm Park. *June 20*, Tim Williams Band; *June 27*, Double Shot. Concerts through Sept. 5. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Chesterbrook. 7 pm. Free. Tredyffrin.org/Departments/Parks.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

JUNE 1
Main Line Animal Rescue's 13th Annual Tails & Trails 5K Run/2K Walk. Ready. Set. Rescue! Activities include a beer garden, food, music, kid's corner, raffles, adoptable animals, vendors and more! Friends, family-members, and dogs are welcome. Run or walk at your own pace while supporting the mission to save animal lives. 1149 Pike Springs Rd., Chester Springs. 7:30 am to noon. \$10-\$40. PSPCA.org.

JUNE 4
Community Volunteers in Medicine 23rd Annual Golf Classic. Join CVM and its partners for a day of golf along with breakfast, lunch, dinner, open bar, auction and giveaways. Supports the region's largest free healthcare center for families without health insurance. Applebrook Golf Club, 100 Line Rd., Malvern. Learn more at CVM.org.

JUNE 9
22nd Annual French Creek Iron Tour. Rides for all levels—from beginners to accomplished cyclists—with courses from 11 to 100 miles. Benefits French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Start at Kimberlon Fire Company Fairgrounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. Registration begins at 6:45 am. \$80. IronTour.org.

JUNE 21-23
Annual Pottstown Rumble. Premier grass doubles volleyball tournament, attracting nationally ranked pros, amateurs and even kids. Over 5,000 players compete for prizes. For spectators, there's a great selection of food options, a beer tent and vendors including sponsors with swag, volley gear and volleyballs. The main field is at Memorial Park, 75 W. King St., Pottstown. \$10; Children under 12 are free. For hours and directions, PottstownRumble.com.

JUNE 15-21
Schuylkill River Sojourn. The annual 112-mi. guided canoe/kayak trip begins in Schuylkill Haven and ends at Philadelphia's Boathouse Row. Participants paddle 14-18 miles per day. Register for one day, any amount of individual days or the entire week. Meals, camping arrangements and shuttle service included. \$120-\$720. SchuylkillRiver.org/Sojourn.aspx.

JUNE 21
Media 5-Mile Race. Benefits community outreach and donates proceeds to nonprofits that serve the area. Kids' Free Fun Runs start at 6 pm, Barrall Park and Field, State & Edgemont Sts. Main race starts at 7 pm, State St. and Veterans Square. \$40. Media5MileRace.com.

THEATER.....

THROUGH JUNE 16
Moon Over Buffalo at The Candlelight Theatre. A comedy by Ken Ludwig. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.



THROUGH JUNE 22
Dutch Apple Theatre Presents The Full Monty. A funny and heartfelt story about six unemployed steel workers who come up with a bold way to make some quick cash. 510 Cen-

terville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.

THROUGH OCTOBER 28
Bird-in-Hand Stage. Through Aug. 3, The Confession... An Amish Love Story. *Through Oct. 19,* Ryan & Friends: All Your Favorite Funny Stuff, a variety show. 2760 #A Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Times and tickets, 717-768-1568; Bird-In-Hand.com/Stage.

JUNE 14-JULY 21
Charlie and the Chocolate Factory at Fulton Theatre. Step into a world of pure imagination! 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS

JUNE 7
1st Fridays
Coatesville, 484-786-8896; 2ndCenturyAlliance.org. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; OxfordMainStreet.com; **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3253; PhoenixvilleFirst.org. **West Chester,** 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com. **Wilmington Art Loop,** 302-576-2135; CityFestWilm.com.

THROUGH OCTOBER 31
Third Thursdays on State Street in Kennett Square. Enjoy outdoor dining, extended shopping hours, live music, children's activities, pop-up vendors and more. State Street is closed from Broad to Center Sts. from 5 to 10 pm. KennettCollaborative.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 7
Phoenixville Inside Out. Dine outside or enjoy a drink with friends, explore the boutiques and retail stores or take in a show. Road closed on 100 and 200 blocks of Bridge St. from 4 pm Fri through 7 am Mon. Fri, 4 to 10; Sat-Sun, 7 am to 10 pm. PhoenixvilleFirst.org. ♦

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Bayard Rustin, A Renaissance Man

AN ACTIVIST WITH A LOCAL CONNECTION

Malcolm Johnstone

Bayard Rustin speaking in 1965

IF YOU DIDN'T ALREADY KNOW ABOUT BAYARD Rustin (1912–1987), it's time. Rustin's story has been getting some much-deserved attention recently after being almost written out of history books because of his early association with the Communist Party and his homosexuality.

The November 2023 premiere of the Netflix movie *Rustin*, produced by Barack and Michelle Obama, brings Rustin's story of integrity and bravery to life as he waged battles on many fronts: organizing the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom, working for social justice, nonviolence and gay rights, among other causes. The film attracted additional attention after its Oscar nomination for Best Actor for Philadelphia-born Colman Domingo, who starred as Rustin, and who also received an NAACP Image Award for Outstanding Actor.

EARLY YEARS IN WEST CHESTER

Born in West Chester, Rustin was raised by his grandparents, who were well-to-do local caterers. His grandmother Julia was a Quaker and a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Rustin attended local segregated grammar schools, where he excelled academically and was encouraged by teachers to develop leadership skills he'd use throughout his life.

In his teenage years, Rustin lived just across the street from the artist and abolitionist Horace Pippin. We can only imagine what

impact the successful Black artist's life and career had on the budding activist.

Rustin graduated from West Chester High School in 1932. The school was not officially segregated because there were not enough Black students for a separate school. Yet while traveling as a member of the school's football team, Rustin encountered discrimination when he was refused service at a restaurant in Media.

In 1968, the school was renamed Henderson High School, and Rustin was recognized for his social justice work by being the first person in the school's Hall of Fame. In 1995, the Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission honored him with an outdoor historical marker placed at Lincoln and Montgomery Avenues, on the grounds of the high school.

INFLUENCES

Rustin embraced and was trained in the Quaker ethic of non-violence and pacifism. He insisted those who joined him in protests would never respond in a violent fashion, even when attacked. One of his first organized demonstrations was to protest segregation at the Warner Theater, a West Chester movie house where Black patrons were restricted to the balcony so they wouldn't be seen.

Legend has it that when a young white woman wanted to join Rustin and other Black protesters, he politely refused, fearing for her safety. Although there were no reports of violence, the event

resulted in Rustin's first arrest. The Warner Theater is gone, but the structure still stands on North High Street. The indoor staircase that Black patrons used is the only hint of that shameful time.

Rustin continued to demonstrate at segregated places such as the Woolworth's lunch counter and YMCA. These actions sparked the development of what's now the Melton Center on East Market Street in West Chester. The surrounding neighborhood worked hard to ensure it met the needs of Black families, eventually building a theater, banquet room, basketball court and swimming pool.

Early activism also included membership in the Communist Party USA because of their support of civil rights for African Americans and later the Socialist Party, working on behalf of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters. Rustin's other wide-ranging efforts included protecting the property of Japanese Americans imprisoned in internment camps during World War II, working to integrate interstate bus travel as a Freedom Rider, and aiding refugees from Vietnam and Cambodia.

MUSICAL TALENT

A lesser known but important ability was Rustin's musical talent, using the power of song to transform and inspire civil rights demonstrators and calm hostile agitators. He'd often accompany himself on mandolin, guitar or, surprisingly, the lute. Viewers of the *Rustin* movie may recall a brief scene showing him playing his lute.

In fact, as a young man, Rustin considered becoming a professional singer and actor, a common path among abolitionists. For example, Justin Holland (1819–1887), a friend and supporter of Frederick Douglass, both participated in the Underground Railroad and became a champion of American classical guitar by publishing over 300 arrangements and compositions for guitar.

An accomplished tenor vocalist, Rustin's talent helped earn him scholarships to both Wilberforce University and Cheyney State Teachers College. In 1939, he went to New York and sang in the chorus of the short-lived Broadway musical *John Henry*, which starred Paul Robeson.

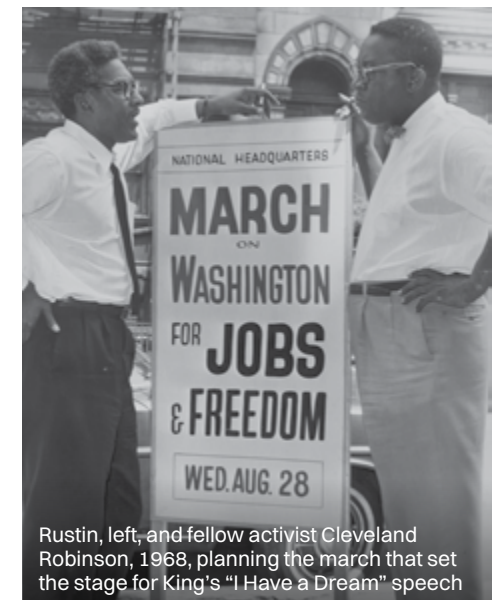
Rustin's interest in old instruments grew when he received a lute as a gift during his sentence in federal prison from 1944–46 for refusing to serve in the armed forces. (While in prison, he organized protests against segregated housing and dining.) Rustin then had the time and talent to teach himself how to play the instrument, and by 1952 became proficient enough to complete an album called *Elizabethan Songs and Negro Spirituals*.

If your weren't familiar with our local activist, Juneteenth is an apt time to remember Rustin's legacy. This

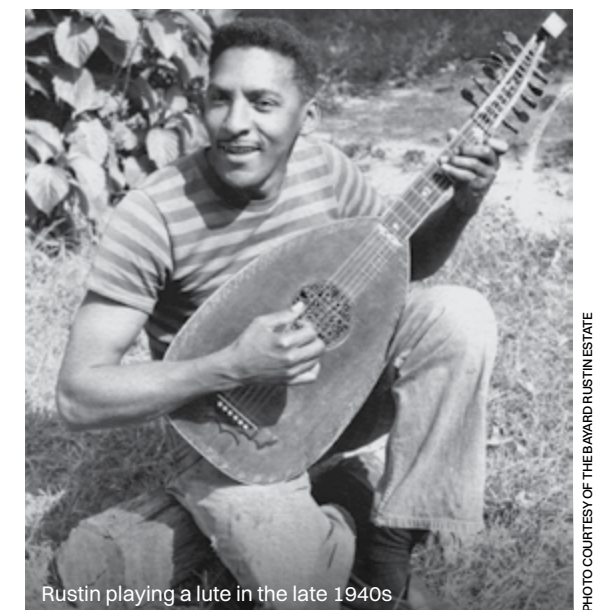


Rustin, middle, took part in the first Freedom Ride, the Journey of Reconciliation, in 1947

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/ANKJOY001



Rustin, left, and fellow activist Cleveland Robinson, 1968, planning the march that set the stage for King's "I Have a Dream" speech



Rustin playing a lute in the late 1940s

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BAYARD RUSTIN ESTATE

Overdue Acclaim

On August 8, 2013, President Barack Obama posthumously awarded Rustin the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the country's highest civilian award. During the presentation, President Obama stated: "Bayard Rustin was an unyielding activist for civil rights, dignity and equality for all." Walter Naegle, Rustin's same-sex partner accepted the award.

That same year, Cheyney University honored Rustin with a posthumous Doctor of Humane Letters degree at its commencement, and almost 30 years earlier, in 1985, Haverford College awarded Rustin an honorary doctorate in law.

In a different kind of honor, Rustin was the subject of a full-length play, *Bayard Rustin Inside Ashland*, dramatizing his World War II prison experience and its role in his activism. The play had its world premiere in May 2022 at People's Light in Malvern.



Rustin's Presidential Medal of Freedom



President Lyndon B. Johnson meeting with Civil Rights leaders, 1968. Rustin is in the back row, fourth from right.

PHOTO CREDIT: MALCOLM JOHNSTONE, COURTESY OF THE BAYARD RUSTIN ESTATE

newest of national holidays, which celebrates social justice, traces back to June of 1865, the end of slavery in the U.S. It connects with Rustin's work on the March on Washington that set the stage for Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech to a peaceful crowd of 250,000. ♦

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. His column raises awareness of Chester County's rich heritage as we journey to 2026: the year the U.S. celebrates the 250th anniversary of our nation's independence.



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Why not take your mind to new places by opening a book? It won't break the bank, you don't have to go through all that hassle at the airport, and you can go anywhere in the world. How about joining me on a trip across the pond?

Let's go. Ireland awaits!

Let's start with an overview of the Emerald Isle itself in *We Don't Know Ourselves* by Fintan O'Toole. This acclaimed Irish writer details the wrenching events that forced his homeland into today's world. He calls it "a personal history of modern Ireland." Main Point Books' owner Cathy Fiebach agrees and can't recommend it enough, saying, "This book was phenomenal. Fintan O'Toole manages to tell the story of the transformation of Ireland from a conservative Catholic bastion to a modern global nation, all from the perspective of his own growing-up years." Want to know how Ireland became Ireland? This is your book.

Now that we've got the lay of the land, so to speak, let's get into the Irish psyche. Award-winning author Claire Kilroy offers up an exquisite and provocative novel, *Soldier Sailor*, that reads like a thriller but is filled with astute and witty observations of life with a young child. It may be set in Ireland, but the story is universal. *Old God's Time* author Sebastian Barry said, "Every woman on earth will identify with this book. Every man will learn something urgent to his betterment. It sings with great authority about the wretched entrapment and molecular joy of motherhood."

There are plenty of stories and atmosphere in Ireland's countryside, and who better to uncover them than the first lady of Irish crime fiction? Tana French takes us inside a small, secretive village for a story of revenge, sacrifice and family. I'm in. So is my colleague, Nick Wardigo: "*The Hunter* is an atmospheric suspense novel where a town in rural Ireland is a character itself, laying out the social rules for Cal, a retired American detective. Cal's ambition never extends beyond carpentry and teaching his trade to Trey, a teenaged girl who desperately needs to rise above the sins of her family. They both have a real chance, too, until Trey's deadbeat father returns to town, promising easy money for the struggling community. Is it a long

con, and if so, what's the play? To suss out the truth and save his ward from ruin, Cal must navigate Ardnakelty, a town whose quaintness is a thin veneer for a history of violence, and whose denizens can switch from quirky to sinister in the blink of an eye."

Don't let this next title fool you. Colm Tóibín's *Long Island* is indeed an Irish novel. If you loved *Brooklyn*, this is one you won't want to miss. (And if you didn't read that book, what are you waiting for? It's one of my all-time favorites!) Don't believe me? Here's what the editors at *Kirkus Reviews* had to say: "An acclaimed novelist revisits the central characters of his best-known work . . . Eilis' fate is determined in a plot twist worthy of Edith Wharton . . . the author is a master of quiet, restrained prose, calmly observing the mores and mindsets of provincial Ireland, not much changed from the 1950s. A moving portrait of rueful middle age and the failure to connect."

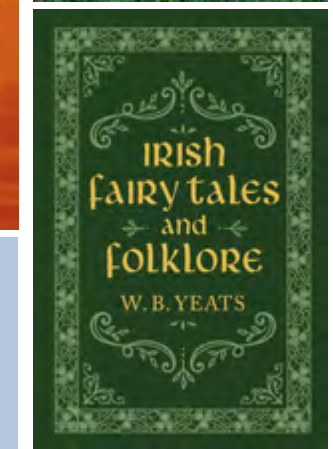
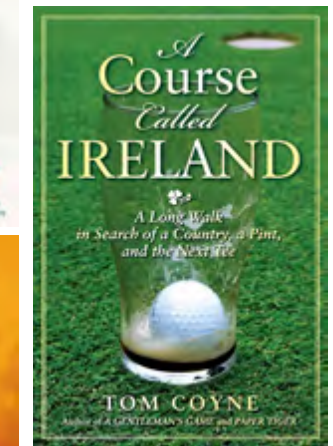
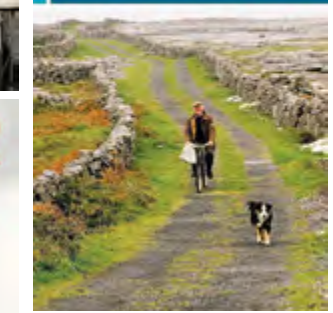
Maybe after all this reading, you'll actually want to plan a trip for yourself! Look no further than *Rick Steves Ireland*. Steves has decades of travel experience behind him, and he'll help you navigate your way to top attractions and hidden gems. Want to connect with the locals? You'll learn where to hoist a pint, find fabulous fiddles and jump into conversations buzzing with brogue. Steves also offers advice on how to make the most of your time and money by ranking his must-see favorite things.

How about adding golf to your Irish itinerary? Grab a copy of *A Course Called Ireland: A Long Walk in Search of a Country, a Pint, and the Next Tee*. St. Joseph's University's own Tom Coyne describes his epic journey in search of ancestors, nostalgia and the world's greatest round of golf. Coyne even leads golf trips and will gladly sign your book. The *New York Times* called this one "equal parts touching, wry and hilarious." We here at Main Point Books are big fans of this local author as well.

How about a bit of blarney to interest your children in Ireland's traditions? We recommend *Irish Fairy Tales and Folklore* by Nobel Prize-winning author and poet W. B. Yeats. This volume contains 70+ classic Irish yarns, including "The Trooping Fairies," "Changelings," "The Leprechaun" and more. There's a reason why these timeless tales have been passed down for generations!

These recommendations only scratched the surface of Ireland's rich culture. If I've piqued your interest, head over to your local independent bookstore for more great reading. ♦

Shelley Laurence is a bookseller at Main Point Books, an independent bookstore with a handpicked selection for every member of the family. Check out their events, book groups and children's activities at MainPointBooks.com or on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Order online for delivery or pickup. 484-580-6978; 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne.



BACKWARD Bogs

BRING STRANGE AND WONDERFUL WETLAND PLANTS INTO YOUR HOME GARDEN

Nate Braddock, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

THE WORD “BOG” TENDS to evoke images of stagnant, forbidding mires with nothing to offer besides a sulfurous stench and muddy boots.

What many people don't realize, though, is these often-overlooked wetlands serve as soggy sanctuaries for a vast suite of otherworldly plants. The harsh environmental conditions of bogs have driven botanical residents to evolutionary extremes. Consequently, traversing the mossy grounds of a bog can bring you face to face with delicate orchids, tart cranberries and vicious carnivorous plants.

Luckily, you don't need to be a world-class explorer to enjoy the bounties of a bog. The conditions needed to grow native wetland plants are easy to replicate in a home garden. With just a few common supplies and some elbow grease, you can create your own easy-to-maintain mini-bog.

WHAT'S A BOG?

At its most basic definition, a bog is an acidic, nutrient-poor wetland. Bogs can form in a variety of ways, but they tend to be dominated by low-growing sphagnum moss (*Sphagnum spp.*), resulting in an open, sunny environment. Beneath the top layer of moss lies layers of peat — a light, spongy, carbon-rich material made up of partially decomposed sphagnum. Peat serves as the foundation for all plant life in wild bogs, just as it will in your home bog.

Unfortunately, wetland habitats and the plants that live in them are in decline as human development encroaches upon the wild. In light of this decline, your home bog gar-

den can not only display a palette of unusual plants, but it can safeguard plant biodiversity.

BUILD-A-BOG

The success of a home bog garden comes down to emulating four key features of natural bogs: constant moisture, full sun, an acidic, peat-based medium and a low nutrient content.

For the base of your bog, choose a wide, watertight container 10 to 18 inches deep. Stick to nonporous materials like plastic or steel to prevent moisture from leaving the system. Bog plants like wet roots, but they don't enjoy having their crowns flooded. To prevent flooding, use a drill to create eight to 12 evenly spaced, small drainage holes two inches below the lip of the container.

Next, a decision. For a more naturalistic look, sink your container into the ground, leaving a one-inch lip to prevent groundwater from flowing into your bog. For a more portable option, keep your bog above ground as an accent container in your garden. Wherever you choose to place your bog, make sure it's in an open area where it will get at least six hours of direct sun every day.

With the perfect site selected, fill your container with a 50:50 mix of pure sphagnum peat and sand. Unlike a typical garden container, the media in your bog container should be compacted as much as possible to eliminate any air pockets.

Once filled, water the contents and let it settle for at least 48 hours, topping off with additional material as needed.



Moody blooms of blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)



Winsome, whirling flower spikes of ladies' tresses

BOG PLANTS FOR THE HOME GARDEN

Carnivorous plants of the United States grow almost exclusively in bogs. Coming in an astounding variety of shapes and colors, these plants could easily be used to create a whole mini-bog dedicated to these fascinating plants.

For example, the golden trumpets of the yellow pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*) stand tall over the short and stout purple pitcher plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). Both lie in repose, awaiting the next insect that's lured into the trap of their conical-shaped leaves.

Venus flytraps (*Dionaea muscipula*), one of the most instantly recognizable plants, is endemic to a very small boggy area that bridges the Carolinas. This plant is marginally hardy in Southeast Pennsylvania, so it benefits from being around the base of larger plants, where its active traps are sheltered from cold winds.

Though the charismatic carnivores tend to steal the show, they're beautifully complemented by an assortment of wetland wildflowers. Ladies' tresses (*Spiranthes spp.*) are orchids with a prolific growth habit. Fragrant spikes laden with small, white flowers stand tall and strong from late summer into early spring.

For a shocking contrast, plant ladies' tresses alongside cardinal flower. Cardinal flower blooms throughout summer with fiery red flowers that hummingbirds love to visit. For gardeners with a case of the blues, a bog is the perfect place to grow northern blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*). Its showy violet

flowers are held aloft over a fan of strappy blue-green foliage that adds a beautiful texture to any mini-bog.

Though you may have to search harder for bog plants, they're readily available from specialty nurseries, both online and in person. Some can be found in The Garden Shop at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens.

BOG MAINTENANCE

To keep your bog container healthy, it's important to maintain consistent moisture while limiting the addition of minerals and nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus. Carnivorous plants can be picky about high nutrient content, so it's important to avoid fertilizing your bog.

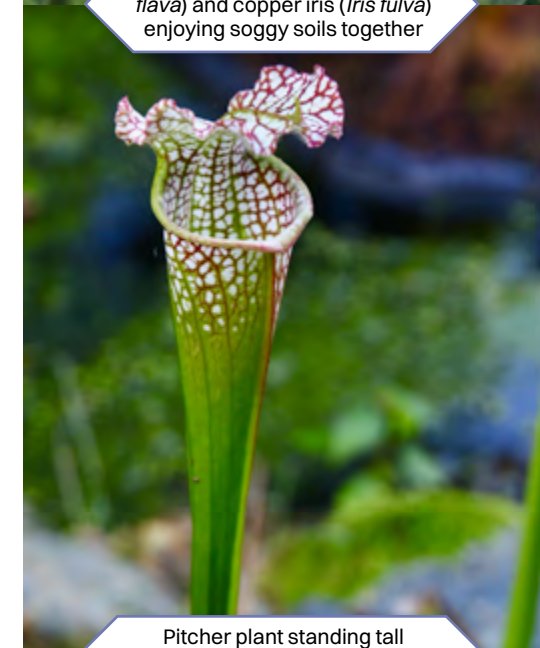
With regular rainfall, your bog container should be more or less self-sustaining. In times of drought or especially hot days, the bog may require supplemental watering. Water from a garden hose can introduce unwanted minerals to the system, so it's best to water your bog with distilled water or water from a rain barrel.

Ultimately, a bog garden teaches us to find wonder in the most unexpected places. So build your bog, sit back and have fun discovering something new about the natural world in every corner of your soggy masterpiece! ♦

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 are always free admission. Plan your visit by going to the website at JenkinsArboretum.org.



Yellow pitcher plant (*Sarracenia flava*) and copper iris (*Iris fulva*) enjoying soggy soils together



Pitcher plant standing tall above its boggy home base

Images courtesy of Nate Braddock, Chris Swisher and Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

Delaware Museum of Nature & Science

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Jitters West Chester

CONGRATULATIONS, YOU'VE MADE it. The workday is done, and now it's time to celebrate. What better way than at a local Happy Hour?

Happy Hour has been an American tradition since just after World War I. Once a period when sailors could expect a break from the slog of sea life, today Happy Hours can range from quiet catch-ups to high-energy hangs.

Whether you want a quiet beer with a friend or lively room for the whole office, West Chester will see you served — and at a discount if you come at the right time. So choose your vibe and ... be happy!

the bartender's attention. You just want a few laughs and an hour or two for quiet decompressing.

Artillery Brewing Co.
There is something cathartic about ordering a "Fog of War" after a tough day. If you're in a fighting mood, head to Artillery Brewing Company, where the focus is on the beer — and the veterans. Feeling battered? Call in "The Militia." You'll feel better as soon as you do. Happy Hours, Tuesday to Friday, 4 to 6. \$2 off listed pints. 333 Granite Alley. ArtilleryBrewing.com

Jitters West Chester
When it's nice, check out the redesigned "Florida Room," a back patio that would make Jimmy Buffet proud. Happy Hour runs weekdays, 4 to 6. Beers are \$2, well drinks \$3, plus limited food spe-

Santino's Tap & Table

Artillery Brewing Co.

Ryan's Pub

Sterling Pig Public House



Wrong Crowd Beer Company



Greystone Oyster Bar



9 Prime



The Social



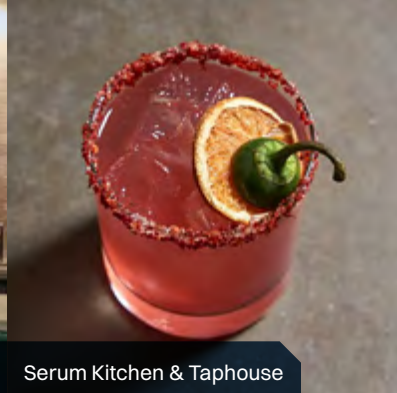
Mercato Ristorante & Bar



Pietro's Prime



Slow Hand



Serum Kitchen & Taphouse



Dolce Zola



Bar Avalon



Stove & Tap

ciala like the \$4 dog and tot combo. *146 W. Gay St. Jitters-WC.com*

Ryan's Pub

At Ryan's, Happy Hour is simple: \$1 off all beers, drinks and wine plus \$2 off specialty cocktails and martinis. Apps like battered pickle chips or saucy poutine are \$6. Drink specials run weekdays, 5 to 7, food until 8. *124 W. Gay St. Ryans-Pub.com*

Santino's Tap & Table

Looking for a place to pop in for a quick drink? There's plenty of room at Santino's snaking granite bar. Happy Hour runs Monday through Friday, 5 to 7. Enjoy \$5 Tito's, \$6 wine and \$3.50 domestic bottles. *40 E. Market St. SantinosTapAndTable.com*

Sterling Pig Public House

The day starts happy at Sterling Pig. Happy Hour begins when the bar opens at 4. Choose from a rotating list of small-batch beers, all crafted by the Sterling Pig "brew crew," each \$2 off. Plus, select half-price appetizers, like the Texas taquitos and Bavarian pretzel, along with \$6 wines and \$5 Boardroom mixed drinks. Happy Hour on weekdays, 4 to 6. *113 W. Market St. SterlingPig.com*

Stove & Tap

Every Monday through Friday from 5 to 7, Stove & Tap hosts Tappy Hour. As you'd expect, it's full of drink specials, like \$3 domestic drafts, \$4 wines and \$8 cocktails, but there's also a fair selection of modern American pub fare. Order \$8 Tap nachos or crispy Brussels sprouts for the table and you'll be the hit of Tappy Hour. *153 W. Gay St. StoveAndTap-WC.com*

The Social

The Social's full wraparound bar offers plenty of space for you and your friends to sidle up to. There are sofas, too, if you prefer your space. Happy

Hour is Wednesday through Friday, 4 to 6 at the bar. Choose from \$4 drafts, \$4 house wine and \$6 small plates featuring Southern home cooking. Cheers! *117 E. Gay St. TheSocialWC.com*

Wrong Crowd Beer Company

Wrong Crowd is located just outside the downtown district in a converted warehouse, but you're not there for the scenery. Last year Wrong Crowd was named one of the country's fastest-growing breweries. Want to know why? Stop by during Happy Hour and try a pint for just \$4. Happy Hour runs Wednesday and Thursday, 4 to 6, and Friday, 3 to 5. *342 Han-num Ave. WrongCrowdBeer.com*

SOPHISTICATED

You got up. You got dressed. Maybe you even ironed. Whether you're celebrating a moral victory or just want a nice glass of wine and something fun to nibble on, these establishments have elevated Happy Hour to an experience.

9 Prime

The newish upscale steakhouse, 9 Prime, recently added Happy Hours, 3 to 5:30, Monday through Friday. Stop by for bites and drinks (\$5 select beers, \$10 wines, \$13 apps) and a seat at their chic bar. *9 N. High St. 9PrimeWestChester.com*

Bar Avalon

You're in the mood for a real drink and a little culinary magic to match. Tuesday through Friday, 4 to 6, and, in a nice little twist, Sunday, 2 to 4, Bar Avalon serves \$8 wines, \$10 cocktails and a fair selection of \$10 apps. Order a cheese and meatboard or eggplant chips for the gang. Yum. *116 E. Gay St. AvalonRestaurant.net*

Dolce Zola

In the mood for homemade Italian food? Dolce Zola's Happy Hour runs Tuesday to Thursday.

Enjoy 20% off cocktails, wine, appetizers, select pastas and Grandma's meatballs. *Manjia! 134 E. Gay St. DolceZola.com*

Greystone Oyster Bar

Often Happy Hour decisions are made on atmosphere and drink specials, but every once in a while, it's the food that seals the deal. That's the case with Greystone, where Happy Hour means \$2 oysters. Order a half-dozen and an \$8 fresh-squeezed crush and you have summer in hand. Happy Hour runs weekdays, 4 to 6, featuring discounted food, beer and wine. *7 N. Church St. GreystoneOysterBarWC.com*

Mercato Ristorante & Bar

Sometimes all you want is your best friend and a spirited dish session. Head to Mercato's cozy corner bar and order two wines and a plate of the Margarita Pinsa to share. It's an Italian escape well worth the \$20. Happy Hour runs weekdays, 4 to 6, and includes discounted cocktails, \$6 wines, \$4 drafts and small bite specials. *33 W. Market St. MercatoWC.com*

Opa Taverna

When the weather is nice, duck out early and enjoy a glass of sangria and some people-watching from Opa's Gay Street patio. Happy Hour runs Monday through Thursday, 3 to 5, with \$8 wines and sangria, \$5 select beers and \$10 apps. Menu includes Greek favorites like hummus, spanakopita and Opa chips. *40-44 E. Gay St. OpaTaverna.com*

Pietro's Prime

The work day's done, and you need a drink. Head to Pietro's, order a martini and feel the stress melt away. The Nina is a classic. The espresso martini is legendary. Apps are half-off from 5 to 7. Need suggestions? Try the black and white tuna, Piet-

ro's crab cake or the truffle Parmesan fries. *125 W. Market St. PietrosPrime.com*

Roots Cafe

New to the Happy Hour lineup is Roots, hosting in the garden on summer Saturdays, 5 to 8. Enjoy live music, \$10 drink specials, \$10 tapas menu. Nibble wings, chicken sandwich sliders, crispy fingerlings and even rainbow carrots. *133 E. Gay St. RootsCafeWC.com*

Serum Kitchen & Taphouse

Newcomer Serum Kitchen & Taphouse offers Happy Hour all working week long, 4 to 6. Choose from a selection of \$10 apps like smoked pork sliders or steak skewers and fries. Wash them down with \$5 side-pull lagers, \$8 glasses of house wine and, if you are really ready to say goodbye to the day, \$8 house margaritas or old fashioned. *142 E. Market St. SerumKitchenAndTaphouse.com*

Slow Hand

You want a good drink, but you don't want to fight for it. That's when Slow Hand is perfect. Choose from a selection of sophisticated snacks like the \$5 blackened shrimp deviled eggs to enjoy with a well-made old fashioned, margarita or negroni for \$8. See, your night is already looking up. Weekdays, 4 to 6. \$5 drafts and \$7 house wine also available. *30 N. Church St. SlowHand-WC.com*

Teca

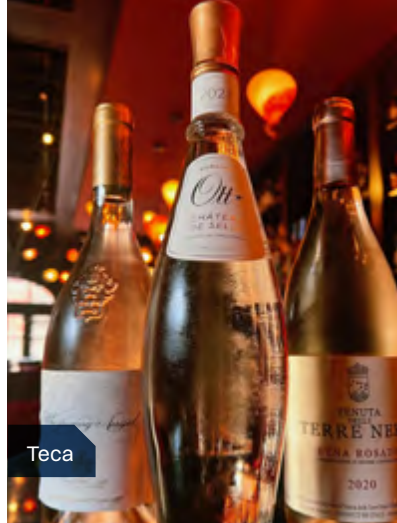
At Teca it's all about sharing, from its tapas-influenced menu to Happy Hour specials that includes wine by the bottle (\$29 for house wine). Plus \$7 wine by the glass, \$5 drafts, \$7 well drinks and 8 for \$8 tapas. The food menu includes flatbread, mussels and mushroom bruschetta. Happy Hour runs Tuesday to Friday, 4 to 6. *38 E. Gay St. TecaRestaurants.com*



Opa Taverna



Roots Cafe



Teca

WEST CHESTER EVENTS



Barnaby's

Iron Hill Brewery

Kildare's Irish Pub

Más Mexicali Cantina



Limoncello Ristorante



Sedona Taphouse



Side Bar & Restaurant

LIVELY

You just landed the big account or nabbed that promotion you've been working so hard for — you're ready to celebrate. You want energy. Go to any of these and you'll be rewarded. Just go now — energy means people, and these places can get crowded.

Barnaby's

Perhaps not surprisingly from the bar with seven rooms and at least a dozen TVs, Barnaby's Happy Hour has something for everyone. Weekdays, 5 to 7, choose \$4 drafts, \$5 house wines, \$6 specialty drinks and \$6 Statesides, Surfsides and High Noons. Plus, \$2 off all starters. On Thursday and Friday, unwind with live acoustic sets. 15 S. High St. BarnabysWestChester.com

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

Weekdays from 4 to 6, Iron Hill holds court on Hoppy Hour. Get there early, order the \$3.50 fried chicken sandwich, and enjoy a little me time before their U-shaped bar fills up. Standard pours are \$2 off, wine and cocktails are \$7.50, and select apps are \$7.50. 3 W. Gay St. IronHillBrewery.com

Kildare's Irish Pub

Looking for a spirited Irish bar? Kildare's is the place. It gets packed with college students as the night goes on, but the early evening hours deliver a more mixed crowd. Happy Hour runs weekdays, 4 to 6. All drinks are \$3 off, flatbreads are \$8, and nachos are half-off. 18 W. Gay St. KildaresPubWC.com

Limoncello Ristorante

Limoncello has a great bar and, when the weather is nice, a great patio. Unfortunately, everyone knows it. Get there early for Happy Hour specials like \$12 martinis, \$8 wines, \$5 drafts and dis-

counted apps, like calamari fritti served with three dipping sauces. Order a grapefruit paloma and give into the bar's buzzy energy. Happy Hour runs Tuesday through Friday, 4 to 6. 9 N. Walnut St. LimoncelloRestaurant.com

Más Mexicali Cantina

Work is done. Your colleagues are waiting. Grab the gang and go to Más, preferably to the rooftop, where the margaritas are \$5 and the apps are half-off. The relaxed So-Cal vibe will soon have you on beach time. Happy Hour is Tuesday to Friday, 4 to 6, and can be paired with daily drink specials like \$4 Coronas or \$3 Tequila Sunrises for even more savings. 102 E. Market St. MasMexicali.com

Sedona Taphouse

When you've got a group to impress, Sedona it is. The Southwest-inspired steakhouse maintains a sizeable and eclectic Happy Hour menu, with guacamole, flatbreads and sliders all under \$10. Add half-price bottled beers and \$6.90 wine and cocktails and everybody's happy. Specials run weekdays from 4 to 6. Just get there early. It can get very crowded. 44 W. Gay St., Ste. 1. SedonaTaphouse.com

Side Bar & Restaurant

Side Bar has an extensive beer selection, but you'll have to wait until Wednesday to sip at a discount. Happy Hour runs Wednesday to Friday, 4 to 7, with \$4 select drafts, \$5 house wine, \$5 Tito's and half-price appetizers, like sweet potato tater tots. 10 E. Gay St. SideBarAndRestaurant.com ♦

For more food and drink specials, visit West Chester during the Open-Air Market, when Gay St. shuts down for warm-weather weekends (Friday morning to Monday morning), or come for West Chester TAPS on summer Wednesdays (at participation locations). More at DowntownWestChester.com.

Chester County History Center ONGOING

CCHC features permanent exhibits that tell the story of the county's roots, early beginnings, evolution and more. 225 N. High St. Wed–Sat, \$5–\$10. MyCCHC.org.

Open-Air Market in West Chester THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29

Gay Street is closed to vehicles Friday morning through Monday morning. Restaurants and retail line the street for strolling, eating, exploring the town. DowntownWestChester.com.

West Chester TAPS

Memorial Day through Labor Day Wednesdays

Unwind with friends every Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm. Participating locations offer select \$4 beers, \$5 wines and \$6 cocktails plus half-price appetizers. DowntownWestChester.com for locations.

First Fridays

JUNE 7, JULY 5, AUGUST 2

Extended hours at galleries and boutiques, restaurant specials, entertainment and more. DowntownWestChester.com.

Uptown! at Knauer Performing Arts Center

JUNE 1–INTO SEPTEMBER

June 1, Diggery Digger's Rock N' Roar Dinosaur Show; June 5, Sports Movie Night with Ray

Diding and Glen Macnow; June 6, Back in Black, AC/DC Tribute Band; June 7, The American Ride, Toby Keith Tribute. Visit website for a complete lineup. 226 N. High St. Tickets and times, UptownWestChester.org.

Turk's Head Music Festival JUNE 2

Two stages feature seven local bands performing, plus 90 artists, craftspeople and vendors with booths in Everhart Park. 100 S. Brandywine St. Noon to 7 pm. Rain date, June 11. Free. TurksHeadFestival.com.

2024 Town Tours & Village Walks JUNE 6–AUGUST 15

Thirty Years of Town Walks: Success in Historic Preservation kicks off on Thursday, June 6, at the United Methodist Church, 129 S. High St. 5 to 7:30 pm. Tours continue on Thursday evenings. ChesCo.org/Planning/TownTours.

Summer Solstice Music Festival JUNE 15

A family-friendly music festival supporting live local music and celebrating the start of summer. Benefits and held at Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, 1760 Unionville Wawaset Rd. 2 to 10 pm. \$25–\$75. WayKool.com.

Music at Marshall JUNE 20

Picnic concert in Marshall Square Park. Food trucks open at 5 pm. Music at 6:30. Butterfoot performs. Concerts continue July 11, Aug. 1, 22. Check website for weather updates. 200 E. Marshall St. 6:30. Free. MarshallSquarePark.org.

World Music Day JUNE 21

Showcasing local musical talent. Stroll through town and listen to musicians as they perform on street corners, sidewalks, plazas and more. 11:30 am to 9 pm. Free. DowntownWestChester.com.

Concert in the Park JUNE 20

Bring a chair or blanket and kick back to enjoy live music. Band TBD. Food trucks on site. Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St. 6:30 pm. West-Chester.com.

Family Fest at The American Helicopter Museum JUNE 24

Family and fun with helicopter rides, classic car and motorcycle show, food trucks, inflatable games, static aircraft displays, music and more. 1220 American Blvd. 10 to 5. \$20; under 5, free. AmericanHelicopter.Museum. ♦

DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

■ Parking Lot or Garage

RESTAURANT GUIDE

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3. Mayday Coffee Shop
4. The Original Spence Café
5. Mae's West Chester
6. Buddy's Burgers, Breasts & Fries
7. The Tomato Shack
8. DP Dough
9. Iron Hill Brewery & Rest.
10. Turks Head Café
11. Kooma Japanese Rest.
12. Saloon 151
13. Blazin' J's
14. Gryphon Coffee
15. La Tartine
16. dolce Zola
17. Fire–Nashville Hot Chicken
18. Taco Mar
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54. Barnaby's
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56. Shawarma
57. Santino's Tap & Table
58. Más Mexicali Cantina
59. Bonchon Chicken
60. Rai Rai Ramen
61. Crisp Chick'n
62. Poké Bros.
63. Pizza West Chester
64. Serum Kitchen & Taphouse
65. Manjé Caribbean Cuisine
66. Miss Winnie's



LOVE STORIES

Behind the Weddings

PART OF WHAT MAKES THE DAY SO SPECIAL

Carol Metzker

THE MOST EXQUISITE DRESS. DECORATED tables with delectable food. The occasion of a lifetime. Behind fairy tales and picture-perfect scenes at weddings, there are love stories that make hearts melt and eyes mist.

Beyond the spoken vows, the stories of the day's funny imperfections or the glitches that life throws at us are what bond couples for life and create families forever. Those memories are always about special people and acts of love that touch us beyond measure.

DOWN THE AISLE

Shortly after Krista and Matt became engaged in September 2022, they booked Ellis Preserve as their venue and allowed plenty of time to prepare for their wedding free of stress.

Krista would wear the long white gown with sparkling bodice she chose at Ever After Bridal in West Chester not long after Matt proposed. Her father would walk her down the aisle at the outdoor wedding on the steps. All her dreams were part of the venue's package — scrumptious chocolate chip cake with buttercream frosting, cocktail station, hors d'oeuvres and dinner choices of filet mignon, salmon and eggplant. There was “no decoding a riddle of what was actually part of a package. No napkins, silverware or chairs to rent or bartender to hire,” she said. “It was covered.”

Then life threw a curveball. A few months before the wedding, Krista's father had a stroke, impairing his ability to walk.

A new journey began. “Going through all of this shifted our priorities and perspective. What's important at the end of the day is family,” Krista said. With noteworthy help from Ellis Preserve, they moved the ceremony indoors, where there was better accessibility for everyone. She knew walking her down the aisle was her dad's goal, too, but Krista told him, “Whatever happens, I'm happy you're there.”

In April Krista held her father's hand as her brother pushed him down the aisle in a chair. When they reached Matt at the end of the aisle, her dad stood. Tears of joy flowed throughout the gathering.

It wasn't the only unforgettable moment at the ceremony. The bridesmaids' children walked Mickey and Waffles — Krista's bow tie-wearing pugs and loving sidekicks during wedding planning and her dad's recovery — down the aisle. Signature cocktails named after the dogs and a figurine of the furry duo topping the cake delighted the guests.

To capture memories as they were made, Matt and Krista included a photo booth and created an Instagram account so people could share pictures immediately.

#CAPTURINGTHESTORIES

When Wil Moore Photography books a wedding, Moore books an engagement photo shoot to get the know the couple's love story before the big day.

Moore asks questions. Talking about how the couple met or prompting the groom to whisper something in the bride's ear that

PHOTO CREDIT: STILL WILD VISUALS



Krista and Matt with their dogs, Mickey and Waffles



PHOTO CREDIT: WIL MOORE

Rebecca and Ari on their wedding day



Wedding at Ellis Preserve



Wedding at Fittler Club



Flower arch by We Are Wildflowers



Wedding toast with mead from Philadelphia Mead Company

only she would laugh about elicits genuine smiles, laughter and special glances.

“That’s when I click,” he said. “It jazzes me up and helps me shoot with a style that shows their love and sense of fun. When we get together on their wedding day, they’re used to me being there with a camera.” Moore also asks if there’s anything sensitive for him to know when taking photos.

One wedding with a sweet love story was Rebecca and Ari’s. “Ari was a hockey player with a great smile,” said Moore. When Moore mentioned that smile, Ari pulled out a plate with false teeth, the result of a flying hockey puck. Rebecca’s comment? That was just one of the things she adored about him.

Ari’s brother was his best man. The love Ari and the family held for that autistic young man and Rebecca’s sensitivity and love for him were “amazing.” Moore was unintrusive behind the lens, capturing hugs and sentiments.

YOU’VE GOT A FRIEND

Abigail and her best friend were walking through the mall when she spied shoes that were as close to fairy tale glass slippers as could be: Mach and Mach’s iridescent heels with sparkling crystal double bows. The next thing she knew, the shoes were in the box as a gift from her friend and ready to shine at the wedding rehearsal.

“This wedding isn’t just about me,” Abigail said. Love for a multitude of friends and family is part of the event and activities leading up to the big day.

“Eleven bridesmaids standing in front of the vows could be a bit much,” she continued, so she invited her sister and future sister-in-law to be part of the ceremony instead, then fashioned a way to include friends in a memorable way. With the help of a friend’s mom who’s a travel agent, Abigail planned a pre-wedding vacation for the nine friends to Tulum, Mexico. Touring, massages and being doted on are part of an all-inclusive resort celebration.

Abigail shares the load of wedding preparation with her beloved, Harrison, and others. “I don’t want to become bridezilla,” she said simply. So together they chose the time — a winter event that lasts until dusk glows tranquilly at the end of the day — and Harrison chose the cupcakes, invitations and venue — Terrain, where vows or photos can happen at an indoor wall of green plants or outdoor lovely arch.

BEHIND THE BOUQUET

Brides with an affinity for the Earth are making sustainable wedding flowers part of the day.

We Are Wildflowers honors the couple to be wed and the health of the planet as they create flower installations, bouquets and bou-

tonnieres using organic, local flowers from their own field or nearby farms. Owner Jess and her talented floral designers begin the day in the hillside field picking wispy, floaty cosmos, nigella, astrantia, hellebores or scalloped heart-shaped heuchera. Sometimes they forage for wild olive and other delights.

Then designers, blooms and greens head to the studio where they listen to music, talk and create. The creations end up at “the best day of someone’s life,” said Jess: colorful table gardens at Winterthur, dramatic or ephemeral installations at Glen Foerd estate’s tent for 300 along the Delaware River, or fairy tale window adornments at the socially conscious Fittler Club in Philadelphia.

After the weddings, We Are Wildflowers takes the extra blooms to women’s shelters and elder communities instead of landfills.

For brides with their own flair and desire for DIY, Pasture Song Farm offers buckets with bursts of color — seasonal ranunculus, anemones and Icelandic poppies, tulips and lupines. Look for winter wreaths of pink and blue dried larkspur, strawflowers, grasses and evergreen.

A TOAST TO THE NEWLYWEDS

Is it the truth or simply a thousand-year legend? Mead isn’t just the oldest alcoholic beverage, supposedly it’s the oldest aphrodisiac, served at weddings from medieval times into the 1500s. Mead’s purported properties for virility and fertility were so compelling that newlyweds would be gifted a month’s worth of the golden honey wine to start out married life ... contributing to the word “honeymoon.”

Philadelphia Mead Company’s mead — in pretty labeled bottles or available in kegs for larger receptions — comes in traditional honey and other special versions fit for marriage celebrations later this year: rose cardamom, blueberry hibiscus, raspberry and Asian pear.

THE PARTY AFTER THE PARTY

Love stories don’t stop after the wedding. And neither do the celebrations.

The day after Krista and Matt’s wedding, guests hung out for a little more love, good food and fun. Splitting Edge Axe Throwing in Malvern was the perfect setting for bacon, eggs and potatoes catered by Colonial Village ... and a few rounds of axe throwing.

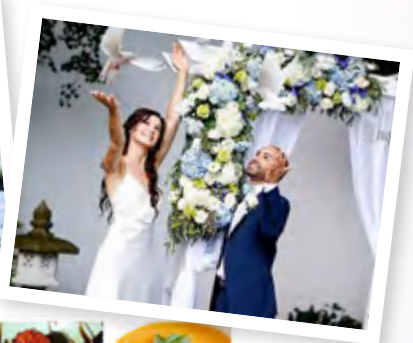
Years after their wedding, the party and the love continue for Doug and Anne each time they visit Va La Vineyards. To make up for a less-than-perfect first date, Doug asked Anne to go for a second try at the tasting room with spectacular wine. It worked, and the dates continued until — with the help of the vineyard owner — Doug hid a diamond ring among the vines and popped the question. The engaged couple walked back into the winery, where friends and family eagerly awaited to celebrate.

As they noticed other couples getting engaged there, Doug started a Facebook group for those who had proposed at Va La. Ten years later, many of those friends who met through the group still share their “happily ever after” photos of children, milestones and other celebrations.

Epic as the wedding, new chapters of great love stories continue to unfold. ♦

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“One of my favorite things about weddings that take place at the Smoker Farm is that they feel like they’ve come straight out of a storybook.” – JANAE ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

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Guide to
WEDDING VENUES
 & **SERVICES**

From B&Bs to museums and historic sites, we’ve got you covered with ideas for any size wedding you’re planning. Here are some of our favorites, plus additional services for the big day.

Caterers, B&Bs, Farms, Inns and Resorts

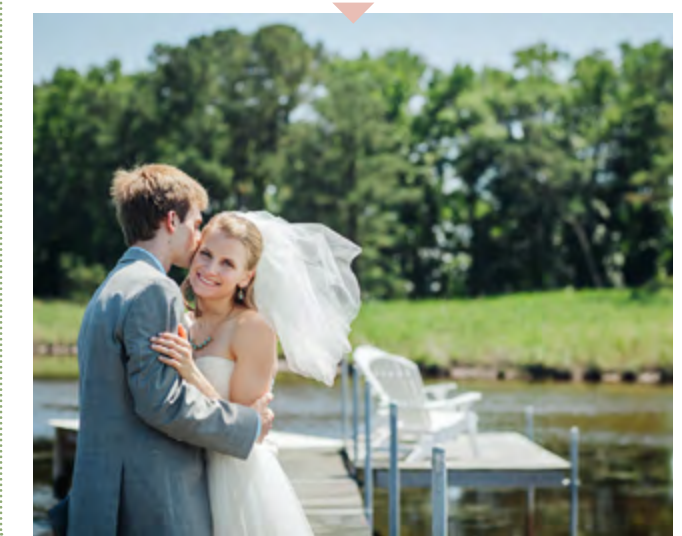
Brittland Estates Waterfront Venue
 211 Brittland Farm Ln., Chestertown, MD
 443-282-0860, BrittlandEstates.com

Nestled along the scenic Chester River in the historic town of Chestertown, Maryland lies the grand Brittland Estates. It offers indoor and outdoor event spaces, along with onsite accommodations for weddings, vacations, corporate retreats and events. For those seeking a one-of-a-kind venue rich in charm and history, Brittland Estates promises an unforgettable experience on the scenic shores of Chestertown.



The Inn at Huntingfield Creek
 4928 Eastern Neck Rd., Rock Hall, MD
 410-639-7779; Huntingfield.com

Imagine a pure-heavenly wedding at the Inn at Huntingfield Creek on the Maryland Eastern Shore. You’ll find exquisite accommodations and the picture-perfect setting with a sunset creek on the Chesapeake Bay. Dance the night away at a crystal-chandeliered barn reception, dine on upscale comfort created by their talented chef and experience rare hospitality at this unique 70-acre farm estate.



John Serock Catering

*Loch Aerie Mansion, 700 Lancaster Pk., Malvern
610-640-2836; SerockCatering.com*

Host your wedding celebration in Chester County's historic yet timeless setting. Loch Aerie Mansion, built circa 1865, includes two ready suites for the couple and attendants to prepare for the big day. You can exchange your vows at the wedding wall in the grand ballroom or outside in the beautiful gardens. Enjoy the exquisite cuisine with excellent dining services provided exclusively by Serock Catering. Celebrate in the grand ballroom with 200+ of your family and friends.



Smoker Farm

*1198 Rawlinsville Rd., New Providence
717-468-1561; SmokerFarmWeddings.com*

Choose from nine distinct ceremony sites, each offering its own charm and character. From catering to decor, Smoker Farm offers comprehensive services to ensure your day goes off without a hitch. Enjoy a perfect wedding weekend including rehearsal the evening before the wedding and bride/groom suites. Visit their website to learn about affordable and custom packages at this beautiful family-run farm.



Thornbury Farm

*1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester
610-793-2933; ThornburyFarmCSA.com*

Enjoy large views of open battlefields—beautiful for weddings—at this charming historic farm two miles south of West Chester, accommodating up to 200 guests. The covered patio hosts a chapel area and a large beehive oven. The enclosed patio, with grand piano and organ, can be used year round. Music, beverages and catering are provided by outside services. History tours and musket salutes add to the occasion.



Country Clubs

Chester Valley Golf Club

*430 Swedesford Rd., Malvern
610-647-4007; ChesterValleyGC.org*

The formal ballroom with floor-to-ceiling windows is the centerpiece at Chester Valley Golf Club, offering gorgeous views of the setting sun over the golf course. You can also gather for drinks on the patio as water cascades from the pond's fountain. From themed decor and menu selections to seating arrangements and AV equipment, their seasoned staff provides personal assistance to make your day a truly special one.



The historic Oakbourne Mansion and surrounding park grounds offer multiple settings for indoor or outdoor weddings. The water tower is a unique focal point, and the mansion and carriage house with beautiful woodwork, copper details, and stained glass windows provide stunning backdrops for your memories.

1014 South Concord Road, West Chester, PA
OakbourneMansion.org • 610.692.1930

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www.steelmuseum.org

Gallery & Museum Spaces

Delaware Museum of Nature and Science

4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington
302-658-9111; DelMNS.org

The Delaware Museum of Nature and Science is a unique and special location with a variety of indoor and outdoor options for your ceremony and reception, including formal seated dinners, casual cocktail receptions or anything in between. Spaces include the Global Journey Gallery's African Savanna, Arctic Tundra, Tropical Rainforest and Deep Sea, among the dinosaurs in the PaleoZone, or surrounded by trees in the Regional Journey Gallery, where you can dance across a map of Delaware.



Historic Buildings

Graystone Mansion

53 S. 1st Ave., Coatesville
610-384-9282; SteelMuseum.org/BookVenue/Graystone.cfm

Built in 1889, Graystone Mansion's ageless grandeur is blended with modern convenience, making it a unique venue for events. From its circular drive, to its gorgeous grounds, to its hardwood moldings, Graystone Mansion is a perfect place to host catered events of distinction. It's easy to envision Graystone Mansion as the backdrop for an elegant wedding reception, celebration or corporate meeting.



Oakbourne Mansion

1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester
610-692-1930; OakbourneMansion.org

Whether you're looking for the formality of a Victorian mansion or a more casual setting, Oakbourne Mansion and Park offers both. Use the accredited arboretum and distinctive castle-like water tower as your backdrop for outdoor ceremonies. A quaint indoor chapel can be used for small ceremonies. Indoor seating for up to 128 guests or tent outdoors for more. Preferred caterers. The Mansion is yours for 10 hours!



The Washington at Historic Yellow Springs

1701 Art School Rd., Chester Springs
610-827-7414; Washington.YellowSprings.org

Say "I do" in one of three outdoor ceremony sites (garden, old beech tree or the historic ruins that were once the Revolutionary War hospital!). Finish getting ready here in one of two suites, enjoy cocktail hour between the garden, porch and historic brick room, then dine and dance the night away in the heart of the 1700s building that can host up to 150 of your closest loved ones and friends. Choose from one of their preferred caterers. BYOB. Mix their history with your history to make an everlasting love story.



Other Venues & Rehearsal Dinners

Gracie’s 21st Century Cafe
1534 Manatawny Dr., Pine Forge, PA
610-323-4004; Gracies21stCentury.com

Gracie’s offers an intimate sophisticated dining experience on their patio surrounded by mature gardens or in the eclectic, well-appointed dining rooms featuring a creatively designed atmosphere and organic selections from a vast menu. They will accommodate your requests with their splendid menu selections for intimate weddings, magical rehearsal dinners or bridal showers.



Pietro’s Prime
125 W. Market St., West Chester
484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com

Pietro’s Prime, an upscale yet casual Steakhouse and Martini Bar located in the heart of downtown West Chester, is perfect for your rehearsal dinner, shower or small wedding. Their quality cuisine and remarkable service will be just what you’re looking for to create your special memories. The private dining room or outside patio offer a perfect atmosphere for your special occasion for up to 55 guests seated or 75 in a cocktail-style setting.



Wedding Services

Flowers, Food & Gifts

Kati Mac Floral Designs
36 S. High St., West Chester
610-431-9414; KatiMacFloralDesigns.com

Matlack Florist
210 N. Chester Rd., West Chester
610-431-3077; MatlackFlorist.com

Jewelers

Walter J. Cook Jeweler
Chestnut Village Shops, 36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli
610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com

Photography

Still Wild Visuals
484-941-4483
StillWildVisuals.com

More Venues

Barns

The Barn at Stonybrooke
4740 Lower Valley Rd., Atglen
717-723-5183; TheBarnAtStoneybrooke.com

The Barn on Bridge
385 Bridge St., Collegeville
610-287-8771; BarnOnBridge.com

Barn at Bournelyf
1066 S. New St., West Chester
610-692-8280; Brinehart4.wixsite.com/mysite

Barn at Silverstone
62 Bowman Rd., Lancaster
855-687-8920; TheBarnAtSilverstone.com

The Country Barn
211 S. Donerville Rd., Lancaster
717-872-1554; CountryBarnWedding.com

Farm at Eagles Ridge
465 Long Ln., Lancaster
717-584-5179; FarmAtEaglesRidge.com

The Gables at Chadds Ford
423 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford
610-388-7700
TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com

Harvest View Barn at Hershey Farms
338 Sunnyburn Rd., Elizabethtown
717-665-7284; HarvestViewBarn.com

The High Point at St. Peter’s
2475 St. Peter’s Rd., Malvern; 610-644-2261; TheHighPointGV.com

Inn at Grace Winery (Sweetwater Farm)
50 Sweetwater Rd., Glen Mills; 610-459-4711; GraceWinery.com

Meredith Manor
2270 Pottstown Pk., Pottstown; 610-469-1700; ChesterCountyWedding.com

Normandy Farm
1401 Morris Rd., Blue Bell; 215-616-8500; NormandyFarm.com

Terrain
914 Baltimore Pk., Glen Mills; 610-459-2400; ShopTerrain.com

Bed & Breakfast / Hotels, Inns and Resorts

The Desmond Hotel
1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern; 610-296-9800; DesmondGV.com

The Inn at Swarthmore
10 S. Chester Rd., Swarthmore; 610-543-7500; TheInnAtSwat.com

Gallery & Museum Spaces

The Carriage House at Rockwood Park
610 Shipley Rd., Wilmington; 302-761-4340; Rockwood.org

Community Arts Ctr., Wallingford
414 Plush Mill Rd., Wallingford; 610-566-1713; CommunityArtsCenter.org

Chester County History Center
225 N. High St., West Chester; 610-692-4800; MyCCHC.org

Delaware Art Museum
2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington; 302-571-9590; DelArt.org

The Delaware Contemporary
200 S. Madison St., Wilmington; 302-656-6466; DEContemporary.org

Hagley Museum & Library
298 Buck Rd., Wilmington; 302-658-2400; Hagley.org

Wayne Art Center
413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne; 610-688-3553; WayneArt.org

Winterthur Museum & Gardens
5105 Kennett Pk. (Rt. 52), Winterthur, DE; 800-448-3883; Winterthur.org

Gardens & Arboretums

(With Manor House or Mansion)

Bolingbroke
424 King of Prussia Rd., Radnor; 610-825-8082; BolingbrokeMansion.com

Parque Ridley Creek
351 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square
484-580-8260; ParqueRidleyCreek.com

Tyler Arboretum
515 Painter Rd., Media; 610-213-3097; TylerArboretum.org

Welkinweir Estate
1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown
610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org

Historic Buildings

Anthony Wayne House at Historic Waynesborough
2049 Waynesborough Rd., Paoli; 610-647-1779; PhilaLandmarks.org

Duportail House
297 Adams Dr., Chesterbrook; 610-644-4840; DuportailHouse.com

The Farmhouse at People’s Light
39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern; 610-647-1900; FarmhousePeoplesLight.com

Franklin Hall, Franklin Commons
400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville; 610-983-4640; FranklinCommonsEvents.com

Historic Rock Ford Plantation
881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster; 717-799-8751; RockFordPlantation.org

John James Audubon Center
1201 Pawlings Rd., Audubon; 610-990-3411; JohnJamesAudubon.org

Manor House at Springton Manor
860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore; 610-733-2516; SpringtonManorFarm.com

Merion Tribute House
625 Hazelhurst Ave., Merion Station; 610-664-1267; TributeHouse.com

Phoenixville Foundry
2 N. Main St., Phoenixville; 610-917-8400; PhoenixvilleFoundry.com

Radnor Hunt
826 Providence Rd., Malvern; 610-644-4439; RadnorHunt.org

Saturday Club
117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne; 610-688-9746; SaturdayClub.org

University & Whist Club
805 N. Broom St., Wilmington; 302-658-5125; UniversityAndWhistClub.com

Washington Memorial Chapel
Valley Forge National Park, Valley Forge; 610-783-0120; WMChapel.org

Wheatland
1120 Marietta Ave., Lancaster; 717-392-4633; Wheatland.org

The Willows
490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova; 484-580-8260; WillowsVillanova.com

Other Venues

Cairnwood Estate
1005 Cathedral Rd., Bryn Athyn; 215-947-2004; Cairnwood.org

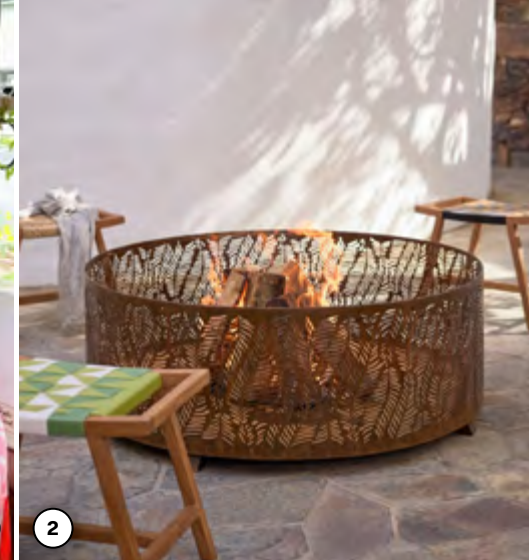
Chase Center on the Riverfront
815 Justison St., Wilmington; 888-862-2787; CenterOnTheRiverfront.com

General Warren
9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern
610-296-3637; GeneralWarren.com ◆

21st Century Wedding Gifts

WHAT TODAY'S NEWLYWEDS REALLY WANT

Shannon Montgomery



1. Spruce up the home with decor from Adorn Goods
2. Cozy up with a fire pit from Terrain
3. Gear up for the great outdoors at Trail Creek Outfitters
4. Bouquet Casting Co. transforms wedding flowers into cherished keepsakes

TODAY'S BRIDES AND GROOMS ARE OLDER when they say "I do," and three-quarters of couples live together before tying the knot. Because of this — and the fact that all wedding traditions are changing — many couples find they don't really need what we've come to expect as typical wedding gifts.

So what do you give the couple that has everything ... or almost everything already? Definitely not another toaster!

Modern couples prefer presents that reflect their unique lifestyles, passions and values. From experiential adventures to personalized tokens of love, read on for what today's couples truly want for their special day.

THE MODERN REGISTRY

Let's start with some overall trends. As technology evolves, so too has the wedding registry. In the digital age, many couples are opting for an online registry. Instead of registering at a brick-and-mortar store, couples set up their registry on sites like The Knot or Zola. This is often part of the couple's wedding website — another nod to tech — where guests can also RSVP and find other info about the wedding, like the dress code, menu and accommodation options.

A major advantage of an online registry is the ability to add gifts from a variety of sources, including local shops, and not just a single national chain store. Guests can browse the registry, purchase gifts

online and even have them shipped directly to the couple. Plus, the registry updates in real time, preventing duplicates.

Because of this flexibility, couples are getting creative with their registries. Instead of the traditional gifts — dinnerware, linens, kitchen appliances — couples are able to tailor their registries to their specific needs and interests.

AROUND THE HOUSE

Though many modern couples already have the starting-married-life essentials, there are still ways to help make their house a home. Couples may still be decorating their home and include items like throw pillows and blankets, cozy rugs and wall art on their registries. Local shops like West Chester's Old Soul Decor, Glen Mills' Studio 882 and Wilmington's Adorn Goods have beautiful pieces for every room of the house.

For couples living in a fixer-upper, some home improvement supplies — a nice toolset, stepladder or power tools — can go a long way. For tech-savvy couples, consider gifting a robot vacuum, video doorbell or smart home device.

Or, if the couple has everything they need for the inside of their home, consider helping spruce up the backyard. Let the newlyweds unwind with outdoor furniture or decor from Terrain (in Glen Mills, Devon and online), such as lounge chairs, hammocks

or twinkly lights. Or choose gifts to create the perfect entertaining space with backyard games like cornhole, a cozy firepit, Bluetooth speaker or brand-new grill.

MEANINGFUL MEMENTOS

For an extra-special gift that the couple will cherish, consider presents that commemorate their special day. Coordinate with the couple's photographer to gift a wedding album full of formal portraits, candid and snapshots of memorable moments. Gift a customized guestbook, where wedding guests can share heartfelt messages and advice for the newlyweds, or a personalized wedding keepsake box to store invitations, dried flowers and other souvenirs from the wedding.

For a truly memorable gift, enlist the experts. Gift the bride a flower preservation service, like Delaware-based Bouquet Casting Co. or Pennsylvania Floral Preservation, to transform her bouquet into a beautiful piece of artwork. Give the services of a custom framer for their wedding portraits, or, better yet, commission a painting from a local artist to capture the couple on their big day.

BON VOYAGE

Another great option for wedding presents is travel gear. Help the newlyweds prepare for their honeymoon, mini-moon, many moons

or future vacays by gifting luggage. Find suitcases, duffel bags, backpacks, packing cases and luggage tags at Wilmington's Bag & Baggage — and personalize your gift with a monogram.

Give the gift of comfort with travel pillows and blankets, or ensure their electronics are always charged and ready with a portable charger or universal travel adaptor. Arm them with knowledge by gifting a guidebook for their destination from a local independent bookstore. Traveling abroad? A language phrasebook can be immensely helpful — even if they studied on Duolingo beforehand.

SPECIAL INTERESTS

Modern couples are also looking for gifts that reflect their personal interests and hobbies. For an outdoorsy couple, consider hiking gear or camping equipment, such as sturdy boots, camp chairs, a tent or cooler, from Trail Creek Outfitters in Glen Mills and Kennett Square. Couples with a green thumb may appreciate gardening tools or planters from Newtown Square's Mostardi Nursery.

A pair of coffee snobs would enjoy an espresso machine or subscription to coffee from a local spot — Wayne and West Chester's Gryphon Coffee Co. delivers coffee, espresso and decaf to your door weekly, biweekly or monthly. Wine connoisseurs may enjoy wine tasting classes at Collier's of Centreville or a Wine Club membership from West Chester's Turks Head Wines.



5



6



7

5. Many couples register for gifts for their beloved pets
6. Treat the newlyweds to a romantic day at a local vineyard
7. Get ready for the honeymoon with luggage from Bag & Baggage

If, like two-thirds of U.S. households, the couple owns a pet, they might register for gifts for their fur baby. Gift some upgraded pet supplies, like an automatic feeder, water fountain, self-cleaning litter box or gourmet treats. For a gift that keeps on giving, consider a subscription to BarkBox, which delivers toys and other goodies monthly, or keep it simple with a gift card to a local pet store, like Concord Pet Foods & Supplies or West Chester's All the Dogs. For a really special gift, give the couple a custom portrait or framed photo of their pet.

MAKING MEMORIES

Give the newlyweds an opportunity to spend time together by gifting an experience. For a memorable day together, gift a couple's massage, hot air balloon ride or a private tasting at a local vineyard or distillery, like Chadds Ford's Penns Woods Winery or Elverson's Botany Barn Distilling.

Another option is a romantic night out with a gift card to a restaurant — like Andiaro in West Chester, Le Cavalier at Wilmington's Hotel du Pont or any of our Best of the Best restaurant picks. Or choose tickets to see their favorite band or sports team. You can also help fund a weekend getaway with an Airbnb gift card. Or give a year's worth of memories with a membership to one of our area's many museums and public gardens, including Longwood Gardens.

For couples who like to try new things, consider gifting an experience where they can learn something. For foodie couples, pick a cooking class from Chester County Lifelong Learning or a subscription to a meal-prep service like Blue Apron or Hello Fresh. Artsy couples might enjoy a painting course from West Chester-based artist Randall Graham, or a local pottery or photography workshop. For a fun-loving couple, give the gift of dance lessons at West Chester's Carousel Ballroom — and encourage them to bust out their new moves at the wedding.

FINAL OPTIONS

Perhaps not surprisingly, many practical-minded couples are requesting cash gifts. Though it was considered taboo in the past, modern couples are seeking contributions to their honeymoon, down payment on a house or renovations to their current home.

And some couples who don't need (or want) more things in their lives are asking instead for donations to a charity that's special to them. This makes a highly personal way to mark starting their lives together.

Today's couples hope for meaningful and personalized wedding presents that reflect their individuality. Though traditions may change, one thing remains the same: the most important part of gift-giving is the love and care put into it. Whether it's a grand gesture or a simple token of affection, the most precious gifts are those that come from the heart. ♦



Dining Guide

Whether you choose to dine inside or outside, there are plenty of options in our area offering seasonal dining, summer specials and entertainment.

Pennsylvania

Berwyn

★ Nectar
1091 Lancaster Ave.
610.725.9000; TasteNectar.com

Bryn Mawr

Fiore Rosso
915 Lancaster Ave.
484.380.2059; FioreRossoPHL.com

★ The Pullman Restaurant & Bar
39 Morris Ave.
610.727.0777; ThePullmanRestaurant.com

Birchrunville

★ Birchrunville Store Café
1403 Hollow Rd.
610.827.9002; BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com

Chadds Ford

★ Antica Italian Restaurant & Wine Bar
1623 Baltimore Pk.
484.770.8631; AnticaPA.com

Brandywine Prime Seafood & Chops
1617 Baltimore Pk.
610.388.8088; BrandywinePrime.com

Chester Springs

★ Bloom Southern Kitchen
123 Pottstown Pk.
484.359.4144; BloomSouthernKitchen.com

★ Epicurean Garage
570 Simpson Dr.
610.615.5189; EpicureanGarage.com

★ Limoncello Ristorante (also in West Chester)
499 E. Uuchlan Ave.
610.524.3112; LimoncelloRestaurant.com

Coatesville

★ The Iron Eagle on Lincoln Bar & Grille
143 Lincoln Hwy. E.
610.400.4407; IronEagleOnLincoln.com

Kings Tavern
313 W. Kings Hwy.
484.786.8120; KingsTavern.net

Devon

Pizzeria Vetri
138 W. Lancaster Ave.
484.207.6663; PizzeriaVetri.com

★ Terrain Cafe
138 W. Lancaster Ave.; 610.590.4675
ShopTerrain.com/Devon-Restaurant

Downingtown

★ Anthony's Cucina Fresca
78 W. Lancaster Ave.
610.873.5544; AnthonysCucinaFresca.com

★ De La Terre BYOB
47 W. Lancaster Ave.
610.269.2431; DeLaTerreBYOB.com

★ Green Street Grill
150 E. Pennsylvania St.
610.873.1700; GreenStGrill.com
Join for a delightful brunch experience at Green



Green Street Grill



La Verona

Street Grill in Downingtown and Market Street Grill in West Chester. Enjoy the sunshine with outdoor seating options while exploring their unique menus filled with tantalizing specials. The family-friendly atmosphere is complemented by top-notch service, promising a memorable culinary journey for everyone. Dive into the flavors of Chester County and savor every moment at these cozy and welcoming establishments.

La Sponda

20 E Lancaster Ave.
484.593.4488; LaSponda.com

The Social (also in West Chester)

541 W. Lancaster Ave.
484.593.4113; SocialOn30.com

★ **Station Taproom**

207 W. Lancaster Ave.
484.593.0560; StationTaproom.com

★ **Victory Brewing Co.**

420 Acorn Ln.
610.873.0881; VictoryBeer.com

Exton

★ **Appetites on Main**

286 Main St.
610.594.2030; AppetitesOnMain.com

★ **Bluefin**

555 Wellington Sq.
610.458.3234; BluefinEagleview.com

★ **Iron Hill Brewery TapHouse (20 locations)**

260 Eagleview Blvd.; 484.874.2897
IronHillBrewery.com

Mama Wong

268 Eagleview Blvd.
484.713.8888; BestMamaWong.com

★ **Ron's Original Bar & Grille**

74 E. Uwchlan Ave.
610.594.9900; RonsOriginal.com
Ron's Original Bar & Grille is dedicated to serving "Real Food, For the Health of It!" Offering your

favorite dishes with the best in quality, clean ingredients. Available for dine-in, takeout, delivery, catering and private events! Give them a call today.

Glen Mills

★ **White Dog Cafe (5 locations)**

981 Baltimore Pk.
610.822.2100; WhiteDog.com
Celebrate the dog days of summer with Paws on the Paw-tio! Bring your well-behaved pup every other Monday and meet adoptable dogs available for foster and adoption while supporting Providence Animal Center. Pups enjoy a chef-crafted doggie menu for \$15 and Tito's Doghouse cocktail for humans. The beautiful, enclosed patio has an outdoor bar offering weekday Happy Hour 4-6 pm. Open daily with umbrellas, well-behaved pups and their humans!

Kennett Square

★ **The Creamery of Kennett Square**

401 Birch St.
484.732.7040; KennettCreamery.com

Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen

108 W. State St.
484.886.4154; MeetAtGrain.com

★ **Hank's Place**

201 Birch St.
610.448.9988; HanksPlaceChaddsFord.com

Hearth Kitchen

847 E. Baltimore Pk.
484.732.8320; HearthKennettSquare.com

★ **La Verona**

114 E. State St.
610.444.2244; LaVeronaPA.com
Enjoy a relaxing evening of fine Italian cuisine on the side patio decorated with fresh herbs and flowers, or watch the activity on State Street seated in front of the restaurant while you indulge in their exquisite fare. Whether you choose to dine outside or in, their attention to detail shines in selecting the finest and freshest ingredients and care-

fully prepared dishes. Open Sun-Thurs, 11:30 am to 10:30 pm; Fri-Sat, 11:30 am to midnight.

Letty's Tavern

201 E. State St.
610.444.5688; LettysTavern.com

★ **Sovana Bistro**

696 Unionville Rd.
610.444.5600; SovanaBistro.com

★ **Sweet Amelia's**

102 E. State St.
484.732.7943; SweetAmeliasKSQ.com

★ **Talula's Table**

102 W. State St.
610.444.8255; TalulasTable.com

Trattoria La Tavola

127 E. State St. 484.731.4176;
TrattoriaLaTavolaKennett.com

Kimberton

Stone House Grille

1300 Hares Hill Rd.
610.933.1147; StoneHouseGrillePA.com

Kimberton Inn

2105 Kimberton Rd.
610.933.8148; KimbertonInn.com

King of Prussia

King of Prussia Town Center

155 Village Dr., Ste. 100
KingOfPrussia-TownCenter.com
There are about a dozen restaurants here—*Founding Farmers, Davio's Northern Italian Steakhouse, District Taco, Fogo de Chão, Vitality Bowls, Kooma and City Works* to name a few.

Malvern

★ **Brick & Brew (also in Media & Havertown)**

400 E. King St.
484.320.8688; BrickNBrewPub.com

Market Street Grill
6 West Market St., West Chester, PA • 610-429-5328

Green Street Grill
150 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Downingtown, PA • 610-873-1700

Breakfast & Lunch

@themarketstreetgrill
@thegreenstreetgrill

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2024

235 Lancaster Ave. Frazer, PA
610.240.9566 • ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com

White Dog Cafe

PAW-TIO TIME!

981 Baltimore Pike Glen Mills 610.822.2100
whitedog.com/glenmills

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610.444.2244 • www.LaVeronaPA.com



Cedar Hollow Inn Restaurant & Bar
2455 Yellow Springs Rd.
610.296.9006; CedarHollowInn.com

The Classic Diner
352 Lancaster Ave.
610.725.0515; TheClassicDinerPA.com

The Fern & Fable
39 Conestoga Rd.
610.647.1900x158; TheFernAndFable.com

General Warren
9 Old Lancaster Rd.
610.296.3637; GeneralWarren.com

Brick & Brew
26 W. State St.
484.443.8441; BrickNBrewPub.com

Desert Rose
305 W. State St.
484.442.8012; DesertRoseMediaPA.com

Dim Sum Mania
17-19 E. State St.
610.557.8757; DimSumMania.com

Pinocchio's Restaurant
131 E. Baltimore Ave.
610.566.7767; PinPizza.com

Newtown Square

Teca (also in West Chester)
191 S. Newtown Street Rd.
484.420.4010; TecaRestaurants.com

Pine Forge

Gracie's 21st Century Café & Catering
1534 Manatawny Dr.
610.323.4004; Gracies21stCentury.com

Delco's favorite family restaurant has both a beautiful deck and a tented outdoor area! Whether you decide to dine outside or in, you'll be treated to great pizza and world-class beer. Come spend a summer evening with this third-generation family business.

Rye BYOB
112 W. State St.
610.263.7832; RyeBYOB.com

Sterling Pig Brewery (also in West Chester)
609 W. State St.
484.444.2526; SterlingPig.com

Phoenixville

Avlós Greek Cuisine
258 Bridge St.
610.455.4110; AvlosGr.com

Bistro on Bridge
212 Bridge St.
610.935.7141; BistroOnBridge.com

The Boardroom Restaurant
101 Bridge St.
610.235.0620; TheBoardroomPXV.com

Tom's Dim Sum
13 E. State St.
610.566.6688; TomsDimSum.com

Shere-E-Punjab
210 W. State St.
610.891.0400; Shere-E-Punjab.com

The Towne House
177 Veterans Sq.
484.445.2041; TowneHousePA.com

Two Fourteen
214 W. State St.; 724.904.9139
TwoFourteenRestaurant.com

Ariano
114 S. Olive St.
610.892.6944; ArianoMedia.com

Azie Media
217 W. State St.
610.566.4750; Azie-Restaurant.com

Restaurant Alba
7 W. King St.
610.644.4009; RestaurantAlba.com

Toninos Pizza & Pasta Co.
235 Lancaster Ave.
610.240.9566; ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com

This is a family-run business that prides itself on using the freshest ingredients to make authentic homemade Neapolitan pizza, pasta and signature Italian dishes. They invite you to come in and dine, BYOB, Tuesday to Saturday, for lunch and dinner, Sunday, noon to 9 pm.

The Great American Pub (also in Wayne)
148 Bridge St.
610.917.3333; TheGreatAmericanPub.com

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant
130 Bridge St.
610.983.9333; IronHillBrewery.com

Sedona Taphouse (also in West Chester)
131 Bridge St. #5
484.302.5714; SedonaTaphouse.com

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FINE WINE & GOOD SPIRITS

Outdoor Dining in Towns & Boroughs

KENNETT SQUARE

Kennett Square is in bloom again this summer. The popular **Third Thursdays on State Street** return through October with outdoor dining, live music, food trucks, pop-up vendors and more. Special events include Kennett Summerfest, June 9, with wine, spir- its, cheese and live music in a sophisticated festival atmosphere. *KennettCollaborative.org*.

MEDIA

Dining Under the Stars returns on Wednesday evenings through September. Dozens of restaurants in the historic State Street District offer outdoor seating in a picture-perfect setting, serving delicious cuisine from around the world. There's live music by local musicians, and many of Media's eclectic inde- pendent shops stay open late for guests to browse. *VisitMediaPA.com*.

PHOENIXVILLE

PXV Inside Out brings the community together weekly through October. Dine outside or enjoy a drink with friends. Stroll through downtown and explore amazing boutiques and retail stores. Take in a show or play in one of the parks. Held on the 100 and 200 blocks of Bridge Street from Friday at 4 to Monday morning. *PhoenixvilleFirst.org*.

WEST CHESTER

The **Gay Street Open-Air Market** is back! Four blocks of Gay Street (between Matlack and Darling- ton Streets) are closed to vehicles, Friday to Monday mornings through September. Restaurants extend into the street, so you can savor the beautiful weather as you eat. Note: Gay Street will remain closed to vehicles on Memorial Day and Labor Day. *Dow- ntownWestChester.com*.

Rivertown Taps

226 Bridge St.
484.924.9112; *RivertownTaps.com*

★ Steel City Coffeehouse & Brewery

203 Bridge St.
484.924.8425; *SteelCityBrews.com*

Thornton

★ Bierhaul Farmhouse (also in West Chester)

341 Thornton Rd.
610.550.3440; *Bierhaul.com*

Wayne

★ Amada Radnor

555 E. Lancaster Ave.
484.429.2158; *AmadaRestaurant.com*



White Dog Cafe

★ A Taste of Britain

503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610.971.0390; *ATOBritain.com*

★ At the Table

118 W. Lancaster Ave.
610.964.9700; *AtTheTableWayne.com*

★ Autograph Brasserie

503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610.964.2588; *AutographBrasserie.com*

Black Powder Tavern

1164 Valley Forge Rd.
610.293.9333; *BlackPowderTavern.com*

★ The Blue Elephant

110 N. Wayne Ave.
484.580.6142; *BlueElephantWayne.com*

Christopher's A Neighborhood Place

108 N. Wayne Ave.; 610.687.6558
ChristophersANeighborhoodPlace.com

DanDan

214 Sugartown Rd.
484.580.8558; *DanDanRestaurant.com*

★ DiBruno Bros. Bar Alimentari

385 W. Lancaster Ave.
484.581.7888; *DiBruno.com*

The Great American Pub

4 West Ave.
610.964.9535; *TheGreatAmericanPub.com*

★ Rosalie

139 E. Lancaster Ave.
610.977.0600; *RosalieWayne.com*

★ Takumi Bistro & Bar

821 Lancaster Ave.
610.922.1788; *TakumiBistro.com*

Teresa's Café and Next Door Bar

124 N. Wayne Ave.
610.293.9909; *Terasas-Cafe.com*

★ White Dog Cafe

200 W. Lancaster Ave.
610.225.3700; *WhiteDog.com*

West Chester

See West Chester article and map in this issue.

★ 9 Prime

9 N. High St.
610.365.3309; *9PrimeWestChester.com*

★ Andiaro

106 W. Gay St.
484.887.0919; *Andiaro.com*

★ Bar Avalon

116 E. Gay St.
610.436.4100; *AvalonRestaurant.net*

★ Bierhaul Townhouse

15 N. Walnut St.
717.918.0868; *Bierhaul.com*

★ Four Dogs Tavern

1300 W. Strasburg Rd.
610.692.4367; *TheFourDogsTavern.com*

Greystone Oyster Bar

7 N. Church St.
610.241.3369; *GreystoneOysterBarWC.com*

★ Ground Provisions: Market & Dining

1388 Old Wilmington Pk.
610.355.4411; *GroundProvisionsPA.com*

★ Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

3 W. Gay St.
610.738.9600; *IronHillBrewery.com*

★ Limoncello Ristorante

9 N. Walnut St.
610.436.6230; *LimoncelloRestaurant.com*

Mae's West Chester

39 W. Gay St.
484.887.0062; *MaesWC.com*

Market Street Grill

6 W. Market St.
610.429.5328; *TheMarketStreetGrill.com*
See Green Street Grill in Downingtown.

★ Más Mexicali Cantina

102 E. Market St.
610.918.6280; *MasMexicali.com*

★ Mercato Ristorante & Bar

33 W. Market St.
610.701.6326; *Mercato-WC.com*

★ Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & Martini Bar

125 W. Market St.
484.760.6100; *PietrosPrime.com*
Pietro's Prime is an upscale, casual steakhouse and martini bar in the heart of downtown West Chester, serving prime cuts of beef and a variety of seafood selections. Dine in their rustic dining room setting or enjoy their outside patio seating. Stop by for live music Wed., Fri. and Sat. in the bar area along with their signature martinis and cocktails.

★ Roots Cafe

133 E. Gay St.
610.455.0100; *RootsCafeWC.com*

★ Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill

151 W. Gay St.
610.701.8489; *Saloon151.com*

Santino's Tap & Table

40 E. Market St.
610.738.5491; *SantinosTapAndTable.com*

★ Sedona Taphouse

44 W. Gay St.
610.738.5104; *SedonaTaphouse.com*

★ Serum Kitchen & Taphouse

142 E. Market St.
484.947.5186; *SerumKitchenAndTaphouse.com*

The Social

117 E. Gay St.
610.738.3948; *TheSocialWC.com*

★ The Original Spence Cafe

131 N. High St.
610.918.1272; *Spence.Cafe*

Sterling Pig Public House

113 W. Market St.
484.999.8026; *SterlingPig.com*

Stove & Tap

158 W. Gay St.
484.999.0922; *StoveAndTap.com*

★ Teca

38 E. Gay St.
610.738.8244; *TecaRestaurants.com*



Gracie's 21st Century Café & Catering



Ron's Original Bar & Grille

West Marlborough

The Whip Tavern

1383 N. Chatham Rd.
610.383.0600; *TheWhipTavern.com*

Northern Delaware

★ Bar Reverie

4017 Kennett Pk., Greenville
302.315.3663; *BarReverie.com*

★ Bardea Food & Drink

620 N. Market St., Wilmington
302.426.2069; *BardeaWilmington.com*

★ Buckley's Tavern

5812 Kennett Pk., Centreville
302.656.9776; *BuckleysTavern.com*

Columbus Inn

2216 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington
302.571.1492; *ColumbusInn.net*

★ La Fia

421 N. Market St., Wilmington
302.543.4474; *LaFiaWilmington.com*

★ Le Cavalier at the Hotel du Pont

42 W. 11th St., Wilmington
302.594.3154; *LeCavalierDE.com*

★ Merchant Bar

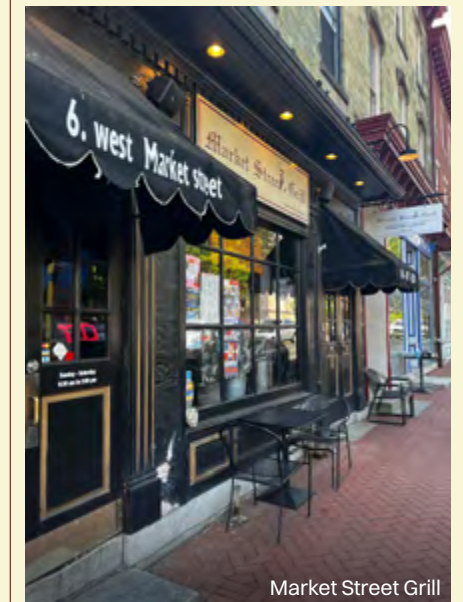
426 N. Market St.
302.502.3385; *MerchantBarWilmington.com*

Wilma's

900 N. Market St., Wilmington
302.400.7766; *GoodTimeWilmas.com* ♦



Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & Martini Bar



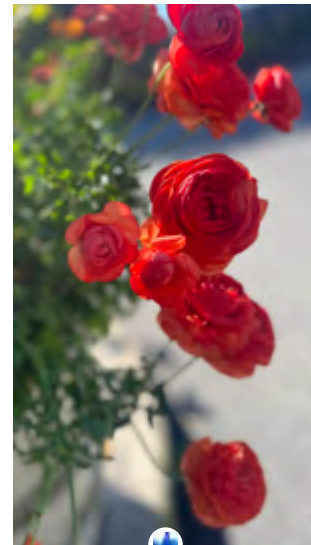
Market Street Grill



Amulya Perdi
Longwood Gardens



Carolyn Cihak
Mt. Airy Lavender Farm



Kelly Jurs
Longwood Gardens



Maria J. Nicolas
"Pure Bliss"



Ray Slavinski
Birchrunville



Polly Robbins
West Chester



Christina Sutton
"Rocket Science"

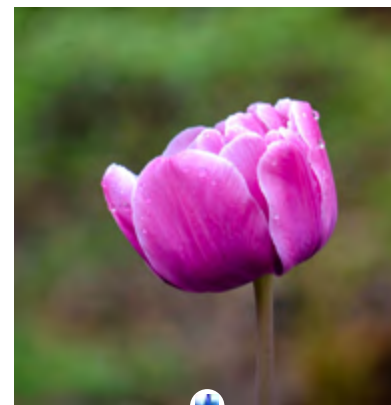
Chester County in Bloom

County Lines country is in full bloom, and we asked you to help capture it! During June, we'll showcase each finalist's photo on Facebook. To vote, just follow and like our page, then like your favorite photo. The entrant with the most likes* will win a family membership to Longwood Gardens for up to five people.

*Check the rules on our website.



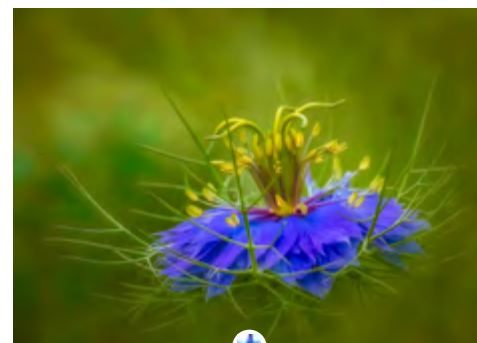
Sandy Powell
Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



Tricia Townsend
"April Showers"



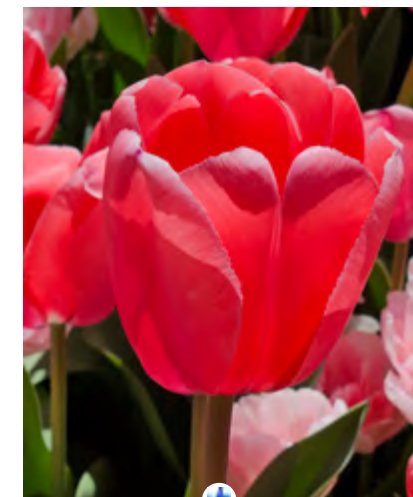
Roseann Roth
Longwood Gardens



Heather Rees
Longwood Gardens



Debbie Goebel Cornelius
"Awakening"



Terri Jameson
Longwood Gardens



Kathy Kelly McGarry
Elverson



Rachel Yacovett
"Nature Makes No Mistakes"



Carrie Harkness
Kennett Square



Christina Rainey
West Chester



Lee Ann Embrey
Coatesville



Holly DeCovny
"Differential Grasshopper"



Susan Walter
Birmingham Township

A Dozen Star Athletes

HOW DID THESE HIGH SCHOOL STARS GET SO GOOD?

Edwin Malet



Jack Consiglio



Avery Lewis



Zachary Oswald

WE REACHED OUT TO LOCAL PRIVATE schools to find this year's top athletes. Then we asked about their success: What did their parents do? Their schools and clubs? How did they balance sports and academics?

We don't have all the answers. But we were enlightened . . . and awed.

JACK CONSIGLIO, 2024

WRESTLING — MALVERN PREP

Twice the winner of the National Championships, Jack Consiglio wrestles for Malvern Prep. Choosing Stanford University because "it's academically and athletically rigorous," and the campus is "beautiful," he's considering a career in accounting, finance or as a sports agent. But first he wants to be "the best wrestler there is."

His mother initially enrolled him in wrestling in third grade. Now he trains about five days a week, 2 to 2½ hours per day, running, lifting weights, practicing and competing on the mats. He said the "best way to condition for wrestling . . . is wrestling." His coach at Malvern called him "the hardest worker on the team."

AVERY LEWIS, 2024

TRACK — FRIENDS' CENTRAL SCHOOL

Avery Lewis placed 1st in the long jump at the Adidas Indoor Nationals in 2021. In 2022, she finished 1st at 60-meters and 2nd at the 200-meters sprints at the High School Indoor Nationals. In 2023, she ran 2nd at USA U20 Championships in the 100-meters.

She picked University of Southern California for college as "the best combination of sports and academics." Planning to study business, she's considering the food industry, perhaps opening a restaurant. But that will come, she hopes, after the Olympics.

Avery began her track career at age 6, running with her church group. Today, she trains about two to three hours every day and credits her parents as her main sources of inspiration.

BEN MCCARTHY, 2024

LACROSSE — HAVERFORD SCHOOL

A multi-sport athlete, Ben McCarthy decided to focus on lacrosse when he started high school, but he's played for the Philadelphia Freedom club since fifth grade. Today, he's ranked #4 nationally. An excellent student, he chose Duke University for college because of its "balance between academics, athletics and social life."

For his success, he credits his moms. They've "sacrificed a lot" and "taught me a balance of competitiveness along with how to keep a level head while playing." His school and club coaches also taught him "countless lessons both on and off the field."

ZACHARY OSWALD, 2024

SWIMMING — HAVERFORD SCHOOL

Zachary Oswald described winning the 100-meter backstroke at the Eastern Prep School Championship: "The atmosphere was unlike anything I've ever experienced . . . It was so loud that I could barely hear."

He praised his parents — his "number one supporters" — and coaches at Haverford and his club. Swimming, he said, is "one of the hardest sports out there physically." It's "constantly a grind." He practices every day except Sunday.

For college, Oswald chose the University of Notre Dame, noting it has the "11th best swim team" as well as "high level academics . . . and a lot of school spirit." He hopes to make the cut for the 2024 Olympic Trials and the 2028 team.

JORDYN PALMER, 2027

BASKETBALL — WESTTOWN SCHOOL

When she joined the varsity team in 2022, Jordyn Palmer was only in eighth grade. This season, the team was 8-0 in the Friends School League, 25-2 overall and ranked #1 in Pennsylvania.

At 6'2", Palmer contributed mightily to Westtown's winning season, averaging 18 points, 11 rebounds, six assists, four blocks and three steals per game. Though only a freshman, she's planning on the WNBA in 2027.

Palmer's parents consistently spurred on their prodigy, who first played as a 3-year-old at the Oxford YMCA. Later, she played for the Chester County Storm, coached by her father, and the Philly Rise. Of her father, she said, "He pushed me and taught me everything and is always there for me." Her mother, "helped . . . when making hard decisions, she's always there."

AVERY ELLIOTT, 2024

TRACK — EPISCOPAL ACADEMY

At Nike Indoor Nationals, Avery Elliott placed 6th nationally in the pentathlon — five events: two sprints, two jumps and one throw. She was also 1st in Pennsylvania for the season and named an All-American.

She said her "mom's always been my biggest supporter," teaching her to hurdle when she was 12 and continued coaching Elliott's AAU and USATF teams. Now, she'll often do throws or jumps mornings, with runs or hurdles afternoons along with her list of "favorite hype songs" to get ready.

Next season, the track team at the University of Pennsylvania will welcome her, where she'll work toward a degree in computer science or digital media design. She hopes to be a 3D animator.

CAITLIN CONNELL, 2025

FIELD HOCKEY — VILLA MARIA ACADEMY

Caitlin Connell started playing field hockey in first grade and "loved the game" ever since. Now a rising senior, she's ranked among the country's top 150. As a sophomore, she was 2nd Team All-American, 1st Team All-State and MVP in the American Association of Catholic Academies league. She helped Villa Maria win the PA Independent Athletic Association's 2A state championship.

Crediting her school and club coaches who've pushed her "to be the best I can be," as well as the coaches at USA Field Hockey and the National Team training camps, Connell said her top skills are speed, field vision and goal scoring.

CAROLINE CHISOLM, 2025

FIELD HOCKEY & LACROSSE — AGNES IRWIN SCHOOL

Among the top field hockey players nationally, Caroline Chisholm is also a superlative lacrosse player. Called a "gifted athlete" by her school coach, she's committed to Boston College, drawn to the area by a family connection.

The hardest part has been "staying on top of your schedule," said Chisholm. Her parents, both amateur athletes themselves, have been "extremely supportive." Her teammates have been "super important," and the "care" of AI's alumni has also been key.

Chisholm hasn't decided on an academic focus yet. But taking all honors classes, she plans to bring her "competitiveness" to everything she does.

ROB LOHKAMP, 2024, & KATO CONNOR, 2025

SOCCER — WILMINGTON FRIENDS SCHOOL

At 13-3-1, Wilmington Friends' soccer team finished in 2nd place last year in its division, led by junior Kato Connor and senior Rob Lohkamp. Connor had 10 goals and six assists, while Lohkamp had nine goals and eight assists.



Jordyn Palmer

Avery Elliott

PHOTO CREDIT: PATTY MORGAN PHOTOGRAPHY



Caitlin Connell

PHOTO CREDIT: NATE HECKENBERGER PHOTOGRAPHY



Rob Lohkamp



Therese Lucian



Miles Kempinski

Connor enjoys “the fluidity” of soccer, “a flow you don’t see much in other sports.” He was named #1 player in Division II of the Delaware Independent Athletic Association, #7 in the state and the Independent Conference Player of the Year. In school, his favorite subject is English.

Besides soccer, Lohkamp loves golf. Drawn to the sport’s “complexity and simplicity,” he finds it challenging but relaxing. He plans to become an orthodontist and recently chose University of Delaware for college.

THERESE LUCIAN, 2024
FIELD HOCKEY & SOCCER — TOWER HILL SCHOOL

Therese Lucian had played soccer her entire life, only trying out for field hockey goalkeeper on the recommendation of her coach in ninth grade. She found her soccer skills “made my transition into a field hockey goalie incredibly smooth.” In soccer, she was the team’s leading scorer in her junior season. In field hockey, as a senior, she recorded over 150 saves. Ultimately, she captained both teams, winning All-Conference 1st Teams in both sports.

Of her coaches, she said they’ve “taught me everything I know and supported me tremendously.” They’ve always “pushed me to find things to improve on until I perfect my play.”

Lucien will play field hockey at Denison University, where she plans to study psychology.

MILES KEMPSKI, 2024
FOOTBALL, BASKETBALL & LACROSSE — ARCHMERE ACADEMY

A three-sport athlete, Miles Kempinski was the starting quarterback and corner in football, leading scorer in basketball and defensive midfielder on a lacrosse team that finished top-5 in the state.

He credited his brother, his Archmere coaches and his dad and “always wanted to be like him.” Kempinski added, “Training in multiple sports kept me busy and helped me stay in shape.”

A native of West Chester, he’ll attend University of Massachusetts at Lowell to play lacrosse.

Each of these stars tended to start playing their sport early, demonstrating a remarkable level of intensity in their training and love of their game. All drew on parents and coaches, many of whom travelled the “extra mile” for them. To a person, these student-athletes were challenged by time management, but overall, they didn’t complain. Instead they learned key life lessons of commitment, self-discipline, mental toughness, teamwork and resilience. ♦

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Liz Tarditi



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With that little science lesson out of the way, let’s get to the good part: pairing!

THE MEAT OF THE MATTER

Which wines go best with barbecue? You might think the biggest, boldest reds. Actually, medium- to full-bodied reds are in the Goldilocks zone.

Spanish rioja, for example, is a crowd-pleaser. It goes with beef, pork, lamb, dry rubs or saucy barbecue and will make those smoky tones dance in your mouth. Try the Chairman’s Selection **111 Rioja Reserva 2018** (\$12.99) with cherry and plum notes and silky tannins, or any of **Campo Viejo’s** line of **Tempranillo Rioja** (\$12.49), **Rioja Reserva** (\$17.69) and **Garnacha Rioja** (\$11.39).

Equally luscious, but with a bit more structure, Rhône-style blends from France or Paso Robles feature a blend known as GSM — grenache, syrah and mourvèdre. Elegant and complex, sensuous and balanced, with red fruits and silky drinkability, a Rhône blend elevates expensive cuts like filet mignon, ribeye and racks of lamb. Favorite picks include **Chateau Mont-Redon Châteauneuf-du-Pape Rouge** (\$51.99) and **Kermit Lynch Côtes-du-Rhône Rouge 2021** (\$14.99).

For ultra-luxury cuts of heritage beef and wagyu, chat with your friendly wine specialist, who will be delighted to guide you to a bottle that’s equally a work of art, such as the **Silver Oak Cabernet Sauvignon Napa Valley 2018** (\$174.99). It’s a wonderful vintage, showing big notes of blackberry, plum and cassis with spices, dried florals, toasty oak and a long finish, yet still a medium-bodied wine with a balance of intensity and freshness that brings out the savory intensity of artisan butchery.

For barbecued poultry, planked salmon or earthy vegetables, an Oregon pinot noir such as **Fairsing Vineyard Pinot Noir Yamhill Carlton 2018** (\$34.99) has a chewy tannic structure with a perfume of sweet tobacco, leather and spices along with intense red fruits.

Do any whites have a natural affinity for barbecue? Of course! When pairing shrimp, scallops, kielbasa, grilled white meats or dishes in ginger-based marinades, try a dry or medium-dry aromatic

white such as **Clean Slate Riesling Mosel** (\$13.49). It’s refreshing and crisp with clean notes of Asian pear.

ELEVATE YOUR SIDE HUSTLES

The right wine transforms classic sides into next-level culinary experiences. For creamy or cheesy sides like potato salad, twice-baked potatoes or mac and cheese, a California chardonnay such as **Sonoma Cutrer Chardonnay Sonoma Coast** (\$23.99) has the perfect combination of bright apricot notes with baking spices and buttery vanillin that harmonize with those velvety textures, while the oak aging gives it an elegant structure capable of holding its own with rich main courses.

For corn-based dishes, fruity rosés such as **DAOU Vineyards and Winery Rosé Paso Robles 2022** (\$19.99) and **Notorious Pink Grenache** (\$17.69) add a touch of sophistication and bright acidity that balances the sweetness of the side and a juicy intensity that stands up to the main course.

Grilled marinated veggies call for acidic and herbal dry whites that won’t overpower the food. Try a grassy sauvignon blanc bursting with tropical citrus such as **Starborough Sauvignon Blanc Marlborough** (\$15.99) or Pennsylvania’s own **Stony Run Winery Grüner Veltliner** (\$15.59). These are perfect on a hot summer day, with a nose of white flowers, honeysuckle and a lip-smacking green apple zing.

CHILL WHEN YOU GRILL

During the summer months, chilled reds can make a substantial difference in enhancing your tasting experience. “Room temperature” in the great outdoors is too hot! Chill your red wine to 55–65 degrees and hold it in an ice bucket between servings. The flavors become more vibrant, the bright acidity shines through and the heat of the alcohol is less pronounced, bringing out the fruity and floral notes.

Another option, great for a crowd or by the pool, is canned or boxed wines. Always keep your wines and glasses out of direct sunlight — wines are photosensitive, and just as you’d never put a fresh, crisp salad



on a preheated plate, you don’t want to ruin the delicate nuances of a fine wine by pouring it into a hot glass.

So relax, sip and enjoy with complete confidence that whatever is on your grill is delicious and perfectly paired. Please drink responsibly, and cheers to sunny days, starry nights and a wonderful summertime with family and friends! ♦

Liz Tarditi is an entrepreneur and classically trained chef with 35 years’ experience in the culinary world. She holds a degree from Villanova University and graduated with honors from the Culinary Arts program at the Art Institute of Seattle. Liz has worked for Fine Wine & Good Spirits for five years, becoming a Wine Specialist in 2020. She enjoys pairing wine and food for special events and celebrations. See Liz at the Phoenixville Fine Wine & Good Spirits.





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Food News

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

Surf and Turf. Calling all foodies! **Taste & Sea**, an upscale seafood and steak restaurant, opened in Glen Mills in the former Pescatores spot. The 146-seat fine dining destination, plus room for 46 on the patio, emphasizes old-school



hospitality, offering coat check and bottle service. Menu highlights include San Francisco-style cioppino, 20-ounce dry-aged Kansas City strip and Maine lobster tails. *1810 Wilmington Pk., Ste. 1, Glen Mills. TasteSea.com.*

New Wine in Town. An Eastern Shore winery has a new location in West Grove: **Casa Carmen Farm & Winery**, on a historic property that once belonged to William Penn. In addition to vineyard grapes, the farm grows botanicals for vermouth, veggies for their tasting room and is home to a flock of sheep. Visit the tasting room for seasonal tapas and small bites paired with Casa Carmen wines and vermouth, plus local beer and cocktails. *49 Camino Way, West Grove. CasaCarmenWines.com.*



Hatching Soon. Chicken lovers, rejoice! Lansdowne's **Crisp Chik'n** is getting a second location, joining Blazin' J's and FIRE Nashville Hot Chicken for fried chicken in downtown West Chester. Expect a similar menu to the original, including Nashville Hot, Korean BBQ and The Delco (American cheese, fried onions, Dijon mustard, pretzel bun) chicken sandwiches, tenders and bites, milkshakes, plus vegan and vegetarian options. Slated to open for the 2024–25 school year. *124 E. Market St., West Chester. CrispChikn.com.*

What's the Scoop? Cool off with a scoop — or two — of **Handel's Homemade Ice Cream**

at their new Downingtown location. Choose from 47 rotating flavors, ranging from classic chocolate and vanilla to salty caramel truffle, strawberry cheese-cake chunk, chocolate peanut butter brownie and Monkey Business (banana cake batter ice cream with caramel ripple and brownie pieces). For dairy-free folks, there's vegan ice cream, sherbet and sorbet as well. *520 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. HandelsIceCream.com/Downingtown.*



All Aboard. Make your morning commute a little sweeter with goodies from **The Buttery Café**, a new coffee shop at the Malvern SEPTA station from the Malvern Buttery folks.



Replacing Valentine Chocolate Company, the café features coffee, tea and espresso drinks alongside a selection of the Buttery's delicious, flaky pastries — including a new blueberry millet muffin — plus granola bars, parfaits and salads. Open weekdays, 5:30 to 11 a.m. *13 W. King St., Malvern. MalvernButtery.com.*



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