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NEW
LISTING



West Nantmeal

Stunning Home with Great Details!

This is the showcase property at French Creek Village. Created in 2008 as a collaboration between the current owners and the builder, no detail was left untouched. The attention to detail carries throughout the home and can be readily seen upon entry into the light-filled hallway connecting the living room, dining room and kitchen plus the family room beyond. Upgrades abound wherever you look: from the wainscoting and woodwork, to the custom fixtures with Austrian crystal and hand painted ceiling art, from the two-story light-filled entry, to the fully custom kitchen and sunroom addition. There is an elevator connecting all floors, a fully finished basement with bedroom, full bath and bar area. The amazing Primary Bedroom Suite with gorgeous custom bath, large walk-in closet and a stunning long view. Abutting the award winning, Gil Hanse designed French Creek Golf Course, 319 Ironstone Lane presents an incredible lifestyle opportunity. The impeccable and easy to care for grounds create a private oasis highlighted by the pool, custom patio, stunning landscaping, fire pit and panoramic views across the golf course to the Welsh Mountains beyond.

\$885,000



Fairville Inn

Historic Inn with Great Possibilities!

The owners of this historic property have transformed the inn into a stylish retreat and thriving business ready for the next owner. The property features ten tasteful guest rooms. The Carriage House offers four rooms and two suites. The Springhouse has four rooms, each with a deck and panoramic view down the meadows to the neighboring pond. Eight of the rooms have gas fireplaces. The Main House features the guest reception area, a living room with a gas fireplace, an after-hours sitting room, a dining room and a commercial kitchen. The lovely Main House could easily become a thriving restaurant.

\$3,500,000



Chadds Ford

Set in Sought-After Area

Located in sought-after Chadds Ford is this stunning 5 bed, 4.5 bath brick colonial set on 2.5 private acres. Entering into the stately foyer, there is a large formal living room and dining room, as well as a gourmet kitchen off of which sits a soaring family room with fireplace and glass doors to the brick patio at the rear of the home. The primary bedroom suite includes a large bathroom and huge walk-in closet. There are two further bedrooms on this level and a full bath. On the third floor is a large bedroom with a full bath. A fifth bedroom and full bath are located in the finished lower level, where there is direct access to the large 3-car garage.

\$1,250,000



East Bradford

Grand home in Bradfords Square!

Your chance to own an updated 4 bed, 3.1 bath townhouse near West Chester! On the main level, the home features a large Living Room with a fireplace, Dining Room, and updated Kitchen. On the upper level, the Primary Bedroom has an updated bathroom and large closet. The two additional bedrooms share a hall bath. The third floor is accessed from the hallway and has new carpet. It is a great space for an office, hobby room or use your imagination. The full basement is finished with a family room, fourth bedroom and full bath. The home has new flooring throughout and is freshly painted. Great schools and low taxes!

\$569,000

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from the
EDITOR

April. Time to embrace spring! Enjoy life all around.

To celebrate the 55th Earth Day on April 22, Olivia Pagliaro rounds up ideas for your family to mark the date. Meanwhile, Victoria Rose highlights fun at the 19th West Chester Film Festival, bringing Oscar-nominated films and more to the Borough.

“Get outside, take a hike and breathe the fresh air,” urged Joseph Rothrock, a 19th-century West Chester resident and Pennsylvania’s first Commissioner of Forestry. Jennifer Green writes about the “Father of Forests” in Brandywine Stories.

We also remember a more contemporary hero: Fred de Long, aka “Farmer Fred,” who created Rushton Farm on Willistown Conservation Trust land as a model of regenerative agriculture. Learn more in Blake Goll’s touching tribute, “Cultivating Soil, Ecosystems and Community.”

Shannon Montgomery explores ways to “Green Your Yard” by making eco-friendly choices to transform your outdoor spaces — gardens, pools, decks, patios and even outdoor furniture. Our “Outdoor Oasis Resource Guide,” edited by Marci Tomassone, identifies experts to help.

For more in your yard, Shannon looks into raising chickens at home in “Birds of a Feather.” She checks in with chicken owners and a Penn State chicken educator.

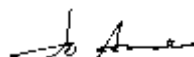
Want to get out on the water? Ed Malet finds local options for sailing, paddling and tubing in “Spring into the Water.” Or if you’re looking for a convenient couples getaway, read Cara Corridoni’s “Sweet Escape” to find itineraries for visiting Lancaster County.

For foodies, Brandywine Table’s Courtney Diener-Stokes’s final column shares “Easter Feast from the Farmstead.” Plan an Easter dinner with spring lamb as the centerpiece. And the perfect beverage? Try the recipes we’ve gathered in “Don’t Mock Mocktails.”

We also feature a Dream Home on the market: Wildflower, a tranquil country refuge in East Fallowfield. And for the ideal smile, read our Being Well column.

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

Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

April 2025

Volume XLVIII Number 8

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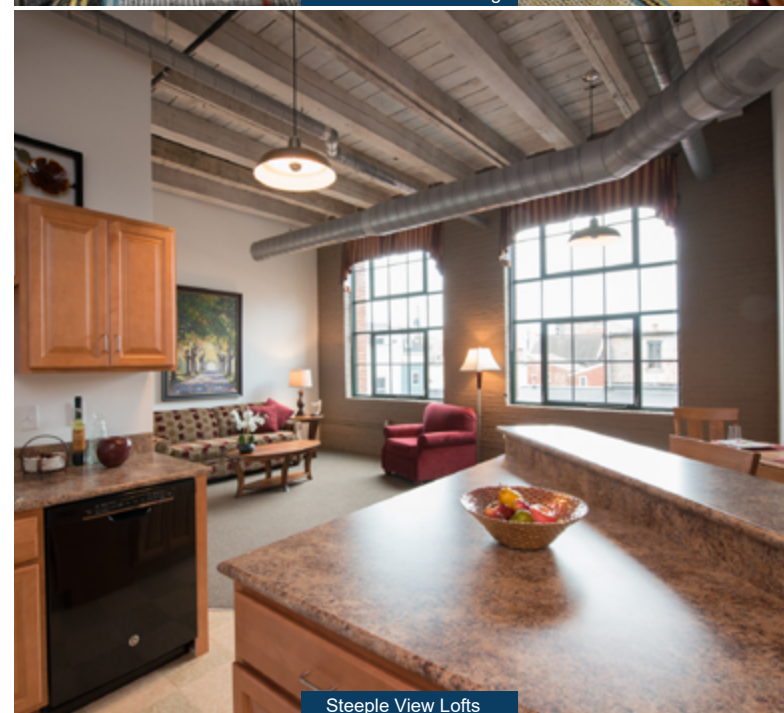
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Landis Place on King



Steeple View Lofts

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Landis Place on King

For adults 55 and over from Chester County and surrounding areas seeking an engaging, walkable lifestyle, Landis Communities offers two exceptional rental options in the heart of downtown Lancaster: **Steeple View Lofts** and **Landis Place on King**. Both provide easy access to the city’s thriving arts, dining, and cultural scene, all within a welcoming, maintenance-free environment.

Steeple View Lofts blends historic charm with modern comfort. Located in a beautifully restored building, these loft-style apartments feature exposed brick walls, expansive windows, and contemporary amenities. Residents can enjoy the character and warmth of a unique living space just steps away from **Lancaster Central Market**, the **Fulton Theatre**, and locally owned cafés and shops.

For those who prefer more modern designs, **Landis Place on King** offers newly constructed apartments with an open, airy feel, an art collection displayed throughout the building and a top-floor terrace overlooking the city. Located along one of Lancaster’s most vibrant streets, this community is close to restaurants, shops, and cultural attractions—ideal for those who appreciate an urban, yet relaxed, lifestyle.

Both locations are designed to foster community engagement while also encouraging an active lifestyle through proximity to major highways and mass transit options, like the Lancaster Train Station. Whether you’re looking for historic charm or modern sophistication, **Landis Communities** offers a **dynamic living experience tailored to your preferences**.

For more information or to schedule a tour, call **717-844-6876**. Experience a new kind of downtown living with Landis Communities!



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Your Ideal Smile is Within Reach

CONSIDER PORCELAIN VENEERS

Dr. Daniel E. Moore, Visionary Dental

DO YOU EVER FIND YOURSELF SCROLLING through recent photos on your cell phone and suddenly become fixated on the appearance of your upper front teeth — raising the question of what can be done to improve your smile? If the answer is “yes,” don’t worry — you’re not alone! In fact, many studies have shown there’s a direct correlation between the appearance of your smile and self-confidence.

COSMETIC DENTAL OPTIONS

Modern dentistry can offer patients a wide range of painless, noninvasive and predictable solutions to address esthetic concerns. The top three cosmetic dental procedures commonly used to improve the appearance of front teeth include teeth whitening, teeth straightening (orthodontics) and porcelain veneers. Deciding which option to choose is largely based on your desired outcome along with a detailed discussion and exam by your cosmetic dentist

or prosthodontist (a specialist who makes teeth replacements, such as crowns, bridges, veneers and the like).

Let’s take a closer look at veneers, which may be the smile solution you’ve been envisioning.

PORCELAIN VENEERS

Porcelain veneer treatment is a minimally invasive and predictable treatment to improve the overall appearance of front teeth. Unlike tooth whitening or orthodontics treatment alone, porcelain veneers also allow your cosmetic dentist to improve the shape of your teeth, giving you your ideal smile. And these veneers are custom made to look natural and feel natural. Often, porcelain veneer treatment can be completed in as little as three dental visits.

What to expect on your first dental visit: You’ll begin with a detailed conversation with your cosmetic dentist about your esthetic concerns. Dental records such as digital impressions, smile photos

and X-rays will be gathered. A digital smile design and 3D-printed model of your newly designed front teeth is then fabricated. This will be the first time you can visualize your ideal smile.

On your second visit: Your natural teeth will be prepared for the new porcelain veneers. In this process, only a thin layer of enamel is removed to make space for the porcelain veneer layer. Unlike a full coverage dental crown, which requires all the enamel to be removed from the tooth, a porcelain veneer requires only a fraction of the tooth to be removed. A specialized scanner is then used to create a digital impression of your teeth, which is then used to fabricate the final cosmetic veneers.

On your final visit: Your cosmetic dentist will then bond your new esthetic porcelain veneers onto your natural teeth. And just like that — you have the smile of your dreams!

HOME CARE FOR PORCELAIN VENEERS

Once your treatment is completed, it’s vital to maintain the health and beauty of your new esthetic restorations. Fortunately, maintaining your porcelain veneers is easy. In fact, the veneers are nonporous ceramic material and therefore are stain resistant. You’ll follow your normal oral health routine of brushing twice a day and flossing at least once a day. Finally, make sure to keep your regularly scheduled dental visits for teeth cleanings and exams.

CONSIDERATIONS

Before porcelain veneers can be considered, you must have excellent oral health. The ideal patient should be cavity free, have impeccable gum health and show no signs of tooth wear due to clenching and grinding.

HOW CAN I GET PORCELAIN VENEERS?

If you think porcelain veneers may be a good solution to improve your smile, the next step is to contact your local cosmetic dentist or prosthodontist.

The ability to transform your smile with porcelain veneers is easier than you might think. As a prosthodontist specialist, nothing makes me happier than seeing how a cosmetic smile makeover can drastically improve the quality of life of my patients. So, the next time you find yourself scrolling through cell phone pictures, you can feel great about your smile!

Dr. Daniel E. Moore is a prosthodontist specialist. He’s a member of the American College of Prosthodontics and a past President of the Pennsylvania Prosthodontics Association. Dr. Moore is the founder and owner of Visionary Dental in West Chester, where he practices a full scope of prosthodontic and dental implant services. VisionaryDental.com.



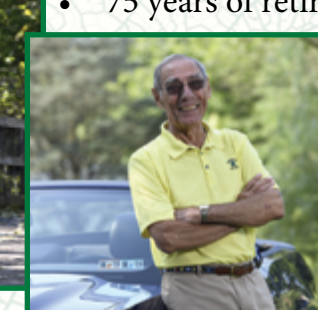
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[Good to Know]

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

Go Bananas. On April 16, West Chester University students will once again celebrate **Banana Day**, a quirky campus tradition with a lot of *a-peel*. Started in 1996 by then-senior Rodolfo Tellez, the event has grown into a beloved pre-finals stress reliever, featuring banana-themed fun, treats and games — winners receive a coveted Banana Day T-shirt. Alumni can get in on the fun at Banana Night, April 24 at Levante Brewing, for a special T-shirt, drink ticket and banana whip. WCUPA.edu.



Bravo Bookstores. Support local businesses at the 12th annual **Independent Bookstore Day**, April 26. This national one-day party held the last Saturday in April celebrates independent bookstores across the country with exclusive books, giveaways, contests and more. Bookish Notions in Media is celebrating its with fun for the whole family. Other local bookshops will be sharing details on social, so stay tuned and shop local! BookWeb.org/Independent-Bookstore-Day.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. Get busy on Earth Day with Habitat for Humanity of Chester County's annual **Electronic Waste Recycling Event**. Drop off old computers and laptops, printers and scanners, cell phones, flat-screen TVs, video game consoles, small appliances and more at ReStore locations in Phoenixville (April 23, 10 to noon, sign up online) and Caln (April 24, 10 to noon, no signup needed). 785 Starr St., Phoenixville. 1853 E. Lincoln Hwy., Coatesville. HFHCC.org.

New Moves. Find your zen at **Be Well Collective**, a new yoga studio and wellness collective in West Chester. The yoga studio offers over 20 classes per week, including vinyasa, gentle yoga and mindful meditation. Plus, the collective offers a coworking space for wellness entrepreneurs (massage therapists, reiki practitioners and more) to grow their business, including an office room and two spa suites. 225 E. Market St., West Chester. BeWellCollective.org.



Read Local. This month, check out two children's books by local authors. East Bradford fourth grader Hope Rice co-authored **"The Worry Shark"**

(Nightingale Books) with her mother, Immaculata professor Melissa Rice, about coping with her anxiety. And just in time for Earth Day, Phoenixville author Amy Collins recently published **"The Wise Old Fish"** (Sky Barn Books Limited), a conservation-focused tale featuring endangered animals and ways kids can stay safe around wildlife. PegasusPublishers.com.





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[best Local Events]

April **Picks**
by Marci Tomassone

Adult Easter Egg Hunt

April 4



Grab a group of friends and get ready to hunt. Help celebrate First Friday in downtown West Chester by joining an Adult Easter Egg Hunt, featuring Easter eggs filled with fun prizes (discounts to local businesses, restaurant gift cards, etc.). Eggs are hidden both inside participating businesses as well as along the main streets of the Borough. With multiple hidings during the evening, everyone gets a chance to win! *For details, visit DowntownWestChester.com.*

Delaware Hospice Jazz Brunch

April 6

Music is in the air and the bar is open — it's Jazz Brunch time. Enjoy an afternoon brunch with a Creole twist featuring New



Orleans-style cuisine, Bloody Mary and mimosa bars, silent and live auctions, and entertainment by the Red Alert Band. Benefits Delaware Hospice's mission to provide essential services and to serve as a trusted community partner in end-of-life support. *Harry's Savoy Grill, 2020 Naamans Rd., Wilmington. 11 to 2. \$75. DelawareHospice.org.*

Media Restaurant Week

April 6–12



Celebrate the diverse flavors you'll find in this vibrant downtown. From cozy bistros to chic eateries, local restaurants are offering exclusive, specially crafted prix fixe menus that showcase the best of what they have to offer. Whether you're craving innovative dishes, classic comfort food or something in between, there's something for every palate. *For restaurants and offerings, visit MediaRestaurantWeek.com.*

People's Light High Five-O Event — Growing Up with People's Light

April 10

You're invited to celebrate and support the power of theater experiences for young people as People's Light's work in arts education is showcased in this fun, engaging night that will bring out your inner kid. This is one of five benefit events happening this year, celebrating the theater's 50th anniversary. *39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 6 p.m. Tickets, PeoplesLight.org.*



Stoneleigh Native Plant Sale

April 12 & 13



Shop from a selection of carefully curated native plants to add beauty and biodiversity to your garden. Check the website to choose your day for pickup at Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden. *Apr. 12, virtual shopping day for members; Apr. 13, shopping day for all. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. Natural-Lands-PlantSale.MyShopify.com.*

80th Annual Kimberton Hunt Club Horse Show

April 27

Kick off the equestrian season and watch competitors from the youngest on their lead line ponies to the pros jumping the highest fences. Junior and adult high jump competitors take turns clearing the fences while Hunter and Jumper Stakes, Young and Local Hunters all tune up before the Devon Horse Show. Benefits the Kimberton Hounds. *Ludwig's Corner Show Grounds, 5 Nantmeal Rd., Glenmoore. Gates open at 8 a.m. Free. KimbertonHunt.org.*



FAMILY FUN

APRIL 4-27

"The Little Mermaid" at SALT Performing Arts. Journey under the sea in this production complete with real water. Based on Hans Christian Andersen's love story and the Disney classic animated film, with music. Bring cans and pouches of tuna (mermaid-safe brands, please) for the Chester County Food Bank. *SALT West Chester, 19 Hagerty Blvd., West Chester. Times and tickets, SALTPA.com.*

APRIL 5

Family Culinary Workshop at Wayne Art Center: Spring Cupcakes. Join the Parent & Child Cupcake Workshop that's all about fun, creativity and sweet bonding time. You'll create a variety of cupcakes and take home a box of your creations. *413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. 1:30. \$55. WayneArt.org.*



APRIL 8

WCU Live! Presents Tamagawa University Taiko Drumming & Dance. Nearly 30 drummers and dancers from Tamagawa University make a return to campus for an athletic and graceful appearance that includes thundering taiko drumming and Japanese folkloric dance. *Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7:30 pm. \$20-\$25. 610-436-2266; WCUPA.edu/Live.*

APRIL 12

Malvern Borough Easter Egg Hunt. Paoli Battlefield Historical Park will have areas for different age groups sectioned off for this event. The Easter Bunny arrives at 10:30 and will be ready for photos. Cancelled for rain. *404 Monument Ave., Malvern. 11 am. Malvern.org.*

APRIL 12

West Goshen Community Park Egg Hunt and Decorated Hat Parade. The

Easter Bunny arrives by fire truck, then children up to 9 can join their age group to gather eggs filled with candy, toys and coins. Guests are encouraged to bring a dry good donation for West Chester Food Cupboard. *1023 Fern Hill Rd., West Chester. 10:30 am. To register, visit WestGoshen.org.*



APRIL 18

Listening In—Family Concert at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. Bring the family for an afternoon when classical music meets creative storytelling. Children are encouraged to listen, dance and engage with music that spans playful stories to profound melodies. *226 N. High St., West Chester. 4 pm. Donation when you book your seats. UptownWestChester.org.*

APRIL 19

The Lights Festival at Plantation Field. Ignite your personalized sky lantern and let it take flight. Enjoy food, live music, dancing and the breathtaking sight of lighting the sky with thousands of lanterns. *1537 W. Doe Run Rd., Kennett Square. Gates open at 4:45 pm. \$43-\$68, includes lantern kit. Ages 4-12 receive a Fun Kit (no lantern). \$30 parking. TheLightsFest.com.*



APRIL 26

Ryerss Farm Easter Egg Hunt. Celebrate the holiday and hunt for Easter eggs while spending time with Ryerss' residents. Some

eggs in each age group will have coupons for special prizes! Don't miss the chance to have your picture taken with the Easter Bunny. *1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. 10 to 12:30. \$5. Register at RyerssFarm.org.*

APRIL 27

The Playhouse Presents Jim Henson's Fraggle Rock: Back to the Rock Live. Join the Fraggles as they set off on an adventurous journey exploring exciting new caves within Fraggle Rock. Enjoy fan-favorite songs and exciting visual effects. *1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. 3 pm. \$52-\$92. TheGrandWilmington.org.*

APRIL 27

Wheels of Wayne Car Show. The annual car show is in downtown Wayne with antique, classic and custom vehicles, entertainment, food and prizes. Fun for the whole family. *N. Wayne & West Aves., Wayne. 12:30 to 3 pm. Free. Rain date, May 4. Radnor.com/WOW.*

APRIL 28

Earth Day: Party for the Planet at Brandywine Zoo. The whole family will enjoy this party as they partake in fun Earth Day themed activities, keeper talks and more. *1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 10 to 3. \$7-\$9. 302-571-7850; BrandywineZoo.org.*



MAY 2-4

"Frozen Jr." at Uptown. The show features all of the memorable songs from the animated film live onstage. *Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center, 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.*

MAY 3

Spring on King in Malvern. Fun on King Street with food trucks, musicians, circus performers, a beer garden with live music, kids activities and more. Don't miss the headline musical performance in Burke Park. *Noon to 6 pm. MalvernBusiness.com.*

BOOKS.....

APRIL 2-17

Wellington Square Bookshop. Classics Book Club: Apr. 2, "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, 2 pm. **NonFiction Book Group: Apr. 3,** "Astor: The Rise and Fall of an American Fortune" by Anderson Cooper, 7 pm. **Fiction Book Group: Apr. 16 & 17,** "Lady Tan's Circle of Women: A Novel" by Lisa See, Wed, 2 pm, Thurs, 2 & 7 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

APRIL 3

Bookish Notions. Fantasy/Sci-Fi Book Club: "Piranesi" by Susanna Clarke. 11 E. State St., Media. 7 pm. @bookish_notions_.

APRIL 2-23

Reads & Company. The Big Reads Book Group: Apr. 2, "The Dream Hotel" by Laila Lalami. **International Voices Book Group: Apr. 9,** "Dust Child" by Que Mai Phan Nguyen. **Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group: Apr. 16,** "Deep End" by Ali Hazelwood. **Then and Now Book Group: Apr. 22,** "I, Claudius" by Robert Graves. **The What's the Tea? Book Club: Apr. 23,** "Like Happiness" by Ursula Villarreal-Moura. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. ReadsAndCompany.com.

APRIL 3-24

Main Point Book Club. Apr. 3, "Barely Visible: Mothering a Son Through His Misunderstood Autism" by Kathleen Somers, 6:30. **Fiction Book Group: Apr. 15,** "The Frozen River" by Ariel Lawhon, 1 pm. **NonFiction Book Group: Apr. 24,** "Rising Out of Hatred" by Eli Salow, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

DANCE.....

APRIL 5 & 6

First State Ballet Theatre Presents "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Mischievous faeries and sparkling dancing will delight all in this retelling of Shakespeare's beloved comedy. The Grand Wilmington, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 2 pm. Tickets, 302-652-5577; TheGrandWilmington.org.



DESIGNER HOUSE & GARDENS

APRIL 25-MAY 26

Bucks County Designer House and



Gardens. This year, visit Hidden Trail Farm, a 14-acre property and farmhouse in Ivyland. Preview *Apr. 25*, with open bar, music, food, 6 pm, \$275. Benefits Doylestown Health and Village Improvement Assoc. Tours start Apr. 27, Tues-Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. \$45. BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

APRIL 6

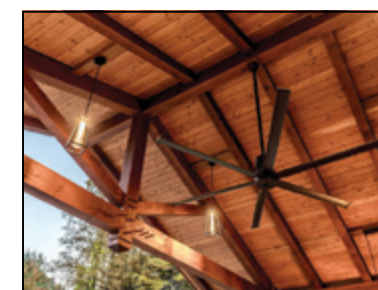
82nd Running of Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point. Celebrate the oldest point-to-point in the Delaware Valley, with kids activities,



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See Lancaster County article "Sweet Escape" in this issue for events there.

lead line, stick pony races, the Radnor Hunt foxhound parade and great raffle prizes. Benefits Brandywine Red Clay Alliance. Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. 11 to 3. \$25/carload. BrandywineRedClay.org.



MAY 4
47th Winterthur Point-to-Point Steeplechase. Enjoy a day of elite horse racing at Winterthur Estate. A signature event complete with antique carriage parade and antique car exhibit. Enjoy tailgating, hospitality tents, kids activities and shopping. Benefits Winterthur's programs. 5105 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. Times and tickets, Winterthur.org.

FUNDRAISERS.....
See also, Outdoor Activities.

APRIL 3-6
Saturday Club Consignment Sale. A great sale weather you're looking to donate or to refresh your wardrobe. Benefits the Grant Fund, supporting local women's and children's charities. 117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. Preview Thurs, 5 to 8, \$10; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 9 to 2; Sun, 9 to noon. Free. SaturdayClub.org.

APRIL 5
The Junior League of Wilmington Kitchen Tour. A showcase of recently renovated kitchens throughout Wilmington, southern Chester County and surrounding areas featuring samples of local cuisine. Benefits Junior League, to advance women's leadership. 9:30 to 4:30. \$40. JLVilmington.org/Kitchen-Tour.

APRIL 12
Saint Agnes 1st Annual Spring Soiree. This fundraiser will honor a member of the parish community and offer dinner, a signature drink ticket, wine pull, auctions, raffles and more. Radley Run Country Club, 1100 Country Club Rd., West Chester. 6 to 10 pm. \$150. For details and tickets visit, SASoiree2025. GiveSmart.com.

APRIL 25
Canine Partners for Life: Puppies in

Bloom Spring Gala. This elegant gala is filled with food, music, a silent auction and CPL dogs and puppies. Benefits CPL's mission to increase the quality of life of individuals with disabilities. Hartefeld National, 1 Hartefeld Dr., Avondale. Visit K94Life.org.



APRIL 25
Greater West Chester Chamber Annual 10 Grand Club Event. The annual fundraiser features dinner and open bar (beer, wine and signature cocktails) and a game of chance. Providence Church, 430 Hannum Ave., West Chester. Tickets and sponsorships, GWCC.org.

APRIL 26
Thorncroft's 40th Annual Victory Gallop. An unforgettable black-tie evening for the benefit of Thorncroft Equestrian Center. The Pump-house at the Ironworks at Pencoyd Landing, 615 Righters Ferry Rd., Bala Cynwyd. 6 pm. \$500. Thorncroft.org.

APRIL 27
Unite For HER—Bloom Spring Fashion Show. View the latest spring fashions and celebrate the members of Unite for HER Wellness Program. Proceeds support local breast and ovarian cancer patients. Drexelbrook, 4700 Drexelbrook Dr., Drexel Hill. 11 to 2. \$140. UniteForHER.org.

APRIL 27
Annual Celebrity Chefs' Brunch. Indulge in exquisite tastings prepared by world-renowned chefs as well as brunch cocktails, live entertainment and a silent auction. Benefits Meals on Wheels in Delaware. DuPont Country Club, 1001 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. 11 to 2. \$75-\$175. MealsOnWheelsDE.org.

MAY 1
Notable Kitchen Tour & Chefs' Tastings. This popular, self-guided tour of kitchens on the western Main Line features "notable" local chefs offering a variety of samples of their cuisine and florists who provide arrangements to accentuate each home's decor. Hosted by the Main Line Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra. 10 to 3. \$50. NotableKitchens.org.

MAY 1
"All That's Purple Affair." The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County's annual gala

Local Farm Markets

Since many farmers markets still follow winter hours or close in inclement weather, we suggest checking websites before heading out.

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net.
Berwyn Farmers Market, 511 Old Lancaster Rd. Jan-Apr, 2nd and 4th Sun, 10 to noon. BerwynFarmersMarket.com.
Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. Sat, 9 to 1. FarmToCityMarkets.com.
Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Jan-Apr, 2nd, 4th Sat, 10 to noon. GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. Jan-Apr, 1st, 3rd Thurs, 3 to 5. GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 600 S. Broad St. Jan 3-Apr, bi-weekly Fri, 3 to 5:30. 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. Jan-Apr, 1st, 3rd Sat, 10 to noon. 484-753-6363; GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Media Farmers Market, Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. Through Apr. 1st and 3rd Sun, 10 to noon. FarmToCityMarkets.com.
Newtown Square Farmers Mkt., 3625 Chapel Rd. Fri, 3 to 6. Facebook.com/NewtownSquareFoodAndMakersMarket.
Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. Sat, 9 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.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.
West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. Jan-Apr, 1st, 3rd & 5th Sat, 10 to noon. WestChesterGrowersMarket.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.



with hors d'oeuvres and dinner, open bar, entertainment plus silent and live auction. Penn Oaks Golf Club, 150 Penn Oaks Dr., West Chester. 6 to 10 pm. \$185. Visit DVCCCPA.org.

MAY 2
Kennett Education Foundation Spring Soiree. An evening of fun with live music, beer and wine bar, food stations and a silent auction. Benefits Kennett Consolidated School District. The Greathouse at Loch Nairn, 514 McCue Rd., Avondale. 7 to 10 pm. Tickets, KennettEducationFoundation.org.

MAY 3
The Walden School—Bid, Sip & Celebrate 2025. Enjoy great food and cocktails, music, dancing, games and auctions to benefit The Walden School, a preschool through grade 5 independent school. 901 N. Providence Rd., Media. 7 to 10 pm. TheWaldenSchool.org/Giving/BSC.

GARDENS
THROUGH MAY 4
Spring Blooms at Longwood Gardens. It's the season of fresh beginnings and Longwood beckons. Check the calendar on their website for special events. New this year: *Apr. 15 & 22*, Spring Break Tuesdays. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Regular hours, Wed-Mon, 10 to 6, closed Tues. Timed tickets, \$17-\$32. LongwoodGardens.org.

APRIL 12
Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden Home & Garden Tour. Dazzling displays of native plants, ancient trees and landscape designs are highlighted on this guided exploration of Stoneleigh. The Tudor Revival Main House is also included in the tour. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 10:30 am to noon. \$10-\$15. StoneleighGarden.org.



APRIL 25-27
Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens Plant Sale Weekend. A large sale featuring rare and unusual rhododendrons and azaleas, plus a large selection of native trees, perennials and shrubs. Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 9 to 4. JenkinsArboretum.org.



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MAY 2 & 3
May Market in Historic New Castle. Flow-
ering and herb plants, indoor yard sale, arts/
crafts vendors and Mother's Day gifts. Bene-
fits Arasapha's programs. Behind New Castle
Town Hall, 201 Delaware St., Historic New
Castle, DE. Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 9 to 3. Free. Aras-
apha.org/May-Market.

MAY 2 & 3
DE Nature Society's Native Plant Sale. The
sale promotes backyard habitats and gardening
for wildlife and water. Coverdale Farm Preserve,
543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Member Day, Fri,
2 to 7; open to public, Sat, 9 to 3. Free. Dela-
wareNatureSociety.org.



MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH MAY 11
Brandywine Museum of Art. "Robert Frank
& Todd Webb: Across America, 1955." 1 Hoff-
man's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed-Mon, 9:30
to 4:30. \$8-\$20. Brandywine.org.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7
Delaware Art Museum. *Through July 27,*
"Inked Impressions: Etchings in the Age of
Whistler." *Through Sept. 7,* "Marisol to War-
hol: Printmaking and Creative Collaboration."
2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed, 10
to 4; Thurs, 10 to 8; Fri-Sun, 10 to 4. \$6-\$12,
Sun, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
THROUGH APRIL
Longwood Gardens Indoor Performance
Series. To celebrate the opening of the new
Mediterranean-inspired West Conservatory,
Longwood welcomes artists with ties to, and
showcasing the cultures of, Mediterranean cli-
mates from around the world. 1001 Longwood
Rd., Kennett Square. Times and tickets, Long-
woodGardens.org.

APRIL 2-21
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Cen-
ter. *Apr. 2,* An Evening with Tom Rush; *Apr.*
6, West Chester Dance Works; *Apr. 10,* The
Laugh Lounge with Tim Hayes; *Apr. 12,*
High Noon—A Tribute to Lynyrd Skynyrd
Band; *Apr. 17,* Haily Brinnel Quintet; *Apr. 18,*
Uptown's Classical Happy Hour: An Evening
of Strings and Stories, 6 pm; *Apr. 18,* The Four

C Notes, 7:30; *Apr. 19,* Jeffrey Gaines; *Apr. 21,*
West Chester Jazz Orchestra. 226 N. High St.,
West Chester. Times and tickets, 610-356-2787;
UptownWestChester.org.



APRIL 3-MAY 2
At The Grand in Wilmington. *Apr. 3,* Marc
Cohn; *Apr. 4,* Both Sides Now: The Music and
Lives of Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen; *Apr.*
5, "Japanese Storytelling with Magical Masks,
Mime and Music" by Kuniko Yamamoto; *Apr.*
7, Toast—The Ultimate Bread Experience; *Apr.*
18, Stanley Jordan Plays The Dead; *Apr. 25,* The
Fab Four: The Ultimate Tribute; *May 2,* Micky
Dolenz of The Monkees. 818 N. Market St.,
Wilmington. Visit website for more. Times and
tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.



APRIL 5, 11
Kennett Flash. *Apr. 5,* Know Return/Fooling
Ourselves: A Tribute to Kansas and Styx; *Apr. 11,*
An Evening With Steve Forbert. 102 Sycamore
Alley, Kennett Square. Visit website for more. Times
and tickets, 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

APRIL 5-26
The Keswick Theatre. *Apr. 5,* Joe Conklin
with City Rhythm Orchestra; *Apr. 11 & 12,*
69 Love Songs 25th Anniversary Tour—The
Magnetic Fields; *Apr. 18,* The Rascals; *Apr. 26,*
10,000 Maniacs. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside.
Visit website for more. Times and tickets,
KeswickTheatre.com.

APRIL 5-27
At The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville.
Apr. 5, Benise—25 Years of Passion; *Apr. 11,*
Broken Arrow—The Music of Neil Young; *Apr.*
12, Total Mass Retain—YES Tribute Band;

Antiques & Art

*It's spring! Time to spruce up your home with
new (and old) finds from local antiques and
art shows. You'll find everything from one-
of-a-kind collectibles to the latest artwork
from talented regional artists.*

APRIL 24-27
The Philadelphia Show. Over 40 exhib-
itors specializing in fine art, design, antiques,
Americana, folk art, jewelry, textiles and dec-
orative arts. Preview Party, Thurs., 5 to 9,
\$200-\$650. Philadelphia Museum of Art
East Terrace, 2600 Benjamin Franklin Pkwy.,
Philadelphia. Fri., 11 to 7; Sat., 11 to 6; Sun.,
11 to 5. \$35. ThePhiladelphiaShow.com.

APRIL 25-MAY 11
52nd Annual Yellow Springs Art Show.
Featuring over 4,000 works from more than
220 regional artists. The exhibition spans a
wide array of media. Special events include:
Apr. 25, Opening Night Gala; *May 2,* Happy
Hour; *May 11,* Art Around the Village. 1685
Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Daily 10 to
4. Free. YellowSprings.org.



APRIL 27
Media Spring Arts Show. More than 120
artists and fine crafters from across the region
will feature an array of original work in the
heart of downtown Media. Rain date, May
4. State St., Media. MediaArtsCouncil.org.

MAY 2
West Chester Spring 2025 Gallery Walk.
Explore the vibrant art scene in downtown
West Chester, celebrating the community
of artists and galleries. Many stops will have
refreshments. Free on-street metered parking.
Presented by Founders Brewing Company and
hosted by the Downtown West Chester. 4 to 8
pm. DowntownWestChester.com.



Apr. 16, The Greatest Moments in Philadelphia
Sports History; *Apr. 24,* Blackmore's Night with
The Wizards Consort; *Apr. 25,* back to Back To
Black: the Amy Winehouse Celebration; *Apr. 26,*
6th Annual Earth Day Song Fest. 227 Bridge St.,
Phoenixville. Visit website for more. Times and
tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.

MAY 4
Chester County Concert Band—"Roadtrip
Across America." Enjoy an afternoon concert
at Fugett Middle School, Paoli Pk. & Ellis Ln.,
West Chester. 2:30 pm. \$7-\$10. CCCBand.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

APRIL 6
Delaware Marathon Running Festival.
Runners enjoy the best of Wilmington, from the
majestic views along the Riverfront and through
downtown. Benefits Delaware College Scholars
and the Cardiac Center, Nemours/Alfred I. du
Pont Hospital for Children. Tubman Garrett
Riverfront Park, 815 Justison St., Wilmington.
DelawareMarathon.org.

APRIL 12
Ryerss Run for the Horses. Everyone is
welcome to take a 10K or 5K run or 1-mile
walk on a cross country course at Ryerss Farm.
Benefits the farm's retired and rescued horses.

1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. Donation options
on website, RyerssFarm.org.

APRIL 13
Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run.
A challenge for runners of all skill levels hap-
pening over National Park Week. Benefits VF
National Historical Park. To register, Valley-
Forge.org/Revolutionary-Run.

MAY 1
Bournelyf Special Camp Hand to Hand 5K
Run & 2K Walk. The race will begin and end
at the corners of Church & Gay Sts., West
Chester. After-party hosted by Wrong Crowd
Brewing Company. Reg. 5:30 pm. \$15-\$25.
Benefits the camp. BSCWC.org.

MAY 3
Kennett Run. Small Town—Big Race—
Strong Community. Events for everyone with
5K, 10K, one-mile or Power Run 5K and 10K
races through Kennett Square. Benefits area
nonprofits. 405 N. Walnut Rd., Kennett Square.
Times and registration, KennettRun.net.

MAY 3
Humane Pennsylvania's 48th Annual
Walk for the Animals. Grab your furry
friends and get ready for a day filled with fun,
community spirit and support for animals in

need. Supports Humane PA's mission and the
animals they serve. Berks Co. Fairgrounds, 1216
Hilltop Rd., Leesport. HumanePA.org.



MAY 4
Blue Cross Broad St. Run. Line up for a
10-mile, point-to-point course starting at
Central High School Athletic Field, Broad &
Fisher Sts. in Philadelphia and finishing inside
the Navy Yard. The 10-mile race benefits the
American Cancer Society. 7 am. Register at
BroadStreetRun.com.

THEATER.....
APRIL 2-8
"Discovering Blackness" at Media The-
atre. OMG Studios presents this staged reading
by playwright Sunflower B. Rose. 104 E. State
St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.



BUCKS COUNTY

Designer House & Gardens



Hidden Trail Farm

Ivyland, Pennsylvania

April 27 - May 25, 2025

*Designers and landscapers have transformed this 14-acre estate,
which features a traditional farmhouse, a modern chalet and
unique outdoor living spaces.*

To buy Preview Gala Tickets, Tour Tickets, and for
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BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org 215.345.2191

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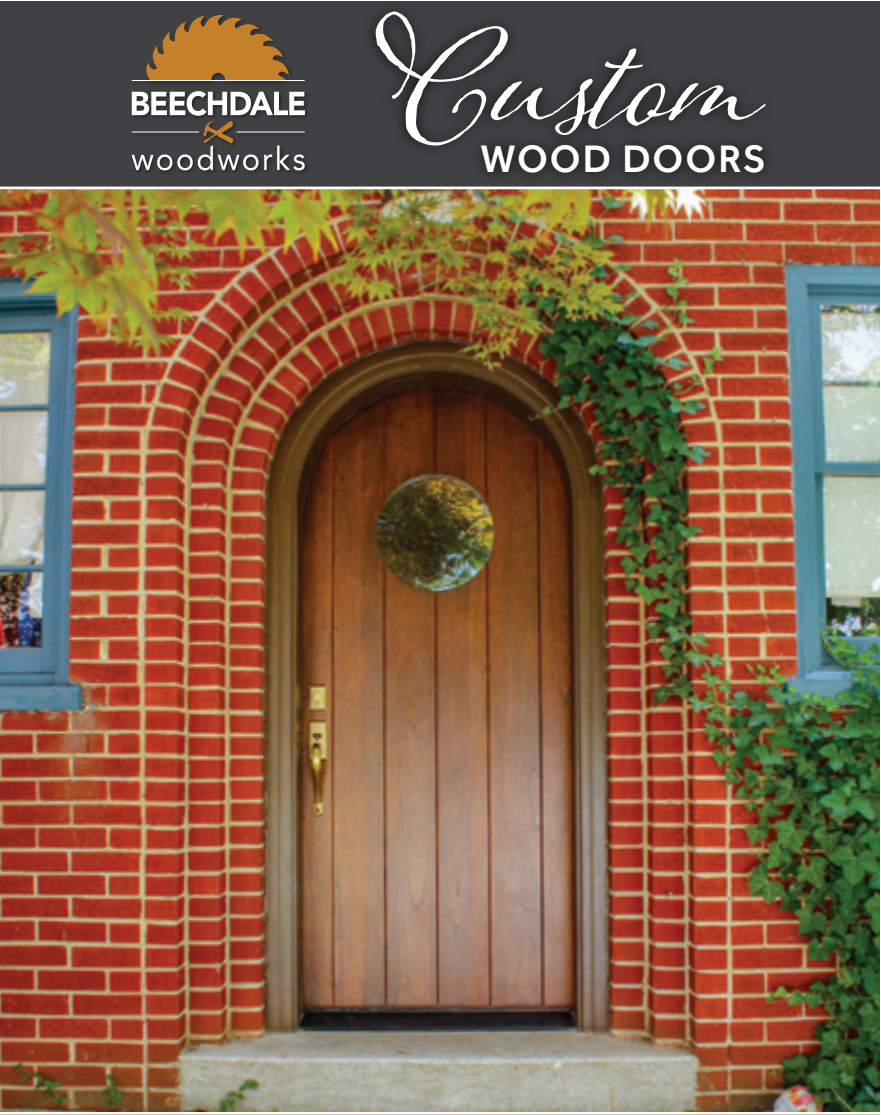
The VIA of Doylestown is a 501(c)(3)
nonprofit organization.

APRIL 5–MAY 1
“**Birthday Candles**” at **People’s Light**. Take a journey through 80+ years of Ernestine Ashworth’s life, from her 17th to her 101st birthdays, marked by her mother’s golden butter cake and a kaleidoscope of experiences. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

APRIL 11–13
“**Dear Evan Hansen**” at **The Playhouse**. The musical takes a look at our complex, interconnected and social media-filled lives. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-888-0200; TheGrandWilmington.org.

APRIL 16–MAY 4
“**Stompin’ at The Savoy**” at **Delaware Theatre Company**. A coming-of-age tale inspired by the story of dance legend Norma Miller. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

MAY 2–25
“**Grease**” at **Media Theatre**. Join Danny, Sandy, Rizzo & all of the rebels you love as they experience the highs and lows of the teenage dream. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.



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TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS

APRIL 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; ArtLoopWilmington.org.

APRIL 4
West Chester University President’s Speaker Series Presents Robin Roberts. Famed journalist and co-host of ABC’s “Good Morning America” will speak and answer questions in a Q&A session. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. 7 pm. \$20–\$55. WCUPA.edu/WCULive!.



APRIL 4
Growth Now Summit LIVE! at Uptown. Listen to great speakers, entrepreneurs, authors and thought leaders. The summit is designed to help you grow in business and life while connecting with like-minded people. Guests receive swag bags and access to the after-party. 9 am. Tickets, UptownWestChester.org.

APRIL 16 & MAY 20
Chester County History Center—True Crime on Trial. Take a deep dive into one of Chester County’s most controversial cases. Historians from the staff of CCHC will present all the evidence and give you a chance to reach a verdict. **Apr. 16**, Victory Brewing, 3127 Lower Valley Rd., Parkesburg. **May 20**, Victory Brewing, 420 Acorn Ln., Downingtown. 6 to 9. \$20. MyCCHC.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

19th
West Chester
Film Festival
APRIL 25–27, 2025

THE WEST CHESTER FILM FESTIVAL ROLLS OUT the red carpet again! From April 25–27, over 60 short films will be shown in venues around the Borough. This year’s lineup includes 15 Oscar-nominated/short-listed films, local favorites, moving documentaries and much more.

“After receiving a record number of submissions, our screeners had a difficult job!” said Sarah Beck, President of the festival. “This year includes our best lineup ever, with exciting new opportunities for both filmmakers and audiences.”

The festival weekend includes two-hour film blocks, showcasing films in all genres, along with Pop-Up Blocks, Filmmaker Workshops, a Meet & Greet with Filmmaking Panel, the Young Filmmaker Festival, and the fabulous Opening and Closing Night Parties bookending the weekend. Audiences can meet filmmakers throughout the weekend, getting unique insight into the stories being told and offscreen tales.

“The festival is a unique opportunity to see new films, make new friends and have new experiences,” said Renee McGusty, Vice President and Young Filmmaker Coordinator. “It’s so great that in a small town like West Chester, you can see films by local filmmakers in the same setting as Oscar-nominated shorts.”

This is the 19th West Chester Film Festival, an extraordinary achievement for the entirely volunteer-run nonprofit event. After



their most successful year ever in 2024, they’re expanding their efforts in bringing this world-class event to the community.

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center serves as the main venue for the festival, showing all main film blocks as well as hosting the Opening Night Party, Young Filmmaker Festival and Closing Night Awards Party. “We’re excited to partner with the Hotel Indigo this year, which will serve as a home base for our filmmakers and host one of our Filmmaker Workshops,” said Amy Theorin, Filmmaker Coordinator. Other events will be held around downtown West Chester. (The full schedule is on the website.)

The West Chester Film Festival is more than just films — it’s a chance to be part of the celebration. “Films have a way of bringing people together,” said McGusty. “That’s what I believe our festival is all about.” ♦

~Victoria Rose

IF YOU GO

When: April 25–27, 2025

Where: Main venue at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center, 226 N. High St., plus other venues in downtown West Chester

Tickets & Info: WestChesterFilmFestival.com; @WCFilmFestival

Celebrate Joseph Rothrock Week, Beginning April 19, 2025

“GET OUTSIDE, TAKE A HIKE AND
BREATHE IN THE FRESH AIR.”

Jennifer Green, Chester County History Center



N EWS HEADLINES IN THE OPENING WEEKS OF 2025 were dominated by two very different, unrelated events. In southern California, powerful winds and dry conditions fueled more than 300 separate wildfires that destroyed over 57,000 acres and cost 29 lives. Over 1,500 miles away in Kansas City, 67 people were diagnosed with tuberculosis.

Both these tragic events have at least one historical connection with a notable Chester Countian named Joseph Trimble Rothrock.

EARLY YEARS

In 1839, Rothrock was born in McVeytown, Mifflin County, to the northwest of Harrisburg. His love of the outdoors led him to

study botany at Harvard, but he also had an explorer's heart, serving on several expeditions to the West and north to what was then known as “Russian Alaska.” In fact, Rothrock's notes on Alaskan plant life may have played a role in President Andrew Johnson's decision to purchase the territory in 1867.

Rothrock had two aunts living in West Chester, and on one of his visits there, he met his future wife Martha May. He and Mattie married in 1869 and had five children, three of whom survived to adulthood. Their brick home at 428 North Church Street still stands.

The study of botany, unfortunately, was not as lucrative as Rothrock had hoped. To support his family, he got a degree in medicine, but practicing as a doctor bored him. In a turn of good luck, the University of Pennsylvania had an opening for a botany professor, which Rothrock eagerly accepted.

FATHER OF THE FOREST

In 1877, Rothrock began a series of public lectures about his love of old-growth trees and the clean water and rejuvenating air they provided. In 1886, a group of individuals, including Rothrock, formed the Pennsylvania Forestry Association. Rothrock warned audiences about careless over-lumbering and the resulting flooding and erosion. “Unless we reforest, Pennsylvania's highlands will wash into the oceans,” he said.

The Forest Association lobbied the state legislature to establish forest “reserves,” where desolated areas could be replanted with new trees. The effort took years, but in 1895 Pennsylvania created the official position of Commissioner of Forestry. Rothrock was the obvious choice to fill the role, and by 1907, the Division of Forestry succeeded in saving 750,000 acres.

The biggest threats to both new and existing woodland were the almost yearly forest fires, which in 1896 alone destroyed over 225,000 acres in Pennsylvania. In response, Rothrock spearheaded new firefighting techniques, including a mobile “fire

wagon” and water pumps that could be used in the wilderness.

FIGHTING THE “WHITE DEATH”

In 1904, Rothrock resigned from full-time forestry supervision. He was 65 years old but had no plans to retire to a quiet life. While he'd hated being a doctor, he always believed in the power of forests to heal.

At the turn of the 20th century, an average of 450 people died of tuberculosis in the United States *every day*. In 1904 alone, 115 people died in Chester County from the disease. Without financial support — or permission — from the state, Rothrock started a camp for “consumptives” in Mont Alto State Forest, west of Gettysburg. This camp grew every year, and in 1907 Rothrock turned it over to the newly established Pennsylvania Department of Health. By 1919, the sanatorium had become the largest free facility for the treatment of tuberculosis in the world.

Rothrock continued to lecture and consult on forestry matters until his death in 1922 at the age of 83. He was laid to rest in Oaklands Cemetery in West Chester. Forester Gifford Pinchot acknowledged the heartbreaking loss by writing: “What he did for Forestry in this state has never been equaled in the history of our country by any man in any other state.”

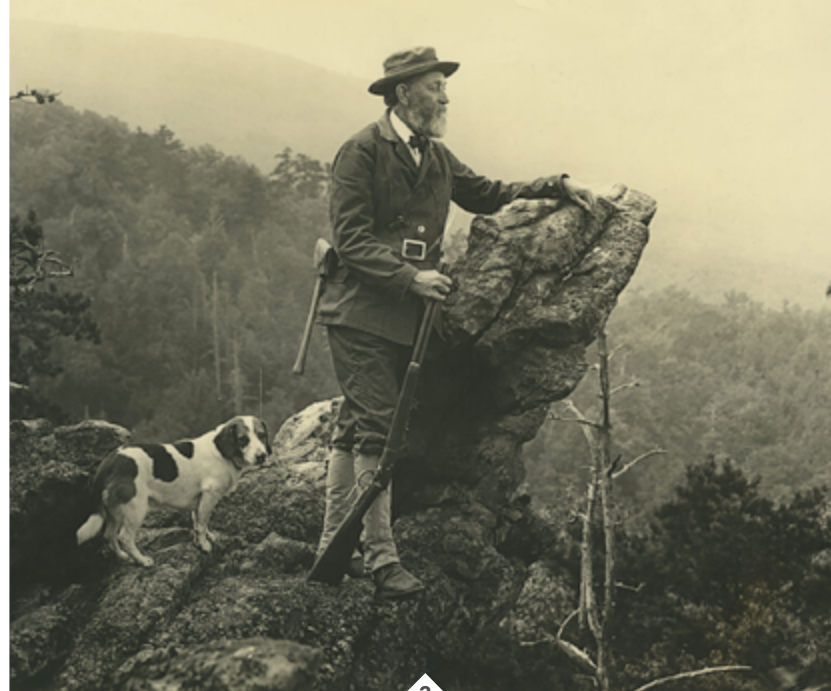
1. Joseph Trimble Rothrock, c. 1894
2. Rothrock with his dog, Rab, near Mont Alto, c. 1900
3. Pennsylvania State Forest Academy in Mont Alto, 1906

In 1965, Pennsylvania named the Rothrock State Forest located in Centre, Huntingdon and Mifflin Counties in his honor. The Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation continues to remember him every year in April for Joseph Rothrock Week, urging Pennsylvanians to “get outside, take a hike and breathe in the fresh air.”

Today, Pennsylvania boasts 2.2 million acres of state forests, covering 50 of the state's 67 counties. While that's less than half Rothrock's goal of 5 million acres, Pennsylvania's state forest system is still one of the largest in the country. If you'd like to honor Joseph Trimble Rothrock's memory, visit one of the many state forests, such as the William Penn State Forest. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

Jennifer Green, Director of Education at the Chester County History Center, wrote this article as part of Chesco250. The Brandywine Stories series is designed to raise awareness of the expansive history and culture of Chester County and build excitement for 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.



A New Generation of Foresters

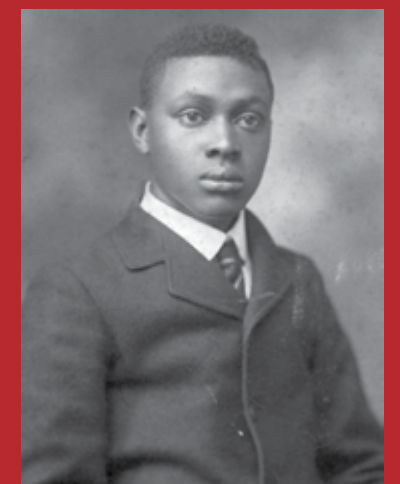
Rothrock's Division of Forestry was so successful in its first few years that another problem quickly arose — finding qualified workers to care for the ever-increasing acreage of delicate new trees.

By 1901, there were only three forestry schools in the country — Yale, Cornell and the Biltmore Forest School in North Carolina. Unsatisfied with the small pool of talent, Rothrock decided to start a new forestry school in Mont Alto, based on his principles of hands-on learning.

The first class of six professional Pennsylvania-trained foresters graduated in 1906. Among those was a Black man from West Chester named Ralph Elwood Brock, who became the first professional forester of color in the country. Brock served as supervisor of Mont Alto's seed nursery for five years and resigned in 1911 to care for estate gardens and orchards throughout the eastern U.S. When he died in 1959, he was buried in Chestnut Grove Cemetery in West Chester.

Today, Penn State Mont Alto*, the forestry school started by Joseph Rothrock, continues to train new generations of foresters.

**The school is at risk of closing due to declining enrollment.*



Ralph Elwood Brock, c. 1903



Cultivating Soil, Ecosystems and Community

Farmer Fred's Legacy of Regenerative Agriculture

IN LOVING MEMORY OF FRED DE LONG*
APRIL 19, 1969–JANUARY 21, 2025

Blake Goll, Willistown Conservation Trust



FROM A BIRD'S EYE VIEW, RUSHTON WOODS Preserve and Farm looked something like this on any Friday afternoon in summer: outside a little red farmshed stands a thoughtful, salt-of-the-earth, middle-aged man, skin darkened by 12-hour days on the farm. Surrounding him are a half dozen CSA members engaged in lively conversation, holding their bags of fresh vegetables. Several people meander about the kitchen garden across from the farmshed, collecting fresh herbs of sage, lavender or oregano.

Beyond that, others move cheerfully about the annual cutting garden, creating colorful flower bouquets to take home as butterflies, bees and goldfinches busily flit about. Children frolic through the flower gardens, along the rows of pick-your-own peas and back to the farmshed to pet Fred's farm dog who stands by his side.

Panning out beyond the six acres of cultivated farm fields lies a diverse nature sanctuary of hedgerows, unmowed meadows and one of the largest contiguous tracts of forest left in Chester County. Designated as an Important Bird Area, the entire preserve is home to over 80 species of birds, like scarlet tanagers and wood thrush.

PUTTING THE COMMUNITY IN COMMUNITY SUPPORTED AGRICULTURE

Farmer Fred saw this entire landscape with all its people, birds, insects and plants as a community. He was the fulcrum of this spe-

cial little world, setting the pulse of the farm to the rhythms of the seasons and lovingly connecting people to these roots through food.

Fred understood that farming has the potential to not only nourish people but also the surrounding ecosystems. When he was hired 18 years ago to create Rushton Farm on the 86-acre nature preserve owned by Willistown Conservation Trust, most of the board of trustees was adamantly opposed. They believed farming occurred at the expense of wildlife. Fred, however, was an organic farmer committed to proving that agriculture can actually serve as the baseline for wildlife conservation.

Today Rushton Farm is not only the heart of the organization but a nationwide model of regenerative agriculture on conserved land.

"One of our first farmers here, Aaron de Long [Fred's brother], was teaching at University of California, Santa Cruz when he came out to start Rushton Farm with me. He always wanted to look at how agriculture was impacting the surrounding ecosystem, so that's been a major part of what we grow on these six acres," said Fred. "So while we grow 140 varieties of fruits and vegetables, we also do it making sure the farm is working in concert with the surrounding ecosystem."

A SYMBIOTIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN FARMING AND NATURE

Fred reflected, "What we've experienced here in the last 15 years has been a real change in how people approach agriculture. When I started farming 25 years ago, agriculture was seen as 'produce as much as you can on as much land as you can.' Now with the idea of regenerative agriculture — protecting the soils and making the land more nutrient-rich — we understand that you can use less land to grow more, *and* the food is more nutritious. It's moving away from conventional methods and understanding that the best way to farm is one that works with the land and understands that the health of the land is the most vital part of growing food."

Regenerative agriculture uses techniques such as cover cropping to keep soils healthy, chemical-free cultivation of non-GMO crops, and unmowed borders of native wildflowers to attract beneficial insects and pollinators. The goal is to enhance natural resources and ecosystem functions while producing food at higher long-term yields. This way of farming includes wildlife conservation, which is becoming increasingly important as we reach the global capacity of arable land.

Today, over 70% of U.S. farmland is chemical-based conventional agriculture, which is destroying ecosystem health and the soil. For example, one handful of healthy soil is supposed to contain more microorganisms than people who have ever lived! By contrast,

**Editor's note: Fred was a frequent and valued contributor to County Lines Magazine for many years. Read his articles — "Who's Your Farmer: Promoting Local Food Through Community Supported Agriculture," "The Best Taste of Summer Jut Got Better with Heirloom Tomatoes" and "Feeding a Community One Garden at a Time" — on our website, CountyLinesMagazine.com.*



Clockwise from top: Fred in the greenhouse, Fred and Aaron de Long teaching children, Rushton Farm



Tisa Della-Volpe



Tisa Della-Volpe



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Fred dreamed of Chester County moving towards having a large interactive farm community similar to those found in California and New England.

the soil from conventional farms is virtually devoid of microorganisms. Long-term studies by the Rodale Institute show that healthy soil with high organic matter content is better able to retain water, ultimately leading to 300%–600% higher profits for the bottom line of farmers.

Other research shows the benefits of leaving wild meadow habitat next to cultivated farm fields. One study showed a tenfold decrease in insect pests in regenerative farms over conventional ones, thus decreasing the environmental burden and cost of pesticides.

Fred always loved to illustrate this to the many young students who came through Rushton Farm over the years. Just before his prized tomatoes were ripening on the vine, the beneficial braconid wasps would lay their eggs in the pesky tomato hornworms. Fred enjoyed eliciting gasps of both awe and disgust from the students as he held the parasitized body of the caterpillar in his hand with a hundred tiny white wasp cocoons infesting its green skin. Bio-control at its finest.

INSPIRING YOUNG FARMERS

In addition to teaching young people about the interconnections between the farm and nature, Fred was passionate about inspiring young farmers. He dreamed of Chester County moving towards having a large interactive farm community similar to those found in California and New England. Throughout his farming career,

he encouraged local and national land trusts to promote the development of community farms on conserved landscapes in order to bridge one of the biggest hurdles for young farmers: finding affordable land. He also changed the course of many young people's lives who participated in internships at Rushton Farm.

Cooper Schlegel was one such young man. "My summer internship at Rushton was my first real foray into agriculture and part of what got me hooked on the industry I chose to build a career in. After I graduated from Penn State in 2023, I started working for Burpee Seeds in Doylestown, and it's been a fulfilling career path that was inspired by my time working for Fred. I looked up to him, and he had an influence on me that lasted long after that summer."

Fred believed food is love. "He loved food: growing it, making it and giving it," reminisced Noah Gress, Rushton Farm Field Manager. "He was generous with Rushton Farm, giving everyone who worked there a chance to make their experience what they wished, even as it was technically *his* baby."

Fred understood that within the beautiful interconnected web of food, wildlife and people, we are all one. ♦

A celebration of Fred de Long's life will be held Sunday evening, July 20, at Rushton Farm, 911 Delchester Rd., Newtown Square. Donations in his name may be made to the Farmer Fred Memorial Fund at the Willistown Conservation Trust, WCTrust.org/Donate. Funds will be used to sustain Rushton Farm and continue Fred's legacy of nourishing the community.

Left to right: Fred's farm dog guarding Rushton's gardens; Fred, center-right, and his team



Birds of a Feather

RAISING CHICKENS IN YOUR BACKYARD

Shannon Montgomery

EVERY MORNING, KATE Etherington, President & Executive Director of Willistown Conservation Trust, heads down to her barn to check on the chickens, making sure they have food, fresh water and a clean coop. Weather permitting, she lets them roam in their outdoor run, enclosed with chicken wire to keep out foxes, while she does her daily chores. When she can't let the chickens out, she makes sure to give them treats and veggie scraps to make up for it.

While Etherington has many animals on her small farm in Easttown Township, there's something special about chickens. "I think they're interesting. I love letting them out and watching them forage," she said. "We get eggs every day, which is lovely, especially in times of egg shortages. It's great to have that connection between something you're taking care of and an actual food source."

Etherington is among a growing number of chicken owners. Around 13% of U.S. households have chickens, with an estimated 85 million birds among them.

Celebs like Jennifer Garner, David and Victoria Beckham, and even Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are raising flocks.

Wondering what all the cluck's about? Read on for a crash course on backyard chickens!

WHY CHICKENS?

Torey Fischer, a Penn State Extension poultry educator, first noticed an increased interest in chickens during the pandemic, when people were spending more time at home. More recently, she's seen spikes in interest due to rising egg prices. But she attributes much of chickens' lasting popularity to the larger increase in homesteading, a self-sufficient lifestyle focused on producing your own food. "People want to be more involved in the process and connected to where their food comes from," she said. "Unlike domesticated pets, there's the perk of having those eggs as well."

That said, don't get your hopes up about saving money at the grocery store. "Eggs are an added benefit, but don't start raising chickens expecting it to be cheaper than

About Bird Flu

You've probably heard about the current outbreak of bird flu, aka highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI). Here are a few things to know about the virus.

First and foremost, make sure you're getting reliable information. Penn State Extension's Torey Fischer warned, "Be cautious when looking for information on social media. Try to look for scientific sources to confirm that information — websites ending in .gov or .edu are good places to start." Fischer also recommends contacting the Penn State Poultry Extension team, [Extension.PSU.edu/Poultry](https://extension.psu.edu/poultry).

There are also important biosecurity measures you can take to protect yourself and your flock. Prevent contact with wildlife, especially wild birds and waterfowl, by keeping your chickens indoors when possible. "Birds outside have a higher risk of exposure. If you're letting them outside, keep them fenced in and cover outdoor runs with a roof or netting," said Fischer.

Avoid spreading contaminants by wearing dedicated clothes and shoes when working in your coop. When introducing new chickens to your flock, be sure to source your birds safely. Be wary of Facebook groups, and look for breeders certified through the National Poultry Improvement Plan (NPIP), which requires testing for certain diseases. Experts recommend quarantining new birds for at least 30 days, monitoring for signs of illness.

Finally, if you suspect any of your chickens are showing signs of infection, including respiratory, gastrointestinal and neurological symptoms, contact the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture emergency hotline, 717-772-2852.

1. Caring for chickens can be a great learning experience for kids
2. Many people raise chickens for fresh eggs
3. Chicks need to be kept in a brooder, a safe, warm space to grow
4. Chickens need shelter from the elements as well as predators
5. Chicken coop and enclosed outdoor run

PHOTO CREDIT: KARL THOMAS MOORE

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/CHICKENMAN

PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/EARTHDIRT

the store after factoring in the cost of equipment, birds, feed and healthcare,” Fischer said.

In addition, many people are drawn to chickens for the same reasons they have other pets. “People enjoy caring for and interacting with the birds,” Fischer said. “If you have kids, you can get them involved. It’s a great educational experience, teaching kids how to care for an animal, budgeting and responsibility.”

Etherington can attest to that. “It’s a fun family thing to do,” she said. “The kids get to pick out different breeds that lay different color eggs. Instead of a lemonade stand, they set up a little farmstand at the end of the driveway.”

GETTING STARTED

Considering starting your own flock of feathered friends? First, be sure to check your local ordinances. Many boroughs and townships have restrictions on chickens in residential areas. The Borough of West Chester, for example, updated their regulations last spring. Hens (no roosters allowed, obviously) must be kept in a fully enclosed shelter, providing at least 2 square feet per bird, with a covered, fenced enclosure that must be in the backyard. Chickens must be kept at least 5 feet from the property line and at least 25 feet away from buildings.

Fischer stressed the importance of planning ahead. “Many people see cute chicks in the store and get excited. But the process is a lot

easier when you do some planning in advance,” she said. If you’re raising chicks, make sure to have your brooder — a safe, warm space for chicks to grow — set up in advance, complete with a heat lamp, thermometer and bedding (wood shavings, shredded paper and hemp are good options).

Whether you’re raising chicks or starting with mature hens, you’ll want to have your coop and run (an outdoor space enclosed with chicken wire and a mesh or solid roof) ready before bringing your birds home. Chickens need adequate shelter, both from the elements and predators like foxes and hawks. They also need enough space. Penn State Extension recommends at least 1 to 3 square feet of indoor space in the coop per bird and 5 to 10 feet of outdoor space in the run per bird. “If you think you’ll ever expand in the future, build a bigger coop initially,” said Fischer. Be aware of “chicken math” — while you may start with just a few hens, you might find yourself growing your flock more than originally planned!

Lastly, while chickens are considered relatively low-maintenance pets, caring for any animal is a serious commitment. “We’re all busy people, and we don’t always feel like schlepping out to the chicken coop,” said Etherington. “It can be challenging to make time, but it’s a good way to make sure you’re outside every day.”

Whether for yard-to-table eggs or simply companionship, chickens can be an *egg-cellent* addition to your family. Happy hatching! ♦



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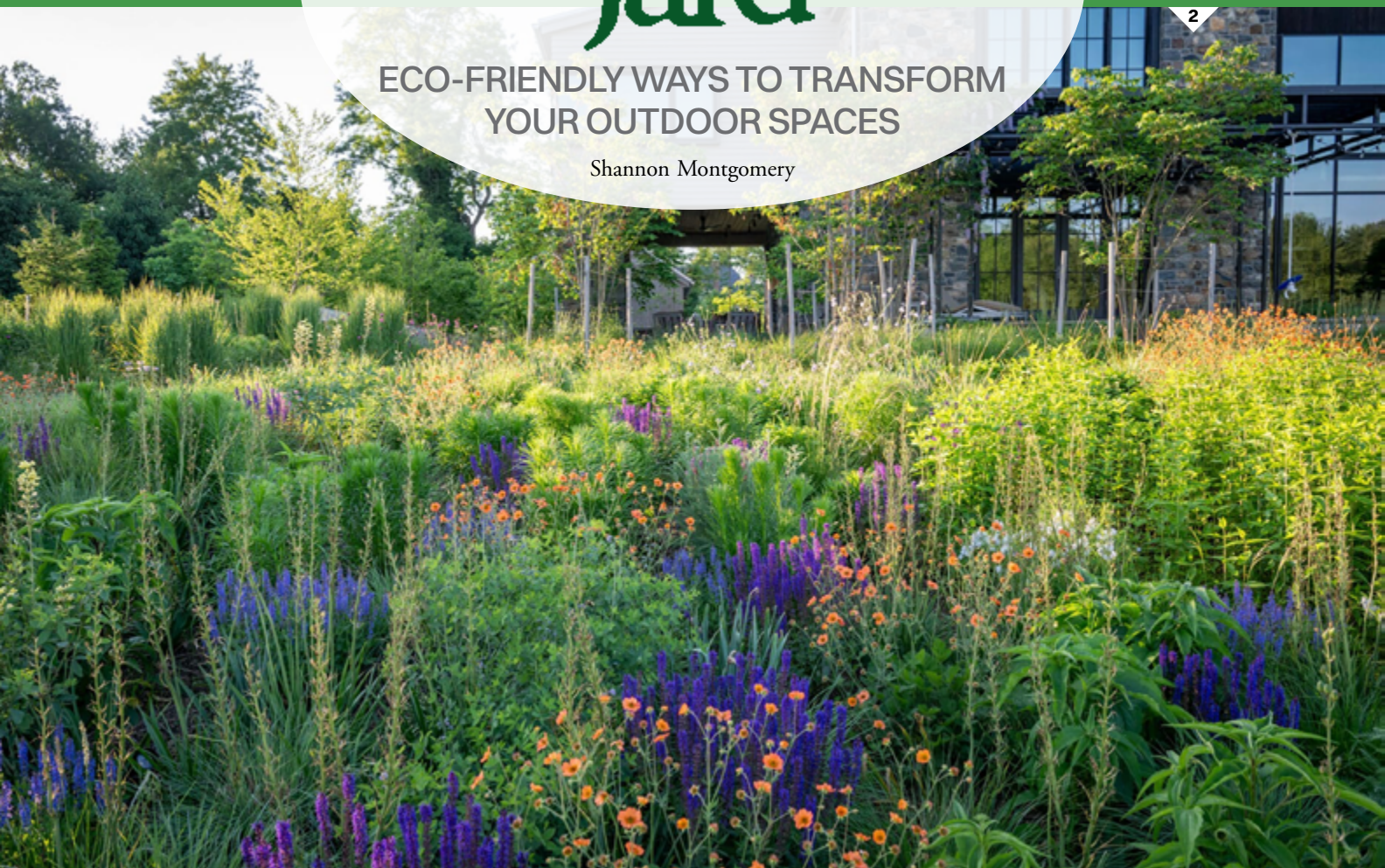


1

Green Your Yard

ECO-FRIENDLY WAYS TO TRANSFORM YOUR OUTDOOR SPACES

Shannon Montgomery



2



3



4

APRIL HAS ARRIVED, BRING-
ing promises of spring — longer
days, warmer temps, blooming
flowers. It also marks the arrival of Earth
Day on the 22nd, reminding us of the
urgent need to protect the planet.

As we spend more time outside, it's the
perfect time to take a moment to consider
how our gardens, patios and yards can work
with nature rather than against it. Even
small changes can make a big difference in
reducing your carbon footprint while still
beautifying your yard. Win-win.

From choosing native plants that sup-
port local wildlife to environmentally con-
scious pools, there are plenty of ways to
make your outdoor spaces more sustainable
— this year and for years to come. Read
on for tips and advice from local experts on
how to transform your yard into an eco-
friendly haven.

ARTFUL LANDSCAPING

One of the easiest ways to make your
yard more eco-friendly is by adding green-
ery. That said, it isn't as simple as heading to

1. Donald Pell incorporates native plants into his landscapes
PHOTO CREDIT: ROB CARDILLO
2. More native landscaping by Donald Pell Gardens
PHOTO CREDIT: ROB CARDILLO
3. Saltwater pools are an eco-friendly alternative to traditional chlorinated pools
4. Natural pools use a biological filtration system including plants, gravel and natural microorgan-
isms to keep the water clean
PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/
ENRICOSLASHERIC



5

your local nursery and picking out the prettiest plants. Choosing the right plants for your space not only offers environmental benefits but also gives your garden the best opportunity to thrive — with less maintenance as a bonus.

First and foremost, opt for native plants over nonnative and try your best to avoid invasive species, like Bradford pear trees and Japanese barberry. Native plants offer “a host of benefits that enhance both the beauty and sustainability of your outdoor space,” said Dan Carl, founder and president of Arrowwood Landscape Design in West Chester. “These plants are well-suited to the local climate, requiring less water, weed control and maintenance, which makes them not only eco-friendly but also easier to care for. They improve soil health by promoting deep root systems that

reduce erosion, sequester [capture] carbon and help manage stormwater. Moreover, native plants support local wildlife and pollinators, fostering a more biodiverse and vibrant ecosystem.”

Carl recommends combining low-maintenance native species like willow oak (*Quercus phellos*) and oakleaf hydrangea (*Hydrangea quercifolia*) with perennials like Arkansas blue star (*Amsonia hubrichtii*), coneflower (*Echinacea*) and prairie dropseed (*Sporobolus heterolepis*). “Grasses like switchgrass (*Panicum virgatum*) and flowers like blazing star (*Liatis spicata*) not only add movement and texture but also attract vital pollinators,” Carl said.

Donald Pell, owner of Donald Pell Gardens in Phoenixville, emphasized the importance of carefully planning your landscape design. “Learning to select the

right plant for the right place is critical in making these gardens resilient. White oaks (*Quercus alba*) can be one of the most majestic trees in our landscape, but if they are planted in wet lowlands that hold water, the trees may decline and probably fail. However, its cousin, swamp white oak (*Quercus bicolor*), with its very similar stately habit will be right at home in these more hydric soils.”

Also, be thoughtful about where you plant. “Plants that soak up water and look lush and vibrant can be incorporated with beautifying plants that support pollinators and songbirds. Deciduous shade trees can be planted on the southern sides of homes or patios to provide a cooling effect,” said Pell. He also advises planting evergreens to the northwest to shield your home from cold winter winds.



6

POOL OPTIONS

As the weather warms, many of us fantasize about taking a dip in our very own swimming pool. Fortunately, there are ways to create the pool of your dreams while taking steps to minimize its impact on the planet.

When building your pool, consider alternatives to a traditional chlorine-based pool. For example, saltwater pools use salt to generate chlorine through a process called electrolysis, greatly reducing the need for harmful cleaning chemicals. Fewer chemicals in your pool means fewer pollutants in the surrounding ecosystem and on you as you swim.

Another option gaining popularity recently is natural swimming pools. These pools eliminate the need for chlorine entirely, relying on biological filtra-

tion systems like plants (water lilies, reeds, swamp hibiscus), gravel and natural microorganisms to keep the water clean. As an added bonus, the plants create a habitat for local wildlife, including birds, amphibians and insects.

Beyond chemical use, you can also reduce your pool’s environmental impact by choosing an energy-efficient pump. Did you know that a pool pump could be your home’s second-largest energy user? Tracy Bond, owner of Great Valley Pool Service in Frazer, recommends an Energy Star-labeled pump, such as the Pentair Intelliflo3. “By selling and servicing energy-efficient pool pumps, we help customers save on energy costs while promoting sustainability, ensuring a cleaner, more eco-friendly pool experience for years to come,” she said.

SUSTAINABLE MATERIALS

Many outdoor projects can be made more sustainable by using eco-friendly materials. Here are just a few ideas to get you started during your planning.

When building a new deck or patio, reclaimed wood is an excellent choice. Wood that’s been salvaged from old buildings, barns or other sources can give your project rustic charm while reducing the need for newly harvested timber, helping to conserve forests and minimize waste. Also consider finishing your wood with natural materials like tung oil or beeswax rather than synthetic varnishes. For a more modern look, opt for bamboo decking — a fast-growing, renewable resource that’s durable and weather-resistant.

For those same reasons, reclaimed wood and bamboo are great options for fences.

- Enhance your outdoor space using sustainable materials, such as reclaimed wood, bamboo and composite decking

- Instead of a fence, consider a green wall of hedges or trees



7

Alternatively, fencing made from recycled composite materials — made from plastic or wood fibers — are long-lasting and require minimal maintenance.

Or, for a truly “green” choice, consider a hedgerow of native trees or shrubs. Holly List, Penn State Extension Master Gardener, suggests river birch (*Betula nigra*), American holly (*Ilex opaca*) and red twig dogwood (*Cornus sericea*) to create a natural, and beautiful, barrier.

For pathways and driveways, permeable pavers are both environmentally friendly and functional. Made from porous concrete, asphalt or stone, these pavers allow rainwater to flow through, reducing stormwater runoff and recharging groundwater aquifers. Other sustainable options include locally sourced stone and reclaimed concrete pavers, which reduce your project’s carbon footprint by minimizing the transportation of new materials.

Finally, consider adorning your outdoor spaces with sustainable furniture. Furniture made from recycled or upcycled materials, such as aluminum, reclaimed wood and

recycled plastic, are both durable and eco-friendly. Also look for pieces crafted from sustainably sourced materials like bamboo and teak, which are responsibly harvested and treated with natural finishes. Investing in high-quality, sustainable furniture not only enhances your space but also reduces waste by ensuring your furniture will last for years, reducing the need — and hassle — of replacing it.

The outdoor oasis of your dreams doesn’t have to come at the expense of nature. By making mindful choices — whether through sustainable materials, cleaner and greener pools, or native plants — you can create a backyard paradise that benefits both the environment and your lifestyle. With a bit of planning, you can transform your outdoor space into an eco-friendly retreat that you can feel proud and happy about for years to come. ♦

Note: We’ve included the scientific names of plants, since native and nonnative species often have the same common name. Choose natives!

7. Permeable pavers allow rainwater to flow through, reducing stormwater runoff and recharging groundwater aquifers

Further Reading

For more sustainable ways to spruce up your outdoor spaces, check out these articles from past issues of *County Lines*. Find them all on our website, CountyLinesMagazine.com.

- “Longing for Life Beyond the Lawn” by Blake Goll, Willistown Conservation Trust, September 2024
- “Backyard Bogs” by Nate Braddock, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, June 2024
- “Plant This, Not That” by Kirsten L. Werner, Natural Lands, August 2023
- “Native Plants for Resilient Gardens” by Stephanie Kuniholm, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, June 2023
- “This Spring, Add Some Biodiversity to Your Yard” by Monica McQuail, Willistown Conservation Trust, May 2023

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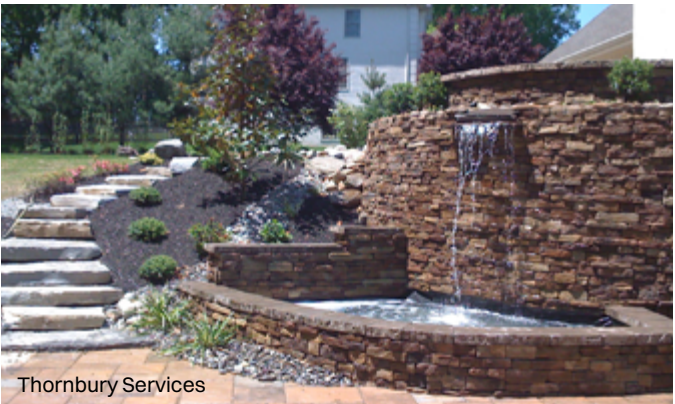
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Sweet Escape

SPRING IN LANCASTER IS THE COUPLES GETAWAY
YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU NEEDED

Cara Corridoni

PHOTO CREDIT: DISCOVER LANCASTER

WITH THE WEATHER WARMING AND spring buds emerging, there's no reason to book a flight and bail on good ol' PA. You can get away right now, right here. All you need is a tank of gas, an overnight bag and your favorite traveling companion.

While there are dozens of destinations within a short drive, perhaps none are more underestimated than the understated romance of Lancaster County.

A COUPLE'S CELEBRATION

Winter's chill is behind us. Spring is in the air. Leave the kids and their many requests at home, and celebrate the adult life for a change. This is not a weekend you'll want to rush back from, so first, book a night in the adult-only wing of [Amish View Inn & Suites](#) in Bird-in-Hand, where you'll wake to farmland views and a complimentary hot breakfast.

Start your day at the [Jam & Relish Kitchen](#) in nearby Intercourse, where they cook up homemade Pennsylvania Dutch treats like strawberry preserves, pies and cookies six days a week. They're closed on Sundays, so plan accordingly. Looking to spice things up? Try their new line of queso dips or ask for a sample of their famous pepper jelly.

Then head into Lancaster City for an evening to remember, starting at [Josephine's](#) on Main Street, where you'll enjoy French cuisine inspired by the central Pennsylvania harvest. Toast your weekend and each other with a couple of Hollywood-inspired libations, like the gin-and-pickle-soaked James Dean or the coconut-infused Betty White. Order a plate of the house-made bacon while you weigh your dinner options.

Although glorious accommodations await, don't let the night end too soon. On your way back, leave time to take in a performance at the [American Music Theatre](#) on Lincoln Highway East, also in Lancaster City. This state-of-the-art venue is known for luring national acts like Bonnie Raitt, Trisha Yearwood and the Beach Boys — all coming this spring.

HISTORY LOVERS

If the past is your passion, then Lancaster County, which was settled in 1720, will have your heart flutter.

Get up early for [Unique Lancaster Experiences' History & Breakfast Tour](#). Meet up with your guide, a local historian, at a downtown coffee shop, where you'll make introductions and enjoy a cup of coffee (or tea) and some Amish-made breakfast sandwiches. Once fortified, you'll begin a lively walking tour of downtown Lancaster.

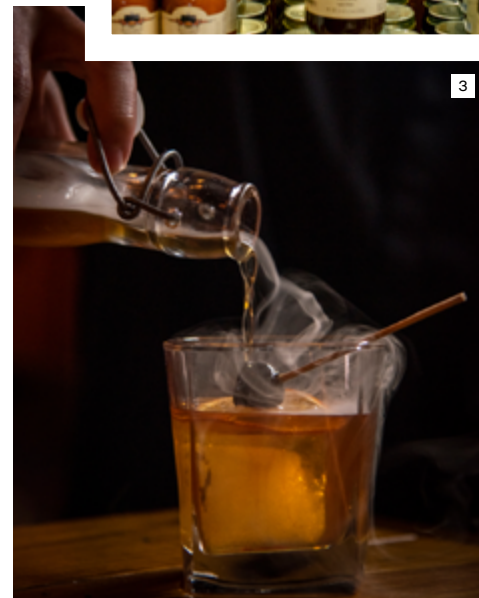


PHOTO CREDIT: DISCOVER LANCASTER

1. Jam & Relish Kitchen
2. Josephine's
3. Log Cabin Restaurant
4. American Music Theatre

Afterward, stay close and explore the town on your own. Make sure to visit the quaint [Demuth Museum](#), showcasing the work of painter Charles Demuth in the backdrop of his King Street home. With your self-guided tour complete and your feet tired, head east to nearby Leola for an unforgettable meal in an unforgettable location.

Leola's [Log Cabin](#) operated as a speakeasy before opening as a fine dining restaurant in 1933 and has earned its reputation as an area favorite over nearly a century of stellar service. Try the Crackling Pork Shank in a Lancaster County root beer BBQ glaze while sipping a signature Chicago Fizz and admiring the selection of historic artwork displayed throughout the restaurant.

Full and floating, end your day in the romantic arms of the [Inn at Leola Village](#). Recognized as a Historic Hotel of Excellence, this elegant inn blends classic charm with modern amenities — like rainfall showers and whirlpool tubs.

In the morning, enjoy breakfast at the [La Mattina Caffè](#) before heading out to explore the beautifully restored grounds of this for-

mer Amish tobacco farm. Or you may decide to relax with a couples massage at the in-house wellness spa.

AN ARTISAN ESCAPE

If you pride yourself on a life well-crafted — from the clothes in your wardrobe to the food on your table — you'll want to spend more time in Lancaster City. Head first to [Bistro Barberet & Bakery](#), where renowned Pastry Chef Cedric Barberet is busy baking authentic French delicacies with a modern twist. Keep it simple with a fresh-from-the-oven croissant or indulge with the L'opéra, an almond cake soaked in espresso, layered in coffee buttercream and topped with chocolate ganache. Barberet is the first U.S. eatery designated as a World's French Restaurant.

Now that you're sated, head out of town to browse the best of what Amish artisans have to offer. Leave your car at the [Lancaster Welcome Center](#) and rent a bike through [Bike It Lancaster](#) to take the road less traveled.



PHOTO CREDIT: DISCOVER LANCASTER

5. The Inn at Leola's couples massage room
6. Lancaster Arts Hotel
7. Bistro Barberet & Bakery's L'opéra
8. Cafe Passerine

Ride past the scenic [Lancaster County Central Park](#) and out to the Amish-owned and -operated [Countryside Road Stand](#). Peruse handmade quilts and grab jars of homemade apple butter. Then it's on to the nearby [Bird-in-Hand Farmers Market](#), where you'll find tons of delicious artisan offerings like meats, cheeses and local candies. Grab a hand-rolled soft pretzel before cycling back.

For dinner, you'll want to reserve a seat at Lancaster City's [Cafe Passerine](#), which just happened to be named one of the *New York Times*' favorite restaurants in 2024. While this farm-to-table kitchen is BYOB, they have a bottle shop paying homage to the many unique wines of the East Coast — from Vermont's indigenous grapes to Virginia's sparkling ciders.

End your day at the romantic [Lancaster Arts Hotel](#). From the moment you step inside, you'll be greeted by more than 250 one-of-a-kind pieces from a variety of local artists. The rustic modern rooms feature exposed brick walls, locally crafted furnishings and inspiration around every corner. Sweet dreams!

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

You know Lancaster City. You've done the [Lancaster Science Factory](#) and have been to [Dutch Wonderland](#) more times than you care to count. But do you know Marietta? This Pennsylvania borough of just 2,600 residents is located on the east bank of the Susquehanna River about 30 minutes west of Lancaster City.

If the weather is nice, head over to [Chickies Rock County Park](#) and hike to the top of Chickies Rock. This massive

9. Chickies Rock overlook
10. Stickman's Mill Outfitters
11. Railroad House Inn
12. B.F. Hiestand House Bed & Breakfast

tower of quartzite rock launches 100 feet above the river, delivering impressive views of the valley below. If you're visiting after Memorial Day, plan to spend some time on the river.

Book a tubing adventure through [Sickman's Mill Outfitters](#). Choose from the "Classic," a DIY option, or "Guided," with a knowledgeable tour guide to alert you to local wildlife (heron, eagles, deer) and scenic stops like swimming holes and jumping rocks for the adventurous.

End the day at [Jimmy's Place](#), where you can enjoy live music and a can of Jimmy Juice, their small-batch cocktail produced and packaged right there by the river.

Back in Marietta, change out of your river clothes and stroll hand-in-hand down quaint Front Street. Pop into a pub or two before landing at the [Railroad House Inn](#) for dinner. The steampunk-inspired main dining room with its eggplant walls and pewter scroll work will surely leave an impression. The seasonal menu changes often, but the strip steak with mushrooms is a perennial favorite.

Sunned, loose and sated, you're ready to let the day fade away as your walk back through this sleepy river town to the [B.F. Hiestand House Bed & Breakfast](#). This Trip Advisor Travelers' Choice Award winner will not disappoint with its uniquely styled rooms, each with a private bath, warm hospitality and a hearty breakfast homemade by innkeeper Pam Fritz.

Lancaster may be known for its family-friendly activities, but it has a sweet side too. A place where you can spend the day together ... and hold close the whole night through. Now, wouldn't that be nice? ♦

For more ideas and itineraries, see [DiscoverLancaster.com](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/JNOLT



Events in Lancaster County

THROUGH JULY 12

At Mount Hope Mansion. *Through Apr. 28*, Murder Mystery Dinner Theater; *Apr. 26*, VolksFest 2025; *May 24 & 25*, FlavorFest at Mount Hope; *June 27-29*, Celtic Fling & Highland Games; *July 12*, 16th Annual Blues & Brews at Mount Hope. 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Times and tickets, PAREnFaire.com.



ONGOING

American Music Theatre. Here are just a few—check the website for more: *Apr. 5*, Melissa Etheridge; *Apr. 17*, The Temptations & The Four Tops; *Apr. 18*, Bonnie Raitt; *May 3*, Stayin' Alive: One Night of the Bee Gees; *May 17*, Trisha Yearwood; *June 22*, Take Me Home: The Music of John Denver. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.

APRIL 3–OCTOBER 18

Bird-in-Hand Stage. *Apr. 3–Aug. 2*, “The Rise and Fall of Miss Fannie’s Biscuits.” *Apr. 12–Oct. 18*, Ryan & Friends: Lifetime of Laughter. 2760 #A Old Philadelphia Pk., Bird-in-Hand. Times and tickets, 717-768-1568; Bird-In-Hand.com/Stage.

APRIL 5

8th Annual Rails and Ales at The Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania. Annual craft beer tasting event is held among the historic trains, with craft breweries and food trucks. Benefits the Museum. 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. 5:30 to 9. \$15–\$50. RailsAndAles.org.

APRIL 11–JUNE 21

Dutch Apple Theatre. *Apr. 11–May 17*, “Fiddler on the Roof.” *May 23–June 21*, “We Will Rock You” music of Queen. 510 Centerville Rd., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-898-1900; DutchApple.com.

APRIL 11–JULY 20

At The Fulton. *Apr. 11–May 11*, “Anastasia: The Musical.” *June 13–July 20*, “Cats.” 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

MAY 9 & 10

Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire. Find handmade garden decor and accessories, demonstrations and workshops, heirloom plants and live entertainment in a family-friendly atmosphere. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. LandisValleyMuseum.org.



MAY 16 & 17

Kitchen Kettle Village Rhubarb Festival. Rhubarb is the harbinger of spring in PA Dutch Country, and the festival offers lots of cooking, family activities and more. 3529 Old Philadelphia Pk., Intercourse. Free. Kitchen-Kettle.com.

JUNE 6

Taste of Lititz. Block party to celebrate all the flavors of Lititz from local restaurants with live music. On Main St., Lititz. 5 to 9 pm. LititzPA.com.

JUNE 7 & 8

Lancaster VegFest. Celebrate the plant-based/vegan lifestyle and learn about the benefits of a vegan lifestyle. Benefits Lancaster Farm Sanctuary. 901 Buchanan Ave., Lancaster. Noon to 5. Free. PAVegFest.com.



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Celebrate the 55th Earth Day on April 22

SMALL ACTIONS, BIG IMPACT

Olivia Pagliaro



THIS YEAR MARKS THE 55TH ANNIVERSARY OF Earth Day on April 22, established to raise awareness about the need to protect the environment. The theme for 2025 is “Our Power, Our Planet” — hashtag #RenewableEnergyNow — focusing on the urgent need to commit to renewable energy.

Whether you’re eager to get your hands dirty or enjoy a family day out, there are plenty of things to do — from family-friendly activities and free petting zoos to street cleanups and trail repairs along the Brandywine. Each year, 1 billion people in more than 193 countries participate in Earth Day — will you be one of them?

Volunteering at Local Green Spaces



If you’re ready to dust off your work gloves, join the regulars who work throughout the year by volunteering this Earth Day weekend. Here are some hands-on activities to join. Details on their websites.

Newlin Grist Mill in Glen Mills hosts a late Earth Day volunteer event next month on May 3 from 9:30 to 4:30. Come meet to plant trees, remove invasive plants, repair trails and improve habitat for wetland wildlife. NewlinGristMill.org

Friends of Marshall Square Park needs volunteers for their annual spring cleanup, April 26 from 8:30 to noon, to spruce up this West Chester park for the warm seasons. The whole family can pick up debris, spread mulch or help clean up public areas. MarshallSquarePark.org

West Chester Borough invites you to join Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste and Police Chief Joshua Lee on April 27 for the 2025 Community Cleanup. Grab a few friends, sign up and claim your street to refresh. Use the hashtag #CleanAndGreenWC. West-Chester.com/684/Cleanup

Natural Lands manages over 40 local nature preserves — ChesLen, Binky Lee, Bryn Coed — where volunteers can nurture nature by helping remove invasive plants and restore habitats plus give back by planting and gardening. NatLands.org

Brandywine Conservancy, with headquarters in Chadds Ford along the Brandywine River, uses volunteers to trim vegetation, build or repair water diversions along trails, remove invasive plants, plant and maintain trees, and more. Brandywine.org/Conservancy

Family-Friendly Earth Day Celebrations



Local townships and nonprofit organizations are hosting community celebrations for Earth Day, giving you more ways to participate. Find one that’s right for you!

Delaware Museum of Nature & Science hosts a Wee-Kids Weekend Workshop, April 19, 11 to noon. Young explorers discover how to make a difference, then tour the museum exhibits — Nature Nook, Global Journey Gallery. \$15.50. DelMNS.org

French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust hosts a guided walk on April 22, 1 to 3 p.m., to connect you with the natural world — vibrant green trails, fresh air and open spaces, plus a chance to reflect on the importance of land preservation. FrenchAndPickering.org

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens in Devon scheduled their annual plant sale the weekend of April 25 and 26. Grab your gardening gloves and expand your collection with new varieties of native trees, perennials and shrubs, including rare and hard-to-find species. JenkinsArboretum.org

PA Senator Carolyn Comitta helps host an event at the Upper Main Line YMCA in Berwyn, April 26, 10 to 1 p.m. Kids are encouraged to get up and be active with the environmental and STEM education complex and over five miles of trails. PASenatorComitta.com

Phoenixville’s “Grow with the Flow” celebration is at Reservoir Park (611 Franklin St.), April 26 from noon to 4, with a fusion of art, science and community. Forage wild edibles, make a log of edible mushrooms, craft a freshwater ecosphere, meet a live owl, travel the paths of the Lenape. Vendors, food, drum circle. PhoenixvilleChamber.org

Upper Uwchlan Township’s annual celebration returns on April 26 at Upland Farm Barn in Chester Springs from 11 to 2 p.m. Bring the whole family to watch environmental demos, learn about sustainable products and explore their nature trails. UpperUwchlan-PA.gov

Upper Merion Township’s April 26 celebration is in the lower-level parking lot and Township Park behind the Township Building in King of Prussia. This family event features vendors, food, a petting zoo and an Earth Day award ceremony encouraging sustainability. UMTownship.org

West Chester Green Team’s celebration is on April 26 at 5 p.m., in collaboration with the local Unitarian Congregation and West Chester University Office of Sustainability. There’s a lecture from Dr. Sa’ed Atshan — Peace and Conflict Studies, Swarthmore College — on how “Peace is a GREEN Issue” and a Middle Eastern cultural celebration. WCGreenTeam.com

Media’s Environmental Advisory Council guides families on a half-mile walking tour, April 27, 11 to 2 p.m., highlighting the natural world and environmental issues. Info stations include water management, biodiversity, renewable energy. Meet at 4th Street near Borough Hall. MediaBorough.com



French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust



Natural Lands



Newlin Grist Mill

A HELPING HAND FROM HOME

If you can’t join these fun events, no problem. Donate to these organizations or to EarthDay.org, which is working to support renewable energy. Let’s build a healthy and beautiful Earth — together. ♦

Spring into the Water

SAILING, PADDLING AND TUBING IN THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Edwin Malet

PHOTO CREDIT: MOONLOOP PHOTOGRAPHY, COURTESY OF GWCVB



THE CALENDAR SAYS SPRING HAS ARRIVED. ON the Chesapeake Bay, you might be hoisting sails, taking advantage of spring's early winds, dreaming of summer breezes. But that, unfortunately, would involve a several-hour drive. Perhaps something closer?

Here, in the Brandywine Valley, if you're looking for water to enjoy sailing, sailboarding, canoeing, kayaking, tubing or paddleboarding, you've got options.

SAILING AT MARSH CREEK AND FRENCH CREEK STATE PARKS

The first place to look for fun on the water are two of our nearby state parks: Marsh Creek and French Creek. Marsh Creek in Downingtown has a big, beautiful 535-acre lake for plenty of water sports options. You can rent boats — sailboats, kayaks, paddleboards, canoes, windsurfers — at Marsh Creek Water Sports & Boat Rental, including rental sailboats like Hobies, Sunfish and daysailers. The shop is open from April until October and has helpful staff who offer lessons for beginners.

The Marsh Creek Sailing Club, which loans boats for a fee, conducts races on Sundays as well as two annual regattas on Saturdays: one in spring and another in fall. Great for testing your skills.

French Creek State Park in Elverson — not to be confused with French Creek in northwestern Pennsylvania — has two lakes, 66-acre Hopewell Lake and 22-acre Scott's Run Lake, both with boat launches. The Hopewell Lake boat rental opens in May and closes in September and rents kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, rowboats and Sunfish sailboats.

The weather at both state parks is virtually the same. Windspeed averages about 8 miles per hour in April, declining slightly through the summer to 5 mph, and picking up again in fall.

1. Marsh Creek Water Sports & Boat Rental
2. Motor boating is permitted at French Creek State Park

NEW CASTLE SAILING CLUB

Although sailing options in Chester County are more or less exhausted at the state parks, there's one other to consider. In New Castle, Delaware, about 45 minutes from West Chester, you can access the Delaware River. The river is a mile wide at that point and is much wider upstream and downstream.

The New Castle Sailing Club has a fleet of 14 club-owned sailboats, 17 to 19 feet long, moored in the river. Mostly, the club members use the boats during the season (membership is \$500 for initiation and \$350 per season afterward). But occasionally boats are available to prospective members for a smaller fee. In early spring, the club provides sailing instruction.

PADDLING THE BRANDYWINE

A major advantage of sailing is the wind: it will move you, for free. A disadvantage is that wind isn't available all the time or everywhere. And you can't sail on a narrow stream. In other words, around Chester County, although there are waterways throughout, there are places where sailing isn't feasible.

For these places, you'll want a canoe, kayak, raft, paddleboard or maybe an inner tube. And you'll have to depend on your arms, back and the water's current to take you where you want to go.

Northbrook Canoe Co., based outside West Chester, has what you need to explore the rivers and streams of Chester County. Operating from May to October, it supplies canoes, kayaks and tubes for your "voyage" down the Brandywine River. Several events hosted by Northbrook through the summer feature the popular "Twilight Dining" — a short, scenic paddle ending in a candlelit dinner under the stars, plus live music and a bonfire.

Other events include May's Northbrook Canoe Challenge benefiting the Cerebral Palsy Association of Chester County. And, in October, you can test yourself in the 51st Marshalltown Triathlon, which features 2.3 miles of paddling on its second leg.

Farther west, operating from May to September, Brandywine Outfitters in Mortonville also rents canoes and kayaks to explore the Brandywine River, specializing in tours of the ChesLen Preserve. But they cater to groups and won't accept an individual renter.



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7



6

- 3. New Castle Sailing Club
- 4. Brandywine Creek State Park
- 5. Northbrook Canoe Co.
- 6. Schuylkill River Sojourn
- 7. KayakLanCo

To the south, Wilderness Canoe Trips, located in Wilmington, also outfits those interested in canoe, kayak and float tube trips, mainly on the Brandywine River. The good news, you can take the rental equipment anywhere.

BRANDYWINE CREEK STATE PARK

If you rent a canoe, kayak or tube with one of a local outfitter, there's a good chance you'll end up in Brandywine Creek State Park, located just three miles north of Wilmington. You'll find yourself on a pleasant, peaceful creek, generally 3 feet deep, rich with wildlife, including trout, bass, bluegill and carp.

You may also see many kinds of turtles, frogs, salamanders and snakes, not to mention moths, butterflies, dragonflies and other insects. And on the water and in the surrounding woods, you may see a variety of birds, including herons, woodpeckers, ducks, sparrows, warblers and hawks. It's a naturalist's paradise. Check out *iNaturalist.org* for a list of over 600 species observed there.

THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER

In addition to the Delaware River, there are two other large rivers that touch Chester County: the Schuylkill to the east and the Susquehanna to the southwest. They're both well suited for canoes and kayaks — if you have your own sailboat, you can certainly try it. The Schuylkill in particular is known for its annual Schuylkill River Sojourn — a week-long trip by kayak or canoe organized by Schuylkill River Greenways.

Held each June since 1999, the Sojourn is a 112-mile guided trip starting in Schuylkill Haven and ending at Philadelphia's Boathouse Row. About 80 people make the full trip, camping along the watershed, and about 200 others join for as little as a day. The cost is about \$120 per day per person, with Schuylkill River Greenways providing direction, meals and first aid.

Of course, if you can't make the Sojourn, you can still enjoy the Schuylkill River on your own, and you can access it from several spots. Phoenixville SUP supplies stand-up boards and kayaks. Port Providence Paddle in Phoenixville and Schuylkill

“Don't feel landlocked!

There are a number of ways to get wet in and around Chester County.

Canal Boathouse in Mont Clare also rent canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboats and tubes. At Port Providence, we suggest treating yourself with a stop at Fitzwater Station afterwards. Thank us later.

CONOWINGO RESERVOIR AND ISLANDS

At the other end of *County Lines* country, straddling the Pennsylvania-Maryland border, is the Conowingo Reservoir, a 23-mile stretch of the Susquehanna River between the Conowingo and Holtwood Dams. It's an hour-and-a-half wild and scenic drive to Holtwood from West Chester, at the northwest end of the reservoir. You'll see Hennery Island, the Chestnut Islands, the Bear Islands and over 50 others dotting the river.

Choose from several companies that offer guided trips of the Susquehanna. Note, though, that they're generally farther upriver. Or rent a kayak from KayakLanCo in Millersville and explore. And if you have your own kayak, canoe or sailboard, you can explore on your own.

Whatever you choose — sailing, canoeing, kayaking, paddle boarding, tubing — there are a number of ways to get wet in and around Chester County. Don't feel landlocked! As spring approaches, discover your options. And take one! ♦



- Marsh Creek Water Sports & Boat Rental, 675 Park Rd., Downingtown. 610-458-5119; MarshCreekLake.com
- Marsh Creek Sailing Club, contact VPHarris1@Comcast.net for loaner boats. MCSailingClub.org
- French Creek Boat Rental, 865 Park Rd., Elverson. 610-582-1194; FrenchCreekBoatRental.com
- New Castle Sailing Club, 614 South St., New Castle, DE. 302-307-3060; NewCastleSailingClub.org
- Northbrook Canoe Co., 1810 Beagle Rd., West Chester. 610-793-2279; NorthbrookCanoe.com
- Brandywine Outfitters, 2096 Strasburg Rd., Mortonville. 610-486-6141; CanoePA.com
- Wilderness Canoe Trips, 2111 Concord Pk., Wilmington. 302-654-2227; WildernessCanoeTrips.org
- Brandywine Creek State Park, 41 Adams Dam Rd., Wilmington. 302-557-3524; DEStateParks.com/Park/Brandywine-Creek
- Schuylkill River Greenways, 140 College Dr., Pottstown. 484-945-0200; SchuylkillRiver.org
- Phoenixville SUP, 258 Walnut St., Mont Clare. 610-580-0805; CanoeAndKayak.biz
- Port Providence Paddle, 264 Canal St., Phoenixville. 610-933-1421; CanoeAndKayak.biz
- Schuylkill Canal Boathouse, 248 Walnut St., Mont Clare. 484-336-4567
- KayakLanCo, Millersville Pk., Lancaster. 717-945-8947; KayakLanCo.com
- Kayaking Made EZ, Conowingo, MD. 443-731-1100; KayakingMadeEZ@yahoo.com

Wildflower

A TRANQUIL COUNTRY REFUGE IN EAST FALLOWFIELD

Laurel Anderson

“EVERY HOME NEEDS A NAME,” said the wife of the couple that owns this dream property. “It was actually my daughter who came up with ‘Wildflower’ when she was little, saying she was a wildflower. While in fact, we’re a family of wildflowers.” The name captures the ease and openness of this charming country home set amid acres of conserved land in a special corner of southern Chester County, just off Doe Run and Buck Run Roads.

“There’s a sense of sanctuary here. The peace and beauty of the land fill you. When you turn into the driveway, you just exhale,” the wife continued. It’s a feeling she’ll miss as she and her husband prepare to move on from their now-empty nest. A home designed to be filled with family and friends needs to be shared with a bigger family again, the couple agreed.

THE HOME

The history of this Chester County stone farmhouse, part of the Glen Rose Historic District, dates back to 1829 and was part of a 100-acre tract of land subdivided to carve out a five+-acre sanctuary now called Wildflower. Like most homes built in that period, the main house was expanded over the years, so the tidy, classic stone facade hides the three-story additions built to accommodate modern living.

After purchasing the property in 2012, the current owners added their mark by doing more than merely adding square footage. “We redid and reconfigured every room,” said the husband. With the services of the prior owner and contractor, Mike Poole, the husband undertook the year-long job of customizing the space for the family, creating a home full of tasteful

details that combines both an openness and flow with warmth and coziness throughout. “There’s a nook or window-seat in most of the rooms,” he continued. “We worked with Amish craftsmen, then added colors and special touches, like paint finishes, by local artist Vicki Vinton.”

Situated to provide country views from every window, the house looks out over a nearby pond, hills and beyond to protected green space. A deck — with pergola, fire-pit and dining space — off the back of the home allows for outdoor living and sunset views. “There’s a feeling of being held, like being in a treehouse, when the leaves come in,” added the wife.

THE INTERIOR

Walk up the curving brick path to enter the original part of the house and imme-

diately notice the stunning hardwood floors — some original, some reclaimed wood. A corner fireplace anchors the foyer, with another in a bright study directly ahead. To the right is the well-proportioned living room with built-ins and a larger original fireplace.

Follow the flow through the archway, under the beamed ceilings, to the comfortable eating area with cozy banquette. Then continue into the large open country kitchen and adjacent sitting room — indeed the heart of the home. A handcrafted wooden circle at the end of the kitchen island seems to cast a magnetic pull to draw you in to sit and enjoy views of the countryside.

A separate coffee room/butler’s pantry, personalized mudroom with cubbies and chalkboards, plus custom powder room with one of many antique window-frame mirrors complete the main level. French doors throughout this section open to the wraparound wooden deck, beckoning you outside to admire the two-story springhouse, gardens and mature trees — cherry, hickory, sycamore, beech and more.

The second floor hosts the primary bedroom with expansive views of the meadows and woods. Rounding out the primary suite

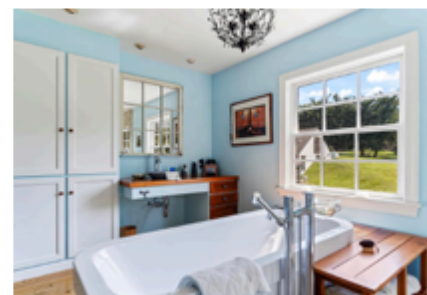
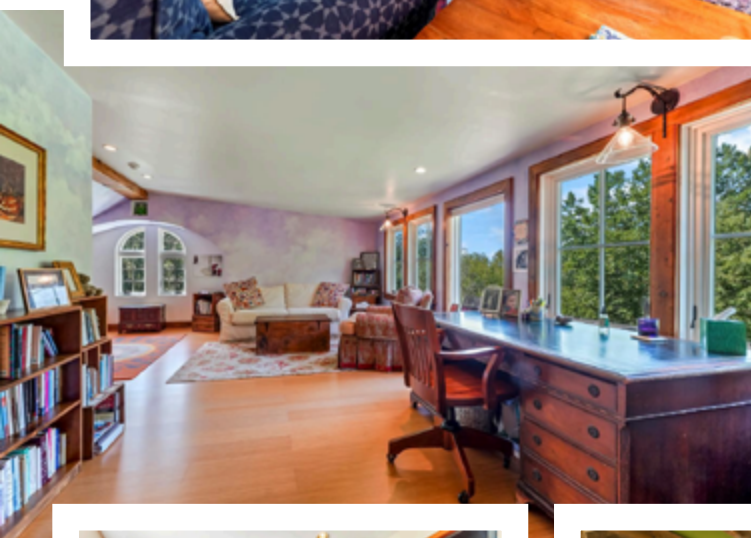
are a bank of closets, convenient laundry room and a luxurious bath with soaking tub beneath a large window and glass shower opening to a balcony and the outdoors. Another bath and two additional bedrooms, with window seats, sitting rooms and cozy spaces, round out this level.

A spacious and light-filled third floor includes another bath, fourth bedroom under the eaves with unique spaces, along with a large open space through French doors for an office, family room or fifth bedroom. The many west-facing windows, center beam and custom wall finishes add to the character of the inviting space.

On the finished lower level is an additional family room, full bath and storage area with access to the back lawn through more French doors.

OTHER BUILDINGS

A former bank barn now houses a three-bay garage, with ample storage and EV charger. Upstairs is a large, bright guest apartment with full bath and kitchenette. Next door is another home office



with built-ins, exposed beams and French doors to the outside.

Next to a small paddock, currently home to Charlie the goat, is a huge space. Currently used as a workshop, it's easily converted to art studio, car barn, home gym or other project. All that's in addition to a separate storage/equipment barn.

"I always wanted to live in an old farmhouse," said the wife. And she and her family did. This unique family compound is now ready for its next family. ♦

This 5+-acre historic property, with a 5-bedroom, 5+-bath main house and outbuildings, in East Fallowfield is part of the Brandywine Conservancy easement. For more information about this property offered at \$1.9 million by Berkshire Hathaway, Fox Roach, contact Cindy Orr at 610-347-2065 or 610-864-3096 (cell), The Country Properties.com.

Don't Mock Mocktails

BEYOND DRY JANUARY AND BEFORE SOBER OCTOBER

WHY DRINK MOCKTAILS? WELL, they have all the creativity and flavor of cocktails without the alcohol. Garnish them with fresh fruit, herbs, edible flowers and fun ice cubes for Instagram-worthy drinks. Then sip them in pretty glasses.

These alcohol-free drinks are a great alternative, fancy choice for wellness and mindful drinking. Plus, the fresh ingredients in many recipes even provide vitamins and antioxidants.

So, enjoy as many stylish mocktails as you like. And drive yourself home safely!

BLUEBERRY NO-JITO

From Greystone Oyster Bar

- 1 oz. blueberry simple syrup
- 1 oz. lime juice
- Mint leaves
- Club soda
- Blueberries and mint, for garnish

In a shaker, add mint, lime and blueberry simple syrup over ice. Shake, then strain into a tall glass with ice. Top with club soda and garnish with fresh blueberries and mint.



THE HUMMINGBIRD

From Pietro's Prime

- 5 oz. strawberry nectar
- 1 oz. rosemary simple syrup
- 4 oz. cold ginger beer
- Strawberry, for garnish

In a shaker, add strawberry nectar and rosemary simple syrup over ice. Shake, then strain into a martini glass. Top with cold ginger beer and garnish with a fresh strawberry.

MY DARLING

From White Dog Cafe Chester Springs (+ other locations)

- Ice
- 1 oz. strawberry puree
- 2 oz. lemonade
- ½ oz. agave simple syrup
- Soda water
- Lemon wedge, for garnish

In a glass Mason jar, add ice, strawberry puree, lemonade and simple syrup. Stir. Top with soda water. Garnish with a lemon wedge.





ABSTINENCE ON THE BEACH

From Tait Farm Foods' partner Big Springs Spirits

- 1½ oz. orange juice
- 1½ oz. cranberry juice (unsweetened)
- 1 oz. peach puree
- ½ oz. Tait Farm pineapple shrub*
- Sparkling water or seltzer
- Pineapple or orange slice for garnish

Add all ingredients to a shaker with ice. Shake, then strain into a hurricane glass over ice. Garnish with a wedge of pineapple or an orange slice.

*A mixer combining plants, sugar and vinegar used to add acidity.



FLOWER POWER ZERO-PROOF COCKTAIL

From Baba's Bucha

- 3 oz. Baba's Bucha Flower Power kombucha
- 1 oz. white grape juice
- Lavender sugar to rim the glass
- ½ tsp. dried lavender flowers

Combine kombucha and grape juice in a shaker with ice. Shake, then strain into a martini glass rimmed with lavender sugar. Sprinkle with dried lavender flowers. ♦



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Food News

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

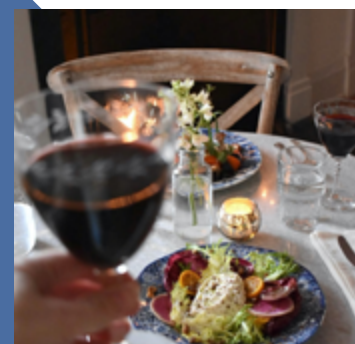
Equine Elixirs. Joann Fisher and Carolyn Dunke saddled up and launched their first business at age 60, creating **Copper Pony** — a vintage horse trailer turned mobile bar that combines rustic charm with timeless style, ready to elevate any event. You



provide the spirits, then Copper Pony delivers professional bartenders, vintage glassware, ice, mixers, set up and breakdown with four levels of service, ranging from the a la carte "Walk" to the full-service "Jump." CopperPonyPA.com.

Dining Debuts. These new restaurant locations opened their doors last month. **Ruth's Chris Steak House** arrived in Newtown Square, bringing premium food and stellar service to Ellis Preserve. West Chester stayed lively, as **Mino Sushi & Ramen** started serving up fresh fish and ramen, while **Nanu's Hot Chicken** kicked off their grand opening with a free food giveaway. *3745 Equus Blvd., Newtown Square. RuthsChris.com. 2 W. Gay St., West Chester. MinoSushi.com. 315 S. High St., West Chester. NanusHotChicken.co.*

Cozy Gathering. Life's Patina Company (Willowbrook Farm) expanded their portfolio, introducing the first "Winter Dinner" at **Life's Patina Mercantile & Cafe** in Chester Springs. This BYOB event



hosted guests in the renovated Jenny Lind House for a six-course dinner showcasing local ingredients — braised short rib with semolina porridge, black cherry gelee and honey cake plus a seasonal mocktail. Check social media for updates. \$125/person. *1657 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. LifesPatina.com.*

Sea & Savor. Located in the new Hotel Indigo, **West Chester Seafood Kitchen** offers a modern menu blending the best of land and sea. Select from the raw bar — oysters, shrimp, lobster, catch of the day — paired with a glass of Turks Head wine. Then, find the hidden entrance to the speakeasy, Room 109, and unwind in the intimate atmosphere with lush libations — including Éclat chocolate-infused cocktails — plus tasting plates. *39 E. Gay St., West Chester. WCSeafoodKitchen.com.*



Top Five. Lancaster's **Chellas Arepa Kitchen** food truck was once again ranked in Yelp's Top 100 Restaurants, securing 5th place with 4.9 stars and 400+ reviews. Inspired by his Grandma Chella, Luis Quiroz prepares South American cuisine, specializing in corn arepas (flatbread), rice bowls, sweet plantains and pineapple-glazed Brussels sprouts, plus vegan and vegetarian options. Visit the new brick-and-mortar location in downtown Lancaster. *1830 Hempstead Rd., Lancaster. EatChellas.com.*



Easter Feast from the Farmstead

SIMPLE INGREDIENTS FOR AN ELEGANT YET RUSTIC HOLIDAY MEAL

Courtney H. Diener-Stokes



True North Farmstead

IF YOU'RE HOSTING EASTER dinner this year on April 20th, you'll want something special on the menu. For some, that's a glazed ham. But for many, Easter, spring and renewal all mean it's time to cook lamb. To find where to source locally grown lamb, we talked with owners of a family-run sheep farm in Downingtown.

Megan and Brian Bogle, co-owners of **True North Farmstead**, cook simple main dishes for their family of five, whether it's a daily meal or for the Easter holiday. "If you have good, quality ingredients, you don't have to do much to them," Megan said. "All you have to do is salt and pepper the food, and cook it right."

Their sheep and dairy farm focuses on milk- and grass-fed spring lamb along with farmstead sheep's milk cheese and yogurt made on site. These ingredients are the basis of delicacies like a roasted leg of lamb that Megan tops with a classic French demi-glace. "We harvest our lambs at three to four months of age, so it's a tender lamb with a clean and mild taste," she said.

Megan pairs her moist, roasted lamb with favorite side dishes — classic French fondant potatoes, along with roasted Brussels sprouts or broccoli. Brian was initially drawn to the peasant style of French cooking after experimenting with Julia Child's approachable way of cooking classic cuisine.

The Bogles' special meals often begin with a cheese appetizer of whipped brebis cheese, made using their soft, spreadable sheep's milk cheese, served with sliced baguette. "You can top it with olive oil, or if you want something sweet, use honey or jam."

Their lamb meat, offered seasonally and in a variety of cuts, inspires Megan to make lamb stew if she has a lamb shoulder to cook — an ideal cut for slow-cooked stews since it's a tougher meat. This dish makes a hearty and warming meal on those occasional still-chilly April days.

For everyday meals, the Bogles use ground lamb, with its mellow and mild flavor, as a substitute for ground beef in family-friendly meals. They'll use ground lamb for Bolognese sauce over pasta or to make hamburgers (lamb burgers?).

As farm owners for over a decade, the Bogles are proud to offer quality ingredients to the community. Since each of their eight East Friesian/Lacuane mix ewes produces about two lambs each spring, the meat is in high demand and is sold quickly once it's processed. "I like knowing how the lambs were raised, and we can provide that information for people," said Megan.

Read on for a short course on the most desirable lamb cuts and some tasty recipes from True North Farmstead to inspire your Easter holiday meal!

Roasted Leg of Lamb

This dish depends on the delicious flavor of grass- and milk-fed lamb, so just a few additional ingredients are needed to bring out the best of this prized cut.



Serves 3 to 6 (approx. 1 lb. per person)

1 bone-in leg of lamb, 3 to 6 lbs.
6 garlic cloves, peeled
6 fresh rosemary sprigs
Extra virgin olive oil
Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Preheat oven to 325°.
Cut slits evenly spaced around the leg of lamb (about 6 slits). Stuff a garlic clove and some rosemary into each slit.
Drizzle olive oil, salt and pepper over lamb and place remaining rosemary sprigs on top.
Place in preheated oven. Roast until reddish-pink and juicy in the center for medium-rare (meat thermometer reading of 130°), about 20 to 22 minutes per pound.
Remove from oven and rest, covered with foil, before carving. Serve with pan sauce or demi-glace (recipe below).

Classic French Demi-Glace

A demi-glace is a rich brown sauce in French cuisine, made with equal parts beef stock and espagnole (a classic reduced stock base). While it can be time-consuming to make, most prep is hands-off and can be done ahead of time. Homemade beef stock works best in this recipe because it creates a richer flavor to complement the lamb.

Serves up to 6 as gravy

For the espagnole:

1 bay leaf
3 to 4 fresh thyme sprigs
3 to 4 fresh parsley stems
7 to 8 whole black peppercorns



2 T. butter
½ C. onion, diced
¼ C. carrot, diced
¼ C. celery, diced
2 T. all-purpose flour
3 C. beef stock (preferably homemade)
2 T. tomato puree

For the Demi-Glace:

1 bay leaf
3 to 4 fresh thyme sprigs
3 to 4 parsley stems
7 to 8 whole black peppercorns
2 C. beef stock
2 C. espagnole sauce

To make the espagnole:

Place the bay leaf, thyme, parsley and peppercorns in a small piece of cheesecloth. Gather the edges to form a pouch and tie with a piece of kitchen twine.

In a heavy-duty medium saucepan, melt butter over medium heat until it becomes frothy.

Add the onions, carrots and celery. Saute until lightly browned, about 6 minutes.

Stir in the flour, a little bit at a time, until it's fully incorporated and forms a thick paste (roux).

Lower the heat to low and cook until the roux begins to brown, about 4 to 5 minutes.

Slowly whisk in the beef stock and tomato puree, making sure it's free of lumps. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat to maintain a simmer. Add the herb sachet.

Simmer until the total volume has reduced by a third (you'll have 2 cups left), stirring frequently, about 35 to 45 minutes. Remove the sauce from heat and discard the herb sachet.

Pour the sauce through a wire mesh strainer lined with a piece of cheesecloth into a larger bowl. Discard the vegetables.

The espagnole can be kept covered and warm until ready to use. Or cool it down completely and refrigerate in a covered container for up to 5 days.

To make the demi-glace:

Place the bay leaf, thyme, parsley and peppercorns in a small piece of cheesecloth. Gather the edges to form a pouch and tie with a piece of kitchen twine.

Combine the beef stock and the espagnole sauce in a heavy-bottomed saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat, then lower to maintain a simmer.

Add the herb sachet and reduce the liquid by half, about 45 minutes. Remove from heat and discard the herb sachet.

Pour the sauce through a wire mesh strainer lined with a piece of cheesecloth into a larger bowl. Season with salt and pepper and serve as a gravy with your roasted leg of lamb (see recipe above).

Potatoes Fondant

This fancy French potato side dish — meaning melting potatoes — has crispy edges and a creamy center. It's sure to impress your lunch or dinner guests at your Easter meal.



- Serves 4
- 2½ lbs. Yukon Gold potatoes, about 2½ to 3 inches long, peeled
 - 2 T. extra virgin olive oil or beef fat
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
 - 4 T. unsalted butter (1 T. reserved for sauce)
 - 3 garlic cloves, peeled and smashed
 - 1 T. fresh thyme leaves
 - 1½ C. chicken or beef stock (or vegetable broth)
 - Flaky sea salt, such as Maldon, for finishing (optional)

Adjust oven rack to middle position and preheat oven to 450°. Cut off ends of potatoes to make them flat, then halve the potatoes crosswise to create disks. Pat dry with paper towels. In a 12-inch stainless steel straight-sided saute pan (or cast iron skillet), heat oil or fat over medium-high heat until just beginning to smoke.

Season potatoes with salt and pepper. Add to skillet, flat side down, in a single layer with space between each piece.

Cook, without moving, until potatoes begin to brown around edges, 4 to 5 minutes. Continue cooking while gently rotating and swirling the fat or oil in the pan to promote even browning and prevent sticking. Continue until potatoes are deeply browned on the bottom sides, cooking 3 to 4 minutes longer, adjusting heat as needed.

Flip potatoes onto the second flat side. Add butter and cook, swirling pan constantly, until butter is melted and begins to foam, about 1 minute.

Add garlic and thyme, and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Add stock and bring to a boil.

Transfer skillet to preheated oven and roast until potatoes are completely tender (offering little to no resistance when poked with a paring knife and liquid is reduced to a saucy consistency), 25 to 30 minutes.

Return skillet to the stove top. Using a thin metal spatula or tongs, transfer potatoes to a serving platter, leaving sauce in the skillet; discard garlic.

Bring sauce to a simmer over medium heat and cook, swirling pan and stirring constantly, until sauce is emulsified, about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Take off heat. Add in an additional tablespoon of butter until desired consistency is reached.

Season to taste with salt and pepper. Pour some sauce over potatoes and pour the rest into a bowl to serve alongside potatoes.

Sprinkle potatoes with flaky sea salt and serve.

Whipped Brebis

This appetizer features Cosmos, one of True North's five types of sheep's milk cheese, made on site at their three-acre farm.

Serves 4 to 6



- 8 oz. brebis (soft, spreadable sheep's milk cheese)
- 1 T. extra virgin olive oil, plus more for brushing baguette slices
- 1 T. fresh lemon juice (optional)
- Flaky salt, like Maldon
- 1 baguette, sliced thin

Place brebis, olive oil and lemon juice in a food processor and process until light and smooth, about 1 to 2 minutes.

Brush both sides of baguette slices with olive oil and toast or grill in a pan or oven just prior to serving.

Put whipped brebis into a piping bag and pipe onto toasted slices of baguette.

Serve as is or top with a drizzle of olive oil, lemon zest and a sprinkle of flaky salt. For a sweet version, top with a drizzle of honey.

Roasted Beet and Feta Salad with Arugula

This salad is a delicious complement to roasted lamb (see recipe above). It also offers a welcome pop of color to the table and features True North's feta cheese.



- Serves 4 to 6
- 4 beets, trimmed, cubed and roasted, served warm or cold
 - 4 oz. feta, crumbled
 - 4 C. arugula, packed
 - Extra virgin olive oil
 - 1 lemon, cut in half
 - Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper

Top 5 Most Desirable Lamb Cuts

Leg: Tender and moist, this cut is ideal for roasting and is perfect for any holiday celebration.

Rack/Chops: Both are tender and lean cuts that are easy to grill or pan-sear. The rack of lamb makes an impressive special meal, especially when two racks are tied together to form a crown roast.

Shoulder: A flavorful cut with more fat and connective tissue than other cuts, this is ideal for stews or braises.

Shank: This lean and flavorful cut from the leg of lamb becomes tender and juicy with low and slow cooking. Perfect for braising in a slow, simmering broth.

Ground Lamb: Mellow and mildly flavored, ground lamb is a perfect substitute for ground beef in many recipes, like lamb bolognese or lamb burgers.



Place arugula in a shallow salad bowl and sprinkle evenly with the roasted beets. Top with feta, sprinkled evenly.

Just before serving, drizzle olive oil generously over the entire salad. Then squeeze juice of a whole lemon directly and evenly over the top of the salad.

Finish with a sprinkle of salt and a few grinds of black pepper. Optional to toss before serving. ♦

NOTE TO READERS: *This is my last column, so I want to express my gratitude to the County Lines family, our region's dedicated farmers, artisans and chefs, and Brandywine Table readers. Later this year, I plan to focus on projects being launched by my publishing company.*

Courtney Diener-Stokes is an award-winning journalist, author, food writer, photographer and food stylist. 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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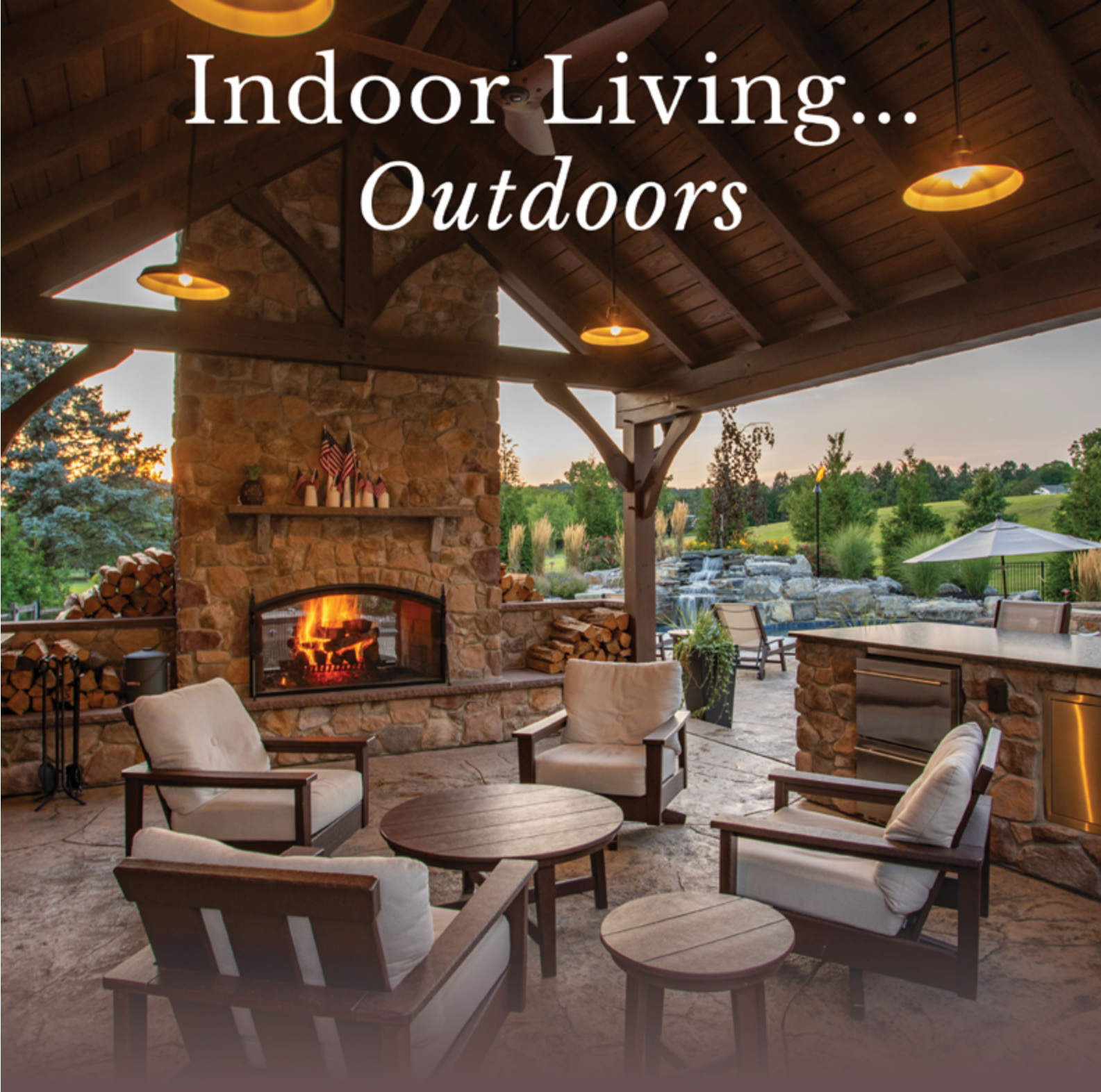
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