

# COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

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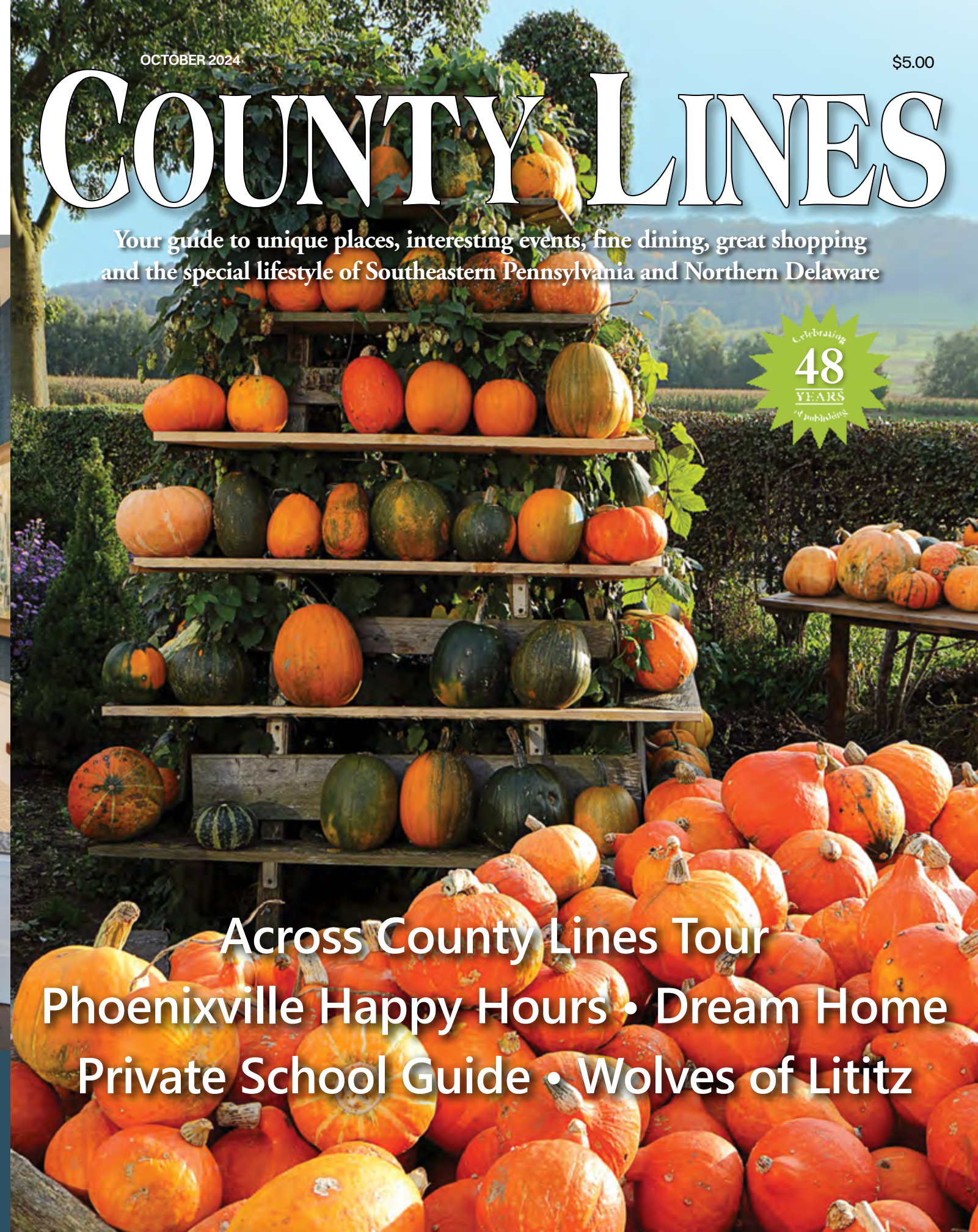
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### Newlin Township

*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



SOLD



### 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







from the EDITOR

Welcome October! Apples, pumpkins, crisp air and colorful foliage. *County Lines* gets you ready for fall.

October is a busy month, so check our Best Local Events section, including the Family Fun and Spooky Season pages. And learn about Sober October if you haven't participated before.

Shannon Montgomery takes you on a tour "Across County Lines." Join her to learn what's happening in Chester and Delaware Counties, the Main Line and Wilmington. Fall colors and charming towns full of shopping, dining and fall festivities.

We also suggest a special trip to the steel town that's become a beer town. Shoot for late afternoon and follow Ed Malet's tour of "Happy Hour in Phoenixville."

For more area highlights, learn about West Chester's famed composer, Samuel Barber, in Malcolm Johnstone's story, "A Precocious Prodigy." Or head to Lititz to visit a wolf sanctuary with Shannon Montgomery in "Running with Wolves." Welkinweir's Victoria Laubach shares her fall fascination with nuts, berries, fruits, seeds and cones in "Beyond Pine Cones." She'll inspire you to take an autumn ramble in the woods.

Though the pandemic is behind us, recent studies show some lingering aftereffects. In "Turning Pandemic Learning Losses into Student Silver Linings," Cara Corridoni takes a look at what schools are doing to help students erase the gap. And check our "Guide to Private, Independent Schools, Open Houses & Special Services" to consider options for your child.

"Live the Dream — Dream Barn, That Is," writes Laurel Anderson. She's spotted a bank barn on 2.5 wooded acres bordering Ridley Creek. Tour it with her and consider the adventure of barn living.

Finally, in Brandywine Table Courtney Diener-Stokes explores how fall salads are as crisp as the autumn air along with Josh Taggart of Mae's West Chester. Get new recipes for side salads, main dishes and dressings in "Falling for Fall Salads."

Thank you for reading. And enjoy this glorious month.

*Jo Anne Durako*  
Editor

**COMING IN November**

GET HOLIDAY READY  
Southern Brandywine Valley Focus  
Holiday Shopping • Local Heroes  
55+ and Retirement Communities  
Thanksgiving Takeout • Local Music Scene

**COUNTY LINES**  
MAGAZINE

**October 2024**  
Volume XLVIII Number 2

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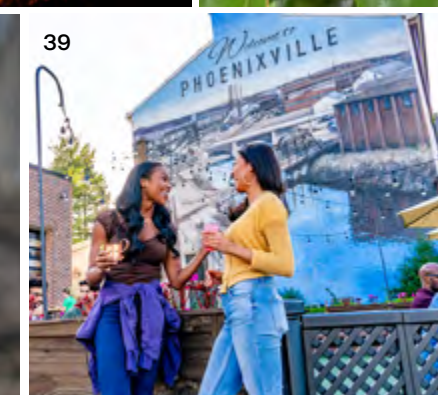
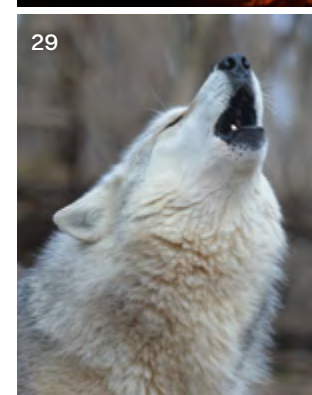
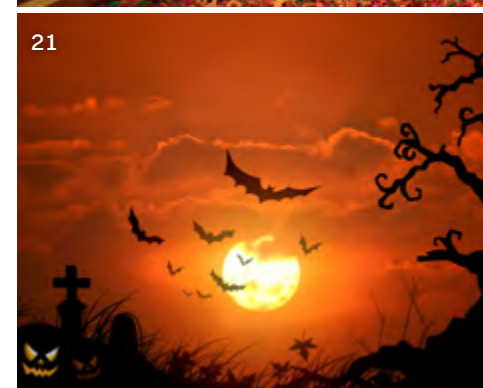
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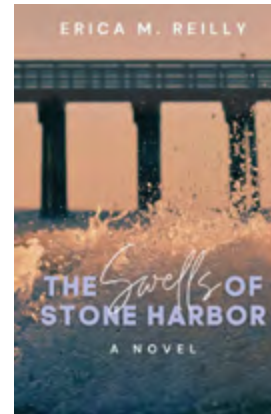
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## Good to Know

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

**Page-Turner.** Missing the beach and summer vibes? Read **"The Swells of Stone Harbor"** (Bover Publishing) by West Chester's Erica M. Reilly. In her debut novel, Reilly tells the story of Margo St. James, a Stone Harbor



artist who witnesses chaos unfolding in her Jersey Shore town — sinking sailboats, thefts and home break-ins — and teams up with her friends to discover the culprit. Find it at your local independent bookstore. *On Instagram @Erica.Reilly.Writes.*

**Attention Bibliophiles.** Downtown West Chester has another new bookstore! Located in a historic home on the corner of Gay and Matlack Streets, **Bookmarks** currently offers around 2,500 paperbacks and hardbacks in a variety of genres. The ground floor houses a children's section and gifts, while upstairs is dedicated to adult books — including new releases, classics and a dedicated table for Pennsylvania authors. *100 E. Gay St., West Chester. On Instagram @BookmarksWC.*



**Geek Haven.** Got a gamer in your life? They'll love Phoenixville's **Nerd Merch Co.** This unabashedly geeky spot deals in trading cards (Magic: The Gathering, Pokémon and more), carries collectibles from Funko Pop! figurines to classic comics, and sells tabletop games like Dungeons & Dragons. Best of all, they have a free gaming lounge complete with lots of board games, high back chairs and concessions — or BYO games, food and drinks. *224 Bridge St., Phoenixville. NerdMerch.co.*



**New Threads.** Looking to update your fall wardrobe? Three new West Chester shops can help. On North Church Street, **Deborah Ann Mack Fashions** offers custom-made luxury women's clothing and has been featured in *Harper's Bazaar*. Plus, Downingtown's **Clara Mae Company** opened a second vintage boutique, also on North Church. Then, accessorize with jewelry, trinkets and treasures from **Tiger Snake Vintage**, now open in the Gay Street Commons. *DAM.Fashion. ClaraMaeCompany.com. TigerSnakeVintage.com.*

**Conservation Campaign.** Last summer, local non-profit Natural Lands protected one-third of Westtown's Crebilly Farm through a conservation easement. Now, you can help preserve the remainder. The **Save Crebilly Campaign** hopes to raise \$2.5 million by October 31 for a 206-acre, Westtown Township-owned, passive-use park. Over \$20 million has been committed to this conservation effort already, plus a new \$2 million matching challenge from Mt. Cuba Center and an anonymous donor. Time to get involved in the final push! *NatLands.org/CrebillyFarm.*





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best Local Events

October Picks  
by Marci Tomassone

West Chester's 22nd Annual Chili Cook-Off

**October 6**  
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. This year's cook-off is hosted by Fiorenza's Food for Friends, a nonprofit that's taking big steps to eradicate hunger in America. *W. Gay St., West Chester. Noon to 4 p.m. \$10. WestChesterChiliCookOff.com.*



East Goshen Township Food Truck and Music Festival

**October 12**  
A football field of food, live music and a beer & wine tent with food trucks, beer & wine garden, an art exhibit and live music. Beer & wine tent brought to you by Locust Lane Brewery and Chaddsford Winery. *East Goshen Park, 1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 2 to 6 p.m. Free. Donations can be made to the Friends of East Goshen.*



Radnor Hunt Horse Trials

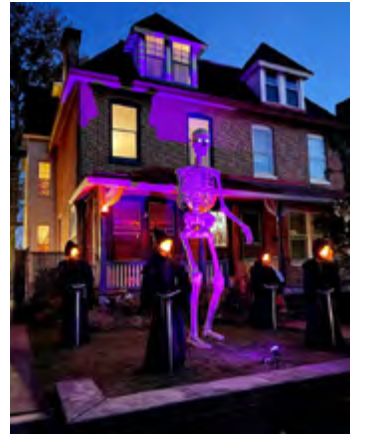
**October 12**  
Get ready to cheer on riders and horses at this triathlon event featuring competition in three disciplines: dressage, 9:45 am; stadium jumping, 9:55 am; cross country starting at 2 pm. Purchase a tailgate ticket on the website and enjoy a perfect spot to spread out and watch some jumps. A tailgate ticket gets you admission to the afterparty. *Radnor Hunt Club, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. Gates open at 8 a.m. RadnorHuntHorseTrials.org.*



PHOTO CREDIT: AMY DRAGOO

Chester County Library's Halloween Door Tour

**October 18-31**  
Doors and porches in West Chester are decorated for Halloween. Vote for best decorations in three categories — funniest, scariest and most original. Look for the Halloween Door Tour sign in participating yards. For a donation, tourgoers will receive a map and a list of scavenger items to look for during the self-guided tour. Maps available at the library. Benefits library programs and services. *CCLS.org.*



Yellow Springs Village Open House & Fall Festival

**October 20**  
Enjoy an afternoon of fall fun in the Village of Yellow Springs. Activities include live music, a history haunted house, pumpkin painting, village tours, artist demonstrations and more. *1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. YellowSprings.org.*





# FAMILY FUN

**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 Shipyard, 1124 E. 7th St., Wilmington. KalmarNyckel.org.*

**THROUGH OCTOBER 31**  
**Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport.** Gather your family and friends and let the Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport guide you to a memorable 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.*

**OCTOBER 5**  
**Truck & Tractor Day at Winterthur Museum.** 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**  
**Fall Harvest & Great Pumpkin Patch at The Willows.** Tractor rides, pumpkin patches and painting, hayrides, mechanical bull, music and refreshments. *490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Radnor. 1 to 4. Free. Rain date, Oct. 8. Radnor.com.*

**OCTOBER 6**  
**Westtown Day 2024.** This family event features heaps of history and family fun. Tours of the Oakbourne Mansion, bounce castle, historical reenactors, petting zoo, emergency services touch a truck, kids archaeological dig box, face painting, live music

and much more. *Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 11 to 3. Free. WesttownPA.org.*

**OCTOBER 6**  
**Railroad Museum of PA 17th Annual Garden Railways Tour.** A fun family outing for all ages featuring exclusive, self-guided tours of operating model trains in various outdoor and garden settings. Choose from among the five stops located in Wrightsville, Lancaster, Lititz and Manheim. *300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. 1 to 5 pm. \$10. RRMuseumPA.org.*



**OCTOBER 6-NOVEMBER 10**  
**Sundays**  
**West Chester Railroad Fall Foliage Express.** Enjoy a brisk fall afternoon along the picturesque Chester Creek Valley on a 90-minute journey back in time to the village of Glen Mills and return. *Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. 10 am, noon and 2 pm. \$25-\$30. WCRailroad.com.*

**OCTOBER 9**  
**Disney Jr. Live On Tour: "Let's Play!"** Mickey is getting ready for the biggest play-date ever at the Clubhouse with all his favorite pals. *The Grand Wilmington, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. 6 pm. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.*



**OCTOBER 17-19**  
**The Great Pumpkin Carve 2024.** Over

70 giant pumpkins are carved by local artists and will then be lit and displayed. Enjoy a kid-friendly Haunted Trail, raffle prizes and live music. Food, local craft beer and wine are available. *Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Thurs-Fri, 4 to 9; Sat, 3 to 9. \$5-\$15. ChaddsFordHistory.org.*

**OCTOBER 19**  
**International Archeology Day at Newlin Grist Mill.** All are invited to assist professional archaeologists with excavations at Newlin Grist Mill as the site celebrates and participates in International Archaeology Day. *219 Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 10 to 3. Free. NewlinGristMill.org.*

**OCTOBER 23**  
**West Chester Halloween Parade.** Begins on Market St. between Church & Darlington Sts. Marching bands and cheer-leading performances featured. *Market St. 7 pm. Rain date, Oct. 24. West-Chester.com.*

**OCTOBER 24**  
**The Willows Spooktacular Park & Trail Hunt.** Families are invited to participate in a spooky scavenger hunt through The Willows Trail, then receive a free pumpkin, a special prize and a chance at a special prize playing Halloween Plinko. *Rain date, Oct. 25. 490 Darby-Paoli Rd., Radnor. Noon to 3. Pre-reg. required, Radnor.com/Spook.*

**OCTOBER 26 & 27**  
**West Chester Railroad Halloween Special.** Wear your favorite costume and ride to the Glen Mills station. Explore the historic station and picnic grove and collect a few treats while on the train. *Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. 10, noon and 2. \$10-\$30. WCRailroad.com.*

**OCTOBER 26**  
**American Helicopter Museum Haunted Helicopters.** Come in costume and enjoy activities and treats at the museum. *1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 6 to 8 pm. \$15. Under 12, free. AmericanHelicopter.Museum.*

**OCTOBER 27**  
**KSQ Candy Trail.** Kiddos in costume can follow the trail to collect treats from over twenty participating businesses throughout the Borough (look for the black and orange balloons). *Kennett Collaborative, 106 W. State St., Kennett Square. 2 to 5 pm. Free. KennettCollaborative.org.*

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

**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 4-NOVEMBER 1**  
**Sunset Hill Fine Arts Gallery Presents "The Seasons of Chester County".** Artist Don Shoffner displays his works at the gallery. Opening reception, Oct 4, 4 to 8 pm. 23 N. High St., West Chester. Mon, 10 to 4; Tues-Fri, 10 to 6; Fri, 10 to 5. *SunsetHillJewelers.com.*

**OCTOBER 5 & 6**  
**Artists of Landenberg Studio Tour.** The self-guided studio tour features 9 studio artists, all within an easy and scenic drive to each other and will be featuring their original artwork along with one or more guest artists or craftspersons. 10 to 4. Free For details, visit Artists of Landenberg Studio Tour on Facebook.

**OCTOBER 5 & 20**  
**Clover Market.** Shop handmade, antique and vintage wares at two locations. *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.*

**OCTOBER 19 & 20**  
**Hagley Craft Fair.** Artisans display and sell their fine arts, crafts and gourmet items. Refreshments available. Hagley Museum & Library, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$8-\$12. *Hagley.org.*

**OCTOBER 19 & 20, 26 & 27**  
**Chestertown RiverArts Studio Tour.** Choose from 60 artists on the self-guided studio tour, chat about their inspirations and see how they actually create their work. Start at the RiverArts Gallery, 315 High St., Chestertown. Noon to 6. \$15-\$50. *ChestertownRiverArts.com/Studio-Tour.*

## BOOKS.....

**OCTOBER 2-23**  
**Reads & Company Book Groups.** *Oct. 2, The Big Reads Book Group: "Catalina" by Karla Comejo Villavicencio. Oct. 9, The International Voices Book Group: "Budapest" by Chico Buarque. Oct. 16, The Kiss and Tell Romance Book Club: "The Book Swap" by Tessa Bickers. Oct. 23, The Bridge Street Book Club: "The Wishing Game" by Meg Shaffer. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. ReadsAndCompany.com.*

**OCTOBER 3**  
**Wellington Square Bookshop. Nonfiction Book Club: "Freakonomics" by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner, 2 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.**

**OCTOBER 15, 24**  
**Main Point Books. Oct. 8, Cooks and Books: 5 cookbook authors: Dr. Janet Chrzan, Aliza Green, Joy Stocke, Deanna Segrave-Daly, and Fran Costigan have a conversation about how cookbooks are born, 6:30. Fiction Book Group: Oct. 15, "We All Want Impossible**

**Things" by Catherine Newman, 1 pm. Non-Fiction Book Group: Oct. 24, "H is for Hawk" by Helen MacDonald, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.**

## CAR SHOWS.....

**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.*

JOIN US FOR THE 90<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RUNNING OF THE  
**PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP RACES**  
 Nov 3, 2024




**NSA Timber & Flat Races**

**US Pony Races**

**Carriage Parade**

**Boutique Shops**

**Tailgates**

**Party Tents**

**General Admission**

**On-Line Ticket Sales start Sept. 1**

**For more information, visit pahuntcup.org**

to benefit








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**DANCE.....**

**OCTOBER 18 & 19**  
**First State Ballet Theatre Presents "Romeo & Juliet."** Don't miss the drama and passion set to the beautiful score by Sergei Prokofiev as this production makes its debut on the main stage in Copeland Hall at The Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$25-\$65. TheGrandWilmington.org.

**EQUESTRIAN.....**

**NOVEMBER 3**  
**90th Running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.** A timber steeplechase race with a distance of 4 miles and 22 fences. Enjoy vendors, a carriage parade and tailgating under tents. Benefits Chester Co. Food Bank. North of Rt. 926 and Newark Rd., Unionville. Gates open, 10 am, Hunt Cup at 3 pm. For tickets, PAHuntCup.org.

**FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....**

**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 Pirate Invasion Weekends. Mt. Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Sat-Sun, 11 to 8. \$17-\$37. PAREnFaire.com.

**OCTOBER 3-6**  
**100th Unionville Community Fair.** Celebrating 100 years of agriculture and community in Southern Chester County with family-favorite activities, music, animal exhibits, beer and wine garden, food trucks and, new this year, the Circus Incredible. Come for the Thursday Night Tailgate, 5 pm, and the Haunted Tent Fri-Sat, 113 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Fri-Sat, 9 to 9; sun., 10 to 4. \$5/person, \$10/car. UCFair.org.



**OCTOBER 5**  
**Rock Hall Fall Fest.** While the oyster is the star of the show, this festival features all the highlights of Kent County, including a variety of live music performances, children's activities, music and craft vendors and, of course, lots of oysters. Parking at 21125 Sharp St., Rock Hall, MD. 10 to 4. RockHallFallFest.org.

**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.

**OCTOBER 19**  
**White Horse Village Octofair.** Fun for the whole family with auctions, raffles, breakfast and lunch fare, vendors, children's activities and a meet and greet with animals from LaMancha Animal Rescue. 535 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square. 9 to 2:30. Free. WhiteHorseVillage.org.

**FOOD & BREWS.....**

**OCTOBER 5**  
**Kennett Brewfest.** The Connoisseur Session includes food pairings, music, unlimited tastings, tasting glass, noon to 5, \$100. The regular session features tastings from over 80 craft breweries and cideries 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 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.

**OCTOBER 18 & 19**  
**Taste! Philadelphia.** Featuring over 145 exhibitors along with demonstrations, tastings from wineries, breweries and distilleries, samples from chefs and restaurants in the region, exhibits and more. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 First Ave., King of Prussia. Fri, 6 to 10; Sat, 11 to 3 and 4 to 8. \$120. PhillyTasteFest.com.



**NOVEMBER 3**  
**Good Food Fest.** A celebration of local food and agriculture, bringing farmers, food makers

**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.

and the community together. Enjoy music, food trucks, a pouring room, demonstrations, kids activities, farm animals and more. Kimberton Fair Grounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. 11 to 4. \$10, early bird entry, \$25 at 10 am. GoodFarmsGoodFood.com.



**FUNDRAISERS.....**

See also: Food & Brews and Outdoor Activities.

**OCTOBER 5**  
**Ryerss Farm Blessing of the Animals.**



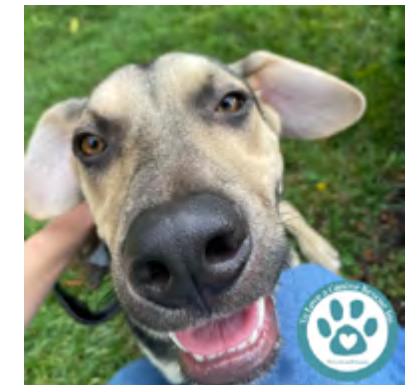
Bring your dogs, cats or other small animals on a leash or in a carrier for a short, non denominational service and blessing. Bakesale, photo opportunities and snacks offered. Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines, 1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. Noon to 3. RyerssFarm.org.

**OCTOBER 8**  
**Chester County Futures Golf Classic.** Enjoy a relaxing afternoon of golf at Applebrook Golf Club while supporting a good cause. The day will also include a lunch buffet, cocktails and awards dinner reception. 100 Line Rd., Malvern. Reg, 11:30, start at 1. CCFutures.org.

**OCTOBER 10**  
**Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet.** Recognizing the best in our community including Business of the Year. Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern. Cocktail hour, 5:30 pm, awards, 6:45. Tickets \$165 and up. GreaterWestChester.com.

**OCTOBER 12**  
**Hoe Down at The Barn at Spring Brook Farm.** The evening will feature dinner, beverages, entertainment and silent auction. Benefits the programs for children with disabilities. 360 Locust Grove Rd., West Chester. 6 to 10. For tickets, Springbrook-Farm.org/Hoe-Down.

**OCTOBER 20**  
**10th Annual Miles for Mutts To Love a Canine Rescue Event.** Grab your four-legged running or walking buddy and join TLC Rescue for a fun 5K race and 1-mile fun walk raising money for veterinary care for rescue dogs. Register for a virtual option to run or walk whenever it fits your (or your dog's) schedule best. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Wayne. 8 to noon. \$30-\$40. TLCRescuePA.com.



**OCTOBER 31-NOVEMBER 4**  
**42nd French & Pickering's Annual Auction.** Oct. 31-Nov. 4, online auction. Nov. 2, in-person auction—enjoy cocktails, auctions



Discover the road less traveled along the iconic Chesapeake Bay in **Kent County Maryland**

Discover quaint waterfront towns. Explore museums, live theater, and art galleries. Savor mouthwatering cuisine amid breathtaking views. Meander the shops of historic Main Streets. Search the Countryside in pursuit of deer, waterfowl and more.

PLAN YOUR ADVENTURE  
**KENTCOUNTY.COM/VISITORS**



Maryland  
YOU'RE WELCOME  
visitmaryland.org



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



**NOVEMBER 2**  
**12th Annual Bark & Whine Gala.** Join this fundraiser to celebrate the Rescue's mission with cocktails, dinner, music and dancing, auctions and adoptable pets. URBN (Navy Yard), 5000 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$350 and up. PSPCA.org.

**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.

**OCTOBER 5**  
**Delaware Nature Society Fall Native Plant Sale.** Shop a variety of native plants for a yard that supports clean water, birds, butterflies 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 FEBRUARY 16, 2025**  
**Brandywine Museum of Art. Through Oct. 13,** "In Shadows' Embrace: Prints by Peter Paone." **Through Feb. 16,** "Up East: Andrew

Wyeth in Maine." **Oct. 13-Jan. 19,** "The Crafted World of Wharton Esherick." 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.

**OCTOBER 1-NOVEMBER 1**  
**The Keswick Theatre. Oct. 1,** X (the band); **Oct. 3,** Tribute to Elton John and Billy Joel—Face to Face; **Oct. 4,** Tribute to Prince—The Purple Xperience; **Oct. 5,** Colin Mochrie & Brad Sherwood; **Oct. 6,** BEAT—Belew/Vai/Levin/Carey play 80s King Crimson; **Oct. 10,** Bob the Drag Queen; **Oct. 11,** Nitty Gritty Dirt Band; **Oct. 12,** A Tribute to James Brown with Gerald Albright; **Oct. 18,** Andrew Dice Clay; **Oct. 19,** Laff Out Loud; **Oct. 23,** Gipsy Kings; **Oct. 24,** The Glenn Miller Orchestra; **Oct. 25,** Charlie Berens; **Oct. 28,** Buckethead; **Oct. 31 & Nov. 1,** The Hooters. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

**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.

**OCTOBER 4-12**  
**American Music Theatre. Oct. 4,** The Texas Tenors; **Oct. 5,** Travis Tritt 2024; **Oct. 6,** An Intimate Evening with Priscilla Presley; **Oct. 11,** An Evening with Lee Asher;

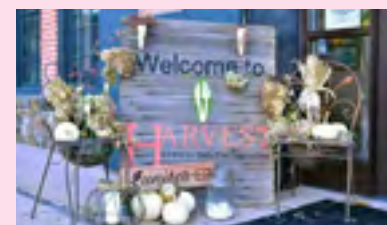


**OCTOBER 1-31**  
**Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition Events.** Walks, golf tournaments, workshops and more. Visit their website to get involved, DEBreastCancer.org/DBCC-Events.

**OCTOBER 11**  
**Ta Ta For Now Breast Cancer Gala.** The evening features complimentary hors d'oeuvres and drink tickets, unlimited cash bar, live music and raffles. The Pyramid Club, 1735 Market St., 52nd Fl., Philadelphia. 7 pm. \$100. Give.BreastCancer.org.

**OCTOBER 26**  
**Breast Cancer Awareness & Pink Halloween Present Welcome to the Pumpkin Patch.** Halloween-themed vendor pop-ups, raffles, cocktails, tattoos, refreshments and more. The Dahlia, 1601 Jessup St., Wilmington. 5 to 9. \$20.

**NOVEMBER 7**  
**Unite for HER's Harvest—Chef Tasting Event.** Gather for a unique farm-to-table event, featuring creations from top chefs, paired with offerings from wineries, breweries and spirit vendors. Enjoy auctions, a wine grab and live music. Benefits Unite for HER. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. 6:30 p.m. \$175-\$250. UniteForHER.org/Harvest.



**NOVEMBER 16**  
**Living Beyond Breast Cancer's Annual Black-tie Gala—Butterfly Ball: Life in Bloom.** One of LBBC's most important events featuring cocktails, live and silent auction, dinner, dancing and more. Vie by Cescaphe, 600 N. Broad St., Philadelphia. Doors open at 5:30. \$400. LBBC.org.

**Oct. 12,** Three Dog Night. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.

**OCTOBER 5-31**  
**Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. Oct. 5,** The Ledbetters; **Oct. 6,** Loudon Wainwright III; **Oct. 10,** Studio Two presents The Early Beatles; **Oct. 11,** Moondance—The Ultimate Van Morrison Tribute Concert; **Oct. 12,** Uncaged, Zac Brown Tribute; **Oct. 13,** Kennett Symphony; **Oct. 18,** Awaken, a tribute to the music of Yes; **Oct. 20,** Chillin' With the Villans; **Oct. 26,** Home Again, a tribute to the music of Carole King; **Oct. 31,** Takin' it to the Streets, the Ultimate Doobie Brothers Tribute Show. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.

**OCTOBER 5-NOVEMBER 2**  
**At The Grand in Wilmington. Oct. 5,** Ari Shapiro: Thank You for Listening; **Oct. 9,** Disney Jr. Live On Tour: Let's Play; **Oct. 9,** Eddie Izzard; **Oct. 12,** The Rock Orchestra; **Oct. 17,** Matthew Sweet; **Oct. 19,** Richie Kotzen; **Oct. 25,** The Friends of the Brothers Celebrate The Allman Brothers; **Nov. 1,** The Robert Cray Band; **Nov. 2,** Mutts Gone Nuts: Unleashed. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrand-Wilmington.org.

**NOVEMBER 3**  
**Chester County Concert Band Fall Concert.** Cinema Paradiso is the theme for the concert showcasing film music through the years. Fugett Middle School, 500 Ellis Ln., West Chester. 2:30 pm. \$7-\$10; under 12, free. CCCBand.org.

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....**  
**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.

**OCTOBER 13**  
**CCDSIG Buddy Walk and Family Run & Fun Day.** The Chester County Down Syndrome Interest Group holds a 5K, Buddy Walk and Fun Run and Dash for kids. West Goshen Park, Five Points & Fern Hill Rds., West Chester. Check-in, 9:30; race, 10 to 2. To register, CCDSIG.org/Buddy-Walk.

**OCTOBER 27**  
**47th Annual Radnor Run.** All levels of experience and athleticism are invited. Join as an individual or start a team as you take on the challenging 5-mile course. Benefits the American Lung Association. Starts and ends at Radnor Township Building, Encke Park, 301 Iven Ave., Radnor. Reg, 6:30 am; 1 mi. run at 8 am; 5 mi. race at 8:25; 2 mi. walk at 8:30. \$30-\$40. 800-LUNG-USA; Lung.org/RadnorRun.

**THEATER.....**  
**THROUGH 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

Delaware Museum of Nature & Science

**PERMIAN MONSTERS**  
Life Before the Dinosaurs

**STEP BACK 300 MILLION YEARS IN TIME**  
**OCTOBER 12, 2024-MAY 11, 2025**  
**4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807**  
**delmns.org | 302-658-9111**

SPONSORED BY  
**BANK OF AMERICA**

**SPIRITS AT THE ZOO**

**Saturday October 28**  
5:30-8PM  
You must be 21+ with valid ID

**Celebrate Halloween without the kids.**  
Enjoy **spooky cocktails** light nibbles, and bewitching entertainment. Costumes are encouraged. We will hold a **costume contest with prizes.** Plus enter to win a **50/50 raffle.**

Event benefit the **Delaware Zoological Society** of the Brandywine Zoo. The event **will be held rain or moonshine.**

**Tickets: brandywinezoo.org/spiritsatthezoo**  
**Members: \$5 • Non-members: \$10 • FREE PARKING**  
Tickets include admission and entertainment. Drink and food purchases sold separately. Drink tickets are \$6

**BRANDYWINE ZOO**

The Brandywine Zoo is managed by DNREC, Division of Parks and Recreation with the support of the Delaware Zoological Society.



connection. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, 610-644-3500; PeoplesLight.org.

**THROUGH 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.

**THROUGH 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.



**THROUGH 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.

**OCTOBER 4-27**  
**Media Theatre Presents "Legally Blonde."**



Kick off the season with a bang as Media Theatre brings you the high-octane, feel-good story of Elle Woods on her empowering journey. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

**OCTOBER 4-NOVEMBER 2**  
**Dutch Apple Theatre Presents "Hair-spray: The Musical."** The score in this Tony Award-winning musical includes "You Can't Stop the Beat," "Good Morning Baltimore" and "Hair-spray." 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.

**TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS .....**

**OCTOBER 4**  
**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 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.

**OCTOBER 5**  
**Chester County Day House Tour.** This year's self-driving tour celebrates the Southeast quadrant of the county, a walking tour in the borough of West Chester and guests with a VIP ticket can visit the Southdown estate in East Bradford. The Hunt takes place at Radnor Hunt Club at 8:30 am. Tour, \$60; VIP, \$100. Pre-purchased boxed lunches, \$18. Benefits projects of the Women's Auxiliary to Chester County Hospital. ChesterCountyDay.com.



**OCTOBER 17**  
**West Chester Historic Preservation Awards.** The West Chester Downtown Foundation created this awards program to recognize and honor projects both large and small that help highlight and preserve West Chester's historic character. Winners announced at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 5:30 pm. For tickets, visit WCDF.org. ♦



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

Send a description of your activity to info@ValleyDel.com by the first of the month preceding publication.  
 For more events visit:  
**CountyLinesMagazine.com**



**T**HIS OCTOBER, ADVENTURE OUT — WITH THE KIDDOS if they're up to it — to visit attractions and join tours that may leave even the bravest quaking. Choose spine-tingling experiences to fill the season, and check out haunted happenings in County Lines country.

**GHOSTLY STORIES:** If you enjoy ghost stories, check our website to learn the scary history behind the Brandywine Battlefield, ghost of General "Mad Anthony" Wayne, West Chester's Lincoln Room and the Downingtown Twin Tunnels. If you dare.

**TERRIFYING EVENTS:** Want to experience hair-raising fun first hand? Here's a sample of eerie events during this spooky season.

**Bates Motel Haunted House.** For an adrenaline rush, head to legendary Bates Motel Haunted House, Hayride and Trail, rated #1 Haunted Attraction in America by CNN Travel, USA Today and others. Attractions are packed with terror to scare the season festivities in you. Plus four escape rooms, including Revenge of the Serial Killer. New this year — axe throwing! *Timed tickets.* BatesMotelEscapeRooms.com. 1835 N. Middletown Rd., Glen Mills. TheBatesMotel.com.

**Chilling West Chester: Dark History Walking Tour.** From the horrors of the Chester County Prison to the cold-blooded killers tried at the courthouse, West Chester's streets and alleys have witnessed 200 years of spine-chilling history. Chester County History Center guides share these stories — not ghost stories but true tales — on 90-minute walking tours. \$18. *Wed.-Sat. in October.* 225 N. High St., West Chester. MyCCHC.org.

**Paoli Battlefield Paranormal Tour.** What's spookier than a historic battlefield? Perhaps a nighttime tour of "hot spots" of paranormal activity. Join a private tour of the grounds, led by Interstate Paranormal Research. Witness the eerie site where 53 soldiers were buried after a devastating midnight bayonet and sword attack by the British. *Oct. 5, \$45.* Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. PBPFInc.org/Tour.

**Pennhurst Haunted Asylum.** Closed for over three decades, Pennhurst Asylum offers a range of experiences, from tame daytime tours of the grounds to haunted tours of the asylum quarters, morgue and tunnels. Ultra-horror fans can try the overnight ghost hunt or Blackout Tour in complete darkness (Nov. 2). *Fri.-Sun. in Oct. \$40 and up.* 250 Commonwealth Dr., Spring City. PennhurstAsylum.com

**Sleuthound's Historic Haunted Strolls.** Join spooky tours of West Chester, Kennett Square and Media, including Terror & Dread in Turks Head, Haunted Moonlight Strolls, Race to the Grave Scavenger Hunts (family or pub crawl versions) or Murder on the Red Brick Express. Wine and aura readings. Macabre stories from 300 years of history. \$15-\$37.50. Dates and details at Sleutbound.com.

**West Chester Haunted History Tour.** Some say every house in West Chester is haunted. Find out for yourself on the Haunted History of Chester County lantern-lit walking tour. Follow the guide on a 90-minute, one-mile journey through haunted streets while hearing ghostly stories. Check website for tour dates. \$10-\$20. *Corner of High & Market Sts., West Chester.* ChescoTours.com.

**HAUNTED LOCATIONS:** These former taverns are just a few in our area said to host ghostly presences.

**Bloom Southern Kitchen** (formerly Eagle Tavern). Many reported incidents of unexplained sounds and actions in the building, particularly in the basement. 123 Pottstown Pk., Chester Springs

**Iron Hill in West Chester.** Paranormal in Pennsylvania's podcast cites employee reports of chains dragging, floors creaking, voices murmuring in the building, a former Revolutionary War hospital for soldiers from the Battle of Brandywine. Sightings of a ghost looking out the second floor. Don't go there alone at night! 3 W. Gay St., West Chester

**Letty's Tavern.** As a tea room and tavern, Letty's Tavern hosted visitors who mentioned encounters with the ghost of a 12-year-old girl, dubbed "Letitia," after William Penn's daughter. Hence the name. 201 E. State St., Kennett Square

**The Pear at Dilworthtown Inn** (formerly Blue Pear Bistro). Eerie reports include voices in the wine cellar, doors opening and closing, plus chairs facing each other as if someone was engaged in conversation. 275 Brintons Bridge Rd., West Chester

**Stottsville Inn.** The historic hotel-turned-restaurant is said to have guests who never wanted to leave. Evidence includes wind and voices heard, open windows and doors mysteriously closed. 3512 Strasburg Rd., Coatesville

**VK Brewing Co. & Eatery** (formerly The Ship Inn). Some claim The Ship Inn housed a mysterious ghost believed to be from the 1700s but whose identity and story are unknown. 693 Lincoln Hwy. E., Exton. ♦

-Laurel Anderson



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# Are You Sober Curious About Sober October?

THINK OF IT AS DRY JANUARY'S LITTLE SIBLING.

**B**Y NOW MOST PEOPLE HAVE HEARD OF DRY January — that month-long penance for holiday indulgences. This alcohol-free challenge has grown each year since its 4,000-follower beginning in 2013 in the U.K., when a woman preparing for a half-marathon eliminated alcohol as part of her training. Now, it's estimated that about 35% of Americans *planned* to be part of Dry January, though only about 16% make it through the entire month. Still, 30 million Dry Januarrians in 2023 is something not to drink to.

If you didn't abstain for the full 31 days this past January, you've got a second chance to give your body a break, reset your relationship with alcohol, and discover the many benefits of being alcohol free. Welcome Sober October, another movement originating in the U.K., this one to benefit cancer support. (Yet another option for the month is Stoptober, which focuses on quitting smoking.)

Experts say taking a break from alcohol, even briefly, has multiple health benefits. For example, the American Cancer Society

cited alcohol as the third-leading controllable risk factor for cancer, after tobacco and excess weight. Other benefits range from lowering blood pressure, cholesterol levels and diabetes risk to better sleep, better immune function and even weight loss. Add to that the cost savings (cocktails aren't free!) and a chance to test your willpower.

You'll also be on trend by joining Sober October. Searches for "Dry January" increased 66% in the U.S., while searches for "Sober October" almost doubled since 2022, demonstrating broad interest in mindful drinking. And you can feel young, since Gen Z drinks less than millennials, who drink less than Gen X, and they all drink less than Boomers. Increasingly, younger Americans are passing up beer pong, unless it's with NA (non-alcoholic) beer.

Why not join Sober October and make a plan, share it (better to hold yourself accountable) and remove alcoholic beverages from your home. Then plan your alcohol-free fun.

So, order a mocktail this October. Just don't binge on November 1!  
*More at GoSober.org.uk.* ♦



# A Precocious Prodigy

Malcolm Johnstone

Samuel Barber visiting Pompeii

PHOTO CREDIT: MANFREDI BEL, COURTESY OF SUSAN SUGAR

**S**TROLL THE BRICK SIDEWALKS OF DOWNTOWN West Chester and you may notice an interpretive marker on a building at 35 South High Street. It says simply but proudly, “BARBER BORN 1910.” The marker is meant to recognize the early childhood home of the person many consider to be America’s greatest 20th-century musical composer — Samuel Barber.

Three additional markers can also be found around West Chester — two located at Barber’s next home, at Church and Miner Streets. This plaque describes how his music “went forth to enrich and inspire the world.” A more recent pole banner on East Gay Street refers to Barber as a “child prodigy who grew up to be one of the most celebrated music composers of the 20th century.”

Each is correct. And worth taking in on a stroll.

## EARLY YEARS

When he was young, Sam Barber, as he was called, developed a precocious natural aptitude for singing, playing the piano and composing music. His family — including his pianist mother and Metropolitan Opera contralto aunt — encouraged his developing musical talent and engaged the best local teachers.

Barber was just 7 years old when he wrote his first original music and age 10 for his first opera. An early performance was covered by the *Daily Local News*, which gushed about his talent, writing, “the manner in which he executed different selections brought round after round of applause.”

Then, when he was 14, Barber’s parents enrolled the young teen at the prestigious Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia. Barber soon found himself in demand for performances within a community of talented musicians. It was there he met Gian Carlo Menotti, with whom he’d form a lifelong personal and professional relationship.

Eventually, as a young man, Barber moved to New York City, where he found a wider range of performers and venues. He soon expanded his composing to include solo instruments, orchestra, opera and voice — he had a rich baritone. But most important, he found a growing audience that appreciated his music. Recognition for his work included two Pulitzer Prizes and a Guggenheim Fellowship.

## CHANGING TIMES

The first half of the 20th century saw dramatic changes in classical music, with experimentation in a world of dissonance versus harmony and cacophony versus melody (think John Cage, Igor Stravinsky). This evolution reflected the challenge for composers to create musical works that sounded new and engaging and not tied to past practices.

Barber rejected, or perhaps ignored, the trends of musical modernism in favor of traditional 19th-century harmonic language. He worked to create musical structures that were lyrical and emotional. Yet after 1940 he did adopt elements of modernism in some compositions, where dissonance and chromaticism became part of his style.

Instead Samuel Barber’s genius was his mastery of melody. With this skill, his music could be tightly woven into a harmonic balance that may have a rich dissonance at times, but still provides a beauty and expression seldom equaled. When the mood moved him, Barber could cross over into other diverse musical styles such as boogie-woogie and the blues — listen to his piece for solo piano, called “Excursions, Opus 20.”

Perhaps the greatest gift of Barber’s music is its ability to partner with other artistic platforms. For instance, his famous “Adagio for Strings” (1936) has been part of numerous film scores (“Platoon,” “Elephant Man”) and played at times of mourning, including the funerals of Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and John F. Kennedy. Locally, the Brandywine Ballet and Brandywine Singers have used the adagio piece to expand the expressive qualities of both dance and song. These are the types of performances Barber would have encouraged.

school. He insisted that when he died his funeral should be held at the First Presbyterian Church of West Chester, near his childhood home.

Samuel Barber’s grave is located at Oaklands Cemetery, just outside town, next to a plot purchased for Menotti, who never used it. Instead, a stone inscribed “To the Memory of Two Friends” was erected there.

By the time of Barber’s death, nearly all his compositions had been recorded, ensuring his legacy of expressive, harmonically rich music will endure. ♦

*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.*



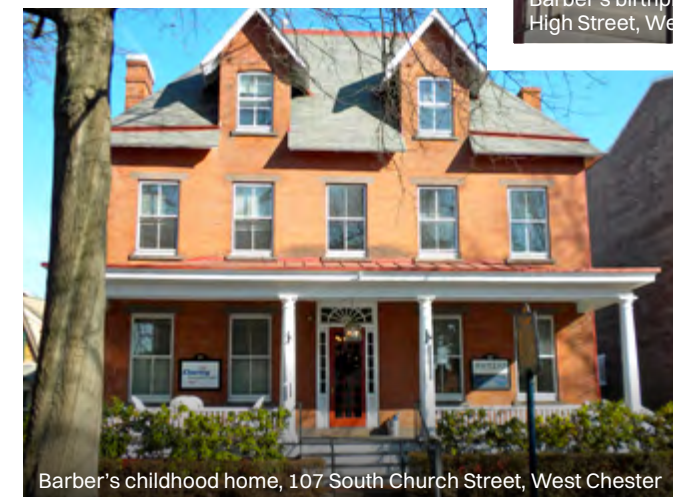
## FINAL DAYS

In 1978, Barber began treatment for cancer, which continued until his death at 70 in 1981. During this time, he continued to write music until his final hours, with the moving “Canzonetta for Oboe and String Orchestra” as his final composition.

Although he lived for several years in New York, Barber always considered West Chester his hometown — he wrote the alma mater for his West Chester high



Barber’s birthplace, 35 South High Street, West Chester



Barber’s childhood home, 107 South Church Street, West Chester



Barber’s grave, left, and Gian Carlo Menotti’s plot, right, at Oaklands Cemetery in West Goshen Township

PHOTO CREDIT: SER AVANTO DI NICOLAO

## Hear Samuel Barber Live

Nothing compares with hearing music live. Make plans to hear the Kennett Symphony perform Samuel Barber’s lyrical “Violin Concerto” (1940) live, featuring violinist Lun Li, an award-winning violinist from Shanghai. Many consider this piece to be one of the 20th century’s finest string concertos.

Listen for what NPR describes as “a richly expressive opening movement that leads to a razzle-dazzle finale.” Ironically, initial response from friends and supporters was that “there wasn’t enough virtuosity for a concerto” and the “last movement was impossible to play.” But after its premier, it quickly gained a reputation as one of the great American violin concertos.

The program also includes Jessie Montgomery’s “Strum” and Beethoven’s “Symphony No. 8.”

Reserve your tickets for the Sunday, October 12 performance, 3 to 5 p.m. at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center, 226 N. High St., West Chester. [KennettSymphony.org](http://KennettSymphony.org). [UptownWestChester.org](http://UptownWestChester.org).



Kennett Symphony





# Beyond Pine Cones

1

## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF NUTS, BERRIES, FRUITS, SEEDS AND CONES

Victoria Laubach, Welkinweir



2

WHILE THE EXUBERANCE OF SPRING growth and summer blooms has passed, the life cycle of plants continues into the autumn and beyond. Many assume that once the foliage changes color and the leaves drop, that's it for the year. But that's not the case for plants.

Plants are ensuring the continuation of the next generation by dispersing seeds via the nuts, berries, fruit and cones that become prominent at this time of the year. Of course, not every future seedling will become a new plant. Most are also important food sources for birds and other wildlife as migration and the winter season approach.

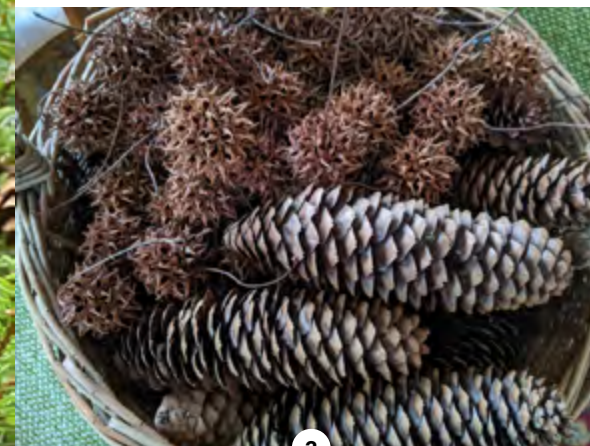
Much like wildlife squirrelling away their finds for the winter ahead, I find myself adding to my personal collection of seeds. My pockets often fill with an assortment of interesting acorns, sweet gum balls, cones and weirdly unusual seed pods I find on walks around Welkinweir this time of the year. You might enjoy starting your own collection of the fruits of the season after learning a bit more about them.

### ACORNS

It begins in late summer, when acorns — the seeds of oak trees — start dropping to the ground. Some years see a bumper crop, while other years are leaner. An abundance of acorns occurs during periodic “mast” years (as in 2023) and are scarce in other years. Mast, the fruit of forest trees and shrubs, can be hard (acorns, hickory nuts, beechnuts) or soft (raspberries or blueberries). What's important to know about mast production is that it's highly variable, affecting the function of our ecosystems and the dynamics of forests. According to the nature radio program “Something Wild,” “Evolution has favored the oak trees that demonstrate this boom or bust cycle,” keeping seed-eating wildlife populations in balance while allowing some acorns to sprout and become trees.

Each fall, my desk has a small collection of different-looking acorns on it — each species of oak produces acorns of a unique design. Some are round and others elongated, while still others are small or large, but all in a rich range of browns from tan to a red-brown.

Then there are the acorn caps. Some acorns wear their caps like little berets, while other caps cover nearly the entire acorn, not leaving much acorn itself to peek out. And some caps even have fringes, like the mossy cup oak. Given all this variety, it's not surprising you can identify an oak by its acorn.



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1. Hemlock cones, new and old
2. Immature mossy cup oak acorn
3. Sweet gum ball and Norway spruce cones
4. Tulip tree and cyprus cones
5. White pine cones
6. Evergreen Southern magnolias, with glossy green leaves and large, fragrant white flowers, have very regularly shaped upright pods.

### SWEET GUM

You've likely seen sweet gum seeds. A native tree known for its brilliant fall foliage, sweet gum produces hundreds of spiky round fruits in the shape of ... a gum ball. Initially green, they turn brown as they dry out. During this drying process, holes appear in the gum ball, with each hole containing two winged seeds, with as many as 30 to 50 seeds per gum ball!

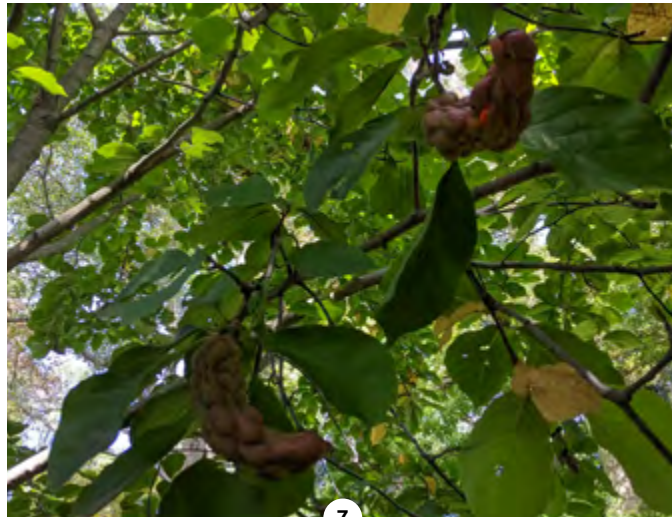
Though gum balls are considered messy and even hazardous (stepping on round gum balls can lead to twisted ankles), the

seeds inside the gum balls are an important food source for birds and other wildlife. Collect them to display, or spray paint them for holiday decor. A quick Google search reveals the creativity of people using gum balls in an amazing array of nature crafts.

### MAGNOLIAS AND TULIP TREES

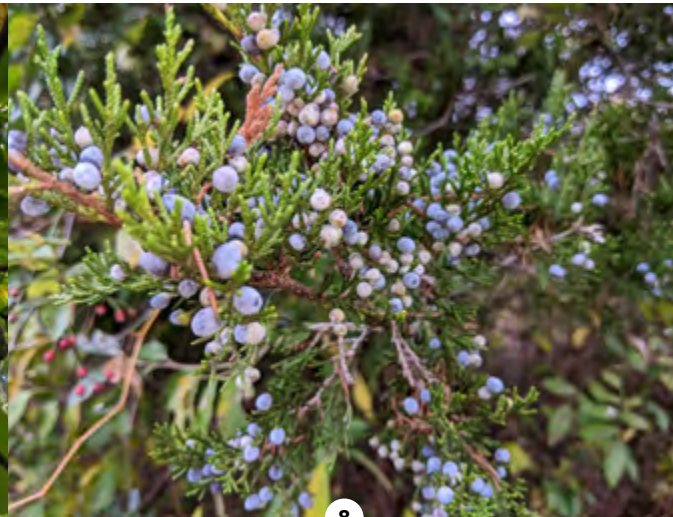
One of the most unusual and strange seed pods is found on spring- and summer-blooming magnolias. If the flowers are pollinated, they produce a cone-





7

7. Hybrid magnolia seed pods



8

8. Juniper berry cones are an important food for wildlife — bluebirds, robins and cedar waxwings find them irresistible.



9

9. Cyprus cones

shaped aggregate of follicles. These “cones” vary in size by species, appear fuzzy and are somewhat red in color, splitting open to reveal bright orange-red seeds when ripe.

But it’s the other-worldly looking, twisty, lumpy and bumpy seed pods of other magnolias that totally fascinate me. And yes, magnolia seeds can be germinated, although seeds from hybrid magnolias will not grow true to type of the parent tree.

A close cousin of magnolias, the tall native forest tulip tree has yellow, orange and green tulip-shaped spring flowers often seen covering the ground beneath the tree, followed by a cone-shaped seed pod. After the petal-shaped seeds are dispersed by the wind, the remaining seed head looks very much like wooden flowers, ready for use in fall and winter crafts and display. Take care, as they’re delicate and can easily fall apart.

### CONIFERS

Then there are the “real” cone-bearing plants. Conifers, with their needle-like (think spruce) or scale-like (arborvitae) leaves are typically evergreen (with some exceptions) and bear cones that protect their seeds. Like acorns, cones of conifers come in many sizes and shapes. Spruce, pine, cypress, hemlock and cedar are all examples of conifers found throughout the Welkinweir landscape.

Norway spruce, a large-growing European native conifer, has needle-like leaves that hang down from branchlets and produce an attractive long, slender cone with pointed scales. Similarly, the delicate texture and graceful compact shape of oriental spruce is reflected in its compact cones.

Pines can be distinguished from other conifers by their needles, which are found in bundles of two to five. For example, Eastern white pine, the largest native conifer in the eastern U.S., has long, soft needles in bundles of five. Their three- to eight-inch-long cones are somewhat coarse looking and hang down from the branches. When you find these cones on the ground, they’re often white with sap. The two- to three-needle bundle hard pines, such as Scots and red pine, produce egg-shaped cones, ranging from one and a half to three inches long.

The smallest cones I find on my walks are from our native eastern hemlock (FYI: the Pennsylvania state tree) and Carolina hemlock, both short-needle evergreens with adorably petite one-inch oval cones. Deciduous conifers (which lose their leaves and are the exception I mentioned earlier), including bald cypress, dawn redwood and larch, also have small cones.

Eastern red cedar, a native conifer that’s actually a juniper (yes, nature), has blue

berries that look like fruit but are actually cones with soft, fleshy scales.

So, as you explore your favorite leaf peeping spots this fall, be sure to look around and keep an eye out for the wonderful world of nuts, berries, fruits, seeds and cones! ♦

*Welkinweir is a 224-acre arboretum and nature preserve where history, horticulture and habitat meet. Located in East Nantmeal Township, 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown, Welkinweir is free and open Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. 610-469-7543; Welkinweir.org.*



# RUNNING WITH Wolves

HEED THE CALL OF THE WILD IN LITITZ

Shannon Montgomery

1

HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, BEFORE THE arrival of Europeans, the forests of Pennsylvania were home to wolves. They were the apex predator, preying on large mammals like deer, elk and bison. As settlers moved in, wolves’ food sources dwindled, and they resorted to eating livestock and farm animals. This, along with their valuable pelts, made them the target of trappers, hunters and the government. By the mid-20th century, wolves were nearly extirpated (locally extinct) in the contiguous United States.

The last wild wolf in Pennsylvania is recorded to have died in 1892. Today, the only place in the state to see wolves living outdoors is the Wolf Sanctuary of PA in Lititz. For over 40 years, the sanctuary has provided a home for wolves and wolfdogs (domestic dog/wolf hybrid) in need. About an hour and 15 minutes from West Chester, the sanctuary is worth a visit this month and beyond — after all, Wolf Awareness Week is October 20–26.

### THE GRAY WOLF

The wolves you’ll see at the sanctuary are gray wolves, or *Canis lupis*. The gray wolf is the most common wolf species on Earth,

with an estimated 200,000 to 250,000 worldwide. Other wolf species include the Ethiopian wolf, only found in the mountains of Ethiopia, and the red wolf, which was reintroduced to the southeastern U.S. starting in the 1980s — though taxonomists debate whether red wolves are a distinct species, subspecies of gray wolf or coywolf (coyote/wolf hybrid).

In the U.S., gray wolves were first added to the Endangered Species list in 1974. Conservation efforts since then, including their reintroduction to Yellowstone National Park in 1995, have led to a resurgence in the gray wolf population. Today, there are as many as 18,000 wild gray wolves in the U.S., two-thirds of which live in Alaska. The rest are found in the Midwest and West.

Despite the name, gray wolves’ fur color ranges from gray, tan and brown to pure black or white. They’re 4.5 to 6.5 feet long and 26 to 32 inches tall. Females weigh between 55 and 100 pounds, males between 70 and 145. They have powerful jaws, which can exert 1,500 pounds of pressure per square inch — twice as much as a German shepherd — and crush bones in just a few bites. When chasing prey, they can reach top speeds over 35 miles per hour.





Wolves are considered a 'keystone species,' meaning their presence greatly impacts the surrounding ecosystem.



Wolves at the sanctuary are given names.

1. Little Girl
2. Odin
3. Akela and Maka
4. Blue, Goose and Halona
5. Scadan

### THE WOLF SANCTUARY

Situated in the heart of Pennsylvania Dutch country, the Wolf Sanctuary of PA is a refuge for gray wolves and wolfdogs. The sanctuary rescues animals from across the country, including cases of illegal ownership, abuse and retired zoo animals.

"The sanctuary was founded by the Darlington family in 1980 out of a love of wolves," said Michelle Mancini, the Sanctuary's Education Coordinator. In the '70s, Bill and Barbara Darlington began caring for wolves on their property, the historic Speedwell Forge. When Pennsylvania made it illegal to own wolves or wolfdogs without a license and permit, the Darlingtons were granted a menagerie permit by the PA Game Commission. "As animals were confiscated from elsewhere, calls started coming in with rescue requests," said Mancini. And thus, the Wolf Sanctuary of PA was born.

Today, over 50 wolves and wolfdogs live within the sanctuary's 80+ wooded acres, each with a unique personality and life story. This includes Halona, who hails from Iowa. Skinny and weak, she was discovered tethered in a dark barn. The family who found Halona took her in, but they sought a better life for her once it became clear she wasn't thriving in a home environment. Today,

Gray wolves are social animals that live and hunt in packs. Wolf packs are comprised of a breeding pair — they typically mate for life — and their offspring. Packs can have as few as two or as many as 30 members, with an average of six to eight. In the Alaskan wilderness, a pack's territory ranges from 300 to 1,000 square miles, while in the rest of the country, territories can be as small as 50 square miles. Wolves communicate through vocalization (howling, growling, barking), body language (eye contact, facial expressions, tail position) and scent marking. They can live up to 13 years in the wild, though the average lifespan is only 6 to 8 years, and up to 16 years in captivity.

Wolves are considered a "keystone species," meaning their presence greatly impacts the surrounding ecosystem. As the apex predator, wolves keep large mammal populations (like deer) in check. Without wolves, coyotes try to fill the niche, but since they primarily hunt mid-size and small prey, nature falls out of balance. Wolves' impact can be felt in places like Yellowstone, where wolf repopulation has led to a revitalization of the ecosystem and populations of several species, from birds of prey to trout, have increased.

she loves to romp and play with her pack-mate, Isabelle.

While the sanctuary's primary focus is rescuing wolves, its secondary mission is educating the public. "We want to reframe the narrative around wolves. They've been plagued by misinformation for centuries, which affects their conservation status," Mancini said.

The sanctuary aims to dispel these myths. "First and foremost, wolves aren't the fairytale monsters that the media makes them out to be. They're actually very shy — their instinct is to avoid people and things that are unfamiliar to them," said Mancini. "On the other side of the spectrum, people believe that wolves are like domestic dogs, but they're not the same. They don't belong in the household, no matter how cute and cuddly they look."

In short, the sanctuary plays an important role in the protection of a very vulnerable species. "We give wolves a place to live out their lives in a respectful environment," Mancini said. "There were hardly any wolves left in the country at the start of the 20th century. Without places to conserve and educate, we would backslide again."

As the sanctuary's motto puts it, "Extinct is Forever."

### VISITING THE SANCTUARY

Ready to see and learn about the wolves? The Wolf Sanctuary of PA is open year-round for public and private guided tours. During your tour, you'll encounter several of the wolves who call the sanctuary home, learning about their lives and unique personalities along the way. Public tours are 60 to 90 minutes long, with groups of around 30, while private tours last about two hours. Advanced booking is required for all tours.

Wolves prefer cold weather, so you may want to plan your visit on a chilly day. "We encourage people to visit during a snowy, cold winter day," said Mancini. "That said, it's cool to see how their coats adapt to the



seasons, shedding in spring and bulking up in winter."

Additionally, the Wolf Sanctuary hosts events throughout the year. Every month, they host Full Moon Fundraisers on the Saturday closest to the full moon — up next is the Hunter's Moon, October 19. Enjoy a roaring bonfire, live entertainment and tour the sanctuary by moonlight. (Note: this is the sanctuary's only age-restricted event, and visitors must be 16 or older.)

Or bring the whole family to celebrate Wolf Awareness Day on October 26. This kid-friendly event features self-guided wolf tours — as always, the wolves stay behind tall fences, no petting or touching allowed — plus pumpkin painting, educational games and activities, live music, food trucks and more.

Visiting the sanctuary is a great way to learn about a fascinating yet misunderstood creature while supporting their conservation. And, if you fall in love with a certain wolf, you can further support them through a symbolic adoption.

"We are a nonprofit. We don't have large grant funding at this time, so we really rely on donations and people visiting to keep providing homes for the wolves and wolfdogs in our care," Mancini explained. "We get requests for rescues all the time. Without places like us, there's nowhere for them to go." ♦

#### IF YOU GO

What: Wolf Sanctuary of PA  
Where: 465 Speedwell Forge Rd., Lititz  
Tour Information: [WolfSanctuaryPA.org](http://WolfSanctuaryPA.org)

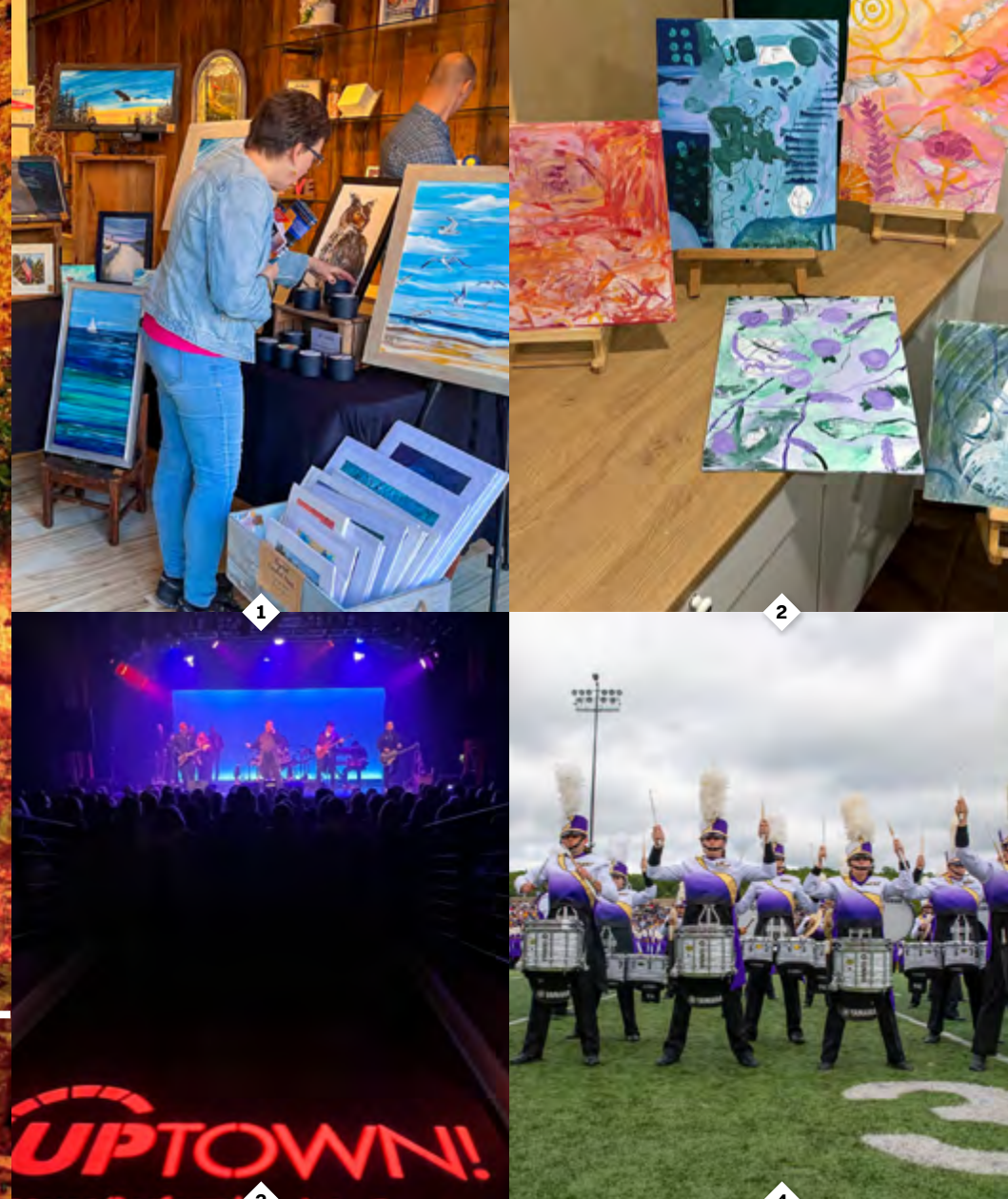




# Across County Lines

TAKE A SCENIC DRIVE THROUGH  
THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Shannon Montgomery



LEAVES ARE CHANGING, THERE'S A CHILL IN the air, and neighborhoods show off their spookiest decor. Autumn has arrived in the Brandywine Valley, and there's no better time for a pleasure drive.

'Tis the season to hit the roads across *County Lines* country. Discover painted vistas, fall festivities and charming towns. Plus, on Chester County Day, October 5, peek into some of the county's fine historic homes on a self-driving tour — more on that in our September issue.

Let us be your guide to all the shopping, dining, events and family fun along the way.

## WEST CHESTER

We start our tour in the heart of Chester County — West Chester, the county seat. Take a stroll down brick sidewalks to find locally owned shops and over 65 tempting restaurants. You'll also discover that this award-winning downtown has become a hub for arts and culture.

Visit on First Friday, October 4, for the **Fall Gallery Walk**. This self-guided art tour features two dozen stops, including local art galleries like **Sunset Hill Fine Arts Gallery** and **Graham Painting Studio** (the newest), plus special one-night-only venues like **Pine + Quill** and **Hop Fidelity**. It's a great way to sample West Chester's art scene — and find artwork to take home. While you're there, grab freebies from the Founders Brewing Co. tent across from Sedona Taphouse.

Or explore the local art scene at your own pace with the new **West Chester Art Loop** map. Download it online or pick up one at a participating location, then plot your self-guided tour of downtown West Chester's galleries and public murals. Map and more at [DowntownWestChester.com/Art-Loop](http://DowntownWestChester.com/Art-Loop).

Feeling inspired? Create your own art at **Nightingale Materials'** beginner-friendly workshops and classes. Register online for their Watercolor House Portrait Workshop (October 5) or Oil Painting 101: Still Life (October 20), or bring the little ones for Saturday

1. West Chester Fall Gallery Walk

2. Nightingale Materials

3. Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center

4. West Chester University Homecoming

Morning Kids Craft (October 5), no sign-up needed. Then pick up more art supplies to keep the creative juices flowing.

Not only are visual arts thriving in West Chester, performing arts are big, too. From music to theater to film, there's always something to see at **Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center**. This month, see singer-songwriter Loudon Wainwright II on the 6th, the Kennett Symphony on the 13th or "Chillin' with the Villains: A Creepy Cabaret" on the 20th. On Movie Mondays, \$5 gets you a ticket, popcorn and a chance to see films like "October Sky" or "Hocus Pocus."

With **West Chester University** back in session, the campus is hopping! Mark your calendar for Homecoming & Family Weekend, October 25 to 27, and see the Golden Rams face Millersville. The Department of Theatre & Dance presents "Be More Chill," a sci-fi tale set to a pop-rock score, October 17 to 19. And performances from the Wells School of Music include the Fall Choral Festival (October 22), Wind Ensemble concert (October 27), plus the Fall Student Showcase at the new **Turks Head Wines Tasting Room** on October 24.

And look forward to two fan-favorite downtown events. The **West Chester Chili Cook-Off** is back with a new host on October 6, and the **Hometown Christmas Parade** returns on December 6.

## WESTERN CHESTER COUNTY

Our tour heading west highlights three towns. Start at the **Downingtown Farmers Market**, Saturdays from 9 to 1 at Kerr Park. Take your pick of locally grown fruits and veggies, fresh meats and cheeses, breads and artisan goods, all while enjoying live music.





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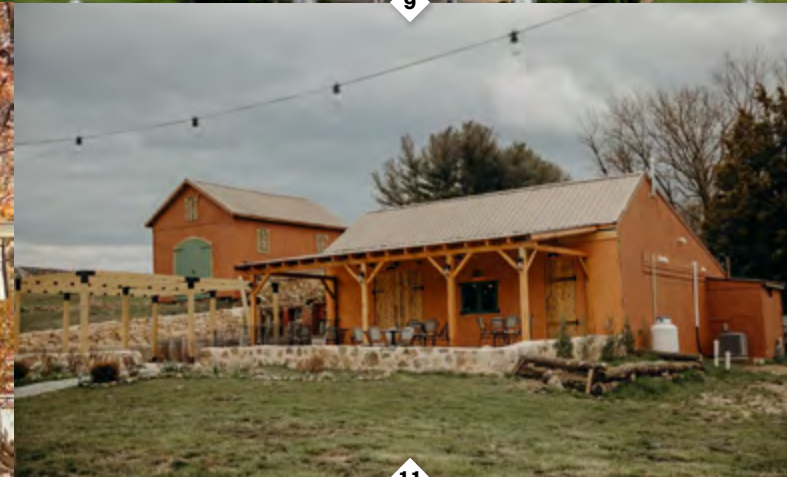
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- 5. R Five Wines
- 6. Craft & Mercantile
- 7. Milky Way Farm
- 8. Life's Patina Co. Mercantile & Cafe

- 9. Festival of Fountains at Longwood Gardens
- 10. Kennett Brewfest
- 11. Casa Carmen Farm & Winery
- 12. "The Porch on Windy Hill" at People's Light

Next, make your way to Lancaster Avenue for more food and drink. Pair Sonoma Valley wine with bites from Kennett's Sweet Amelia's at **R Five Wines**. For connoisseurs, register for a cheese tasting with The Farm at Doe Run's Olivia Haver (October 9) or Let's Get Nerdy About Syrah Bar-Side Chat (October 12). Down the street, **Dressler Estate** is working on their new tasting room and cidery. Follow them on social media @DresslerEstate or subscribe to their newsletter for updates and pop-up taproom events.

You can fuel up at one of Exton's eateries. Choose scratch-made Italian dishes at **Ron's Original Bar & Grille** or farm-to-table fare and craft beer at **Suburban Restaurant & Beer Garden**, then pick up a sourdough loaf from **Good Girls Bakery**.

Then it's time for shopping at **Eagleview Town Center**. Find the latest fall reads at **Wellington Square Bookshop**, locally produced goodies at the **Eagleview**

**Farmers Market** (Thursdays, 3 to 6:30) or artisan wares at this month's **Craft & Mercantile** night market, October 18.

More fun awaits in Chester Springs. Get in the spirit of the season at **Milky Way Farm**, open weekends for pumpkin picking and fall festivities. Stroll or take a hayride to the pumpkin patch, wander through the corn maze, visit farm animals and end with a scoop of farm-fresh ice cream from the onsite **Chester Springs Creamery**.

After you've worked up an appetite picking pumpkins, eat at one of the area's excellent restaurants. Enjoy locally sourced, seasonal fare at **Life's Patina Co. Mercantile & Cafe**, recently opened in the Jenny Lind House at **Historic Yellow Springs**. Try the new **White Dog Cafe** in the historic Vickers Tavern space, or quench your thirst at **The Stables Kitchen & Beer Garden**, with 20 rotating beers on tap, wood-fired pizzas and weekly live music. On October 12, The Stables celebrates Oktoberfest

with around a dozen surprise breweries and funky beats from their DJ.

Finally, take a detour to renowned **Birchrunville Store Cafe**, celebrating 25 years of fine dining in the countryside — provided you make reservations in advance!

### SOUTHERN CHESTER COUNTY

Make your way to the southern tip of the county for idyllic scenery and more family fun.

First, no trip to southern Chesco is complete without a visit to **Longwood Gardens**. There's still time to see the Festival of Fountains, through October 27. Adele fans will love Festive Friday, October 18, with "Set Fire to the Rain" themed fountain performances, concessions, entertainment and more.

Though the Chrysanthemum Festival is on pause for 2024, Longwood Reimagined is coming soon. The garden's largest expan-

sion, including the 32,000-square-foot West Conservatory, opens to the public on November 22. Get tickets early!

Next, head to downtown Kennett Square for fall fun this month. On October 5, sample your choice of over 175 beers from 80 breweries at **Kennett Brewfest**. Or dress the kids in their Halloween costumes to collect treats on the **KSQ Candy Trail**, October 27. Then visit Kennett's shops and restaurants during the final **Third Thursday on State Street** on October 17. The street will be closed for outdoor dining, live music, extended shopping hours and other fun activities.

In the mood for wine? Visit West Grove's **Casa Carmen Farm & Winery**, recently opened on a historic William Penn property. Explore the farm, hang out on the lawn or enjoy seasonal tapas paired with wine and vermouth in the tasting room.

Or, just over the border in Delaware County, visit **Penns Woods Winery** in

Chadds Ford. On October 12, join them for their first-ever Harvest Festival, featuring pumpkin spice sangria and apple cider donuts, food trucks, an artisan market, live music, face painting and a hay maze for kids.

At the end of the month, spooky vibes abound at **The Great Pumpkin Carve**, October 19 to 21. Hosted by the Chadds Ford Historical Society, this longtime local tradition features over 70 giant pumpkins carved by local artists, plus a kid-friendly haunted trail, food and drinks, raffle prizes and live music.

### THE MAIN LINE

Take a drive down Route 30 in Philly's western 'burbs and you'll find yourself on the Main Line. Drive down winding side streets and admire grand old mansions, then check out the inviting towns along the way.

First, celebrate 50 years of professional theater with **People's Light** in Malvern.

See "The Porch on Windy Hill," a new play set to authentic bluegrass melodies, through October 13. Up next is "Peter Panto," a fun-filled holiday tradition based on the classic tale. After the show, grab a bite at their onsite restaurant, **The Fern & Fable**.

Get into the groove at the **Main Line Music Festival**, September 28 at Wilson Farm Park in Wayne. Formerly the Paoli Blues Festival, this free, relaxed music festival is back with a new name and more local musicians and vendors, food, dancing and kids activities.

While in Wayne, find your next read at **Main Point Books**, an independent bookstore chock-full of book signings and book club meetings this month. On October 8, they're celebrating National Cookbook Month with five cookbook authors: Dr. Janet Chrzan, Aliza Green, Joy Stock, Deanna Segrave-Daly and Fran Costigan. Be sure to RSVP online.





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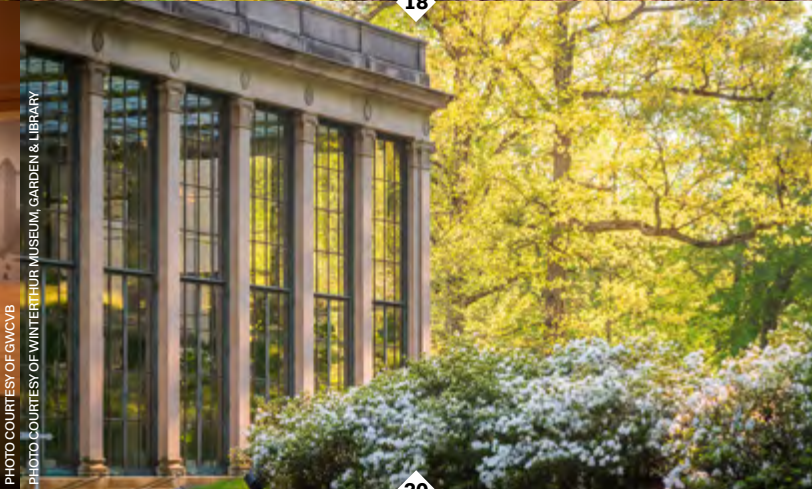
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13. Main Line Music Festival 14. The Buttery Cafe 15. Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead 16. Mostardi Nursery

17. Hildacy Preserve 18. Wilmington & Western Railroad 19. Delaware Art Museum 20. Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Speaking of food, the Main Line is abuzz with new dining destinations. Start your morning with a PSL (that's pumpkin spice latte, for the uninitiated) from **The Buttery Cafe**, the Malvern Buttery folks' new coffee shop at the Malvern train station. Then head east to Berwyn for Japanese cuisine at **Motto Sushi & Ramen**.

In Wayne, look forward to two new restaurants: **Maison Lotus**, a sister restaurant to **The Blue Elephant** (also worth a visit), and **Testa Rossa**, the upcoming Italian American kitchen from Fearless Restaurants (White Dog Cafe, Autograph Brasserie). Craving Italian now? Try the revamped **Il Fiore** in Bryn Mawr (formerly Fiore Rosso), with its warm atmosphere and upscale takes on Italian classics.

### DELAWARE COUNTY

Cross the county line to Delco, where there's plenty of fall fun. From haunted

tours to lively plays and musicals, our neighbors have something for everyone.

First, head down West Chester Pike to Newtown Square. Get into the spooky spirit at **Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead** (formerly Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation). By day, the farmstead educates visitors about 18th-century farm life. By night, join Shades of Sandy Flash, October 19 and 26, lantern ghost tours featuring a theatrical performance of the legend of Sandy Flash, a Revolutionary War traitor.

While in town, get started on fall planting and pick out mums for your porch at **Mostardi Nursery**. Then quench your thirst with craft brews at the **Tired Hands Beer Park**. Back for its second season, the 15-acre park hosts a colorful beer garden, food trailer, disc golf, kids zone and lots of trails. Check social media for live music, Makers Market and other event info.

Speaking of trails, Delco has great spots for fall hiking and leaf peeping, including two of Natural Lands' nature preserves, which are free and open to the public. Trek alongside Crum Creek and listen to the birds chirp at the 55-acre **Hildacy Preserve**, or stroll through fields where Wawa Dairy cows once grazed at the 75-acre **Wawa Preserve**. To find more trails, parks and preserves, check out **Visit Delco's Trail Finder**, and earn swag for you and your pooch with their Trails & Tails program. More at [VisitDelcoPA.com/Trails](http://VisitDelcoPA.com/Trails).

Next, take a trip to "Everybody's Hometown," Media. Stop by the **State Street Fall Festival**, October 6, for food, music, artisans and a kids zone.

Then stick around for dinner and a show. Though Dining Under the Stars may be over, Media's restaurants are always worth a visit. Sample cuisine from across the globe at **Departure**, the borough's

newest restaurant. Or check out our 2024 Best of the Best picks — find them on our website, [CountyLinesMagazine.com](http://CountyLinesMagazine.com).

Media has two great choices for performing arts. On State Street, the **Media Theatre** performs "Legally Blonde," October 4 to 27, plus a special one-night-only concert, "Dracula, the Musical" on October 28. Just outside town, the historic **Hedgerow Theatre Company** hosts the regional premiere of "Robin & Me: My Little Spark of Madness," October 9 to 27.

### WILMINGTON

In the home stretch, take a drive on Route 52, aka the Brandywine Valley National Scenic Byway. Cross the state line to Wilmington, where fall foliage, historic theaters and inspiring museums await.

First, climb aboard the **Wilmington & Western Railroad** for a scenic train ride through the Red Clay Valley. Immerse

yourself in fall colors on the Autumn Leaf Special, running through November 3. Kiddos will love evening rides on the Hayride Express (Fridays in October), an original railroad flatcar filled with hay, or alongside a friendly witch on the Halloween Express (October 27).

Then head downtown to catch a show at **The Grand Wilmington**. At Copeland Hall, the Rock Orchestra performs "Chicago," including a full performance of "Chicago Transit Authority," on October 12, and First State Ballet Theatre performs "Romeo & Juliet" on October 19 and 20. Plus, see "TINA: The Tina Turner Musical" at **The Playhouse on Rodney Square**, October 11 to 13.

Or take a trip to one of Wilmington's renowned museums. At the **Delaware Art Museum**, see "Jazz Age Illustration," surveying popular illustration in the U.S. between 1919 and 1942, opening October

5. The **Delaware Museum of Nature & Science** brings the ancient past back to life with "Permian Monsters: Life Before the Dinosaurs," opening October 12. Plus, kids can make potions, meet beasts and test their skills at the Science of Sorcery event, October 12 from 6 to 8.

And fall is a fine time to visit **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library** to enjoy the 60-acre historic gardens, 1,000 acres of rolling hills, meadows, woodland paths and trails. Plus a new museum exhibit opens October 1. "On Tour: Lafayette, America's Revolutionary Rock Star" commemorates the 200th anniversary of the Revolutionary War hero's farewell tour — they say he was bigger than Taylor Swift or The Beatles.

This fall, take time to explore the places that make our corner of the country so special. Adventure awaits! ♦



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## FROM STEEL TOWN TO BEER TOWN

Edwin Malet

PHOENIXVILLE WAS ONCE known as a working-class town, dominated by its steel mill, steel workers, rowdy bars and cold beer. Today, you can quaff your suds and other drinks at a variety of breweries, tap rooms, bars and eateries. Many offer Happy Hour specials\* for beer, wine and cocktails, as well as bites from the food menus. Some folks will make a meal of the early evening offerings. And we say, why not?

Here's a short guide to Happy Hours in and around Phoenixville to work your way through. These spots are just another reason to visit this fun town. After all, a few years back, local blogger Joe Sixpack wrote that "downtown Phoenixville has more

breweries per square foot than anywhere else in America." Now it offers much more.

### START EARLY ON BRIDGE STREET, 4 TO 6 P.M.

Downtown Phoenixville is more or less synonymous with Bridge Street, where most of the bars, restaurants and shops are located. Most of its Happy Hours are there, too. From 4 to 6 p.m. is the time to show up and be happy at these welcoming places.

### Bistro on Bridge

One of the liveliest places for Happy Hour, Bistro on Bridge has weekday specials. Beers, including Allagash White, Modelo Especial and Sly Fox Helles, are \$4. You

can get a mule, old fashioned, orange crush or glass of wine for \$8. Sample four kinds of fries for \$6, or for \$8, have risotto balls, boneless wings, a Bavarian pretzel or Buffalo chicken dip. And oysters are a buck a shuck. Try upstairs for arcade games, shuffle board and the rooftop view, with, of course, the VW bus. *212 Bridge St. BistroOnBridge.com*

### The Boardroom Restaurant

If you're looking for a diverse food menu for Happy Hour, The Boardroom offers oysters, pizza, burgers, homemade pommes frites and more for \$2 to \$10. Its drinks include specials like Kenwood Light Lager for \$3, or add a shot of whiskey for \$8. A glass of wine is \$9, or order an espresso martini or old fashioned for \$8. Other cocktails

*\*NOTE: There are plenty more great places to eat and drink in Phoenixville — Rivertown Taps and Root Down Brewing come to mind. We've collected the places that advertise Happy Hours, which under the new law effective Sept. 13 can expand from 14 to 24 hours per week.*



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are available for \$5 in cans — the restaurant is associated with Boardroom Spirits and serves its canned cocktails. *101 Bridge St. TheBoardroomPXV.com*

### Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

Celebrating Happy Hour at Iron Hill means a careful reading of the beer menu — it's a long menu with about 18 beers on tap, all for \$2 off. Wine and sangria are \$7.50, as are margaritas, mojitos, whiskey sours and vodka lemonades. And \$7.50 will also get you tuna nachos, zucchini sticks, pimento cheese dip, chicken satay skewers or a plate of hummus dip. For \$3.50, treat yourself to a fried chicken sandwich. *130 Bridge St. IronHillBrewery.com*

### La Patrona Mexican Restaurant & Tequila Bar

Looking for something stronger? Visit La Patrona for Happy Hour. It's got \$4 draft beers, \$7 house margaritas and various appetizers for \$6. *400 Bridge St. LaPatronaMexicanRestaurantPA.com*

### Rec Room

Run by Conshohocken Brewing Company, the Rec Room's Happy Hour runs Monday through Friday and features its Ring the Bell American Lager and Life Coach Hazy IPA for \$4 each. It also offers Surfside and Stateside vodka canned cocktails for \$6. Wings, in five different sauces, are half off. *230 Bridge St. ConshohockenBrewing.com/RecRoomMain*

### Sedona Taphouse

On weekdays at Sedona Taphouse, you'll find half-off deals on most craft beer bottles and cans. Wine, sangria and margaritas are about \$7. For about \$8 or \$9, you can enjoy truffle fries, a choice of flatbreads or sliders. For \$12, you'll get a dish of Prince Edward Island mussels. *131 Bridge St. #5. SedonaTaphouse.com*

### A LATER START — BRIDGE STREET FROM 5 TO 7 P.M.

Although most Happy Hour prices run from 4 through 6 p.m., several spots delay the happiness until 5 but keep it going until 7 p.m. Here are a few to visit.

### The Fenix Bar & Lounge

For a classic cocktail bar, check out The Fenix, located next door to Molly Maguire's, its owner. From Thursday through Saturday, in a setting of old wood, you can get half-price martinis. But, on Fri-



Bistro on Bridge



The Boardroom Restaurant



La Patrona Mexican Restaurant & Tequila Bar



Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant



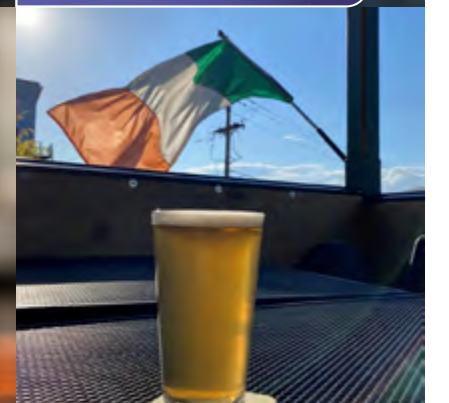
Rec Room by Conshohocken Brewing Company



Great American Pub



Sedona Taphouse



Molly Maguire's Irish Restaurant & Pub





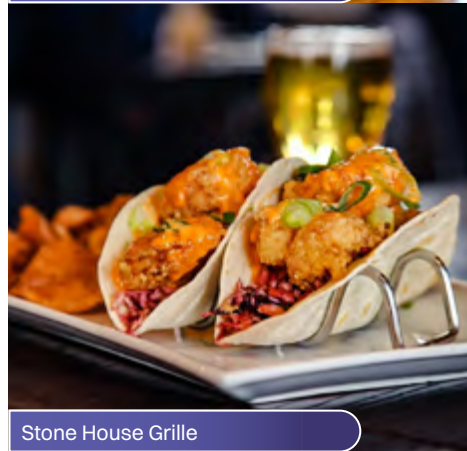
Rebel Hill Brewing



The Fenix Bar & Lounge



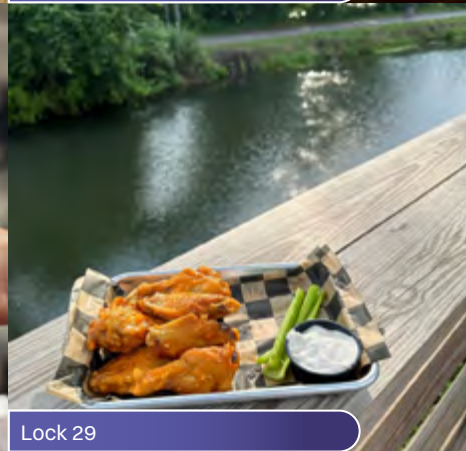
Liberty Union Bar & Grill



Stone House Grille



Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery



Lock 29

days or Saturdays, you may want to hang around after 7, when The Fenix features live music. *193 Bridge St. TheFenixBar.com*

#### Great American Pub

On weekdays, \$3 will get you a Miller Light draft at Great American. For \$5, drink an Allagash White, Sly Fox Helles or Levante Cloudy & Cumbersome. \$5 gets you a White Claw, while \$8 will buy an orange crush or Moscow mule. For \$5 to \$8, you can choose from six dishes, including salsa and chips, truffle Parmesan fries, flatbread pizza or potato and cheddar pierogies. *148 Bridge St. TheGreatAmericanPub.com*

#### Molly Maguire's Irish Restaurant & Pub

Also serving Happy Hour on weekdays, Molly Maguire's offers wine for \$5 and well

mixers for \$4. It also has daily drink specials — beer on Mondays and Thursdays, margaritas on Tuesdays, whiskey on Wednesdays and so on. For \$7, appetizers — colcannon potato balls, fried pickles, pretzel bites, mozzarella wedges — are available, too. And while it's warm, don your sunnies and enjoy the rooftop deck! *197 Bridge St. MollyMaguiresPhoenixville.com*

#### Rebel Hill Brewing

For Happy Hour on Tuesday through Thursday, head to Rebel Hill Brewing. Select beers then cost \$5. Select cocktails cost \$10. For food, you can have Bavarian pretzels or fried pickle dip for \$3 off. There are also special prices on Tuesday (tacos and margaritas), Wednesday (wings) and Thursday (burgers and fries with the pur-

chase of a pint or cocktail). *242 Bridge St. RebelHillBrewing.com*

#### OUT OF TOWN BUT STILL CLOSE

It's a short trip out of town for a few more options, but it's worth it. Over the past few years, Phoenixville has grown along with its Happy Hour options.

#### Liberty Union Bar & Grill

If you're willing to wander away from Bridge Street, head for Kimberton Road, where from 4 to 6 on any weeknight, Liberty Union offers \$1 off all its drafts — they have 12 — along with \$8 lemon drop martinis and mules. For food, look for special prices on bites — \$6 for tots, pretzels, hummus or onion soup and \$10 for wings, pou-

“Over the past few years, Phoenixville has grown along with its Happy Hour options.”

tine tots, margarita flatbread or ahi tuna. Chow down on one of its weekly specials, including crab legs on Tuesdays or burgers on Wednesdays. *519 Kimberton Rd. LibertyUnionBar.com/ Kimberton*

#### Sly Fox Brewhouse & Eatery

Across from Liberty Union, you'll find Sly Fox, where from 5 to 7 on weekdays, plus 1 to 5 on Sundays, you'll get \$1.50 off any draft beer. It features 18 taps, from Oktoberfest Marzen to Kitsune Rice Lager to O'Reilly's Stout, all brewed in Pottstown. Or get a pint and seven wings for \$8. *520 Kimberton Rd. SlyFoxBeer.com*

#### Stone House Grille

At Hares Hill Tap Room and Stone House Grille, Happy Hour starts and ends early,

from 3 until 5 p.m., Tuesday through Friday. Specials include \$1 off select drafts and wines. Look over the dinner menu. You may consider staying. *1300 Hares Hill Rd., Kimberton. StoneHouseGrillePA.com*

#### Lock 29

And a final option is just outside Phoenixville on Bridge Street, but across the Schuylkill Canal in Mont Clare. Lock 29 offers waterside dining and Happy Hours on weekdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. There are “beat the clock” specials at 3 p.m. of \$2 well drinks, \$4 call drinks and \$5 premium drinks, with prices increasing after 4 p.m. More specials include \$2 off wine, \$4 domestic beers, \$5 IPA cans and more. Food specials include \$5 truffle popcorn and \$5 sesame garlic edamame. *127 Bridge St., Mont Clare. Lock29MontClare.com* ♦

## Phoenixville events

#### 38th Annual Phoenixville Run

October 1–28

*Oct. 1–28*, Virtual Challenge. *Oct. 28*, in-person 5K and 10K events. Benefits Citizen Advocacy of Chester County. Reeves Park, 2nd Ave. & Main St. 8:30 am. \$40. *Phoenixville.org*.

#### First Fridays in Phoenixville

October 4, November 1, December 6

Bridge Street is closed to vehicles, to give residents and visitors more space to shop, eat and enjoy town. 5:30 to 8:30. *Phoenixville.org*.

#### The Colonial Theatre

October 4 - December 21

Check out entertainment at 227 Bridge St. *TheColonialTheatre.com*.

#### 7th Annual Phoenixville Bed Races

November 2

Race teams will build, decorate and race beds on wheels to raise funds for Ann's Heart and Good Samaritan Services. Start at Reeves Park, 2nd Ave. & Main St. 11 am, race begins at noon. *PXVBedRaces.org*.

#### Phoenixville Public Library — Wine, Wit & Wisdom

November 7

The event will include a silent auction, wine tasting, dinner, an acclaimed author and more. RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Rivercrest Dr. 6 to 9 pm. For tickets and registration, *PhoenixvilleLibrary.org*.

#### Burn Off the Bird 5K

November 30

Held annually on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, the Jaycees 5K Race & 1-mile Fun Run begin and end at Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave. Benefits the Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation to fund community events. 8:30 to 11 am. *Phoenixville.org*.

#### Feel The Holiday Spirit in Phoenixville

December 6

*Dec. 6*, First Friday Holiday Edition and tree lighting downtown, 6:30 pm, with family-friendly activities throughout that weekend. *PhoenixvilleFirst.org*.

#### Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour

December 7

The Phoenixville Area Senior Center is hosting the Marketplace (food, drinks, holiday vendors) from 3 to 7. Tour starts at the Center, 4 to 8, with transportation available. Benefits the Senior Center. \$30 advance/\$35 day of tour. 153 Church St. *PHXHolidayTour.Weebly.com*.

#### Firebird Festival 2024

December 14

The mission of this annual event that draws crowds to town is to foster a collaboration of local artistic and creative talent and to enhance the cultural life of Phoenixville. Burning of the Firebird at Veteran's Field, 192 Mowere Rd. 5 to 10 pm. Get tickets early for this sell-out event. \$30–\$140. *FirebirdFestival.com*.



#### A Taste of Phoenixville

January 2025

A premier food, wine and beer event. Live music. Benefits the Good Samaritan Shelter. Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave. 6 to 10. *TasteOfPhoenixville.com*.





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November 5, 6, and 20

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## Turning Pandemic Learning Losses into Student Silver Linings

### INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS USE AN ARRAY OF HELPFUL STRATEGIES

Cara Corridoni

**N**EW STUDENT TEST DATA HAS AGAIN RAISED concerns over the lingering effects on students of the adaptations used by school during the pandemic, including such things as remote learning, mask mandates and a loss of extracurricular activities. While earlier improvements after return to classes had many educators hoping the worst was behind them, test scores from last winter and spring show this isn't the case.

"Unfortunately, data from the past two school years no longer supports this conclusion," testing company NWEA told the *Washington Post* in July. NWEA tests pre-K to grade 12 students in math, reading, language and science.

Maggie Kincheloe, a teacher at the Kimberton Waldorf School in Phoenixville, has a unique view of pandemic impacts. It's common in the Waldorf tradition for teachers to "loop" through the lower grades, staying with their students for a few years. Teachers start in first grade and then teach that same student group through fifth or eighth grade. In 2020, Kincheloe welcomed a cohort of first graders. This year, she'll shepherd those same students through fifth grade.

"I've thought about this a lot," she said. "Every year I look at my students and ask, 'Are they where I want them to be?'" And for the most part, she said, they are. "Because we were open throughout it all. I can't draw any lines between the kids needing academic support and the pandemic," she said.

The effects of the pandemic measures seem to swing like this, from worrisome to barely there to, dare we say, positive. Several local educators reflect on the lingering impacts of the pandemic and show that even the darkest clouds have a silver lining.

#### LESSONS THAT CARRY

Mindy Wawrzyniak can attest to that swing. As Head of School at the Center School, an Abington-based school that specializes in supporting students with educational gaps, she's seen student struggles firsthand.

"The learning losses are great, and they're really across the board," she said. Wawrzyniak reported welcoming middle school students who can't read, some who don't know all their letters. "When a child is very far behind, it's not only difficult [because of the amount of



educational ground that needs to be covered], but they tend to be a little more resistant,” she says.

Dr. Jon Hall, Head of School at Media-Providence Friends School, agreed. “The attitude children have towards school is formed primarily in the younger grades,” he said. “With the exception of the rare few for whom virtual school was aligned with who they are as a learner, the experience made school harder and more stressful for kids. And the challenge schools face today is changing that attitude.”

To close learning gaps, schools must tackle academics while limiting stress. At the Center School, they start by grouping students by level. They also work to promote project-based learning and strengthen learning strategies. “We have to learn to break [bad] habits in a caring, understanding way and teach them new habits,” said Wawrzyniak.

Dr. Kim Wagner, Head of Lower School at Tatnall School in Wilmington, has found that sometimes it’s the teachers who have to break old habits. In helping to recuperate missing skills in reading, they found proficiency to be an even better basis for advancement than mastery. “Why that works,” said Wagner, “is the skills don’t go away when you move up.” Using this method, they’ve found they can more efficiently progress through foundational skills and get students to critical thinking skills more quickly.

Sister Margaret Fagan, principal at Bryn Mawr’s St. Aloysius Academy, said they made the most of their natural assets when things got tense. “We’ve tried to use the campus we have to get the

boys outside,” Sister Margaret said of the school’s 42 acres. “Science outside. Reading outside. Playing games while learning.” The shift seems to have worked. “Academically there was a little slip, but our boys are back and better,” she said.

### SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL SKILLS

In addition to remote learning, students also faced periods of limited socialization and increased levels of stress and anxiety, especially during the height of the pandemic. These experiences may have led to lagging social-emotional development.

“I’ve been a teacher for 20 years,” said Wagner. “[Every year] I’ve seen boys fight over a game of football, but now the emotions are so much larger.”

Wawrzyniak at the Center School agreed. “We’re seeing more kids with anxiety and difficulty managing stress,” she said. “Our curriculum is definitely geared toward skills academically, as well as socially and emotionally.”

Kimberton Waldorf, too, has expanded its mental health support system. At Tatnall, they have a social-emotional teacher and curriculum. “I think schools are looking at social-emotional needs more than we were before,” said Tatnall’s Wagner.

Ona Wetherall O’Hara, Kimberton Waldorf Early Childhood Section Leader, has even noticed a change among the school’s youngest students. “Many of our incoming students over the last two years have been ‘Covid babies,’” she said.



1. Many teachers are taking their lessons to the great outdoors.
2. Schools are limiting screen time in the classroom.
3. Students’ attitudes toward school are largely developed in elementary school.
4. Post-pandemic schools are increasingly focused on social-emotional learning.
5. Many schools are adding more extracurricular activities for their youngest students.
6. The end of the pandemic has brought about a renewed appreciation for the school community.

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Compared to their predecessors, the so-called Covid babies are more likely to have a single caretaker, usually a grandparent or a long-term babysitter. These kids, O’Hara has found, are more likely to observe rather than enter directly into the action. There can also be a slight lag in speech, communication and skills like cooperative play. Yet these gaps tend to close naturally once the kids adjust to the classroom environment. “The kids are super eager and really excited to be with each other,” she said.

At St. Aloysius, they’ve increased the number of early elementary extracurricular activities offered. Cross-country running is now available to students as young as kindergarten, and this fall they added first- and second-grade flag football teams.

“To see those kids running up [the campus] hill away from their computers and enjoying each other. It’s great to see,” said Sister Margaret.

### A GREATER GOOD

Has Covid left a permanent mark on our students? Nearly all educators agree it has but not necessarily in the ways that tend to make headlines.

Technology in the classroom has found its place, which is often now in the background.

“We’re pushing back [on technology use] here at Tatnall,” said Wagner. “We’re only using screens if the screens have a real impact. I’m hoping to see that more. Teachers taking back the classroom.”

Some surprising benefits remain. “They became excellent handwashers,” said Kimberton Waldorf’s Kincheloe of her now-fifth graders. “I think this generation of kids is going to view illness in a new way. I think there’s more of a tendency to be empathetic.”

Most educators have also reported a renewed appreciation for the school community. “We all thought about quality of life during Covid. There was a real longing for those social activities that were taken away from us,” said Wagner.

Now that they’re back in school, parents and students are not just showing up, they’re happy to be there. “When you work really hard to get through something together, I think you have a new understanding and appreciation for each other,” said O’Hara.

It also means you don’t have to go it alone. “[The students] aren’t afraid to say ‘I need help,’” added Sister Margaret. “They’ve learned to lean on one another, and that’s what community is all about.” ♦





**ALL BOYS | COLLEGE PREP | GRADES 9-12 | BOARDING & DAY**

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**FALL OPEN HOUSE  
October 26, 2024**

Church Farm School | 1001 Lincoln Hwy E, Exton, PA 19341 | Learn more at [gocfs.net](http://gocfs.net)

# Watch Your Daughter Thrive at Notre Dame!



**OPEN HOUSE  
October 6 • 10 am**

**ATHLETICS  
OPEN HOUSE  
October 23 • 6:30 pm**



World-Class Independent Catholic Education All Girls • Grades 6-12



# GUIDE TO

## Private, Independent Schools & Education Services

### PENNSYLVANIA

#### Bryn Mawr



**The Agnes Irwin School**  
275 S. Ithan Ave.  
610-801-1869; [AgnesIrwin.org](http://AgnesIrwin.org)  
No one knows girls like Agnes Irwin School does. Which means no one does girls' education like they do. It's been their focus for 155 years—building challenges intended just for girls. You'll see it in their curriculum and in the way their girls are seen and heard. Because they believe when girls feel heard, they'll speak up. And when Agnes Irwin girls speak up, it's in the world's best interest to listen.  
Admissions Open House: Oct. 17, 6 pm  
Athletic Open House: Oct. 29, 6 pm



**St. Aloysius Academy**  
401 S. Bryn Mawr Ave.; 610-525-1670; [StAloysiusAcademy.org](http://StAloysiusAcademy.org)  
Founded in 1895 by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Aloysius Academy is the only private, Catholic, all-boys, K-8 school in the Philadelphia five-county area. St. Aloysius Academy provides an engaging and challenging learning environment for boys that recognizes their needs and develops their gifts and talents. Within a faith-based setting, relational learning permeates the caring and formative atmosphere where each student can grow to be the best version of himself.  
Open House: Oct. 16, Jan. 29, Mar. 12, 9 am  
Schedule a private tour, [Admissions@StAloysiusAcademy.org](mailto:Admissions@StAloysiusAcademy.org)



#### Exton

**Church Farm School**  
1001 E. Lincoln Hwy; [GoCFS.net](http://GoCFS.net)  
Church Farm School is an all-boys boarding and day private high school in Exton. Since 1918, CFS's mission has been to ensure young men of character and academic ability receive a world-class education at an affordable price. Located on 150 bucolic acres in the heart of Chester County, the school emphasizes core values of respect, responsibility, integrity and brotherhood. Graduates go on to the nation's leading colleges and universities.  
Fall Open House: Oct. 26  
Winter Open House (Virtual): Dec. 7  
Spring Open House: Apr. 12  
Register at [gocfs.net/events](http://gocfs.net/events)



#### Haverford

**Friends School Haverford**  
851 Buck Ln.; 610-642-2334; [FriendsHaverford.org](http://FriendsHaverford.org)  
At Friends School Haverford, even the very youngest children grow their math and reading skills. Project-based learning guides students through studies about historical heroes, growing food, local ecosystems and more. Children become confident, critical thinkers who are prepared for the next step in their educational journey. Quaker values impart a sense of stewardship, integrity and community. Financial aid is available.  
Open House: Oct. 19, Nov. 7, Dec. 6, Apr. 24, 9:30 to 11  
Register: [FriendsHaverford.org/Visit](http://FriendsHaverford.org/Visit)







Dr. Kristin Meyer & Dana Emery  
**Helping your family reach their full potential within Special Education**

Whether it's understanding the complexities of the special education system, advocating for your child's needs, or simply needing guidance on how to best support your child's growth, we are here to help.

At The REACH Group, We are dedicated to empowering working families like you to navigate your child's education, mental health, and development with confidence and ease.

**Together, we can make this back-to-school year the best one yet!**



As proud working moms and passionate advocates for special education, our Advocates at The REACH Group, LLC know firsthand the challenges we face in balancing work, family, and our children's unique educational needs.



**Complimentary 45 Minute Consultation**

We believe every family should have access to expert advocates which is why we offer scholarship assistance for our services.

484.202.0225 | [thereachgroup.net](http://thereachgroup.net)

**Malvern**

**Malvern Preparatory School**

418 S. Warren Ave.  
 484-595-1100; [MalvernPrep.org](http://MalvernPrep.org)



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

Open House: Oct. 26, 9 am  
 Entrance Exams: Nov. 2, Nov. 17, Dec. 7, Jan. 12  
 Register: [MalvernPrep.org/Visit](http://MalvernPrep.org/Visit)



**Villa Maria Academy High School**

370 Central Ave.; 610-644-2551; [VMAHS.org](http://VMAHS.org)



An independent, all-girls, Catholic high school located on a beautiful, 45-acre campus. Villa Maria's warm and inviting environment features three instructional buildings, the newly-constructed Theresa Maxis Student Union, the Parsons Chapel and state-of-the-art athletic fields and facilities. The curriculum incorporates innovative classes with the traditional topics inherent to the highest-quality secondary education. College attendance rate is 100 percent, and graduates leave with the skills to make their mark on the world. For a visit, register at [VMAHS.org/Events](http://VMAHS.org/Events).

Fall Open House: Oct. 6, [register online](http://registeronline)  
 8th Grade Entrance-Scholarship Exams: Sept. 28 and Oct. 20  
 Register at [VMAHS.org/Events](http://VMAHS.org/Events)



**Villa Maria Academy Lower School**

280 IHM Dr.; 610-644-4864; [VillaMaria.org](http://VillaMaria.org)



With a legacy of over 150 years of empowering young women through leadership and service, at Villa Maria Academy Lower School, they strive to maintain a culture rooted in the charism of the IHM Sisters, which is love, creative hope and fidelity. Villa is designed to meet the educational needs and unique learning style of each girl. The unrivaled academics, fine arts, athletics, student activities and service programs provide a foundation to discover individual passion and prepare for a lifetime of learning and leading.

Open House: (Preschool–8 Gr.): Oct. 10, Nov. 6, Jan. 30, Mar. 12  
 Private Tours available. Register at [VillaMaria.org](http://VillaMaria.org)



**Media**

**Media-Providence Friends School**

125 W. 3rd St.; 610-565-1960; [MPFS.org](http://MPFS.org)



A Quaker school for students age 2 through grade 8 that awakens the passion and potential of all individuals within a welcoming, diverse community led by Quaker values. A close-knit learning community, MPFS offers students big views of the world ahead. In small classes, under the caring tutelage of early childhood, elementary school and adolescent experts who are passionate about teaching, students from diverse backgrounds and faiths grow up together.

Virtual Open House: Sept. 20, Dec. 13, Mar. 21  
 RSVP to a Virtual Open House at [MPFS.org/RSVP](http://MPFS.org/RSVP)



Since 1912, Devereux has offered outstanding and innovative educational programming across Southeast Pennsylvania. Our small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction/support in a safe/therapeutic setting for students with a wide variety of learning differences.

**EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**

- Approved Private Schools\* • Assessments/Evaluations
- Residential Treatment for Children/Adolescents
- School-based Consultation and Support with Subject Matter Expertise in the areas of Autism Support Behavior and Classroom Management and Multi-Tiered Systems of Support

\*PDE 4010 funding available to eligible students

**ADDITIONAL SERVICES**

- Acute Psychiatric Children and Adolescent Hospital Outpatient Services • BHRS Services

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 PAEDUCATIONREFERRALS@DEVEREUX.ORG





Villanova



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All-Boys Academy Since 1895

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- Award-Winning and Diverse Music Program

GREAT IDEAS, LIKE GREAT MEN, BEGIN HERE



St. Aloysius Academy  
401 S. Bryn Mawr Avenue  
Bryn Mawr, PA 19010  
610-525-1670  
www.staloyisusacademy.org  
facebook.com/StAloysiusAcademy  
instagram.com/staloyisusacademy



The Walden School

901 N. Providence Rd.  
610-892-8000; [TheWaldenSchool.org](http://TheWaldenSchool.org)



The Walden School welcomes children ages 2½ through 5th grade. Teachers are the heart of their students' success, cultivating even the youngest learners' intellectual curiosity. Montessori-based learning lets children thrive in a nurturing environment, fostering independence, collaboration, and peaceful and respectful communication. Students explore their interests and excel at their own pace to become self-motivated, empathetic decision-makers prepared for lifelong learning and community engagement.

Fall Open House: Nov. 3, 1 to 3 pm  
Winter Open House: Jan. 11, 10 to noon  
Spring Open House: Feb. 9, 1 to 3 pm



A Walden student is an empowered decision maker.

We teach confidence.



Media, PA | 610.892.8000. | [thewaldenschool.org](http://thewaldenschool.org)

Lifeworks Schools  
215-489-3028



LifeWorks Schools are a network of private, academic schools that serve the academic, behavioral and counseling needs of elementary, middle and high school students through a spectrum of innovative programs.

Building Successful Students

Our mission is to provide our students with the skills needed to reach their full potential and become productive citizens.

Campuses in Doylestown, Levittown, and Media

With limited exceptions, physicians are not employees or agents of Lifeworks Schools. Model representations of real patients are shown. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the nondiscrimination notice, visit our website.



Newtown Square



Episcopal Academy

1785 Bishop White Dr.  
484-424-1400; [EpiscopalAcademy.org](http://EpiscopalAcademy.org)

Episcopal Academy, a Pre-K–12, coeducational, independent day school, offers a classical yet innovative academic program, renowned for excellence in the humanities and sciences and focused on social responsibility and ethical leadership. Episcopal's commitment to individual attention and to building an engaging, supportive school experience builds self-confidence and fosters a love of learning in all students.

Lower School Open House: Oct. 26  
Middle & Upper School Open House: Oct. 27  
Register at [EpiscopalAcademy.org/Events](http://EpiscopalAcademy.org/Events)



DELAWARE

Wilmington

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur

560 Sproul Rd.; 610-971-0498; [NDAPA.org](http://NDAPA.org)  
Located on 39 acres in Villanova, the Academy of Notre Dame is a premier independent, Catholic, college-preparatory school for girls in grades 6–12. Students thrive in a robust learning environment, featuring global learning opportunities and trips abroad, a student well-being program and state-of-the-art centers for the arts and STEM. At Notre Dame, they teach students to speak up for what they believe in and help them become the leaders they were destined to be.

Fall Open House: Oct. 6  
Athletics Open House: Oct. 23  
Walk-in Wednesdays: Oct. 9, Nov. 13, Dec. 4  
Entrance Exams: Oct. 19, 20 & 26



The Tatnall School

1501 Barley Mill Rd.  
302-998-2292; [Tatnall.org](http://Tatnall.org)

At Tatnall, students from age 2 through grade 12 experience an exceptional education that unlocks their passion for learning. Every student has opportunities to explore endless possibilities through challenging academic, artistic and athletic programs. The devoted teachers, coaches and community members are the driving force behind the school's success. The strong bonds formed at Tatnall between students and educators foster devotion to learning, enabling students to unleash their full potential and nurture their great minds.

Open House (Grades 6–12): Nov. 2, 9 am  
(Age 2 - Pre-K): Nov. 9, 10:30 am  
(Grades K - 5): Nov. 21, 8:15 am







Media-Providence  
**Friends School**



Meaningful Learning, Purposeful Life

VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE:  
Sept. 20 & Dec. 13

RSVP for a live Zoom campus tour  
& current parent Q&A

Downtown Media • 610-565-1960 • mpfs.org/rsvp



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Join us for a Virtual Info Session  
& Come for a Tuesday Tour  
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**CENTREVILLE LAYTON SCHOOL**



Now Enrolling PreK-12th Grade

Centreville Layton School offers a robust educational experience for students who learn differently. Our program identifies academic and social needs of individuals and provides a curriculum that focuses on problem solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers each student to reach his or her potential.



**Contact Us**  
302-571-0230  
6201 Kennett Pike  
Centreville, DE 19807  
[centrevillelayton.org](http://centrevillelayton.org)

Wilmington  
**Friends 1748 School**

Where your child can excel  
and grow to their fullest potential!


We invite you to our  
**Open House**  
October 29, 2024 • 5-6:30pm  
Preschool -12th Grade



[admissions@wilmingtonfriends.org](mailto:admissions@wilmingtonfriends.org)  
[wilmingtonfriends.org](http://wilmingtonfriends.org)  
302.576.2930



**Wilmington Friends School**  
101 School Rd. (Rts. 202 & 95)  
302-576-2900; [WilmingtonFriends.org](http://WilmingtonFriends.org)



A great place to grow up, offering an unsurpassed academic program with depth, asking students to question, collaborate, be creative and take risks, all within a caring community that balances focus on the individual with responsibility to the common good. 1:1 laptop/iPad program for kindergarten–12th grade, STEM labs and programming, International Baccalaureate program and competitive athletics.


Open House (Gr. PS–12): Oct. 29, 5 pm



**LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION**

**PENNSYLVANIA**  
Abington

**Center School**  
2450 Hamilton Ave.; 215-657-2200  
[CenterSchoolPA.org](http://CenterSchoolPA.org)




Your child is more than a diagnosis to Center School. Your family is more than an enrollment number. Welcome to Center School — a school that is focused on supporting the whole child. Center School is the only school of its kind that offers almost three hours of literacy per day, leading to over 500 literacy hours per school year, supporting students who may need early literacy support and those with language-based learning differences in grades 1–8.

Open House: Oct. 15, 9:30 am  
Visit website for Zoom Information Sessions



**Conshohocken**

**AIM Academy**  
1200 River Rd.; 215-483-2461; [AIMPA.org](http://AIMPA.org)



AIM provides extraordinary, educational opportunities through a rigorous college-preparatory curriculum to children in grades 1–12. AIM is the Philadelphia area's largest school for children with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia, dysgraphia and dyscalculia. Students experience an innovative, research-based curriculum and a range of elective and extracurricular arts, music, club and athletic opportunities. Discover AIM for Innovative Teaching and Fearless Learning.

Virtual Information Sessions: Sept. 25, Oct. 9, Oct. 25, Nov. 6, Nov. 15, Dec. 6, Dec. 11, 9 am



**Malvern**

**The Reach Group**  
484-202-0322; [TheReachGroup.net](http://TheReachGroup.net)



Introducing The REACH Group, LLC: your trusted partner in navigating the special education journey. Co-founded by Kristin K. Meyer, Ed.D., and Dana Emery, M.Ed., they provide personalized support from diagnosis through graduation, bridging gaps between families and schools. Committed to inclusive education, they empower parents with the knowledge and tools to advocate for their child's needs, ensuring tailored support for children with disabilities throughout their educational experience.

Visit their website to learn more







**Friends School Haverford**

**The WONDER ... of growing a pepper!**

Students at Friends School Haverford experience in-depth exploration of complex topics. Whether it's learning about growing food, historical heroes, or local ecosystems, an FSH education is a time of wonder. Children leave as confident, critical thinkers with leadership skills to meet the future.


Come visit and check out the wonder first-hand.

**OPEN HOUSE DATE:**  
Sat., Oct. 19, 9:30-11 a.m.

FINANCIAL AID IS AVAILABLE!

Academic Excellence. Quaker Values. Wonder.  
851 Buck Lane • Haverford, PA 19041 • 610.642.2334 • FriendsHaverford.org


**Center School**



Center School is the leading educational expert for students with dyslexia, dysgraphia, dyscalculia, and ADHD in the tri-state area.

Grades 1-8

Discover the Center School Difference



[www.centerschoolpa.org](http://www.centerschoolpa.org)

Located in Abington, PA

**DISCOVER THE ALL-GIRL ADVANTAGE**




**VISIT VILLA**  
Preschool – 8th grade

October 10  
November 6  
January 30  
March 12

Private Tours Available

[www.villamaria.org](http://www.villamaria.org)

**Great Minds unleashed**



Unleash your mind!

When great minds are unleashed, they dream, create, and achieve things we thought were impossible.

*Aim higher @ Tatnall!*



Join us at Tatnall, where excellence is not just pursued; it's achieved — in the classroom, on the field, and in life. Be part of a community that celebrates achievements, fosters individual growth, and sets you on a path to greatness. Discover your excellence at Tatnall.




For more information  
[www.Tatnall.org/visit](http://www.Tatnall.org/visit)  
(302) 892-4285

Check out our fall admissions events, or schedule a tour today!

Multiple Locations

**Devereux Pennsylvania Children's Services**  
484-798-5752; [PAEducationReferrals@Devereux.org](mailto:PAEducationReferrals@Devereux.org)



Enrolling students at all locations: Downingtown, West Chester, Landenberg, Audubon, Malvern. Accepting Kindergarten students at multiple schools. Since 1912, Devereux has offered outstanding and innovative educational programming, offering five PDE Approved Private Schools in Chester County and one PDE Approved Private School in Montgomery County. Small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction/support in a safe and therapeutic setting for students with a variety of learning differences. Devereux nurtures students' potential by implementing school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and offering community-based instruction, school-based mental health services and a continuum of related services. PDE 4010 funding available.

Schedule a tour today



**LifeWorks Schools**  
215-489-3028; [LifeWorksSchools.com](http://LifeWorksSchools.com)

Three campuses: Media, Doylestown and Levittown


LifeWorks Schools are nationally accredited, private licensed academic institutions serving students in grades 1–12+. They offer autistic support and emotional support classrooms designed to maximize the potential of the students they serve by providing innovative, compassionate, skills-based programming that is personalized to meet each student's specific needs in a trauma-informed environment.

To schedule a tour, email [Rachel.Coldsmith@UHSInc.com](mailto:Rachel.Coldsmith@UHSInc.com) or call 215-489-3028, ext. 158



DELAWARE  
Centreville

**Centreville Layton School**  
6201 Kennett Pk.  
302-571-0230; [CentrevilleLayton.org](http://CentrevilleLayton.org)



Centreville Layton School offers a robust educational and cultural experience for students who learn differently. The program identifies the academic and social needs of the individual and provides a curriculum that focuses on problem solving and critical thinking. Through intervention and strengthening learning strategies, the school empowers each student to reach his or her potential. Pre-K–12th grade.


Open House: *First Wed. of the month, 9 to 11 am*  
Virtual Open House: *Options available*



EDUCATION SERVICES

**Mathnasium**  
[Mathnasium.com](http://Mathnasium.com); Phoenixville (coming soon), 484-971-4452  
Collegeville, 484-973-6889; Paoli, 610-644-2306  
West Chester, 484-971-4452  
Glen Mills, 610-358-5555; Wilmington, 302-475-4444

Mathnasium is a math-only learning center for students of all ages, dedicated to changing lives through math. Whether your student has fallen behind and needs help, or is on grade-level and wants to go well beyond the classroom, Mathnasium can help. They are much more than math tutoring; they start with a free assessment, which allows them to build a customized learning plan catered towards your student's specific wants and needs. Contact them to get your student started today.






# Live the Dream

## — Dream Barn, That Is

CONVERTED BARN IN WILLISTOWN TOWNSHIP

Laurel Anderson

“IT WAS LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT,” SAID THE OWNER OF the stunning converted and updated c. 1831 bank barn. “My son and I were walking in our neighborhood when I saw the For Sale sign at the corner of Tiburon Lane. And it was a barn at the end of a cul-de-sac!” she continued, referring to the 2.5-acre wooded lot bordering Ridley Creek, a block off aptly named Forest Lane.

“I said to my husband that we should take a look. And he agreed,” she said. So they took a look, and then looked two or three times before deciding to take on their biggest-ever renovation project.

“Even the kids thought it would be cool to live in a barn. Well, two of the three were excited. The middle child took longer to come around.”

And now virtually everyone thinks this historic barn is cool. “Even delivery folks who come to the door want to look inside. It’s that kind of place,” the owner said. “And when we have parties, everyone wants to come and see the barn. Luckily it’s big enough, with great flow, to handle a hundred guests.”

### THE PROJECT

The barn, which was once part of the 125-acre Dryburgh Farm, had already been turned into a residence by prior owners before being sold in 2004. “The style was lots of white sheetrock walls and white ceilings with beams,” said the current owner. “We had a different vision that was truer to its origins as a barn.”

So for the next 20 years, the owners worked on creating their dream of “barn living.” The sheetrock came down, and barn wood was discovered and repurposed. Stone interior walls were exposed and repointed — a massive, dusty job, but one with enormous benefits of capturing the barn’s special character. Modern amenities were respectfully and seamlessly incorporated into the design by the artist-owner.

This evolution was also a story of wood — reclaimed, repurposed, rescued. Cypress wood floors on the main level, wide-planked hardwood floors, new mahogany floors in the corner crib area of the barn, reclaimed barn wood planking for walls, original mortise

pegged posts and beams, striking ceilings with ash and hemlock planking replaced sheetrock. Custom cabinetry by Stoltzfus Fine Carpentry in the kitchen, closets and elsewhere, along with unique wood vanities and backsplashes, plus a hardwood staircase from a Kennett school add warmth throughout the home.

### THE RESULT

Now 5,500 square feet of artfully renovated living space — with living, dining, family and breakfast rooms, plus kitchen, two home offices, four bedrooms with en suite baths and additional flexible space — is spread over four levels. From the covered front entrance — the traditional entry to a bank barn — feel the space of the main floor open before you with soaring stone walls and views through to the back of the barn, overlooking the woods and meandering Ridley Creek. Look for the bald eagle, red-tailed hawk or heron often spot-

ted there from the spacious three-season porch with sunset views.

Off the large entry space on the main level, find the open-space living and dining rooms adjacent to the chef’s kitchen anchored by a large center island with prep sink and second oven. In the corner section of the barn is an inviting breakfast room and a view to the lower-level family room. The main level also includes a cozy den/office with exposed stone, plus powder and laundry rooms. But the special feature is a magnificent secluded home office off the porch with the same sunset views and a wall of towering built-in bookshelves. A peek-through window gives a view down to the lower-level family room.

Up the reclaimed schoolhouse stairs to the upper level, find the spacious primary suite and custom bath — note the unique wood backsplash by the sink and the period soaking tub — along with two large closets, one cedar, one walk-in with built-ins. Down an open gallery walkway with seating and views to the main level space is the second bedroom and en suite bath. Exposed stone walls accent both ends of this level.

The lower level is home to a light-filled family room with vaulted ceiling, wall of windows and sliding doors to the covered porch overlooking the expansive, level grassy meadow. The final two bedrooms with en suite baths are on this floor.







A walk-out finished bonus room, on the stone-walled paddock level, adds another huge flexible space for gym, yoga retreat, bedroom or your personal dream space. Currently used as a bright art studio, the space is also rough plumbed for a bathroom, making a perfect entertaining space if a pool were added. There's even more unfinished space (about 2,000 square feet) of barn storage and garage.

How can the owners leave this dream, you wonder. "We bought another barn property to convert into a family compound," shared the owner. Perfect for the next chapter of their lives. ♦

*For more information about the Barn at Dryburgh Farm, a converted historic barn (with no historic preservation restrictions) on 2.5 acres in Willistown Township, contact the Sue Fitzgerald Team, Compass RE. M: 610-209-9238; O: 610-947-0408. Sue.Fitzgerald@Compass.com. Price upon request.*



## Food News

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

**Eateries Expanded.** Three local eateries are opening new locations. First, there's a new **Taco Mar** in the former Frazer Diner, joining the West Chester and Downingtown locations. Plus, the family behind Paoli's Olive Tree Grill recently opened a new restaurant in West Chester, **Aldo's Restaurant & Grill**, serving American and Italian fare. Finally, after opening a Drexel Hill brewpub last year, West Chester's **Artillery Brewing Co.** will soon expand to Pottstown — stay tuned! [TacoMar.com](http://TacoMar.com). [AldosRestaurantAndGrill.com](http://AldosRestaurantAndGrill.com). [ArtilleryBrewing.com](http://ArtilleryBrewing.com).



**Blue No More.** Missing Historic Dilworthtown's Blue Pear Bistro? You're in luck! The owners of Kennett's Sovana Bistro are revitalizing it. Opening this fall, **The Pear** is set to be a cozy, community-driven restaurant and bar with a warm and inviting atmosphere. The new-and-improved spot promises bar snacks, small plates and elevated tavern food paired with seasonal cocktails, beer and wine. Follow @SovanaBistro on Facebook and Instagram for updates. *275 Brintons Bridge Rd., West Chester.*

**Sister Spot.** **Maison Lotus**, a sister restaurant to Wayne's Blue Elephant, plans to open early next year in the former Margaret Kuo's space. The new spot promises a unique fusion of French and Vietnamese cuisine, blending tradition with innovation. It will also feature an adjacent bakery/café, offering a cozy spot for morning coffee, a quick bite or scrumptious pastry. Sign up for their newsletter for updates. *175 Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Maison-Lotus.com.*



**Book Bites.** Foodies and history buffs alike will enjoy "Eating Our Way Through American History: Pairing Historic Sites with Tasty Bites in and Around Philadelphia" by Chester County resident Wynn Redstone. This new book features a collection of local historic landmark and eatery pairs, including the Brandywine Battlefield and Ground Provisions, Valley Forge and Malvern Buttery, Kennett's Underground Railroad stations and Talula's Table, and the birthplace of Major General Smedley Butler and Pizza West Chester. Find it on Amazon or order from your local independent bookstore.



**Vino Virtuosos.** Following the opening of their Bottle Shoppe last fall, Turks Head Wines has a new **Tasting Room & Wine Lounge** in the former Church Street Market House. Enjoy tasting flights and curated bites in the atrium, bedecked with an oval marble bar, faux olive trees and warm wood tones. For serious wine connoisseurs, the private CRU Club offers access to an exclusive two-story wine lounge and special events. *120 N. Church St., West Chester. TurksHeadWines.com.*





# Falling for Fall Salads

TEXTURES AND FLAVORS SHOWCASE  
LOCALLY GROWN GREENS

Courtney H. Diener-Stokes



Josh Taggart, executive chef and owner of Mae's West Chester



Exterior of Mae's BYOB

ALL SALADS ARE AS CRISP AS the autumn air and should not be underestimated. Just because temperatures drop, don't put your salad bowl in storage. Autumn's bounty includes great produce to let you continue enjoying your greens — as stand-alone dishes or to balance fall's heartier comfort food.

When curating salads for fall, Josh Taggart, executive chef and owner of **Mae's West Chester**, a farm-to-table restaurant (liquor license pending), loves to take advantage of the abundance of locally grown apples, pears, squash and pumpkins. And he'll often add warming spices that reflect the season, such as cloves, nutmeg and cinnamon, to his other seasonal dishes.

In addition to being excited to welcome the change of seasons, Taggart enjoys crafting new menus featuring the latest bounty from Lancaster Farm Fresh Coop, Chadds Ford's SIW Farm and Solidago Farm outside West Chester that show up in hearty fall salads — think beets, yams, butternut squash and grains like quinoa, farro and rye berries. The season also calls for heartier greens — kale and radicchio — that make regular appearances on Mae's salad plates.

Go-to dressings to complement the tastes of the season range from creamy horseradish dressing to rich balsamic. Taggart's favorite dressing has a reduced cider base and features fresh thyme.

Taggart's culinary creations often have an unusual take on the expected for the season, such as using Mountain Rose apples from Lancaster Farm Fresh for a baby kale salad. Many salad makers would automatically resort to the more easily accessible Honeycrisp, a standard, reliable fall salad ingredient that's on many Chester County tables. Instead, the colorful flesh of Mountain Rose apples adds a welcome and enticing pop to the plate.

Taking the time to toast nuts, roast pumpkin seeds and finely slice crunchy cabbage is worth the extra effort given the satisfaction from pairing these ingredients with an unforgettable dressing that complements the textual treats that await in fall salads.

If you're in a time crunch, you can't go wrong pairing spicy arugula with sliced heirloom tomatoes — both plentiful at farmers markets through November — and topped with freshly shaved Parmesan. A quality extra virgin olive oil, splash of lemon juice, cracked pepper and salt are all you need to dress these ingredients and bring flavors together for a satisfying, fresh-tasting and fast side salad for your main course on a fall evening.

Read on for inspiring salad recipes that will make you want to bring out a cozy sweater to pair with your favorite oaky chardonnay.

## Mountain Rose Apple and Baby Kale Salad with Horseradish Dressing

Because of their surprising color, Mountain Rose apples are the striking centerpiece in this salad featuring baby kale. The creamy dressing with fresh dill complements the kale beautifully. Visually and texturally, this salad is a fall masterpiece!

Serves 4



### For the salad:

- 3 C. baby kale
- 1 Mountain Rose apple, thinly sliced
- 5 radishes, thinly sliced
- ½ C. walnuts, toasted
- 1 medium celery root, peeled and quartered, then julienned (with a mandoline or a sharp knife)

### For the dressing:

- 1½ T. sour cream
- 1½ tsp. extra virgin olive oil
- 1-2 tsp. prepared horseradish, to taste
- 2 tsp. fresh dill, finely chopped
- ¾ tsp. white wine vinegar
- Salt and freshly cracked black pepper to taste

### To make the dressing:

Whisk ingredients together in a small bowl. Season to taste with salt and pepper.

### To assemble the salad:

In a shallow salad bowl, add kale and top with remaining ingredients, evenly sprinkling so they are prettily placed on top of the greens, with apples on top.

Add dressing and toss to coat salad just before serving.

## The "Ray" Salad with Balsamic Vinaigrette

Featuring fall goodies to celebrate the season, this salad packs a punch with beets, blackberries and sunflower sprouts. Black quinoa adds a heartiness, and sliced aged cheddar provides just the right edge to bring the fall flavors together, whether dining outdoors on a crisp evening or indoors by candlelight.



Serves 4

### For the salad:

- ½ C. black quinoa, cooked according to instructions
- 2 beets, steamed, peeled, roasted and diced
- ½ C. blackberries, sliced in half
- ½ C. sunflower sprouts
- 10 slices aged cheddar from block, halved

### For the dressing:

- ½ C. extra virgin olive oil, high quality
- ¼ C. balsamic vinegar
- 1 clove garlic, peeled, pressed and kept whole
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. pure honey
- ½ lemon, juiced
- Salt and freshly cracked ground black pepper to taste

### To make the dressing:

Add all ingredients to a Mason jar with a tight-fitted lid and shake to thoroughly combine.

### To assemble the salad:

After roasting the beets in olive oil, salt and pepper, then cube them. On individual salad plates, place a generous amount of black quinoa, top with beets and sprinkle with blackberries and sunflower sprouts. Evenly space out slices of cheddar over salad.

Dress just before serving.

## Roasted Delicata Squash & Quinoa Salad with Chili Honey Vinaigrette

Featuring delicata squash, the salad gets a crunch from steamed broccoli and a toast to fall with a sprinkle of pumpkin seeds. Locally pressed apple cider is the standout in this vinaigrette that complements the salad beautifully.

Serves 4

### For the salad:

- ½ C. dried, black quinoa, cooked according to instructions





- 1 large head broccoli, steamed to slightly crisp (do not overcook)
- 4 delicata squash, sliced ¼ inch, halved and roasted
- ½ C. pumpkin seeds, toasted
- 1 C. sunflower sprouts

**For the dressing:**

- 1 C. apple cider, locally sourced
- 1 T. apple cider vinegar
- 1 T. honey
- 2 T. sweet chili sauce, store bought
- 2 tsp. fresh thyme, chopped
- Salt and freshly cracked pepper to taste

*To make the dressing:*

Over medium-low heat, reduce apple cider until syrupy. Add to blender with remaining ingredients and blend.

*To assemble the salad:*

On individual salad plates, place a generous spoonful of quinoa, top with broccoli florets and squash. Sprinkle with pumpkin seeds. Top with dressing just before serving, and add a garnish of sunflower sprouts, plus salt and pepper to taste.

**Apple Arugula Salad with Honey Sherry Vinaigrette**

*This salad was recommended by my Chester County friend Pat Brett, who's always making magic in the kitchen, whether cooking for family or*



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**Salad Secrets**

Standout salads require investing in fine ingredients, such as a cold-pressed, high-quality extra virgin olive oil, a deeply flavorful aged balsamic and locally sourced apples that go beyond the expected. Here are recommendations that require a small investment but pay big dividends.

- **Extra Virgin Olive Oil by Napa Valley Naturals** — This exceptional extra virgin olive oil is cold pressed to retain its smooth and buttery flavor. It's delicate with fruity notes and a standout to complement salads, regardless of season. [StonewallKitchen.com](http://StonewallKitchen.com).
- **Balsamic Vinegar by Zack Bruell** — From a Cleveland restaurateur and professional chef, this balsamic vinegar is so flavorful you can add it to salads as the only ingredient! And it's so tasty you can put a puddle of it on the side for dipping other veggies. [ZackBruell.com](http://ZackBruell.com).
- **Unique Apples Varieties from Steinruck Farm** — Established in 2011, this hidden gem in the Oley Valley and its apple orchard use IPM practices (integrated pest management — so fewer pesticides). Try Gold Rush apples, a favorite of the Steinruck family for salads because of big flavor and slow browning. 6117 Oley Turnpike Rd., Oley. 610-698-6808.

*friends. It's the ultimate people-pleaser for any fall gathering and requires only four base ingredients, plus a vinaigrette with the perfect amount of sweetness to bring the ingredients together as a celebration to the season.*

Serves 4

**For the salad:**

- ½ C. sliced almonds, toasted
- 4 C., heaping, baby arugula
- 1 crisp, sweet apple, skin on, cored and cut into matchsticks
- ½ C. Spanish Manchego cheese, (about ¼ lb.), cut into matchsticks

**For the dressing:**

- 2 T. honey
- 2 T. sherry vinegar
- ½ tsp. Himalayan pink salt
- 2 dashes freshly ground black pepper
- 3 T. extra virgin olive oil

*To make the dressing:*

Place all ingredients in a Mason jar with a tight-fitting lid and shake to combine.

*To assemble the salad:*

In a shallow salad bowl, add arugula and sprinkle in remaining ingredients. Dress salad and toss just before serving.

**Arugula Salad with Heirloom Tomatoes**

*One of my go-to salads for fall, this is so easy prepare. It's a great way to feature local tomatoes that are still available through November, plus arugula is a star because of its spicy taste. Combined with fresh shaved Parmesan cheese and a high-quality olive oil, you can't go wrong. Dressing the salad after you plate it makes it a quick side that complements pretty much any main dish on your fall dining table.*

Serves 4



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**For the salad:**

- 3 C. arugula
- 2 large heirloom tomatoes, sliced
- ½ C. Parmesan cheese, shaved

**For the dressing:**

- ¼ C. extra virgin olive oil, high quality
- ½ lemon, juiced
- Salt and freshly cracked pepper to taste

On individual salad plates, add arugula, tomatoes and sprinkle generously with shaved Parmesan.

Drizzle with olive oil, add lemon juice and freshly cracked pepper and salt to taste. (No Mason jar needed for pre-prep of this dressing!)

Dress the salad directly on each plate, right before serving. ♦

*Courtney Diener-Stokes is an award-winning journalist, author, food writer, photographer and food stylist. Most recently she co-authored the Kimberston 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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