

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

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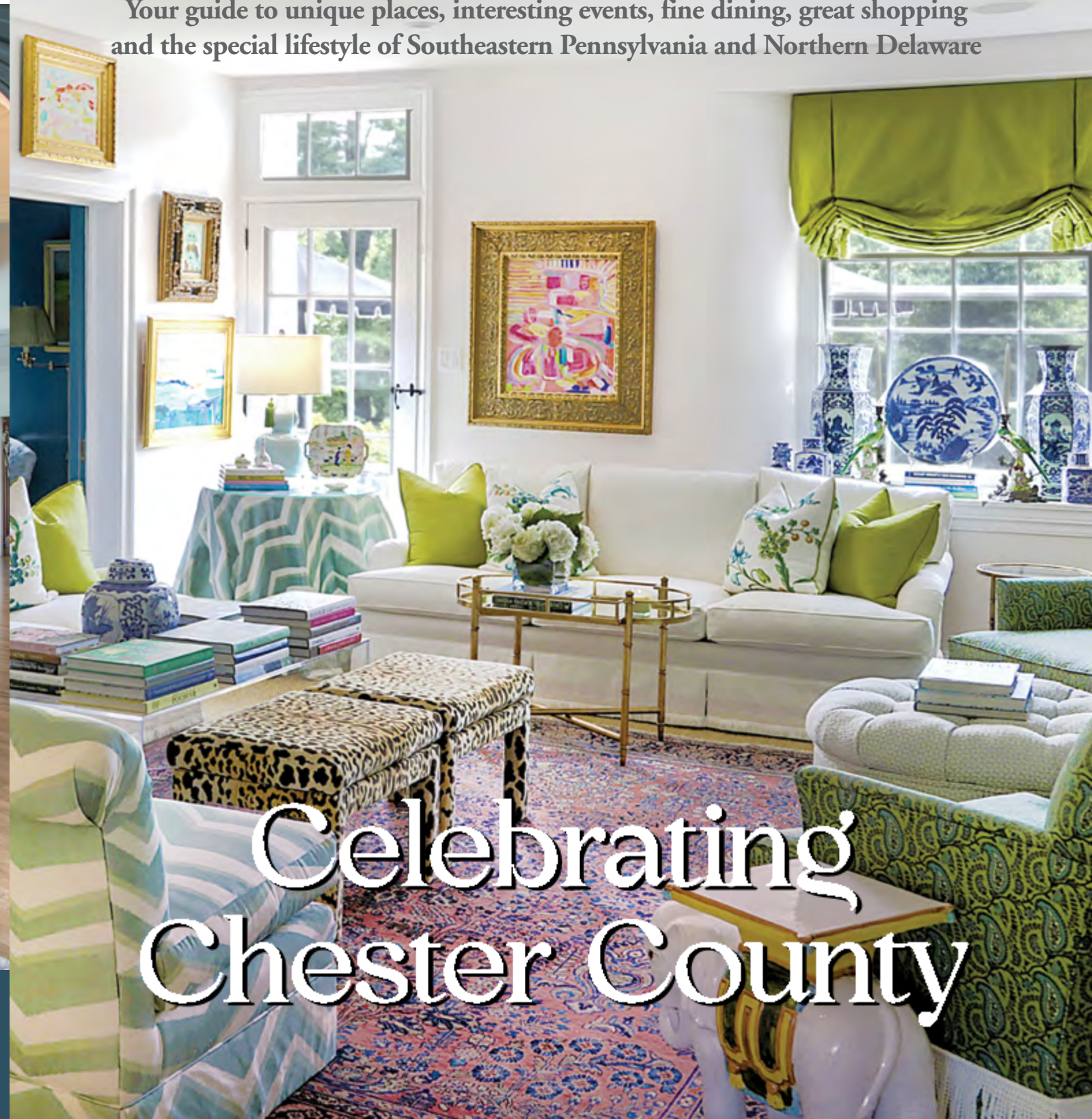
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CONVERTED BANK-BARN OFFERS HISTORIC CHARM WITH MODERN AMENITIES

9 TIBURON LANE | MALVERN

Have you always dreamed of living in an historic property? The Barn at Dryburgh Farm offers a rare opportunity to live in a stunning, converted bank-barn (circa 1831). Nestled on a private, 2.5-acre lot backing to a meadow, woods, and a meandering stream, you'll find the privacy you want without isolation. Conveniently located in Malvern, Willistown Township, this unique property offers a peaceful escape from hectic-paced lives, but is just minutes from the shops, clubs and restaurants of the Main Line, and is within easy commuting distance to Philadelphia, NYC and Washington, DC.

This exceptional property has been artfully restored and renovated, balancing respect for the past with updates for today's busy lifestyles - including a spacious main level home office, with the option for a second office. All four bedrooms have ensuite bathrooms, offering privacy for you, family members and guests. Living spaces are highlighted by exposed stone walls and vaulted, beamed ceilings. The custom kitchen has a large center island for relaxed gatherings, and an adjacent cozy breakfast room that overlooks the family room with a two-story wall of windows. There is even a lower level "bonus" room (currently an art studio) - the perfect space for a gym or yoga studio - whatever fits your vision for this property!

Contact our team to schedule your private tour of this fabulous property!



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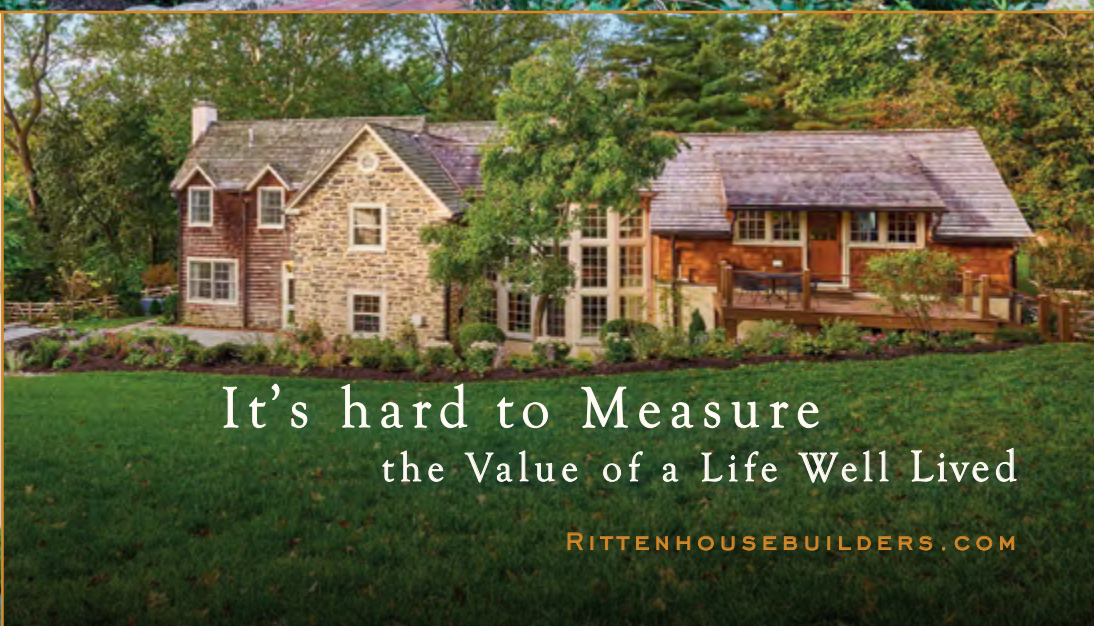
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Newlin Township

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.

\$2,950,000



East Fallowfield

Adjacent to Unionville Equestrian Area

This unique offering is comprised of two parcels. One is a private 39.9 acre parcel with a restored stone bank barn with stalls and an on-grade loft above. There are several turn-out sheds, multiple fenced paddocks and a stone spring house. An historic c.1790 home in need of restoration is included. Abutting this parcel is a separately deeded one acre property with a three bedroom, two bath home in good condition. This offering is adjacent to Unionville's famed equestrian area. There are no restrictive easements against subdivision. This is therefore an opportunity for a builder or is perfect for the conservation minded individual looking to preserve a special property and enjoy the significant tax benefits!

Call for Pricing

SOLD



East Marlborough Township

Privately Set in a Highly Protected Area

Nestled in Unionville's legendary equestrian area sits this four bedroom, 3.1 bath, 4,280 square foot home loaded with charm and stunning details. The Kitchen features high end appliances, abundant cabinet space, and overlooks the magnificent pond and pastures. The spacious Living Room fireplace is faced with Mercer tiles. The Family Room features a large brick fireplace and a wet bar. Upstairs has three bedrooms plus a sitting room. The barn offers four stalls, a wash stall, and a tack room plus a one bedroom apartment. The farm's landscaping is absolutely perfect with an abundance of flowering trees and shrubs which beautifully screens the house and protects the home's privacy. Set in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.

\$2,850,000



NEW LISTING



East Bradford Township

Great Home in a Wonderful Community

This 4 bedroom, 2.1 bathroom home features a very private rear yard with a large deck and a relaxing garden area. Most of the main level has thick cherry flooring and the living and adjoining dining room creates a large space - perfect for entertaining. Chefs will enjoy the fabulous kitchen with stainless appliances and ample cabinet space. The voluminous family room has a vaulted ceiling, two skylights and a brick fireplace. The dramatic primary bedroom suite offers a vaulted ceiling and "his & her" walk-in closets flank the access to the stunning bathroom. The lower level is used for the owner's business and can be easily reconfigured. The property is located near the Stroud Preserve and the vibrant restaurant scene in West Chester.

\$725,000





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New Price

SPRINGDELL ROAD | 41+ ACRES | WEST MARLBOROUGH

Stone farmhouse with log cabin addition overlooking the countryside in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.



LENAPE ROAD | 26+ ACRES | POCOPSON

Magnificent estate in a picturesque setting with stream, vineyard, guest house, pool with pool house, guest suite and art studio.



PRIZER ROAD | 36.6 ACRES | CHESTER COUNTY

European-inspired stone manor home featuring pool with pool house, office and apartment in converted barn.



MARSHALL BRIDGE ROAD | 2.1 ACRES | KENNETT TOWNSHIP

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from the
EDITOR

It's September at *County Lines*. Fall is coming. Homes, horses, bells, meadows, wine and good food. We're celebrating the bounty of Chester County.

Join Carol Metzker for a preview of four fabulous homes on the Chester County Day Tour. Read "Opening Doors: Chester County Day's 83rd Tour of Tours." Laurel Anderson adds one more when she tours the Galer family's retreat with vineyard in our Dream Home feature. And check out "Home Decor" for inspiration for your home.

Shannon Montgomery gets ready for autumn, inviting you to "Fall in Love with the Coming Equestrian Season." Five spectacular events, from Ludwig's Corner to the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. Plus Jillian Sinclair suggests another: "Dressage at Devon: A Must-Attend Event for Family and Fun."

Ever heard a bell ringing in downtown West Chester? At the top of the hour, from the clock tower at High and Market Streets, it's "The Oldest Sound in West Chester," writes Malcolm Johnstone.

Main Point Books' Cathy Fiebach asks, "Read Any Good Banned Books Lately?" Tony Morrison's "Beloved," Mark Twain's "Huckleberry Finn" and Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" ... It's a surprising list.

Tired of mowing? A Malvern family was, so they replaced their lawn with a wildflower meadow. Willistown Conservation Trust's Blake Goll describes the experience in "Longing for Life Beyond the Lawn" and offers advice.

The colors of autumn weave a tapestry of colors, inviting you to immerse yourself in rich flavors of fortified wines. Liz Tarditi suggests you sample some in "A Tapestry of Tastes."

When Meg Veno, owner of Life's Patina, took a trip to Europe, it changed her life. Read about her new approach to food in "Food as Art" in Courtney Diener-Stokes' Brandywine Table column.

To have a September to remember, check out People's Light's 50th anniversary along with our monthly roundup of Best Local Events.

Thank you for reading!

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

September 2024

Volume XLVIII Number 1

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Colerain Township

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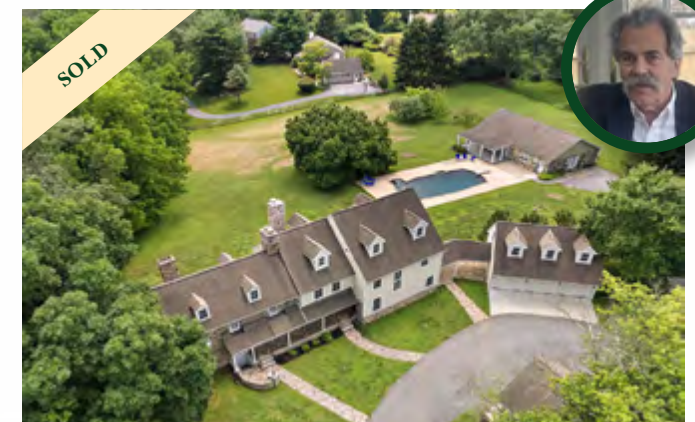
Presented by Camille Gracie
Price Upon Request



Highland Township

Spectacular 173+/- acres, main house, cottage house, 16+ stall barn & garages.

Presented by Amy McKenna & Rob Van Alen
\$5,700,000



Pennsbury Township

The historic "John Hope House" on 3.7 acres with guest house, in-ground pool, stone outbuildings & original walk-in cooking fireplace.

Presented by Mark Willcox
\$1,750,000

COMING IN October

ACROSS COUNTY LINES

Happy Hours in Phoenixville
Guide to Private Schools • Dream Home
Wolf Sanctuary • Beyond Pine Cones
Spooky Stories • Marry at the Inn

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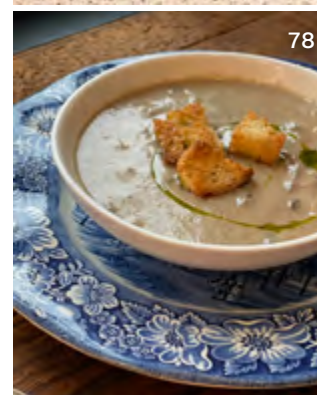
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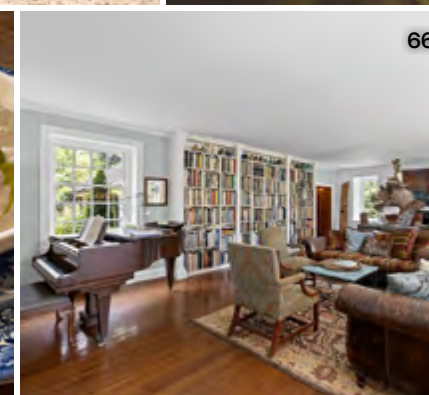


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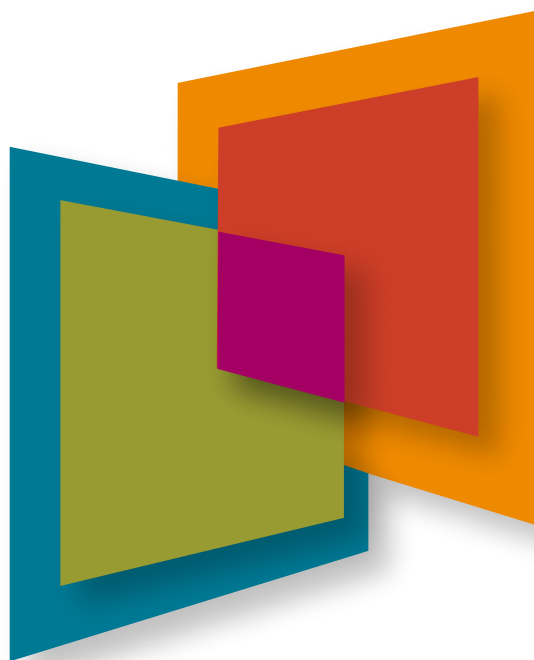
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The Master's Mural. The Master's Baker in West Chester is home to a **new mural**. Designed and painted by local artist Erica Dehart, the 50'x17' mural depicts a window overlooking downtown West Chester, plus native Pennsylvania flowers and, naturally, cakes. This is West Chester's third mural, joining the Women's Suffrage (119 E. Market St.) and Friends Association (113 W. Chestnut St.) murals, with another planned to commemorate the borough's 225th anniversary. *19 W. Gay St., West Chester. TheMastersBaker.com.*



Nature Explorers. Discover our area's rich biodiversity with Newlin Grist Mill's **Pop-Up Naturalist program**. From April to October, park visitors can participate in a self-guided program featuring signage with fun facts, nature explorations and exciting challenges. Signs change themes and locations monthly — September's theme is "Tiny Wildlife." Look for signs along trails between the Visitor Center and Frog Pond. Grounds open daily, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Free. *219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. NewlinGristMill.org.*



Shine On. Chester County Hospital's **SHiNE** program is celebrating 25 years of improving the lives of patients living with cancer in our region. This all-volunteer organization funds services like nurse navigators, transportation, a wig program and emotional support. Join them on Sunday, September 29 from 4 to 7 p.m. for a special tribute at SHiNE founder Maria McCool's home, featuring a VIP cocktail hour, dinner and live music. For more information and tickets, visit *PatientSHiNE.org.*

Stormy Showdown. You probably know about the Battle of Brandywine, but have you heard of the **Battle of the Clouds**? On September 16, 1777, less than a week after the Battle of Brandywine, the Continental Army met British forces around present-day Malvern. 26,000 soldiers fought briefly before a storm forced Washington's troops to retreat to Yellow Springs when munitions got wet. Check out the historical marker on Swedesford Road, or follow Washington's trail yourself by downloading battle maps at *ChescoPlanning.org.*



Insta-worthy. Spruce up your Insta feed with a trip to Longwood Gardens, recently named one of the **world's most Instagrammable flower gardens**. With 307,185 Instagram posts, Longwood ranked sixth worldwide and was one of just two U.S. gardens to crack the top 10, along with NYC's Brooklyn Botanic Garden. While you're there, don't miss the rare century plant, which only blooms once every few decades, blooming through October! See the other top gardens at *TitanTravel.co.uk.*



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MARS



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OCTOBER
17-20



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September Picks Our Picks for top events this month

Fete en Blanc in Pottstown

September 6



Enjoy an outdoor BYO dinner under the lights with live music and beverage vendors. The event is modeled after traditional late summer or early fall Dinner in White events held in communities around the world. Guests enjoy takeout from one of Pottstown's restaurants

and eateries, or prepare their own picnic meal, dine together and say farewell to summer with a ceremonial white-napkin wave. *Smith Family Plaza at Borough Hall, 150 E. High St., Pottstown. 6 to 9 p.m. \$15. FeteEnBlancPottstown.com.*

Hagley Car Show

September 15

Browse through more than 500 antique and restored cars and enjoy the vehicle parade, motoring music and food trucks. This year's theme is "British Invasion." Stop by the exhibition "Du Ponts



Down the Road" in the 1844 Hagley Barn featuring historic vehicles ranging from a horse-drawn carriage to an early electric car to a WWII-era Indian Motorcycle — all owned and used by members of the du Pont family. *200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance tickets only; no day-of tickets. \$20-\$30/carload. Hagley.org.*



32nd Annual Radnor Fall Festival

September 15

Wayne Business Association holds this festival featuring live performances from local music and dance companies, rides, kids activities, vendors, community organizations, a Top Dog contest and more. *N. Wayne Ave. & West Ave. between Lancaster Ave. and the Wayne train station, Wayne. Rain or shine. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. RadnorFallFestival.com.*

Paoli Hospital Auxiliary Presents A Passion for Fashion

September 27



Enjoy an afternoon of fashion to benefit Paoli Hospital's Inpatient Room Expansion. This event features a fashion show, boutique, premier raffle and luncheon, highlighting the latest trends and styles from

local boutiques. *The Desmond Hotel, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 11 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. \$80. For tickets, Events.org/L/PHA-FashionShow or call 610-291-8512.*

Chester County Art Walk

September 28

Take a ride to East Goshen Park where over 100 artists line the trails. Enjoy the food trucks, three live musical acts and a teen artist competition as you enjoy the artwork on display. *1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EastGoshen.org.*



FAMILY FUN

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 22
Sundays

West Chester Railroad Summer Picnic Special. Enjoy a train ride from West Chester to Glen Mills and return on a warm summer afternoon. Pack a lunch to have during our stop at the Glen Mills train station picnic grove. 230 E. Market St., West Chester. Noon. \$25. WCRailroad.com.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30

Morris Arboretum Presents: Garden Railways: Dinos! Dinosaurs made out of natural materials are displayed on more than 15 different rail lines. The display includes triceratops, and velociraptor, as well as other Mesozoic creatures. 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia. Mon–Fri, 10 to 5; Sat–Sun, 9 to 5. \$10–\$20. MorrisArboretum.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER

Kalmar Nyckel, Tall Ship of Delaware. Find adventure and outdoor fun, maritime history and cultural events with annual community festivals. Oct. 19, Halloween Ghost Ship, noon to 4 pm. [Copeland Maritime Center at the Kalmar Nyckel Shipyards](http://CopelandMaritimeCenter.org), 1124 E. 7th St., Wilmington. KalmarNyckel.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 31

Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport. Gather family and friends and let the Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport guide you to a memorable summer weekend escape, providing access to 12 of the Brandywine Valley's top attractions. \$49–\$99. VisitWilmingtonDE.com.

THROUGH NOVEMBER 3

First Sundays Steamin' Days at Marshall Steam Museum. Climb into an antique automobile or board one of the trains and experience what it was like to travel at the turn of the 20th century. 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.

SEPTEMBER 14 & 15

Battle at Chadds Ford—Historic Chadds Ford Days. Take a historical journey back to September 11, 1777, when the British army engaged Washington's troops at Chads' Ford. Two timed skir-

mishes and a firing demo will take place each day with reenactors and demonstrators. Live music, food, and beverages available. 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5–\$10. ChaddsFordHistory.org.



SEPTEMBER 21

Paoli Battlefield Heritage Day. Enjoy the American Military Timeline and see how the soldiers dressed and what they carried into battle. Stop by the food trucks and beer tent and enjoy facepainting for the kids and many other crafters and vendors. 1st & Wayne Aves., Malvern. 11 to 4. \$10. PBPFInc.org.

SEPTEMBER 21

Fall Festival at Newlin Grist Mill. Fun for the whole family featuring many different historic skills and trades demonstrations, archaeological excavations and activities, vendors in the Colonial Market, beer and wine at the Tavern, a Community Corner, hayrides plus hands-on activities for kids. 219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 10 to 4. Free. NewlinGristMill.org.

SEPTEMBER 27

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center Presents Puppy Pals Live. Puppy Pals is a family-fun, action-packed show where adopted and rescued dogs perform spectacular stunts — full of surprises and laugh-out-loud canine comedy. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$20–\$35. UptownWestChester.org.



SEPTEMBER 28

Charlestown Day. Food trucks, bounce house, face painting, balloon animals, vendors, live music and kids activities throughout the day. [Charlestown Township Park](http://CharlestownTownshipPark.org), 100 Academic Way, Phoenixville. 11 to 3. Free. Charlestown.PA.US/Parks.aspx.

SEPTEMBER 28

The Lights Festival at Plantation Field. Enjoy food, live music, dancing and the sight of the sky lit with thousands of lanterns. Join the party for a night of nostalgia featuring the best songs from the '80s and '90s. 1547 W. Doe Run Rd., Kennett Square. 3 pm. \$57; ages 4–12, \$12. TheLightsFest.com.



OCTOBER 5

Truck & Tractor Day at Winterthur Museum of Art. Get up close to trucks and tractors, check out vehicles and equipment, suit up in firefighter gear, take a hayride and milk a mechanical cow. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 10 to 4. \$6–\$20. Winterthur.org.

OCTOBER 6

Downingtown Fall Fest. Street festival featuring food and craft vendors, Victory Brewing Beer Garden and live entertainment. Green St. & E. Pennsylvania Ave. 11 to 4. Rain or shine. DowningtownFallFest.com.

OCTOBER 6

Westtown Day 2024. This annual community event features something for all—carnival games, petting zoo, bounce house, self-guided tours of the Oakbourne Mansion, historical re-enactors, archaeological dig box, face painting, food, live music and more. [Oakbourne Park](http://OakbournePark.org), 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 11 to 3. Free. WesttownPA.org.

ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES.....

AUGUST 30–SEPTEMBER 1

45th Annual Long's Park Art Festival. Long's Park transforms into a beautiful outdoor gallery filled with more than 200 juried artisans offering their unique wares. Enjoy local culinary treats as well as wine and craft beer. 1441 Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. Fri–Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$10–\$15. LongsPark.org.

SEPTEMBER 7 & 8

Brandywine Festival of the Arts. Over 200 artisans from all over the country display and sell their work. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5. BrandywineArts.com.

SEPTEMBER 14 & 15

Rose Squared Art Show at Ludwig's Corner. This show will feature exhibitors in many mediums including apothecary, artisanal foods, ceramics, digital art, decorative and wearable fiber, glass, jewelry and more. Food and beverage trucks on site. 1326 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore. Daily 10 to 5. Free. RoseSquared.com.



SEPTEMBER 20

Craft and Mercantile. A curated evening market celebrating local makers and artisans alongside live music, food, drink and arts and crafts activities. Burke Park, 15 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. 5 to 8:30 pm. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

SEPTEMBER 21 & 22

Kennett Art Festival. Featuring over 100 artists, live music, kids activities and a selection of local food vendors, including beer and wine. 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, noon to 4. \$5. KennettArts.com.

SEPTEMBER 30–OCTOBER 8

5th Annual Delco Arts Week. The Delaware County Arts Consortium hosts more than 60 events, many free to the public. Enjoy concerts, festivals, films, gallery exhibitions,

kids activities and workshops. For details, visit DelcoArts.org.

OCTOBER 4

Fall Gallery Walk in West Chester. Explore the vibrant art scene in downtown West Chester. Galleries combine with additional "one-night-only" venues throughout the downtown area to showcase Chester County artists. Presented by Founders Brewing Co. and hosted by Downtown West Chester. 5 to 9 pm. Free parking. DowntownWestChester.com.

OCTOBER 5 & 20

Clover Market. Shop from a curated lineup

offering handmade, antique and vintage wares plus enjoy food trucks, music and more at two locations in October. Oct. 5, 7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. Oct. 20, 600 S. Broad St. parking lot, Kennett Square. 10 to 4. Free. TheCloverMarket.com.

BOOKS.....

SEPTEMBER 4

Wellington Square Bookshop. Classics Book Club: "The Circle" by Dave Eggers, 2 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.



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SEPTEMBER 17
Main Point Books. Fiction Book Group: "Take What You Need" by Idra Novey, 1 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPoint-Books.com.

SEPTEMBER 24
Reads & Company Presents. Book publication party for "Intermezzo" by Sally Rooney. Rivertown Taps, 226 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 6 to 8:30 pm. To reserve a seat visit ReadsAndCompany.com.

CAR SHOWS.....
SEPTEMBER 6

10th Annual Car Show in Oxford. One of downtown Oxford's biggest events, with the capacity for over 200 cars, trucks and bikes on the streets. 13 S. 3rd St., Oxford. 3 to 8 pm. Oxford-Mainstreet.com.



SEPTEMBER 6-8
Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance. Nationally recognized motor car exhibition and other car events. Benefits Thorncroft Equestrian Center and local Boy Scouts troop. **Sept. 6,** Welcome Barbecue; **Sept. 7,** The Bill O'Connell Memorial Road Rally, gala and auction; **Sept. 8,** The Concours d'Elegance. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. Gen. adm., \$40-\$85. RadnorConcours.org.



SEPTEMBER 21
Auburn Heights Invitational Classic Car Show & Garden Party. Featuring a broad representation of exceptional motor cars from the dawn of the automotive age through 1969. Benefits Auburn Heights Marshall Steam Museum. 3000 Creek Rd., Yorklyn, DE. 12:30 to 4:30. \$15-\$27. AuburnHeights.org.

OCTOBER 6
5th Annual Summer End Festival Car & Bike Show in Coatesville. In addition to

the show, enjoy food, music, prizes and more. Gateway Park, 1st Ave. & Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville. 11 to 5. Coatesville.org.

DESIGN / HOME SHOWS.....
SEPTEMBER 7 & 8
Greater Philadelphia Fall Home Show. Find experts, inspiration and more at this show. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 5. Free with online registration or \$10 at the door. GreaterPhillyHomeShows.com.

EQUESTRIAN.....
See Fall Equestrian Events and Dressage at Devon articles in this issue.

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. Canceled for rain or extreme heat. 610-268-8692; BrandywinePolo.com.

SEPTEMBER 14
Over The Hill Horse Show. A fun show for riders ages 19-99. Benefits Northern Chester County Horse & Pony Club. Rain date, Sept. 15. Romano 4-H Center, 1841 Horseshoe Pk., Honey Brook. 9 am. OverTheHillHorseShow.com.

SEPTEMBER 14 & 15
Fair Hill Thoroughbred Show. Supporting riders of thoroughbreds by providing affordable show fees, scholarships, stakes classes and prizes in every division. Hunter classes will take place Sat and jumper classes on Sun. Fair Hill Horse Show Grounds, 4640 Telegraph Rd., Elkton, MD. FairHillThoroughbredShow.org.

SEPTEMBER 28
Fall Derby at the Vineyard. Experience a two-round horse jumping competition over natural fences. Enjoy the wine bar, local beer, hard cider, music, food trucks, vendors. Penns Woods Winery, 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. 10 to 6. \$5-15. PennsWoodsWinery.com.



Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net.
Berwyn Farmers Market, 511 Old Lancaster Rd. Sun, 10 to 1. BerwynFarmersMarket.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.
FarmerJawn Farmers Mkt., 1225 E. Street Rd., West Chester. Wed-Fri, 10 to 6; Sat-Sun, 9 to 3. FarmerJawn.co.
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/NewtownSquareFoodandMakersMarket.
Oxford Village Mkt., 193 Limestone Rd. Thurs, 8 to 6; Fri, 8 to 7; Sat, 8 to 5. 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.

FESTIVALS.....
THROUGH OCTOBER 27
Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. A cast of hundreds fill the shire. Visit the website for themed weekends such as Fairies and Fantasy and Pyrate Invasion Weekends. Mt. Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Sat-Sun, 11 to 8. \$17-\$37. PARenFaire.com.

SEPTEMBER 7 & 8
Annual Mushroom Festival in Kennett Square. Enjoy tasty mushroom dishes, exhibits, cooking demos, a car show and kids activities. This year, celebrity chef Carla Hall will host cooking demonstrations on Saturday and be one of the judges for the Amateur Cook Off Competitions. 600 S. Broad St. lot. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 9 to 4. \$5, cash only. MushroomFestival.org.



SEPTEMBER 14
VetFest 2023. Family-friendly food and brew festival featuring veteran-owned and operated businesses from the area. Kids activities, games, vendors and live music by veteran musicians. Free admission. Rain or shine. 400 Chesterfield Pkwy., Malvern. 11 to 4. www.VetFestPA.com.

OCTOBER 5
173rd Annual St. David's Country Fair. A fun-filled day for the whole family with flea market, food booths, antiques, midway games and prizes, mini-train ride and pumpkin-painting. Benefits the church's outreach partners. 763 S. Valley Forge Rd., Wayne. 10 to 4. \$2-\$10. 610-688-7947; StDavidsChurch.org/Fair.



OCTOBER 6
State Street Fall Festival in Media. State Street in downtown Media will be alive with a mix of food, music, artists, crafters, nonprofits and family fun. 11 to 5. VisitMediaPA.com.

FILM.....
SEPTEMBER 19-22
2nd Annual Phoenixville Film Festival. The festival is a celebration of independent film that includes film screenings, filmmaker's panels, workshops, after-parties and awards ceremony. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, PhoenixvilleFilmFestival.com.

FOOD & BREWS.....
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19
Thursdays
Sculpture Garden Happy Hour at Delaware Art Museum. Summer series features live music, local brews, lawn games, wine, cocktails and food vendors. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. N. Terrace, Copeland Sculpture Garden. 5 to 7:30 pm. Free. DelArt.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER
Wednesdays
Dining Under the Stars in Media. Stroll. Shop. Dine. Restaurants set up tables on State



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Street, which is closed from Jackson to Orange for this summer-long outdoor dining event. Participating restaurants at VisitMediaPA.com.

SEPTEMBER 7

11th Annual Historic Odessa Brewfest. Featuring more than 50 local, regional and national craft brewers, live music, artisan vendors, lawn games and locally sourced food. Benefits Historic Odessa Fdn. 202 Main St., Odessa, DE. Platinum ticket, noon to 5:30, \$125; VIP ticket, 12:30 to 5:30, \$75; gen. adm., 1:30 to 5:30, \$60. OdessaBrewfest.com.



SEPTEMBER 12

Sip & Stroll at Brandywine Zoo. Go a little wild at the family-friendly event. You'll sip, stroll and learn while enjoying beer and touring the zoo after hours. Fun animal encounters and activities for all ages. Limited tickets. Beer sold separately. Brandywine Park, 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 5 to 7. BrandywineZoo.org.



SEPTEMBER 13

Wilmington & Western Railroad — Brews on Board. Local craft brews are served aboard the train for your tasting pleasure on a leisurely 2-hour round-trip through the Red Clay Valley. Must be 21. Board at Greenbank Station, 2201 Newport Gap Pk., Wilmington. 7 pm. \$80–\$160. WWRR.com.

SEPTEMBER 14

Up On The Roof. The rooftop of the Chestnut Street Garage will transform into a unique venue with music and dining. Enjoy appetizers, desserts, complimentary beer and wine and the always-popular Rooftop Martini. Benefits the beautification of West Chester. 14 E. Chestnut St., West Chester. 5 to 8:30. For tickets visit DowntownWestChester.com.

SEPTEMBER 14, OCTOBER 12

Pints on the Preserve at ChesLen Preserve. Hike, picnic and have fun. East Branch Brewing Company will be pouring suds at the Lenfest Center pavilion. Snacks available for cash only purchase. 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 2 to 7 pm. Free. NatLands.org.

SEPTEMBER 15

43rd Annual Chester County Restaurant Festival. Over 50 restaurants and food vendors and 60+ crafters and artisans participate. Festival on Gay St. from Matlack to Darlington Sts. with bands performing on Gay St. at Darlington, Matlack St. and the Beer Garden on the 100 block of N. Church St. Benefits West Chester Parks & Recreation. Noon to 5:30. West-Chester.com.



SEPTEMBER 28

Oktoberfest 2024 in West Chester. Participating restaurants offer \$6 fall beers or ciders and fall-themed appetizers. There will be live music around town. No tickets needed, simply show up at one of the participating locations and ask for the Oktoberfest specials. Note that Gay St. will be closed to vehicles for the Open-Air Market. DowntownWestChester.com.

SEPTEMBER 28

A Taste of Coverdale—Coverdale Farm Preserve. Sip cocktails among the colorful varieties of U-Pick flower beds, soak in the history of the Stone Barn and the views of the Overlook, all while experiencing food that is locally grown on site, with specially curated accompaniments. Rain date Sept. 29. 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. 5 to 8. \$250. DelawareNatureSociety.org.

OCTOBER 5

Kennett Brewfest. The Connoisseur Session ticket includes food pairings, live music, unlimited tastings, signature tasting glass, noon to 5, \$100. The regular Brewfest session features unlimited tastings from over 80 local and regional craft breweries and ciders as well as live music, food trucks and vendors, 1:30 to 5, \$65. Benefits Kennett Collaborative. 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. KennettBrewfest.com.

OCTOBER 6

West Chester's 22nd Annual Chili Cook-Off. Downtown West Chester gets spicy! Chili-cooking teams—businesses, nonprofits,

hometown cooks—line the streets for this cookoff and compete for prizes in several categories. Sample as many as you can, and vote for your favorite. Gay St., West Chester. WestChesterChiliCookOff.com.

FUNDRAISERS.....

See also: *Food & Brews and Outdoor Activities.*

SEPTEMBER 21

Canine Partners for Life Fall Festival Featuring Cow Bingo. Spend the afternoon visiting with puppies at the puppy kissing booth, watching service dog demonstrations, touring the kennel, shopping local vendors and enjoying a variety of food trucks, then try your luck at Cow Bingo. 334 Faggs Manor Rd., Cochranville. Noon to 4. Free. K94Life.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.

and more. Proceeds support conservation and protection of waterways. Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. 9 to 3. Free. DelawareNatureSociety.org.

OCTOBER 5 & 6

A National Garden Club Standard Flower Show, "Inspiration Longwood." Eight local garden clubs introduce exciting and beautiful horticulture experiences in display and design. Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Sat, 1 to 9 pm; Sun, 10 to 6. Free with admission to gardens, \$18–\$25. LongwoodGardens.org.



MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH OCTOBER 13

Brandywine Museum of Art. *Through Sept. 15,* "Every Leaf & Twig: Andrew Wyeth's Botanical Imagination." *Through Sept. 22,* "Frank Stewart's Nexus: An American Photographer's Journey, 1960s to the Present." *Through Oct. 13,* "In Shadows' Embrace: Prints by Peter Paone." 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed–Mon, 9:30 to 4:30. \$8–\$20. Brandywine.org.

OCTOBER 5–JANUARY 26

Delaware Art Museum. "Jazz Age Illustration," a major exhibition to survey the art of popular illustration in the United States between 1919 and 1942. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed–Sun, 10 to 4. \$14–\$25. DelArt.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. Free. For a lineup visit KingOfPrussia-Town-Center.com.

SEPTEMBER 1–29

The Keswick Theatre. *Sept. 1,* Dweezil Zappa; *Sept. 10,* Paul Weller; *Sept. 11,* Glen Hansard; *Sept. 12,* Singer Songwriter Show-

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case; *Sept. 13, 15*, Jon Anderson & The Band Geeks; *Sept. 14*, The Platters, The Drifters, Cornell Gunther's Coasters; *Sept. 19*, Nurse John; *Sept. 20*, Jesus Aguaje Ramos and his Buena Vista Orchestra; *Sept. 21*, Let's Sing Taylor; *Sept. 25*, Kristina Orbakaite In Philadelphia; *Sept. 26*, Labyrinth: In Concert; *Sept. 27*, Mat Kearney; *Sept. 29*, Blippi: Join the Band Tour. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 4
The Colonial Theatre. *Sept. 5*, Intimate Con-

certs: Michael Sarian; *Sept. 6*, The Holts; *Sept. 13*, Marty Stuart and His Fabulous Superlatives; *Sept. 21*, The Launch; *Sept. 27*, Colonial 54: An Immersive Disco Experience; *Sept. 28*, Shannon Curtis: The Good to Me Tour; *Sept. 29*, Toad The Wet Sprocket; *Oct. 4*, Nicks in Time. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.

SEPTEMBER 5-OCTOBER 6
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Sept. 5*, A Brother's Revival: Allman Brothers Band Music; *Sept. 6*, '80's Revolution; *Sept. 13*,

Green River: The Ultimate CCR John Fogerty Tribute Show; *Sept. 14*, Shot Thru The Heart: A Tribute to Bon Jovi; *Sept. 15*, Aria Nouveau; *Sept. 20*, The Ultimate Tribute to Meat Loaf; *Sept. 28*, The Music of Simon & Garfunkel; *Oct. 5*, The Ledbetters; *Oct. 6*, Loudon Wainwright III. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.



SEPTEMBER 6
Downtown West Chester Summer Concert Series. The Jonathan Ragonese Quartet at ChesCo Courthouse; Grecia, Nieland and Windish at Jack Loew Plaza at 44 West. 5:30 pm. Free. DowntownWestChester.com.

SEPTEMBER 6, OCTOBER 4
Sounds of Summer Music Series in Coatesville. Enjoy the good vibrations at Gateway Park, 1st Ave. & Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville. 7 to 10 pm. Free. Coatesville.org.

SEPTEMBER 6-OCTOBER 4
American Music Theatre. *Sept. 6*, Cat Power Sings Dylan: The 1966 Royal Albert Hall; *Sept. 8*, Fall Doo Wop Cavalcade; *Sept. 15*, Ricky Nelson Remembered starring Matthew and Gunnar Nelson; *Sept. 19*, Spider Man: Across the Spider-Verse; *Sept. 20*, Amy Grant; *Sept. 21*, Ozark Mountain Daredevils: The Farewell Tour with special guest Pure Prairie League; *Sept. 22*, Home Free: Crazy(er) Life Tour; *Sept. 26*, Girl Named Tom; *Sept. 28*, Josh Turner: The Greatest Hits Tour with Harper Grace; *Oct. 4*, The Texas Tenors. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.

SEPTEMBER 7
South Wayne Porch Fest. A community celebration with live music on the porches of private homes in South Wayne. 11:30 to 6. Free. SouthWaynePorchFest.com.

SEPTEMBER 7
Phoenixville Blues Fest. Listen to great music, enjoy great food and visit unique vendors. Reeves Park, 148 3rd Ave., Phoenixville. 1 pm. Free. PhoenixvilleChamber.org.

SEPTEMBER 7 & 15
Upper Merion Concerts Under the Stars. *Sept. 7*, John Eddie; *Sept. 15*, Old 97's. Township Bldg. Park, 175 W. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia. 6 pm. Visit website for tickets. UMTownship.org.

SEPTEMBER 7-28
At The Grand in Wilmington. *Sept. 7*, Kathleen Madigan: The Potluck Party; *Sept. 12*, An Evening with JD Souther; *Sept. 13*, The New York Bee Gees Tribute Show; *Sept. 20*, Todd Barry; *Sept. 21*, Suzanne Vega; *Sept. 27*, The Neil Diamond Experience; *Sept. 27*, John Pizzarelli; *Sept. 28*, AJ Collier & The Band of Believers; *Sept. 28*, R&B With a Twist of Comedy. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

SEPTEMBER 14
Longwood Wine & Jazz Festival. The festival returns with a stellar lineup of musicians and wineries and ends with a jazz-inspired Illuminated Fountain Performance in the Main Fountain Garden. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 2 to 9 pm. \$43-\$65. Times and tickets, LongwoodGardens.org.

SEPTEMBER 21
Natural Lands Beats & Brews. Enjoy an evening of music, nature and community with live music under open skies as musicians play Grateful Dead favorites. Benefits Natural Lands. Binky Lee Preserve, 1445 Pikeland Rd., Chester Springs. Gates open at 5. \$45. NatLands.org.

SEPTEMBER 21
T&E Care Fall Music Fest. Community

members enjoy an evening of music, great food, drinks, a raffle and entertainment. T&E Care is a network of people providing short-term financial and material assistance to those in need in the area. Waynesborough Country Club, 440 Darby Paoli Rd., Paoli. 6 to 10 pm. For tickets, TECare.org.

SEPTEMBER 28
Main Line Music Festival. Formerly Paoli Blues Fest, the festival offers blues, R&B, rock 'n roll, and even a little C&W. This is a celebration of music, community and fun. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Wayne. Starts at noon. Free, donations accepted. MainLineMusicFest.com.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....
SEPTEMBER 9
Family Promise of So. Chester County — Day of Promise. A golf tournament fundraiser helping families with children who are experi-

encing homelessness achieve sustainable housing and stability. Kennett Square Golf and Country Club, 100 E. Locust Ln., Kennett Square. \$200. Noon. To register visit FamilyPromiseSCC.org.

SEPTEMBER 14
Open Hearth's Pickleball Palooza. The day features doubles tournaments for beginners through advanced players and open court time with instructors available for coaching. Join Open Hearth's mission of ending homelessness and financial instability. Rain date, Sept. 21. Hickory Park, 7351 Park Rd., Chester Springs. 9 am. To register, OpenHearthPickleball.com.

SEPTEMBER 20-22
Whitford Classic. Benefits the Whitford Charitable Fund, a nonprofit organization giving back to qualified nonprofits in Chester County. Whitford Country Club, 600 Whitford Hills Rd., Exton. Visit ChescoCF.org/Fund/Whitford-Charitable-Fund.

SEPTEMBER 21
Bike the Brandywine. Explore the scenery, glimpse the history and discover the lure of the Brandywine. Three scenic routes with distances of 25, 45 and 62 miles are offered. Benefits the Brandywine Conservancy. Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 N. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. 6:30 am. \$55. Brandywine.org/Conservancy.

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SEPTEMBER 28
2024 Unite For HER Run/Walk. Participate in a 2K Walk, 5K Run and Family Tailgate to raise funds to support those with breast and ovarian cancers. 26 E. Gay St., West Chester. Race begins at 9; family tailgate starts at 10 am, \$30-\$60. UniteForHER.org/5k.

OCTOBER 5
Willistown Conservation Trust Run-A-Muck Countryside Bash. Come run the 5K or muck (walk) the cross-country trail over diverse terrain. Enjoy food, beer, wine, a bonfire, live music, lawn games, mechanical bull rides and more. 912 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. 2:30 pm. \$25-\$55. WCTrust.org/Run-A-Muck.

OCTOBER 6
Marshallton Triathlon. One of the longest running triathlons in the country celebrates 50 years. Pedal, paddle, pace through a scenic and historic 10-mile route in Chester County. To register and for details, MarshalltonTriathlon.net.

THEATER.....
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28
Dutch Apple Theatre Presents Jersey Boys. Go behind the music of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.

SEPTEMBER 14-OCTOBER 27
9 to 5: The Musical at The Candlelight Theatre. Based on the 1980 movie with music and lyrics by Dolly Parton. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.

SEPTEMBER 18-OCTOBER 13
The Porch on Windy Hill at People's Light. A young couple's journey to North Carolina explores the roots of Appalachian music in a heartwarming tale of family heritage and human connection. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

SEPTEMBER 20-OCTOBER 20
Beautiful: The Carole King Musical at Fulton Theatre. This Tony and Grammy award-winning musical phenomenon is filled with the songs you remember and a story you'll never forget. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

SEPTEMBER 25-OCTOBER 13
Kinky Boots at Delaware Theatre Company. Featuring a sensational score by Cyndi Lauper, knockout dancing and a story with a huge heart. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 19
Bird-in-Hand Stage. 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.

SEPTEMBER 6-22
SALT PA Presents The Wizard of Oz. Follow the yellow brick road in this stage adaptation of L. Frank Baum's tale. Bring spices in plastic containers for the Chester County Food Bank. 1645 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Times and tickets, SALTPA.com.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
SEPTEMBER 6
1st Fridays
Coatesville, 484-786-8896; DowntownCoatesvillePA.com. **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; ArtLoop-Wilmington.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29
Open-Air Market in West Chester. 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.

THROUGH OCTOBER 31
Third Thursdays on State Street in Kennett Square. Enjoy outdoor dining, extended shopping hours, live music, kids 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.

SEPTEMBER 5-21
Chester County Best Kept Secrets Tour. This is a shopping, food and fun adventure featuring an ever-changing group of off-the-beaten track small businesses, hand-picked for their uniqueness. Tickets \$12. For map and directions, BestKeptSecretsTour.com.

SEPTEMBER 15-OCTOBER 20
Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tours. Visit documented Underground Railroad sites, historic homes and Quaker meeting-houses while learning about anti-slavery activity in the area. Begin at the Brandywine Valley

Tourist Information Center, 300 Greenwood Rd., Kennett Square. 1 pm. \$25. KennettUndergroundRR.org.

OCTOBER 5
Paoli Battlefield Paranormal Tour. Interstate Paranormal Research leads you on a paranormal investigation of the Paoli Battlefield. Discover many different "hot spots" of activity located along the trail and in other areas around the battlefield. Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. 7 to 11 pm. \$45. Register on PBPFInc.org

OCTOBER 5
Chester County Day House Tour. See article in this issue. ♦

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

People's Light Celebrates its Golden 50th

CELEBRATE FIVE DECADES AND A NEW SEASON

PEOPLE'S LIGHT, THE acclaimed Malvern-based theater company, celebrates its 50th anniversary with a season embracing its rich history. This nonprofit professional theater has become a cornerstone of our area's cultural landscape, renowned for its artists, productions and innovative youth programs. More than just a venue, People's Light fosters a community of connections and celebrates our shared humanity through the power of theater, as a civic forum and artistic laboratory.

Five decades of presenting over 450 productions, including 171 world and regional premiers, deserve a little history. In the beginning, the idea of the theater began after Dick Keeler, Ken Marini, and Meghan and Danny Fruchter left Media's Hedgerow Theater in 1974 to work both on and off the stage. Initially performing at Strode's Mill, a historic grist mill in East Bradford Township, then at the Center for Performing Arts in Chester Springs, People's Light & Theatre Company (now just People's Light) found a home at its seven-acre Malvern campus in 1979.

The theater company performs both classics and contemporary plays as well as commissions and new work in its original 340-seat theater and a 160-seat space

built in 1986. As Chester County's only year-round theater, People's Light operates from a campus that includes offices, scenic shops, rehearsal halls, classrooms, the Fern & Fable restaurant and the Farmhouse, a banquet and catering facility. People's Light boasts a dedicated team of 100 full- and part-time artists and staff, many living within 15 miles of the theater.

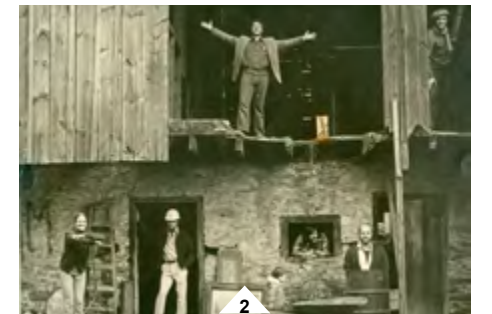
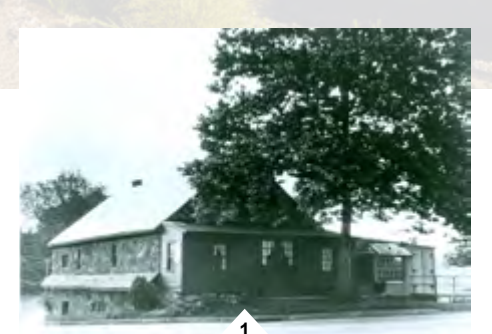
Each season, this cultural and civic center with theater at its core hosts nearly 200 guest artists from Philadelphia, New York, Washington, D.C. and beyond. Its \$6.4 million annual budget lets People's Light captivate and connect with 80,000 patrons, guests, students and members of its diverse community, including providing relaxed performances in a "shush-free" zone, allowing individuals with sensory sensitivities to enjoy the shows.

Join the 50th anniversary by attending this season's performances, including the beloved holiday *Peter Pan*, *A Raisin in the Sun* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, plus "The High Five-O," a special series of celebratory events with performances by community artists.

Come support 50 more years of live theater!

- Kaitlyn Fortney

People's Light, 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. For more information, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.



1. People's Light's first location at Strode's Mill (1974-76)
2. Early days of People's Light
3. People's Light's second location at Yellow Springs (1976-78)

PHOTOS COURTESY OF PEOPLE'S LIGHT

LEAD BOLDLY SERVE HUMBLLY



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



Ready to learn more?
OPEN HOUSE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26

To learn more about Malvern Prep scan the QR Code or visit MalvernPrep.org/Visit

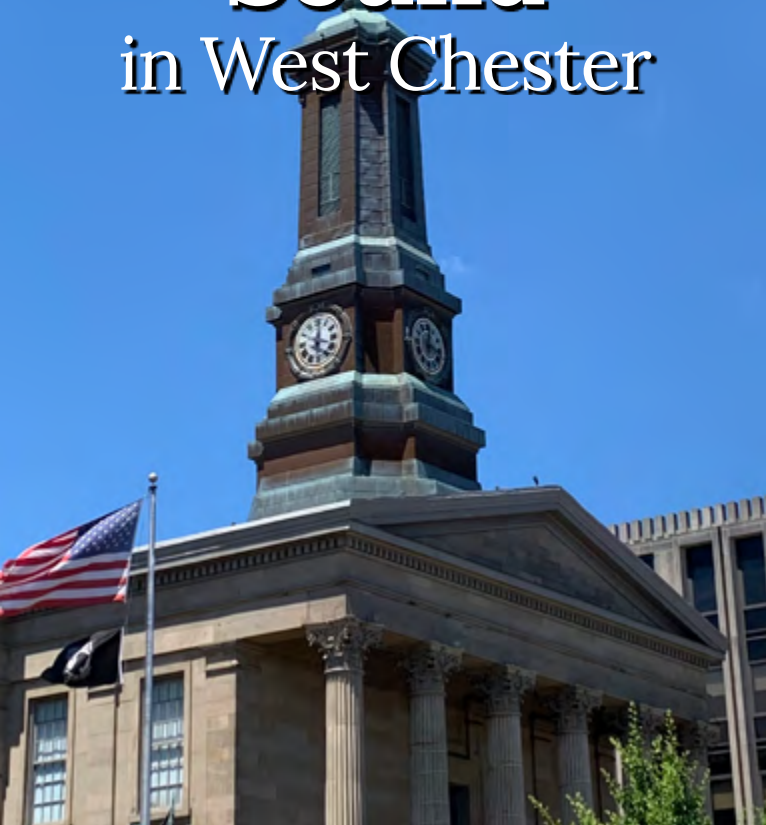
Malvern Preparatory School won Gold for Favorite Middle School in The Philadelphia Inquirer Philly Favorites Competition.



Niche has named Malvern Preparatory School the #1 Best Catholic High School in Pennsylvania, the #1 Best All-Boys High School in Pennsylvania, and the #16 Best All-Boys High School in America.



The Oldest Sound in West Chester



LISTEN FOR THE COURTHOUSE BELL WHEN YOU'RE IN THE BOROUGH.

Malcolm Johnstone

IF THERE'S ANY SINGLE SOUND THAT CAN BE called unique to West Chester, it's the sound of the courthouse bell. It hangs cradled in its original clock tower at the corner of High and Market Streets, where it rings at the top of every hour.

And the bell has been doing so since it was first in operation, beginning on September 3, 1838. (Coincidentally that was the same day human rights advocate Frederick Douglass made his dramatic escape from slavery at age 20.) The bell tower sat atop the original 1786 courthouse until that building was replaced by the current, larger courthouse in 1848.

In those early days, before personal clocks and watches became affordable for anyone but the wealthiest residents, the courthouse clock was an important town feature. It kept time for those with appointments, for school classes to start and for trains that would soon depart. The bell could also signal an emergency or special occasion.

Perhaps the most dramatic event in the bell's history occurred on April 10, 1865, when it began ringing nonstop at sunrise. Townspeople became both curious and alarmed by this unexpected pealing of the bell and quickly gathered at the courthouse.

There, they found two African Americans, Samuel J. Williams and Alexander Gladman, standing at attention on the courthouse steps. When the bell stopped, the men announced that the telegraph wires connecting West Chester to the rest of the world were down and no messages could be received. Because they had important news, the men rode their horses all night from Philadelphia to make a historic announcement: Confederate General Robert E. Lee had surrendered to Union General Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox, Virginia, the afternoon before. The Civil War was now effectively over.

Cheers erupted from the townspeople, who then spent the day celebrating. Plans were made to welcome the town's brave soldiers home. Tributes to the troop took years to complete and today can be seen at two impressive monuments — Old Glory, located at High and Market Streets, and the Civil War Memorial at Marshall Square Park.

THE WEST CHESTER BELL

From the street, the clock tower on top of the historic courthouse is among downtown West Chester's oldest and most recognizable landmarks. It was an early design by a young architect named Thomas U. Walter. Soon after, Walter went on to design the current historic courthouse, and in 1846, the original clock tower was placed upon the courthouse. At 120 feet, it's the tallest structure in West Chester. It's also noteworthy that in the 1850s, Walter went on to become Architect of the Capitol in Washington D.C., where he's known for designing the iconic Capitol Dome.

The bell itself has its own story. It's inscribed "Cast by J. Wilbank, Philadelphia, 1838," and is one of three bells identified with that marking. Artisan John Wilbank (1788–1843) had a busy career in Philadelphia casting bells for the government, churches and other institutions.

And bellmaker Wilbank also has a story. He cast a new bell for Independence Hall that would replace a certain bell that had developed a large crack. That cracked bell, of course, is now known as the Liberty Bell and sits quietly on display at Independence National Historic Park.

For his part in the bell's history, Wilbank was among the first to embrace the symbolism of the Liberty Bell. There was a threat that the bell would be melted down for other uses, but he and his family took care to preserve it from any further harm. Wilbank was even given ownership of the bell by the government until it was dedicated to the National Park Service. Today, it's one of America's great patriotic symbols visited by thousands each year.

An interpretive sign at Independence Hall states: "An old broken bell, yet one of the most powerful symbols of freedom in the world, bears a timeless message: 'Proclaim LIBERTY Throughout All the Land Unto All the Inhabitants Therof.'" Legend has it that some abolitionists saw that message and developed the nickname, The Liberty Bell, which it holds to this day.

The West Chester bell, uncracked, still rings as it did on its first day. The bell was tended to by John Hall, a local watchmaker and the first clock caretaker. Among his duties was to wind the eight-day movement, which took him 45 minutes (it's now done much faster electronically). The iconic four-faced clock surrounding the bell was constructed by Isaiah Luken, and each clock continues to mark the hour as it has for nearly 200 years.

The next time you're walking the streets of West Chester, listen for this historic bell to chime the hour and remember its story. ♦

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.



Photograph of the courthouse before 1885



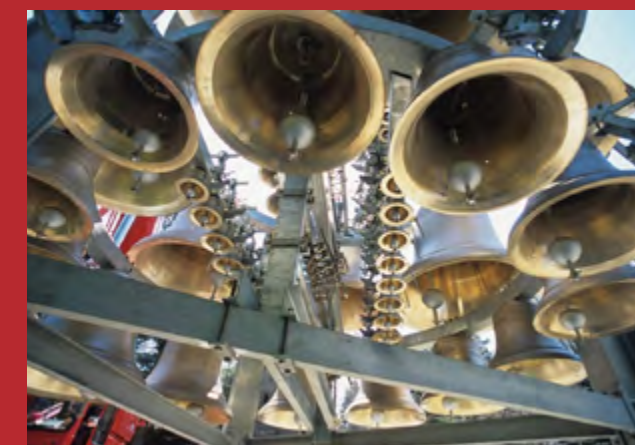
The Liberty Bell in Philadelphia

Carillons

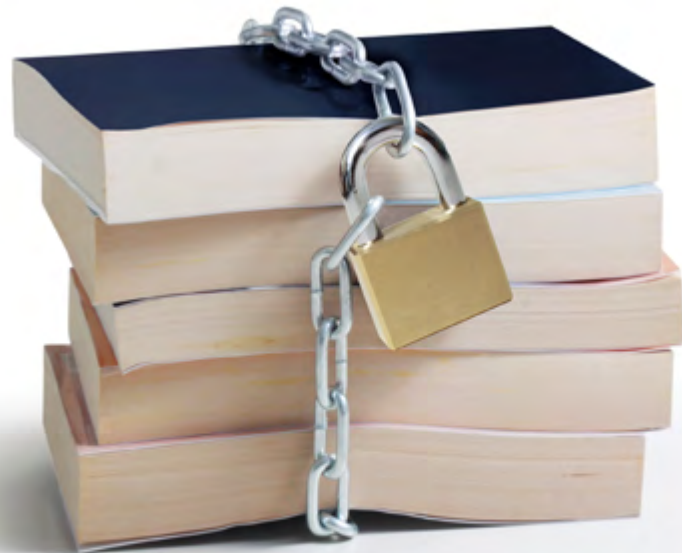
Bells can make beautiful music and have done so for centuries. Fans from poets to newlyweds have expressed their fondness for the charm of multiple bells pealing throughout a town. And who hasn't been moved by the tintinnabulation found in Edgar Allen Poe's poem, "The Bells"?

Did you know a collection of bells in a tower that make music is called a carillon? And Chester County is fortunate to have such an instrument located in the Chimes Tower at Longwood Gardens. This carillon, featuring 62 cast bells of varying sizes, was constructed in 1929 on Pierre du Pont's instructions after he heard a similar instrument in France.

Several times every day, the Longwood carillon plays a musical selection, periodically by a featured professional performer. Truly a heavenly sound!



Longwood Gardens' 62-bell carillon



Read Any Good **Banned** Books Lately?

PREPARE FOR BANNED BOOKS WEEK, SEPTEMBER 22-28, 2024

Cathy Fiebach, Main Point Books

AS THE SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS AND NEW assignments are distributed, it's hard not to reflect on the many books that have been lost to censorship across the country. According to the American Library Association (ALA), the number of unique book titles challenged has risen significantly from 378 in 2000 to 4,240 in 2023. This year alone, attempts to censor over 100 titles have been reported in 17 states, including Pennsylvania. Recently, pressure has mounted on public libraries as well, with a 92% increase in targeted titles in 2023.

There are numerous ways to support the fight against banned books. You can join campaigns, like "Unite Against Book Bans" and Let Freedom Read Day on October 7. And you can report instances of censorship to the ALA or attend library and school board meetings. But perhaps the most enjoyable action of all is simply to read! Purchasing books from local bookstores or requesting them at libraries not only supports authors, but also keeps these issues relevant and immediate.

Here are some beloved books that have faced censorship but whose stories continue to resonate.

Toni Morrison's debut novel, "The Bluest Eye," faced 62 banning attempts in 2023. The book tells the story of a young girl who endures abuse and yearns for blue eyes to conform to societal standards of beauty. A book I thought was even better, Morrison's "Be-loved," explores themes of slavery, motherhood and trauma. It tells the story of Sethe, who kills her own child rather than let her grow up in bondage. "Be-loved" is a powerful story that challenges readers to confront America's history. It's also a book I'd like to reread now as an adult and parent.

The graphic memoir "Persepolis" chronicles the author Marjane Satrapi's childhood and early adult years in Iran during and after the Islamic Revolution. It's been banned not only in the United States, but also in Iran and other countries. When listing it as one of the 50 Best Memoirs of the Past 50 Years for the *New York Times*, Parul Seghal described it as "A stunning graphic memoir hailed as a wholly original achievement in the form. There's still a startling freshness to the book. It won't age. In inky shadows and simple, expressive lines — reminiscent of Ludwig Bemelmans's 'Madeline' — Satrapi evokes herself and her school-mates coming of age in a world of protests and disappearances ... A stark, shocking impact."

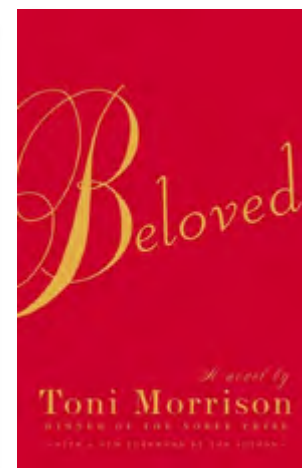
Topping the ALA's banned book list in 2023 and for many years before that is the graphic memoir "Gender Queer: A Memoir" by Maia Kobabe. The book explores Kobabe's journey of self-discovery and understanding their gender identity. It chronicles their experiences growing up and grappling with societal expectations regarding gender, their exploration of different labels and identities, and the challenges they faced in coming to terms with being non-binary. "Gender Queer" is a book that provides insight and understanding to many who are grappling with similar issues or those who just want to understand what a friend, colleague or family member is experiencing.

Maybe this fall you'd prefer to read a challenged classic. "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain explores race and society through the adventures of Huck Finn and Jim, a runaway slave. It remains a vital text for discussing racial issues in America.

Or you might read "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. Set in a dystopian future, "The Handmaid's Tale" depicts a society where women are subjugated and used for reproductive purposes. It raises profound questions about power, gender roles and individual freedoms. And yes, the book is better than the television series.

Another option is "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, the coming-of-age story of Scout Finch set in the racially charged South of the 1930s. This book explores themes of racial injustice and moral integrity as Scout's father defends a Black man falsely accused of rape.

You can start the kids early on supporting banned books. After all, they're the ones who are most affected. "Prince & Knight" by



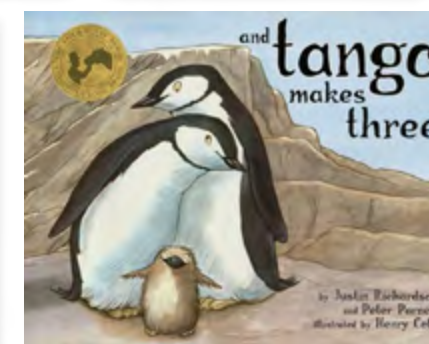
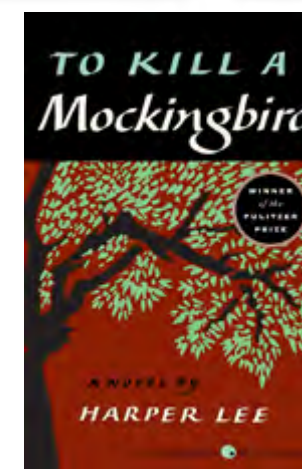
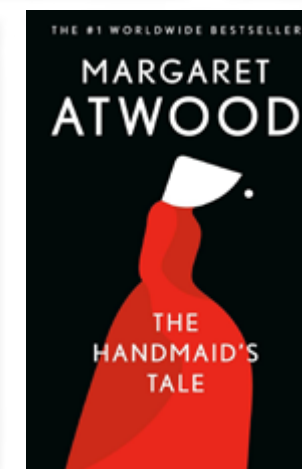
Daniel Haack along with "And Tango Makes Three" by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson tell stories of love and acceptance, challenging traditional family structures in gentle and relatable ways.

For your middle grader, "Drama" by Raina Tellegemeir is wonderful and perennially popular. "Drama" is the story of Callie, who is passionate about theater and works as a set designer for her school's drama productions. The novel follows her experiences navigating friendships, crushes and the challenges of putting on a successful school play.

Local bookseller Owen Elphick aptly summarized the impact of banning books. As he was reflecting on personal favorites that have often been banned: "Reading 'The Perks of Being a Wallflower' and 'Looking for Alaska' as a teen opened up the world to me, helped me feel less alone, and showed me that many experiences are universal. Banning books often deprives young people of seeing themselves and understanding their own lives in transformative ways."

These books, despite facing challenges and bans, continue to serve as essential tools for understanding and empathy, offering readers a mirror to reflect their own lives and a window into worlds beyond their own. ♦

Cathy Fiebach is the owner of Main Point Books, located at 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. Main Point Books is an independent bookstore with a hand-picked selection of books for every member of the family. Please check out their events, book groups and children's activities at MainPointBooks.com or on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.



Longing for Life BEYOND THE LAWN

TRY WILDFLOWERS

Blake Goll, Willistown Conservation Trust



1

THEY'D ATTAINED THE AMERICAN DREAM. Well-loved toys of three young boys adorned the driveway. A fluffy Great Pyrenees loafed on the front yard, waiting for his daily Milk-Bone from the postman. And, the icing on the cake, a white picket fence encompassed 4.5 acres of emerald green lawn.

But a few years after moving to this little paradise in Malvern, Jessica and her husband grew tired of the time it took to mow and maintain this patch of nonnative turf grass.

"What, after all, was its purpose, other than a tenet of homeownership with a cult following of people displaying their life status?" Jessica often asked herself. As a thoughtful landscape architect dedicated to helping other living things — think birds, pollinators — Jessica decided to redefine her definition of thriving. She'd convert her curated lawn into a dissident laboratory of biodiversity.

THE MAKING OF A WILDFLOWER MEADOW

In spring 2022, Jessica consulted Weeds, Inc. (a local company specializing in meadows) about converting 2.5 acres of her lawn to native wildflowers and grasses. They divided the site into three zones based on soil composition, providing a separate plant list for each. After eliminating the lawn grass in fall 2022, Weeds, Inc. tilled



2



3



4

and sowed the yard with native seeds (from Ernst Seeds) that December.

By July 2023, Jessica was elated to witness a full field of wildflowers! The dominant species the first summer included black-eyed Susan, coneflowers and native sunflowers creating a "fields of gold" vibe. Wild bergamot, vervain and asters took their turns adding vibrant splashes of violet hues as the summer progressed.

Wide-eyed friends and neighbors took notice of Jessica's dreamy yard, which had become her artist's palette, while a legion of pollinators — monarch butterflies, bumblebees, hummingbird clearwing moths — flocked to it.

For maintenance, Jessica works with North American Land Trust (NALT), which holds an easement on part of the property. Mowing occurs just once a year now, in late winter or early spring, before insects and birds begin to nest. Jessica keeps NALT informed whenever she adds new wildflower seeds. This spring, her sons were delighted to help her hand sow more seeds, these from the Bee and Butterfly Habitat Fund. The company's Seed a Legacy Program provides bulk meadow seeds to homeowners interested in native wildflower meadow conversion projects.

Jessica is enthusiastic about her yard "experiment" and looks forward to seeing the changes year after year. One of her favorite things has been watching her children's immersion in the natural world

that she welcomed into their lives. They'll remember raising painted lady butterflies and then watching them flit merrily about the meadow.

This summer, Jessica also consulted Willistown Conservation Trust (WCT) about installing meadow bird boxes, which she can monitor with her boys. The family was spellbound by the families of bluebirds and tree swallows that quickly occupied the boxes.

CHANGING PARADIGMS — TIDY ISN'T EVERYTHING

Wildlife populations, including birds and beneficial insects, have decreased by 70% since 1970. As awareness grows around the biodiversity crisis and homeownership grows increasingly difficult, some Americans are beginning to embrace the *au natural*/back-to-nature mindset, allowing flowering "weeds" and less lawn.

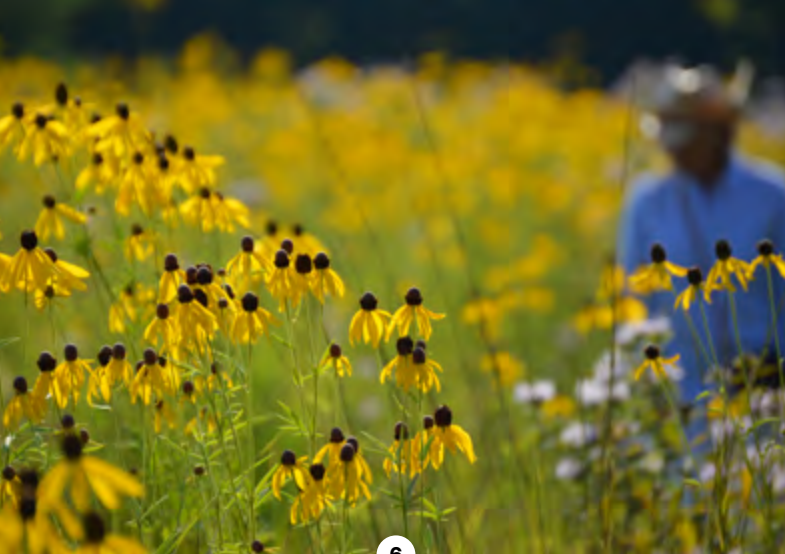
U.S. lawns cover over 48 million acres of the country, more than any other single crop. This nonnative plant (even Kentucky bluegrass isn't native) requires immense amounts of water, time and even harmful chemicals for upkeep. Because human-caused habitat loss is one of the primary stressors on the natural world today, it's our responsibility to redesign our yards with ecological function in mind.

Many initiatives exist today, including Dr. Doug Tallamy's Homegrown National Park, the largest call-to-action of its kind,



5

1. Jessica's meadow
2. Jessica's son exploring the meadow
3. Jessica's pollinator garden
4. Tiger swallowtail on purple coneflower
5. Eastern bluebirds on bird box



6



7



8

- 6. Yellow prairie coneflower
- 7. Monarch butterfly gliding over asters
- 8. Monarch caterpillar on common milkweed

encouraging people to personally address the biodiversity crisis by adding native plants and removing invasive ones in schools, yards and parks. By focusing on native plants, we can support the insects that rely on them, including powerful pillars of the food web — like caterpillars — that are critical food sources for birds. Nonnative plants, on average, support 72% fewer insect species than native plants.

“No Mow May” is another movement you may have seen that encourages letting your lawn go for the crucial first weeks of spring. This is when insects are waking up from winter and can benefit from much needed food sources your flowering lawn weeds can offer.

Last year, WCT received a grant from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources for their Lawn Conversion Program. This funding allows WCT to subsidize the cost (typically \$4,000–\$5,000 per project) of converting mowed lawns into meadows. Working with local government, homeowner’s associations, schools, churches and private homeowners in the area, WCT is now in the process of converting 50 acres of biologically barren lawn to living meadow! ♦

PHOTOS BY BLAKE GOLL, JENNIFER MATHES AND JESSICA WOLFF, COURTESY OF WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST

Willistown Conservation Trust is an accredited nonprofit land trust that focuses on 28,000 acres in Chester and Delaware Counties. It has permanently conserved 7,500 acres since 1996 and offers six renowned programs for public engagement and research: Bird Conservation, Community Farm, Education and Outreach, Land Protection, Stewardship and Watershed Protection. For more habitat at home resources and inspiration, visit WCTrust.org and follow @WCTrust.

DIY Hacks for Hosting Habitat at Home

No matter the size of your yard or your resources, you can help restore our wild heritage. By helping nature, we enrich our own lives.

Choose the right plants. Identify places in your yard where you don’t walk or play, and begin to replace turf with native perennials, shrubs or trees. Focus on keystone species (the most productive plants, like oak trees, that support the most species of insects and wildlife). Remove invasive species, following the 70/30 rule of thumb: strive for 70% native plants.

Protect the full life cycle of insects. Over 90% of caterpillars that develop on trees drop to the ground for part of their life cycle. Replace lawn under trees with well-planted beds and leave the leaves where you can. Also, many pollinators nest or overwinter in plant stems. Mow meadows and perennials only in the early spring when possible and leave the stalks where they fall.

Be a biodiversity advocate. If your local government or HOA has strict ordinances on lawn care, advocate for landscaping that supports pollinators and wildlife. If you don’t see native plant selections at your local nursery, ask them to stock them.

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Devon Fall Classic

PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDA CARPENTER

Fall in Love with the Coming Equestrian Season

SADDLE UP FOR FIVE AREA HORSE SHOWS

Shannon Montgomery

WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE ABOUT AUTUMN IN the Brandywine Valley? Fall foliage, cooler temps and, of course, a variety of equestrian events to put on your calendar. For generations, equine enthusiasts and casual fans alike have gathered to watch horses run, jump and strut their stuff — all with the scenic local countryside as a backdrop.

Round up the fam for a fun-filled weekend at Ludwig's Corner, celebrate the Devon way at the Fall Classic, tailgate atop the hill at Plantation Field, see world-class competition at the Maryland 5 Star, then wrap up the season at the 90th Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. For even more equestrian excitement, there's Dressage at Devon at the end of September — but that's another article in this issue.

We've got all the deets for this year's fall equestrian season, so saddle up for this equine extravaganza!

LUDWIG'S CORNER HORSE SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR

Kick off the fall equestrian season this Labor Day weekend at Ludwig's Corner Horse Show, August 31 to September 2. For 81 years, the preserved 33-acre show grounds have hosted local riders from across the Brandywine and Delaware Valleys in three active rings of competitive hunter, jumper and equitation classes. It's become one of Chester County's most highly anticipated equestrian and family events, launching the season in style.

Saturday and Sunday's show schedule consists of hunter and equitation classes, which are judged on the horse and rider's movement, performance and jumping style over natural fences resembling obstacles found in the hunt field. Highlights include classes for off-track (retired) thoroughbreds, fox hunter and side saddle divisions, plus lead line classes for the littlest equestrians, the Carriage Exhibition and Pleasure Drive, and Sunday's Hunter Derby and Pony Hunter Derby for cash prizes.

Monday's equestrian action features more hunter classes along with fast-paced show jumping, where horses and riders compete to beat the clock while clearing a complex and colorful course of fences. The show culminates in the afternoon with the signature \$10,000 Ludwig's Corner Mini-Prix, a fan favorite.

Outside the ring, the Country Fair offers fun for all ages. Kiddos will love the midway rides — inflatables, a rock wall, mechanical bull, bungee jump and more. Over in the Vendor Village, browse local artisans' wares and boutique shops, then fuel up at the Epicurean Garage food trucks, including their Old Time Ice Cream Truck and Cocktail Trailer. Sip Locust Lane craft brews at the Beer Garden overlooking the main competition ring — a great spot to watch the action!

Additional attractions include equine demonstrations in the Rosato Oval, the Costumed Pet Parade and SALT Performing Arts Princess Party (both on Saturday), Silkie's Farm alpacas, adoptable

dogs from Phoenix Animal Rescue and the Labor Day Antique Car Show.

IF YOU GO: Aug. 31–Sept. 2, \$10/carload. 1325 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore. LudwigsHorseShow.com.

DEVON FALL CLASSIC

Next up is the 11th annual Devon Fall Classic, September 12 to 15. This four-day, all-jumper event brings show-jumping athletes of all ages and skill levels to the Dixon Oval. Come to watch riders and horses soar over obstacles while competing for the fastest time, and stay for the live music, boutique shopping, dining, amusement rides and more. The event benefits the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair Foundation, which owns and maintains the historic equestrian venue.

Show highlights include the \$5,000 Open Jumper Welcome Stake on Thursday evening and the \$10,000 Open Speed Stake on Friday evening. Saturday night features the \$7,500 Show Jumping Hall of Fame Junior/Amateur-Owner Jumper Classic and concludes with the highly anticipated \$25,000 Devon Fall Classic Grand Prix.

In addition to thrilling competitions in the ring, the Devon Fall Classic has entertainment for the whole family. Shop 'til you drop at over 50 vendor booths, offering apparel, home decor, gourmet food, jewelry and more options. Bring the kiddos to the midway for classic amusement rides like the Ferris wheel and carousel, plus exciting games and cuddly plush prizes. Fuel up with a myriad of food choices — A Taste of Philly cheesesteaks, Gryphon Café coffee, Bassetts ice cream, Devon Tea Cart favorites and more.

At night, stop by Clydesdale Corner for drinks and crowd-favorite live music performances: DJ Brian Bohn on Thursday, Ricks Office Band on Friday and Just Add Water on Saturday.

And in true Devon fashion, the show wraps up with the Sunday afternoon plant sale — the perfect souvenir from a memorable weekend!

IF YOU GO: Sept. 12–15, \$8–20. 23 Dorset Rd., Devon. Devon-HorseShow.net.

PLANTATION FIELD INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

If you watched the Olympics this summer, you may have seen the equestrian sport of eventing — described as an equestrian triathlon of dressage, cross country and show jumping, where men and women compete alongside each other. From September 19 to 22, you can experience it for yourself at the Plantation Field International Horse Trials in southern Chester County.

The stakes have never been higher, as Plantation Field Equestrian Events recently announced an additional \$25,000 of prize money. The \$40,000 Brooke USA 4* Division will have the highest purses at that level in the country. Many of these riders will be taking their horses on a final run before the Maryland 5 Star in October (more on that later), giving them a challenging cross-country test on Plantation Field's renowned hillside course — definitely a must-see!

Ludwig's Corner Horse Show & Country Fair
PHOTO CREDIT: ALYSSA MURPHREE MEDIA



Equestrian action in the Rosato Oval



Labor Day Antique Car Show



Carriage Exhibition and Pleasure Drive



Jumper classes under the lights



Vendor Village boutiques at the Devon Fall Classic



Live music in Clydesdale Corner

Devon Fall Classic
PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDA CARPENTER

Plantation Field International Horse Trials
PHOTO CREDIT: AK DRAGOO PHOTOGRAPHY



Eventing at Plantation Field's renowned course



Tailgating at the top of the hill



Horse and rider competing in the 4* division

country on Saturday and the show jumping finale on Sunday. This globally recognized venue features a cross-country course designed by Olympic silver medalist Ian Stark and state-of-the-art dressage and show-jumping arenas within the historic turf track's infield.

In addition to high-stakes equestrian competition, there's lots of fun to be had. Enjoy tailgating, shopping and music on the main stage all weekend long, plus a Kids Corner with a petting zoo, games, arts and crafts, a straw maze and more. On Saturday, little ones delight in lead line and Shetland pony racing while grown-ups sample libations — including limited-edition selections from Elk River Brewing Company — at the Local Beer, Wine & Spirits Showcase.

Come early on Sunday for the Fresh Food Fest to sample and purchase seasonal fruits and veggies, dairy products, jams, sauces, meats and more from local vendors. Then stick around for the third annual Maryland Corgi Cup — over 100 adorable pups racing on the turf track — along with a rescue dog parade!

IF YOU GO: Oct. 17–20, \$15–\$35 (\$25–\$35 at the gate); kids 10 and under, free. 4600 Telegraph Rd., Elkton, MD. Maryland5Star.us.

PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP

Finally, mark your calendar for the 90th annual Pennsylvania Hunt Cup on November 3. In its nine-decade history, the PA Hunt Cup has raised nearly \$2 million for charitable organizations, including \$65,000 last year for the Chester County Food Bank.

This fall, competitors will once again be “Racing for Food” in pony, timber and flat racing events. In between races, shop the Hunt Club Boutique, watch the Carriage Parade and see Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds. It's all for a great cause! ♦

IF YOU GO: Nov. 3. Ticket sales start Sept. 1. 1759 Newark Rd., Kennett Square. PAHuntCup.org.



The PA Hunt Cup wraps up the season

PHOTO CREDIT: ROBERT KELLER

Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill

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The Maryland Corgi Cup

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OPENING DOORS:
Chester County Day's
83rd
Tour of
Tours

Story by Carol Metzker
Photos by Timlyn Vaughan Photography

IF YOU GO

- **When:** Saturday, October 5, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Foxhunt at 8:30 a.m. hosted at Radnor Hunt Club
- **Where:** SE quadrant of Chester County and a walking tour of West Chester
- **VIP House:** Southdown estate in East Bradford
- **Limited Tickets:** Admission, \$60; VIP. \$100. On sale online and at designated satellite locations. Check website for box lunch info and lunch spots.
- **Info:** ChesterCountyDay.com or call 610-431-5328
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Contact ChesterCountyDay@gmail.com

STONE HOMES. GUEST COTTAGES. BANK BARNs THAT join past history and present life like posts and beams. Each year on the first Saturday in October, Chester County residents open their doors to reveal great rooms and cozy nooks, brass candlesticks and crystal chandeliers, vaulted ceilings and wine cellars ... all for a great cause.

Chester County Day, on October 5, 2024, is the 83rd Tour of Homes to benefit the Chester County Hospital. Immense gratitude goes to the homeowners who host, visitors and volunteers who support the event, and the beneficiary that keeps us going. See you on the tour!



500 West Ashbridge Street, West Chester

Past a 300-year-old oak and pond with a fountain, come to the end of a lane to the home of Doug and Sheila Fulling. An original millstone greets guests — often 100 at a time — at the 1940s house that has seen additions and renovations over the years. Yet it has known only four families, including the inventor of cellophane and his wife, a horticulturist who brought rare katsura trees and other plant specimens to these four acres, the Borough's largest residential lot.

Throughout the estate, spaces mingle vintage and modern flair and the feel of indoors and outdoors for a fresh, comfortable ambiance. At first entry, admire the foyer's original curved stairway and the living room with one of six fireplaces, many with marble hearths.

From there, a Dutch door opens to a flagstone-floored three-season room. Exit to a patio and grounds with two fire pits and a hot tub. Or walk a delightful curved path bordered by rose of Sharon, rudbeckias and other flowers, ending at the family oasis: a freeform pool and pool house with original slate roof.

Adjoining a kitchen designed to serve crowds, a spectacular family room entices visitors. The vaulted ceiling rises above a marble fireplace and windows that overlook patio and courtyard on opposite sides.

Tables awaiting feasts and festivities abound — one with antique balusters by the lustrous white kitchen, one in the dining room under Robert Abbey's modern version of a crystal chandelier and, on the patio, another of reclaimed barn wood from the Hudson Valley.

Each turn and every special touch of the house invite guests to feel at home.





2040 Buttonwood Road, Berwyn

Welcome to a bank barn built in 1807 and stone house built in 1810 — the home of owners Erinn and Matt Wiley, two daughters, three dogs and 11 chickens.

Red doors open to a foyer foreshadowing details that make the home spectacular and showcase Erinn's talents as a third-generation interior designer. Soft light bathes the stone wall — once the house's exterior. Sounds of a piano float in the background.

Cozy, connected spaces filled with eclectic colors, patterns, artwork and furnishings create dazzling yet comfortable nooks for living and entertaining. The kitchen with honed marble island looks into informal breakfast and family rooms. A double-sided fireplace with floor-to-ceiling stone, taken from the house for the 2004 addition, warms both rooms.

Past the scullery where a crystal decanter rests on the leathered-granite countertop, discover the dining room — once a receiving room. A 32-panel mural of branches, birds and butterflies covers the walls. Between two end fireplaces stands a table passed down from homeowner to homeowner since the 1800s. Above the orchid centerpiece, glorious chandelier crystals catch the light.

Special touches continue throughout your tour. A tiger painting by Spanish designer Jaime Parladé and Erinn's grandmother's antique candelabra in the captivating living room. The "Blue Room" hideaway with Prussian blue walls and player piano for an end-of-day glass of wine by another fireplace. Ottomans — even one star-shaped — for propping up your feet in multiple rooms.

The property holds a mystery. Beneath centuries-old horseshoes that appear during garden work, an old railroad car is buried in the backyard, according to some historians. What do you think?



1740 Hunter Circle, West Chester

If you love homes that were once Chester County bank barns and the combination of old and new, then the home of Kathleen and Mike Harrington and their family will make its way into your heart. The structure that housed livestock, built in the early 1820s by Quaker farmer Joseph Ashbridge, was converted to a dwelling for people in 1984 by architect Craig Hough.

Past a swing — made by the current owners — on a bough of a giant old tree, stroll uphill to an entrance edged by huge shutters.

Step into the former hayloft — perhaps the home's grandest room. Every direction, spy something picturesque: a preserved field and trees, old barn roof with cedar shakes, and a two-level great room. Antique bed warmers hang at the colossal fireplace. Ladders leading up to exposed beams serve as fascinating decor and climbing equipment for kids, proving the house is truly a home.

Below the great room, find the spacious, gleaming white kitchen. Beside a honed quartz island and glazed tile walls, original columns and beams with marriage markings — Roman numerals hewn into the wood to indicate assembly instructions — still support the home. Between the new range and custom hood, note the pot filler faucet, as artful as it is useful for refilling the pasta pot while cooking. A ledge displays antique mashers. A showpiece chandelier evoking images of a sparkling bracelet is suspended above a table where friends and family gather for meals and conversation.

Head outdoors to the deck supported by beehive pillars, near a kidney-shaped pool and more bucolic Chester County landscape.





800 Sconnelltown Road, West Chester

Turn the handle of the French blue front door, flanked by rows of blue hydrangeas. Cross the threshold. Enter a gracious 1917 stone home, now owned by Polly Robbins and Chris Williams. Even at first glance, the staircase with a view to the third floor, original hearth and mantel in the tranquil living room, and her photos of Paris in the dining room — each illuminated by soft, natural light — speak volumes about Robbins as a Francophile, musician and flower lover.

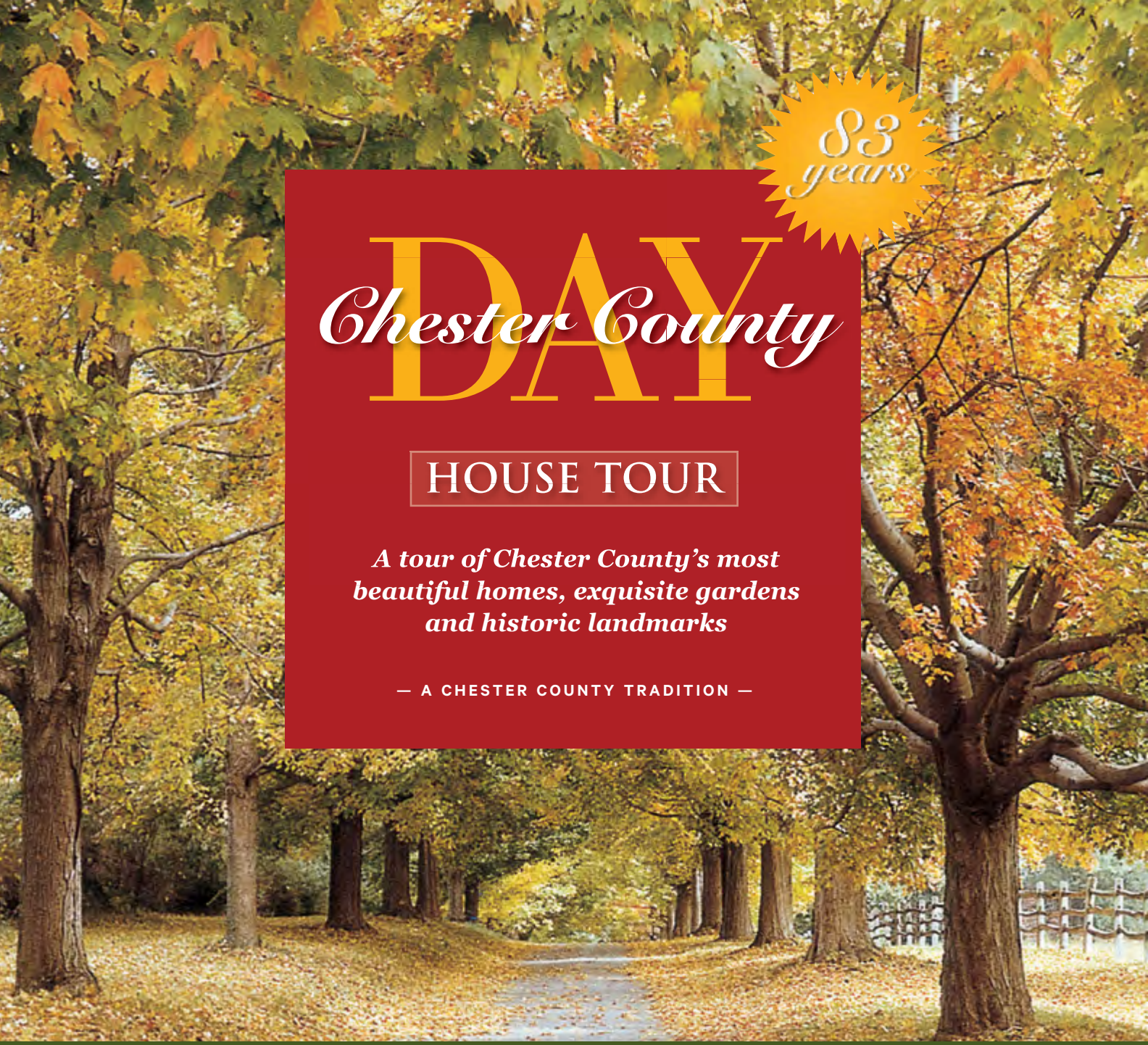
Wind your way through the first floor. The living room holds an art-cased Steinway grand piano that came from artist Philip Jamison's workshop. Andrew Wyeth's portrait of her husband Chris, a gift from the painter, and warm, whimsical artwork of Paris light up the walls. French doors open onto an enclosed sunporch.

Wander farther to the breakfast room, where the designs of Period Architecture realized by E.C. Tretheway Building Contractors shine. The home's original pillar — now with a new bookend match — beckons visitors into the sunny kitchen added in 2014. A Calacatta Oro marble island and reclaimed heart pine floorboards glow below a cupola with skylight. The kitchen's deep blue Lacanche range is often the center for Robbins's well-known birthday cakes.

In the butler's pantry around the corner, cabinets with period hardware hold stands for those cakes. Its original sink is where she arranges blooms from her flower micro-farm on the property.

Maybe the most charming feature of the home is the dining room's chandelier — shipped from Paris, sparkling and fit for *Cendrillon*. Cinderella herself would feel enchanted here.





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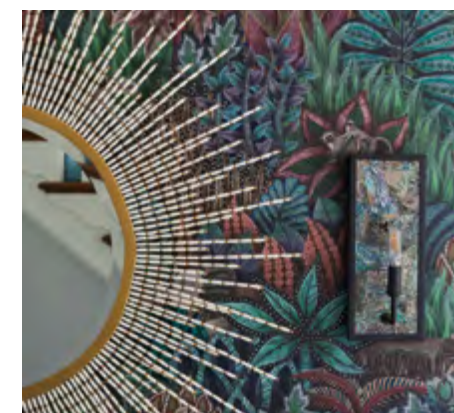
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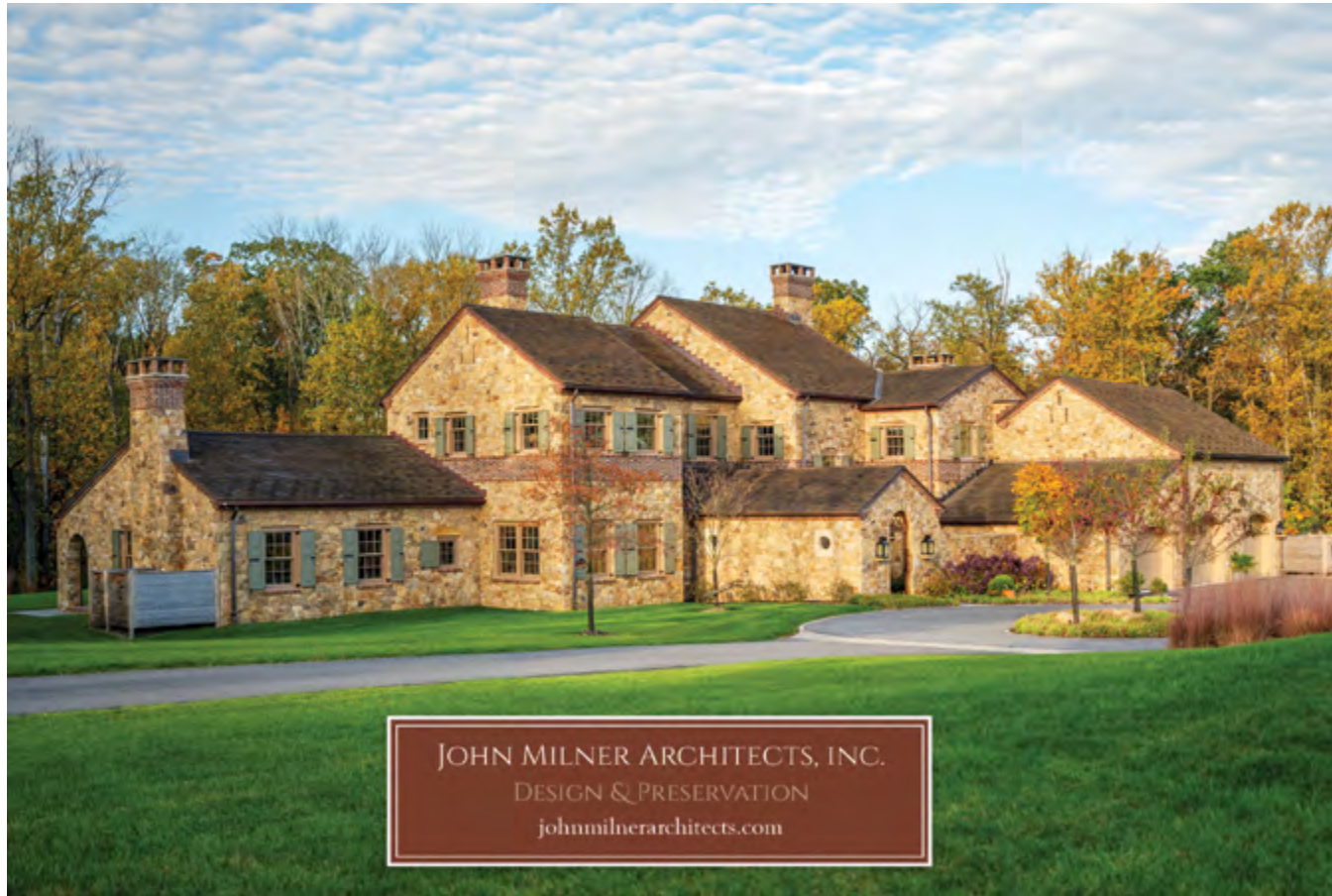
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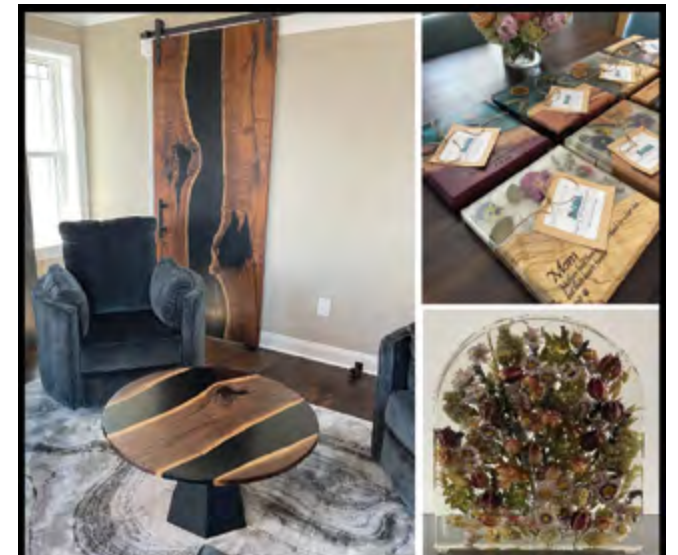
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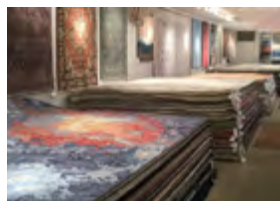


Benjamin Ebeling and Indeed, winners of the Grand Prix Musical Freestyle



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**Dressage
at Devon**

**A Must-Attend
Event for
Family and Fun**

SEPTEMBER 24 -29, 2024

Jillian Sinclair



THE DEVON HORSE SHOW GROUNDS TRANSFORM every fall into an epicenter of equestrian excellence and family-friendly festivities. For over four decades, Dressage at Devon has celebrated the elegance and athleticism of dressage, creating a unique event that draws fans from around the world and around the Brandywine Valley.

In anticipation of the 2024 event, September 24 to 29, let's explore the rich history, thrilling performances and many attractions that make this event an essential experience for all.

A STORIED TRADITION

Since its beginning in 1975, Dressage at Devon has evolved into one of North America's premier dressage competitions. Originating in 1965, the event aimed to promote dressage and provide top-notch training for riders. By 1975, it had found a permanent home at the Devon Horse Show Grounds, known for its iconic blue grandstands and welcoming atmosphere.

Throughout the years, Dressage at Devon has evolved, introducing new events while staying true to its roots. It's become a must-attend event for dressage riders globally, offering a chance to witness the sport's finest.

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THE SPECTACLE OF DRESSAGE

For those unfamiliar with the sport, dressage is often described as “ballet on horseback.” It showcases the harmony between horse and rider as they execute a series of intricate, prescribed movements that are specific to dressage. These maneuvers include the piaffe (an elevated trot in place), the passage (a trot with forward motion) and the pirouette (where the horse turns in a circle in place).

Dressage’s origins can be traced back to ancient Greece, where horses were trained for battle maneuvers that required agility and precision. As warfare evolved, dressage became an art form celebrated by European aristocrats. The Spanish Riding School in Vienna, established in 1572, played a significant role in shaping modern dressage and laid the groundwork for today’s competitions.

One of the standout events each year is the Saturday night Grand Prix Freestyle, where riders choreograph routines set to music. This blend of athleticism and artistry captivates audiences, whether the music is classical or contemporary. The Freestyle is a highlight that consistently leaves spectators in awe and cheering for more.

Many get their first glimpse of dressage during the Olympics and may have seen the competition held at Versailles, outside Paris, earlier this year. Dressage became an Olympic sport in 1912, ini-

tially restricted to military officers. By 1952, it opened to civilian riders, and today, men and women compete together. Look for past and future Olympic champions, including Boyd Martin, a current Chester County resident and 2024 eventing champion.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY FUN

But Dressage at Devon is more than just an elite competition. It’s a festival brimming with activities for all ages. The atmosphere and activities at Devon make it an ideal outing for families, offering attractions designed to engage and entertain.

The shopping and dining at Dressage at Devon are renowned, offering some of the best on the equestrian circuit. From gourmet coffee to the festive pub and food for every palate, spectators can relax in the picnic grove or pub and watch the competition on big screens, to catch every bit of the Dixon Oval action!

Boutique vendors are open all week, with offerings perfect for equestrian enthusiasts and casual shoppers alike. Whether you’re looking for high-quality tack, stylish apparel or unique souvenirs, the Vendor Village has something for you.

And for the kiddos, young equestrians can enjoy Sunday’s Dressage Explorers Day for Kids. Activities include making stick horses



Four-time Olympic eventer Boyd Martin riding in a Masterclass with Danish Olympian Cathrine Laudrup-Dufour



Weekend fun in the box seats in the iconic grandstands

to ride in the Dixon Oval, a selfie scavenger hunt, trick-or-treating through Vendor Village, and learning about animal care and vet school from the University of Pennsylvania's New Bolton Center Vet Truck. Plenty of fun geared toward the horse-crazy kid!

For adults, Shop, Sip and Stroll on Tuesday, 5 to 7 p.m. at the Fall Festival. Visitors can enjoy shopping and complimentary wine and cheese tastings as vendors offer equestrian gear, fine art and more, with some donating proceeds to support Dressage at Devon. Then on Wednesday, 5 to 7 p.m., relax at The Pub with a cocktail and enjoy a fashion show, featuring items from Fall Festival vendors for a touch of glamour at the festivities.

MORE EVENTS AND ATTRACTIONS

Dressage at Devon promises a mix of new and returning attractions to delight both newcomers and seasoned visitors, including:

- **Breed Events:** Tuesday begins with Individual Breed Classes, showcasing diverse horse breeds, and concludes with the Parade of Breeds, where winners get special rosettes, and the announcer shares each breed's history and highlights.
- **Dressage Dance-Off Contest:** Friday evening features the Dance-Off Contest, a thrilling head-to-head competition where elite Grand Prix riders and their horses perform an improvised routine to live music. Participants are judged by a panel including break-dancing experts. This unique event is a must-see spectacle. Get up on your feet and cheer them on!
- **Spectator Judging:** Friday and Saturday nights include the exciting Grand Prix Special and Grand Prix Musical Freestyle classes. Add to your fun by downloading a free app to score the performances in real time, then compare your results with the judges'.
- **Lectures and Classes:**
 - **Western Dressage:** Thursday offers a full day with international clinician and competitor Lynn Palm's lecture series on western dressage. Stay on to watch the afternoon competition and the evening masterclass featuring a western dressage rider.

- **Masterclass:** Also on Thursday, Australian dressage star Brett Parbery presents an exclusive masterclass, with a deep dive into dressage techniques. A must for serious equestrians.
- **Lecture:** On Friday, Shawna Karrasch presents a lecture on positive reinforcement training, focusing on "Nailing the Win by Improving the Emotional State of Your Horse."
- **Triple Crown Lecture Series:** Saturday's lectures cover a new subject every 15 minutes along with a special autograph signing with world-renowned Triple Crown-sponsored riders.

THE HEART OF DRESSAGE AT DEVON

What truly sets Dressage at Devon apart is its unique blend of top-tier competition and an inviting, family-friendly atmosphere. The event attracts a diverse crowd of horse lovers — from wide-eyed children experiencing the magic for the first time to seasoned competitors returning year after year. The intimate, European-like setting of the Devon Horse Show Grounds adds to its charm, creating an electrifying environment where spectators and competitors alike can feel the excitement and camaraderie.

Don't miss your chance to be part of this extraordinary celebration of equestrian excellence and family fun! ♦

PHOTO CREDIT: OLIVIA AIRHART, MANE SOURCE MEDIA FOR PHELPS MEDIA GROUP

IF YOU GO:

What: Dressage at Devon

When: September 24 – 29, 2024

Where: Devon Horse Show Grounds, 23 Dorset Rd., Devon

Tickets: Adults, \$15–\$50; children (3–12), \$10; under 3, free. Reserved seating available online

Info: DressageAtDevon.org

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Laurel Anderson

“BEFORE WE MOVED OUR FAMILY TO Chester County over 20 years ago, we asked our kids what it would take to make them happy here,” said Lele Galer, former owner of Galer Estate Vineyard & Winery in Kennett Square (now owned by Longwood Gardens). “They wanted a creek, a pool and a tire swing. And they got all three!”

Happily, a creek runs through the Galers’ Popcopson Township property, there’s a spectacular pool and the swing still hangs from a tall tree on the lush property, although both children are now grown and have homes of their own. With the comfortable main house, pool, pool house, guest house and extraordinary art studio in the former stables, this is indeed an idyllic place to raise a family. The Unionville-Chadds Ford schools are a bonus.

But it wasn’t always a dream home for the adults. “When we bought the property, we started by renovating like crazy, beginning with the pool house,” said Galer, though admitting there was much to love about the 1920s home, with its 1800s original farmstead core and additions. “The main house has high ceilings, tons of bookcases, gorgeous stonework and woodwork, plenty of room. And now there are mature gardens, plus acres of grape vines,” she continued.

“So, after 20-some years and \$1.5 million of renovating, things are just about perfect,” said Galer. But having sold their winery and raised their family, Lele and husband Brad are ready for new challenges and the next chapter in their lives, leaving their country estate for new owners.

MAIN HOUSE

A long, tree-lined drive takes you to the hillside property, along the creek, to the classic stone main house, with five bedrooms, three full and two half baths, plus three fireplaces. Catch a glimpse of the pool area beyond, pass the English-style perennial gardens and koi pond, then on to the entrance, where a light-filled foyer offers views through to the flagstone terrace, one of several outdoor entertainment areas.

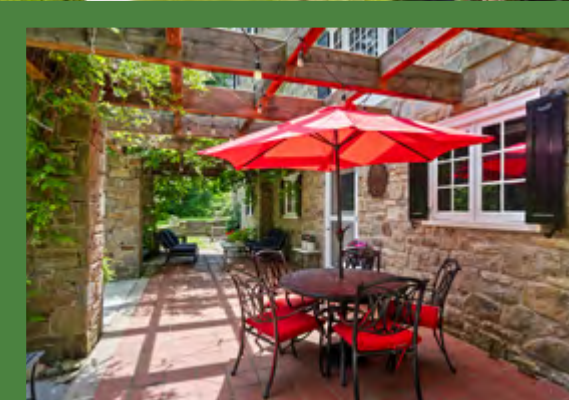
To the left are the elegant living room, with fireplace and built-in bookshelves, and the wood-paneled family room with vaulted ceiling, beams and more bookcases — a feature throughout the home, including in the large stone-walled office.

To the right of the foyer, along with the office and a half-bath, are the formal dining room, with French doors to the lovely terrace, and

the large renovated kitchen with cozy breakfast nook. The gourmet kitchen, with farmhouse sink, soapstone countertops, custom wood cabinets, six-burner Viking stove and Sub-Zero fridge, is surrounded by exposed stone walls from the original farmhouse. A butler’s pantry, with wine fridge (of course), and spacious, high-ceiling mudroom/laundry room with separate entrance complete this floor.

The second floor is home to an expansive primary suite, with sitting/dressing area and built-in closets, a separate walk-in closet with window, and ensuite bath. Three more full bedrooms — including the charming children’s library with bookcases to the ceiling, ladder and a loft bed — plus a full bath are also on this floor. An additional bedroom and full bath occupy the third floor.

On the partially finished lower level are more stone walls surrounding a large beamed recreation room, separate game room and half-bath. This level, also ideal for creating a wine storage and tasting



space, opens to a Tuscan-style, wisteria-covered pergola, perfect for entertaining, and on to the walkway to the pool area.

POOL AREA

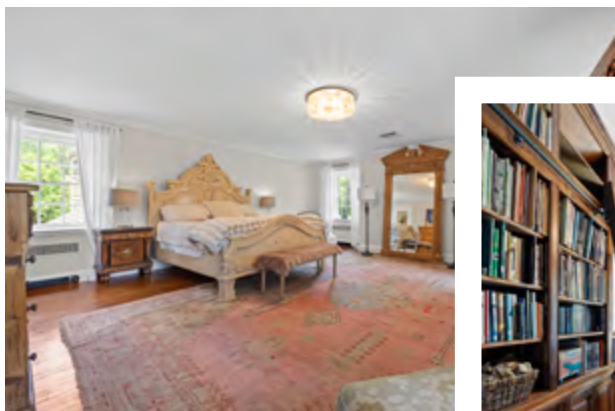
For more outdoor entertaining space, head for the pool area nestled in a woodland setting — the Galers planted over 40 trees on the property. The inviting pool is flanked by stone walls, mature hydrangea hedges and a completely rebuilt two-story pool house. A dream weekend getaway, the substantial pool house includes, at pool-level, a large open tile-floored entertainment space with fireplace and luxurious full bath. Curved stone stairs lead to a spacious second-floor living room, full kitchen and a sleeping loft.



GUEST HOUSE

For long-term guests or family, the 4,000-square-foot, two-story guest house with separate parking provides comfortable accommodations. This flexible structure also includes several rooms for offices and a possible conference room.

The first floor is comprised of a large living room with fireplace, full eat-in kitchen with dining area, two bedrooms, full bath and additional rooms (for offices or other uses). The second floor has a large, bright, beamed multi-purpose room adjacent to the primary bedroom and bath as well as three more bedrooms or offices.



OTHER FEATURES

A former stable was converted into a fabulous art studio, with separate areas for a woodshop, darkroom, welding shop, along with painting and ceramic studios with kiln. It's a truly unique space for creating, with windows facing the vineyard and French doors onto a terrace. (Those with more equestrian dreams, however, could convert the space back to a stable.)

A new detached, four-car garage is the final building on the property.

The crown jewel of the property sits, fittingly, on the sunny hillside — an eight-acre vineyard planted with award-winning cabernet franc, grüner veltliner and albariño grapes.

And it's all ready for the next owners. ♦

For more information about this 26+-acre property in Pocopson Township, comprised of three tax parcels and including a 5-bedroom main house, 2-story pool house, 2-story guest house, multi-purpose art studio (former stable) and vineyard, contact Karen Nader, Monument Sotheby's International Realty. 484-888-5597; 610-474-6520. Karen.Nader@SothebyRealty.com. Potential for subdivision and development, this property is offered at \$4.75 million.





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PAIRING DESSERT WINES WITH FALL FOODS ELEVATES YOUR DINING EXPERIENCE

Liz Tarditi

AS AUTUMN UNFOLDS AND NATURE WEAVES A tapestry of colors, it's the perfect time to immerse yourself in the rich flavors of fall. Fortified wines are a perfect choice, as they elevate an entire dining experience, offering a rich cornucopia of flavors that complement a variety of seasonal foods.

Sherry, marsala, vin doux and port play pivotal roles in enhancing meals with their complex and versatile palates. And yet we have been led to think of them as mere "dessert wines." Historically, these wines were broadly enjoyed with many courses, not banished to the back page of the wine list or a footnote on the dessert menu.

Fortified wines undergo a unique process in which a distilled spirit (typically brandy) is added, resulting in higher alcohol content and distinct, complex flavors that set them apart. These wines come in both dry and sweet varieties and different levels of aging. Only port wines come from red grapes, though due to aging and oxidation, the others can also appear a dark amber. Fortified wines, with their higher alcohol content and concentrated flavors and aromas, are generally served in smaller glasses with narrow rims.

Redolent notes of caramel, spices and dried fruits in these wines marry well with the sumptuous flavors and heartier meals of fall. Here are a few to explore in the coming months.

SHERRY'S SEASIDE SALINITY AND NUTTY BOUQUETS

The flavorful journey begins with a delicate and dry aperitif — fino or manzanilla sherry from Spain. **Williams & Humbert Don Zoilo Manzanilla 5-Year Sherry** (\$28.99) is a very dry sherry with intense, complex aromas and a hint of seaside salinity on the finish. Drink this chilled like a white wine, in a wide glass, and serve it with salty snacks like olives and nuts, sushi, seafood and Spanish ham.

For a medium-dry alternative, **Williams & Humbert Dry Sack Sherry Medium Dry** (\$17.69) provides a nutty bouquet that complements high-fat dishes like foie gras and Chinese BBQ pork ribs. An aged amontillado sherry, such as **Williams & Humbert Don Zoilo Amontillado 15-Year Sherry** (\$28.99), offers a deep, complex nose of dried fruits, hazelnuts, caramel, pastry and spices. The longer aging allows even more richness and complexity that pairs with turkey and duck, truffle dishes, asparagus, anchovies and ripe cheeses like cheddar and aged Parmesan.

MARSALA MAGIC, SAVORY DELIGHTS

Marsala wine, originating from Sicily, offers dry, semi-sweet and sweet variations. Nutty and rich, with strong notes of caramel, brown

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sugar, vanilla, tamarind, dates, apricot and sweet tobacco with an elegant dried-fruit finish, both dry and semi-sweet versions add depth to chicken or veal marsala. Try Florio Vecchioflorio Marsala Superiore Dry and Florio Vecchioflorio Marsala Superiore Sweet (both \$13.99).

FRENCH ELEGANCE

Terrassous Rivesaltes Vin Doux Naturel 18-Year-Old (\$39.99) from Roussillon, France presents a symphony of fruits, raisins, honey, caramel and coffee accented by a nutty character, ideal for Asian dishes, roasted squash, pumpkin or pecan pie, and autumn desserts. (*Vin doux naturel* means "natural sweet wine.")

For an authentic French experience, the Carmes de Reiussec Sauternes 2019 (\$19.99) encapsulates the essence of the beneficial fungus "noble rot," offering a signature botrytis, apricot and honey profile that complements foie gras and Roquefort, or cheesecake and fruit tarts equally well.

If you'd like an interesting tasting comparison, consider exploring an ice wine, a rare and often expensive wine made from frozen grapes, like Frost Bitten Ice Riesling (\$14.99) from the U.S.

PORT OF PERFECTION

For the grand finale, consider the iconic port wine, originating from northern Portugal along the Douro River. Whether ruby red or aged tawny, port shines in gourmet cooking as either an ingredient or an accompaniment. From salads with poached pears to enhancing elegant demi-glace sauces, port adds a luxurious richness that elevates fall recipes.

For cooking, Taylor Port and Taylor Tawny Port (both \$19.99) are go-to choices for professional chefs, while Cockburn's Porto Branco Fine White Port (\$15.99) and Delaforce Fine Ruby Porto (\$14.99) offer accessible options for serving.

But for a special occasion, serve a lightly chilled Graham's Tawny Porto 20-Year-Old (\$70.99). With complex aromas of orange peel, cinnamon, prunes, raisins and figs, it's perfect for any course of a fine meal.



It goes particularly well with standing rib roast, beef Wellington or crème brûlée.

ELEVATE EVERY BITE

The joy of pairing fall foods with fortified wines is in the incredibly food-friendly wines that easily complement hard-to-pair ingredients like asparagus, Brussels sprouts, walnuts and other strong, earthy flavors like pumpkin spices, Gorgonzola cheese and wild mushrooms. These wines hold up well to cooking temperatures, and anything used as an ingredient — sherry to enhance caramelization for French onion soup, for example — can also be served with the dish.

Even the sweetest wines can be used in savory recipes with a splash of vinegar. So, have fun with them, let your culinary creativity soar, and embrace the historical tradition of enjoying these so-called dessert wines throughout the meal to enrich your autumn dining experiences. These wines

add a touch of sophistication and elegance to fall gatherings, reminding us to slow down and savor each moment.

Cheers to a season of abundance and flavorful celebrations, and please always drink responsibly! ♦

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.



FIRST BANK

Tara White – VP/Branch Manager, First Bank Media Branch
Edward Caporellie – FVP/Market Manager, First Bank

How long have you lived in the Chester/Delaware County area?

Tara – I just moved to Chester County and have been living here for one year. Prior to that, I spent 45 years living all over Delaware County.

What is your favorite part of living in this area?

Tara – What I love about the area is not just the open and rural spaces that offer a breath of fresh air, but also the incredibly friendly and supportive customer base that frequents the local farmers markets, small business shops, and the many great restaurants.

How do you feel First Bank positively impacts communities in the area?

Tara – First Bank is focused on investing in the communities we serve through volunteering and charitable contributions. We work to tailor our banking solutions to meet the needs of our client base.



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What impact on the town do you feel First Bank can make by moving into Media?

Tara – First Bank will have a significant impact in Media by building and establishing personal and business relationships, and by getting involved in community events.

Ed – First Bank will support first-time home buyers, those looking for checking or savings accounts, business & small business owner accounts— whatever you need, we can help find a solution.

What is your best piece of advice for choosing a bank?

Tara – My best advice for choosing a bank is to see how they can help YOU. Get to know the people at the bank and talk with them. Many customers who bank elsewhere often mention that they don't have a relationship with their bank. Banks are plentiful, but it's the service and relationships that matter. This is what we stand for; personal bankers and real relationships are our core focus.

Tara White



Edward Caporellie



MALVERN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

This August, Malvern Preparatory School celebrated the opening of the Vic Maggitti Pavilion — a new state-of-the-art building that houses all student counseling, college counseling, and learning support needs. It features an abundance of natural light, gathering spaces to be utilized by faculty, staff, and students, and modern amenities designed to support a collaborative environment rooted in Augustinian values and student-centered design.

“This modern facility emphasizes our commitment to providing comprehensive support for all our students, ensuring they have the resources they need to succeed both academically and personally,” shared Mr. Patrick Sillup, Head of School.

The Vic Maggitti Pavilion also includes dedicated spaces for individual and group counseling sessions, and study areas that cater

to diverse learning styles. Additionally, it offers various rooms for college counseling sessions, making it easier for students to connect with college representatives and advisors.

Malvern Preparatory School is an independent, Augustinian school for young men in grades six through twelve. Since 1842, the School's tradition has been to prepare young men for college, for leadership, and for life.

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

Bonjour, Jolene. Later in 2024, West Chester will welcome its first French restaurant since the beloved Gilmore's closed in 2012. Located in the former Spence's Cafe space, **Jolene's** is part of the 3 West Hospitality Group, known for local bars, including Slow Hand, Square Bar and Jitters. The new upscale, casual French eatery promises to bring a different taste to town. Check for updates on the website and social media. 29 E. Gay St., West Chester. JolenesWC.com.



Home at Last. Finally! The **West Chester Food Cooperative** signed a lease on its first permanent location since it started in 2015. This community-owned store will be the only grocery store in downtown West Chester and a hub for healthy food shopping, offering local produce seven days a week. Interested in supporting the co-op and local farmers? Visit their website to become a member and to volunteer. 204 W. Market St., West Chester. WestChester.coop.



Raise the Roof (Top). What's as much fun as a beer garden? A rooftop bar! **Serum Kitchen & Taphouse** opened West Chester's latest rooftop spot on August 26. This 1,000-square-foot elevated patio hosts about 50 people, with table service and lounge areas. Drink offerings, by the folks from Imprint Beer Company, include in-house ingredients and innovative craft cocktails like the Old Fashioned and the Red Akuma. Uplift your experience. 142 E. Market St., West Chester. SerumKitchenAndTaphouse.com.

Cheers for Chili. The **West Chester Chili Cook-Off** will return October 6 with a new host, Fiorenza's Food for Friends — F4 is a Downingtown-based nonprofit working to combat hunger. Head to Gay Street to join the 22nd annual Cook-Off and sample all kinds of chili, hear live music, and watch new chili champions get crowned! Check the rebranded website and social media for tickets info and team registration. WestChester-ChiliCookOff.com.



Kudos. Our local food scene is accumulating major accolades. *Philly Mag's* Best of Philly recognized **Rosemary** as Best New Restaurant, Suburbs for getting "city folk to travel to Delco" and **Ground Provisions** for Best Vegan Prix Fixe. *The Keystone's* readers ranked **ButterScotch Pastry Shop** in Birchrunville as #3 among Best Bakeries in PA. And Lancaster County's **Shady Maple** was ranked the country's #1 Best Buffet Restaurant in *USA Today's* Readers' Choice awards. Wow! RosemaryRP.com. GroundProvisionsPA.com. ButterScotchPastry.com. Shady-Maple.com.



Food as Art

FOOD PRESENTATION IS ARTFULLY CRAFTED AT LIFE'S PATINA CO. MERCANTILE & CAFE

Courtney H. Diener-Stokes



Lemon poppyseed cake with candied violets at Life's Patina



Meg Venno in her garden



The restored Jenny Lind House

THE FIRST TIME MEG VENNO, owner of **Life's Patina Co.**, went to Europe in 2006, she saw food in a different light: as art. "I was so blown away," she said. "Between the charcuteries in Italy and the pastries in France, everything was fresh, local fare, and they were eating what was coming out of each season."

During that trip, which marked her 20th wedding anniversary, Venno and her husband indulged in sweet treats and savory delicacies from cafes, bakeries, restaurants and bistros — a highlight of the visit. During their many meals, Venno was struck by the unstuffy approach to the food's thoughtful presentation, giving meaning to the expression "eat with your eyes." "It wasn't fancy or fussy," she said.

Extra touches to dishes — sprigs of freshly grown herbs, candied wildflowers and exposed preserves in layer cakes — caught her eye. Served in rustic bowls or on vintage French country plates — a nod to the roots of the culinary culture — the food's presentation elicited emotion and feeling in the dining experiences.

Inspired by these experiences, this self-described foodie had a revelation upon her return home, although it was years before she could act on it. When Venno wanted to add a food component to her

growing lifestyle business at Life's Patina, "I thought, this is what I want to do here in America. To make everything beautiful with an eclectic and European feel that's timeless and doesn't follow the trends."

And so she did. From the moment you walk up the stairs of the historic Jenny Lind House in Chester Springs that Venno spent five years restoring, you're immersed in her aesthetic. You immediately notice **Mercantile & Cafe** is a homage to traditional designs of the past. "We're in an art village, so our approach is in keeping with, 'food is art, life is art.'"

The cafe's reclaimed wood display cases are filled with pastries, scones, cookies and cakes, like a stunning mini lemon poppyseed cake with strawberry thyme jam in the center, topped with candied violets. The locally sourced, seasonal menu on the chalkboard describes soups, salads, quiches and tartines, such as their avocado tartine topped with feta, pickled onions and other textural surprises, all artfully presented. And all served on blue and white Delft dishware, along with vintage silverware reminiscent of meals during Venno's Europe trip.

"We can celebrate every day and elevate things a little more by paying attention to the small details," Venno added.

Read on for a taste, and look, at artful presentation for your meals.

Creamy Mushroom Soup with Basil Oil

This delightfully rich and creamy soup featuring four types of mushrooms is punctuated with a drizzle of green-hued basil oil and freshly cracked pepper. Pairs perfectly with oversized herbed croutons.

Serves 4 to 6



- 3 T. unsalted butter (1 T. reserved)
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 1 shallot, finely chopped
- 4 oz. cremini mushrooms, chopped
- 4 oz. white button mushrooms, chopped
- 4 oz. portobello mushrooms, chopped
- 1 T. all-purpose flour
- 2 T. porcini mushroom powder
- 3 C. chicken stock
- 1 C. whole milk
- ½ C. half and half
- ⅛ C. apple cider vinegar
- ¼ tsp. fine sea salt or to taste
- ¼ tsp. ground black pepper or to taste

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a large pot, such as a Dutch oven, over medium-high heat.

Add the garlic and shallot. Cook for 1 minute, until they begin to soften. Add mushrooms and cook for about 10 minutes, until tender and browned.

Add the remaining 1 tablespoon of butter to the pot. Once melted, sprinkle in flour and mushroom powder and whisk. Reduce heat to medium.

Add the stock, a little at a time, then the milk and half and half, whisking out clumps between each addition. Increase the heat to medium-high and allow the soup to simmer for 8 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. (The soup will thicken slightly to become a creamy consistency.)

Transfer the soup to a blender and mix until roughly blended to achieve a part smooth and part chunky texture.

Pour back into your cooking pot and let cook for 3 to 4 minutes.

Next add vinegar, salt and pepper.

Garnish with basil oil (homemade or store-bought) by making a circular motion over soup. Or you can use chopped parsley or chives. Top with freshly cracked pepper. Add croutons, if desired.

Refrigerate leftovers in a jar with a sealable lid for up to two days.

Avocado Tartine with Feta, Pickled Onions and Spiced Seeds

While there are many steps involved in this recipe, the pickled onions, chili oil and spiced seeds can be made in advance and leftovers stored for later use. The flavor and textural combination of this high-bar avocado toast is unmatched and worth every step of this recipe! The herbs Life's Patina uses on this avocado tartine are grown at Venno's Malvern home, Willowbrook Farm.

Serves 2



For the pickled onions:

- ½ C. apple cider vinegar
- 1 T. sugar
- ¾ tsp. kosher salt
- 1 C. water
- 1 red onion, thinly sliced

For the chili oil:

- ¼ C. red pepper flakes, heaping
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 2 C. canola oil

For the spiced seeds:

- 1 C. pepitas
- ½ C. sunflower seeds
- ¼ C. black and white sesame seed mix
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- ½ tsp. salt

- 1/8 tsp. cayenne
- 1/2 T. canola oil
- 1 1/2 T. honey

For the avocado mash:

- 2 avocados
- Juice of 1/2 lemon
- Pinch of salt
- Pinch of pepper
- 1/4 C. feta cheese (reserved to sprinkle of top during assembly)

To make the pickled onions:

In a medium bowl, whisk the apple cider vinegar, sugar, kosher salt and water until the sugar and salt dissolve.

Place the sliced red onion in a sterilized Mason jar with a tight-fitting lid. Pour vinegar mixture over onions and let sit at room temperature for one hour. Refrigerate leftovers for up to two weeks.

To make the chili oil:

In a medium bowl, add pepper flakes and salt and stir to combine. Set aside. Pour oil in a small saucepan and cook on medium-low heat until hot (about 2 to 3 minutes). Pour the hot oil over the pepper flake and salt mixture. Steep for 30 to 60 minutes.

Completely cool before transferring to a sterilized Mason jar with a lid. Seal tightly and store at room temperature for up to three months. Since the oil is stored at room temperature, it's particularly important to use a clean utensil when spooning the mixture out of the jar to ensure the oil stays safe to consume.

To make the spiced seeds:

Preheat oven to 325°.

In a medium bowl, place all ingredients and stir to combine.

Spread evenly on a parchment-lined cookie sheet and bake for 18 minutes. Stir and bake another 2 minutes. Stir one last time and cook a final 2 minutes.

To make the avocado mash:

Cut each avocado in half lengthwise. Remove the seed and scoop out contents of avocado into a small bowl. Mash until medium-smooth.

Add lemon juice, salt and pepper, and stir to combine.

To assemble the avocado tartine:

Toast a large piece of sourdough bread.

Add a heaping scoop of avocado mash and spread evenly over toast.

Sprinkle lightly with feta crumbles. Add a few pieces of drained pickled onions.

Sprinkle lightly with fresh herbs, such as parsley and dill, or with microgreens.

Place seeds in a tiny bowl on the serving plate for each person to add when ready to enjoy. Finalize with a drizzle of chili oil on top.

Roasted Carrots on a Bed of Whipped Feta and Yogurt with a Vinaigrette Drizzle

This side dish, inspired by a recipe in Country Living, is a unique take on carrots merged with earthy coriander, making it the perfect accompa-

niment to any protein. The freshly chopped mint in the vinaigrette adds the perfect pop of color.

Serves 4 to 6



For the roasted carrots:

- 1 1/2 lbs. carrots, peeled and ends trimmed (cut in half or thirds, lengthwise, if using very large carrots)
- 2 tsp. coriander
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 T. olive oil
- Salt and pepper, to taste

For the feta yogurt sauce:

- 4 oz. feta, crumbled
- 1/4 C. plain Greek yogurt
- 2 T. milk
- Pepper to taste

For the vinaigrette:

- 1/4 red onion, diced
- 2 T. fresh mint, chopped
- 2 T. white wine vinegar
- 2 T. olive oil

To make the carrots:

Preheat oven to 450°. Line a cookie sheet with a baking mat or parchment paper.

Toss together carrots, coriander, garlic powder, olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread out on baking sheet.

Roast carrots, tossing once, until tender, about 20 minutes.

To make the feta yogurt sauce:

In a food processor, puree feta, yogurt, milk and pepper.

To make the vinaigrette:

In a separate, small bowl, stir together red onion, mint, white wine vinegar and olive oil.

Let stand for about 10 minutes so the red onion starts to pickle.

To assemble:

To serve, spread the feta mixture on a platter. Top with warm carrots and drizzle with vinaigrette.

Refrigerate leftovers in an airtight container for up to two days.

Tips and Tricks for Artful Presentation

The culinary team that collaborates with Veno at Life's Patina and creates each seasonal menu includes chef Michael Dorris; pastry chef Lindsay Robinson; and sous chef and pastry sous chef Maren Liberman. Together, they work on recipes to excite the palate and also develop ways to artfully present each item.

Try some of these easy pro tips at home to elevate the presentation of everything that comes out of your kitchen.

Texture: Adding a crunchy topping or a spicy oil can serve as an attractive visual, as well as offer a tasty, unexpected textural experience.

Height: Vary heights of different food items on the plate to better accentuate them and make the plate look more interesting through creative stacking and placement. Avoid too much space between items on the plate. Using tiny bowls for sauces on each plate can add another dimension to the presentation.

Arrangement: Place items purposefully on a plate. Don't crowd them, but let them complement one another. Consider smaller portions with some negative space on the plate to accentuate each one. Finish with a garnish or sprinkle of fresh herbs from your garden.

Color: Think about contrasting colors that will make each component of your meal pop. Select different-colored vegetables, meats and starches that work well together and give each a chance to shine.

Dishware: What you serve your food on can impact the overall look of the meal. Vintage dishware can evoke a nostalgic mood or an eclectic vibe to your meal. Put your special dishware in regular rotation to elevate the presentation of your hard work.



- 1 1/2 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 C. all-purpose flour
- 1/2 tsp. baking soda
- 1/4 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. cinnamon
- 1 1/4 C. oats
- 1/4 C. raisins
- 1/4 C. dried cranberries
- 1/4 C. pumpkin seeds
- 1 T. flax seeds
- 1 C. pecans
- 1/4 C. white chocolate chips

Preheat oven to 350°. In a standard mixer with a paddle on medium speed, cream the butter, sugars, peanut butter, egg and vanilla extract.

Turn mixer to slow speed and add the flour, baking soda and salt. Mix until the dough is formed, and then add the remaining ingredients. Once dough is mixed and all the ingredients are incorporated, turn mixer off.

On a sheet tray lined with parchment paper, scoop out the dough with a 3-oz. scooper and form into a ball. Gently press down onto the pan.

Bake for 12 to 15 minutes until the bottom is golden brown.

After fully baked, remove from pan and allow to cool. Store leftovers in an airtight container at room temperature for up to five days. ♦

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



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