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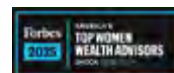
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NEW
LISTING



Birmingham Township

*Fabulous Tastefully Redone Home
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Set in sought-after Birmingham Township is this fabulous four bedroom, three full and one half bath home which has been totally updated inside and out and rests on eleven acres. The main level has an open floor plan featuring marble flooring. The large Kitchen offers high-end cabinetry, stainless appliances, beautiful counters, huge center island and offers access to the terrace and pool. There is a Powder Room and access to the incredibly clean three car garage. The Dining Room conveniently adjoins the Kitchen. A adjoining Living Room and Family Room create a spacious living environment - perfect for large scale entertaining! The Living and Family Rooms, as well as the Kitchen, have fireplaces with handsome marble stone facings. Off the Primary Bedroom is a Sitting Room with a fireplace and views of the patio, pool and back pasture. There is also a large walk-in closet and a wonderful bathroom. Two additional bedrooms, one has a fireplace and a en-suite bathroom, completes the Upper Level. Beyond the pool is a former indoor riding arena transformed into a 58' x 116' athletic space featuring a basketball court plus an area with artificial turf. Off this area is a large gym and a stable with four box stalls. Above the Gym is a two bedroom apartment. Located in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.

\$2,950,000



Fairville Inn

Chadds Ford Location 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



West Nantmeal

Stunning Home with Great Details!

This is the showcase property at French Creek Village. 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 and family room beyond. Upgrades abound wherever you look: from the wainscoting and woodwork, to the custom fixtures with Austrian crystal and hand painted details, from the two-story light-filled entry, to the fully custom kitchen and sunroom addition. There is an elevator connecting all three floors! Two dazzling bedroom suites are on the Upper Level. Abutting the French Creek golf course, this is an incredible lifestyle opportunity.

\$885,000



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



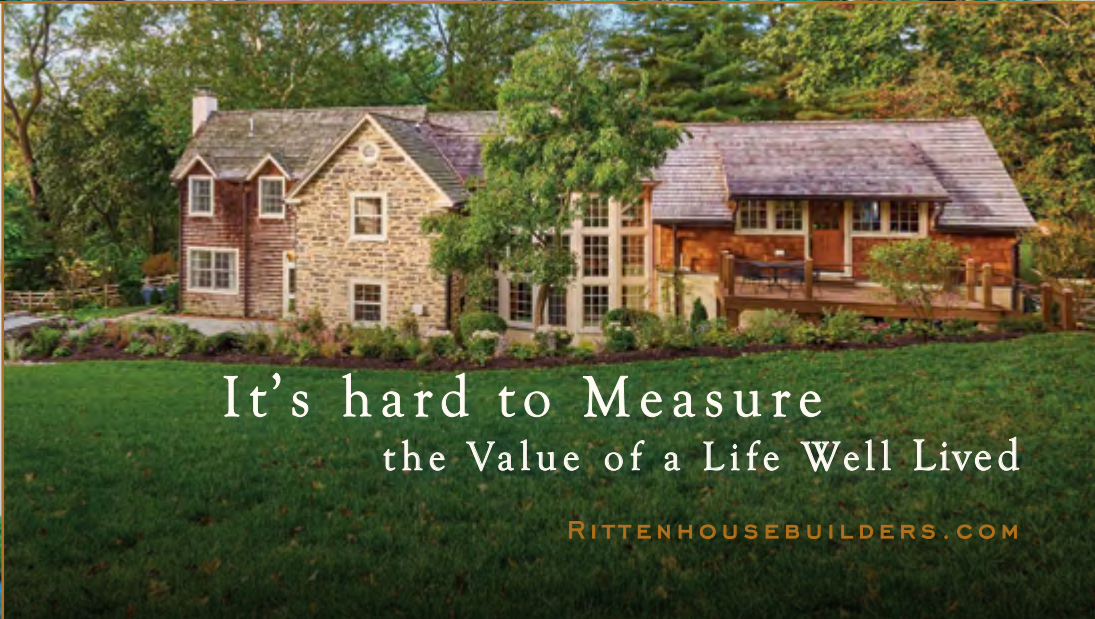
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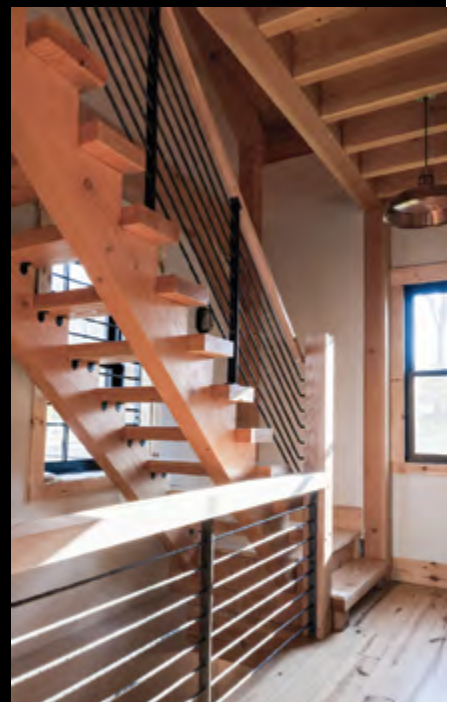
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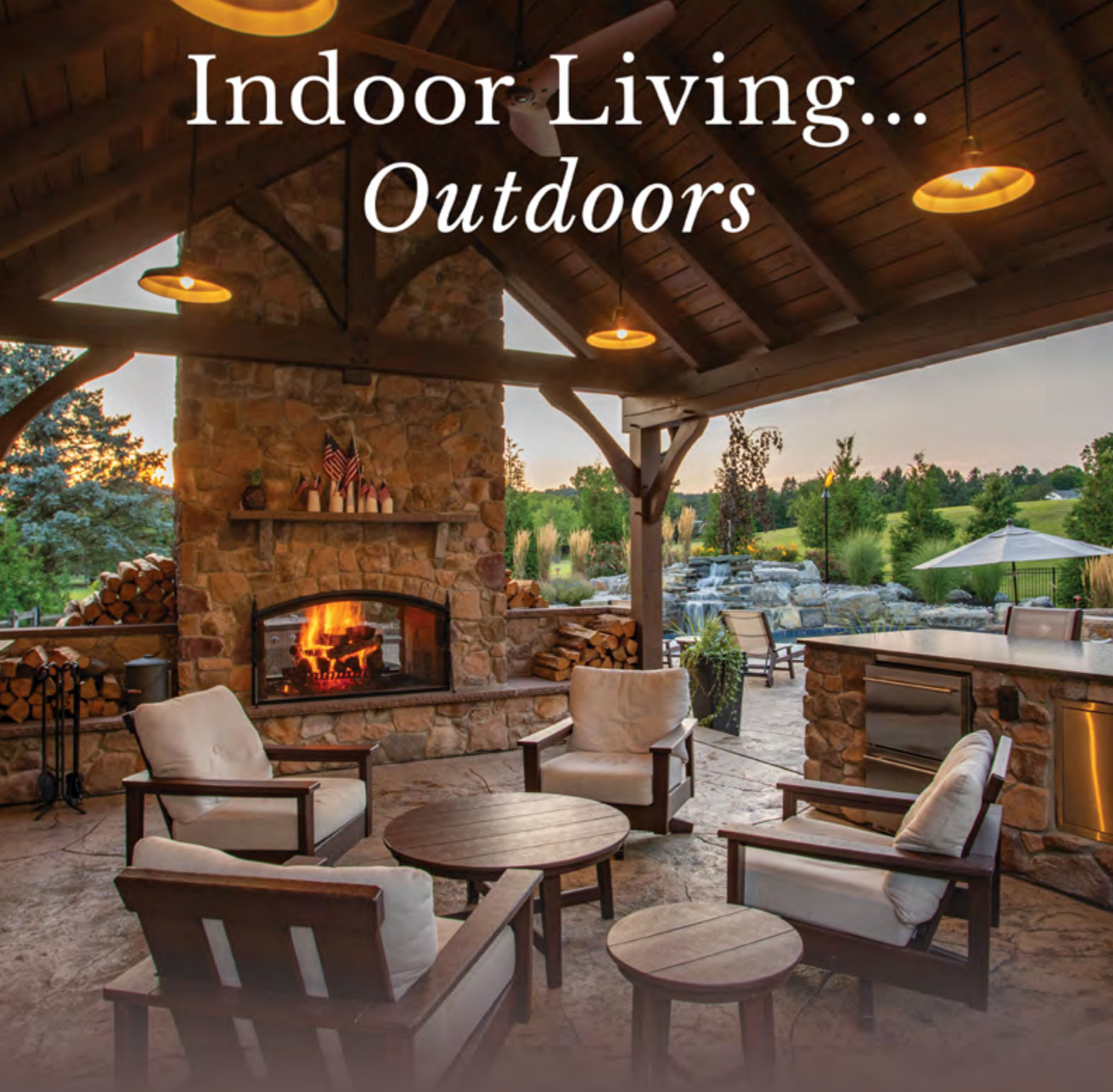


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SOLD

Colerain Township

Picturesque countryside views from an expansive custom ranch style home with walk-out finished basement on 2 private acres.

Camille Gracie represented the Buyer

\$595,000



UNDER CONTRACT

West Goshen Township

Beautifully maintained, move-in ready home on an incredibly private 3/4 acre lot in the highly sought after North Hill neighborhood.

Presented by Chase Davis and Rob Van Alen

\$545,000



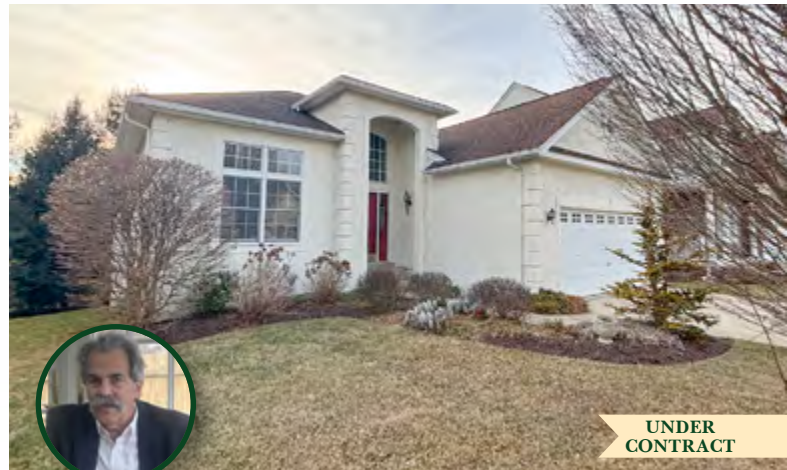
UNDER CONTRACT

Newlin Township

Archer Buchanan designed 4/5 bedroom custom home for casual, smart living. King Construction built 6 stalls, well-appointed barn with an apartment on 21+-manageable, conserved acres in Unionville Chadds Ford Schools. Minutes to major arteries, shopping and conveniences. Wonderful country setting!

Presented by Amy McKenna

\$2,395,000



UNDER CONTRACT

Concord Township

"Riviera at Concord" Gated 55+ Community - 2 bedroom/2 bath/one story living with full unfinished daylight basement. Also includes a bright & cheery sun room overlooking a lovely deck, facing South towards the walking trail.

Presented by Mark Willcox

\$560,000

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from the
EDITOR

May at *County Lines* means horses, art, history and gardens. Oh, and Mother's Day.

Opening the equestrian season, Olivia Pagliaro declares steeplechase is here, highlighting races at Winterthur, Willowdale and Radnor Hunt. "Jumping into Steeplechase," she writes, is equal parts tailgate party, fashion show, sporting event and fundraiser. Also check out "Dream Barns" and Emily Hart's delightful article on equine-assisted and sound therapy in "Sounds Amazing! Healing with Horses, Sound and Music."

Later in May, head for the 129th "Devon Horse Show & Country Fair" for fun and excitement inside and outside the ring. For a glimpse at the most adorable Devon event, read "For the Love of Leadline" and see how that tradition connects the generations.

Crave art in the Brandywine Valley? Learn what Shannon Montgomery found — art shows, tours, exhibitions — in our annual "Art Gallery Roundup." Make sure to see the murals!

History buffs will enjoy Ed Malet's most recent excursion described in "The Main Line: More than Mansions," beginning with the Lenape, then the railroads and ending up at Suburban Square. Jennifer Green, of the Chester County History Center, shares local history of roses in "Chester County's Garden Legacy."

More on gardens: Terry Miller of the Herb Society delights in the pleasures of "Flavorful Flora," writing that edible flowers make a meal special. Marci Tomassone collects local tours, plant sales and festivals in "Home & Garden." For DIYers, see "Landscape & Garden Design" to get your backyard spring-ready.

May 11 is Mother's Day, so Brandywine Table's Victoria Rose, writing her first column for us, wants to get Mom out of the kitchen and treat her to "Breakfast for Mother's Day" with pancakes, French toast, granola and more. And if you're looking for a cold one, Shannon Montgomery suggests you say "Cheers to NA Beers" and recommends a few.

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

Enjoy the merry month of May. And thank you for reading.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

May 2025

Volume XLVIII Number 9

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ANNUAL WEDDING ISSUE

Wedding Trends, Venues & Food

Summer Dining • West Chester Focus

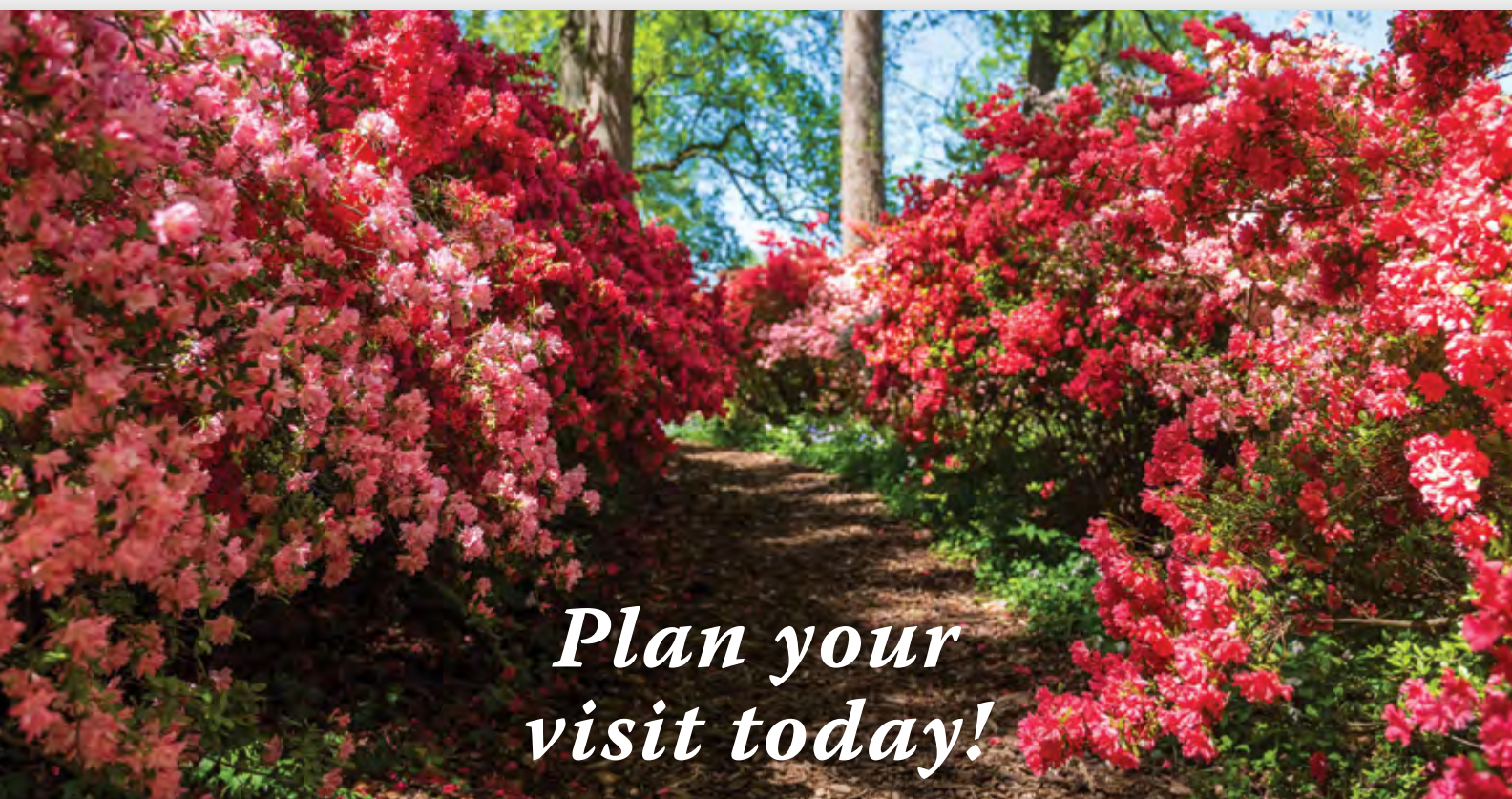
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Delight your senses with a visit to the **WINTERTHUR GARDEN,**

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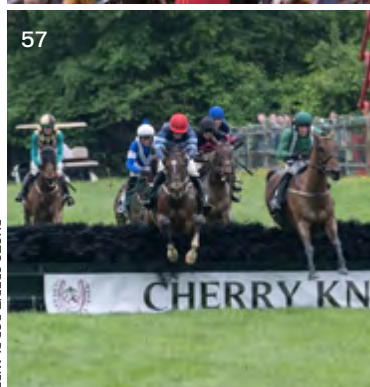
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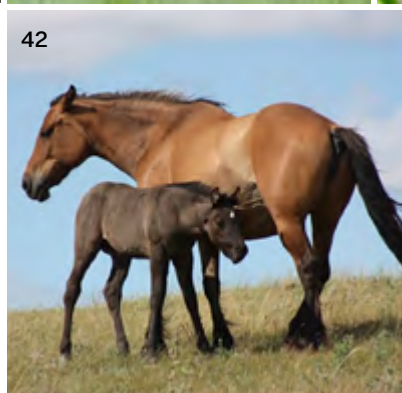
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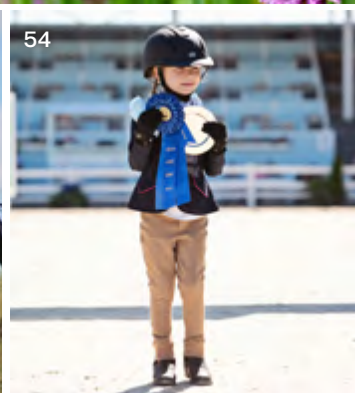
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Cover photo plus top and bottom-right photos on this page by Brenda Carpenter



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Garden Celebs. Congratulations to **Longwood Gardens**, recently voted the best botanical garden in the country by *USA Today* readers — beating out the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden, Florida's Fairchild Tropical Botanic Garden and Tucson Botanical Gardens — and named to *Time's* 2025 list of the World's Greatest Places. All the accolades attracted the attention of lifestyle guru Martha Stewart, who visited last month and raved about the gardens' gorgeous blooms and 1906 restaurant. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. LongwoodGardens.org.



PHOTO CREDIT: HOLDEN BARNES FOR LONGWOOD GARDENS

Native Guide. To celebrate National Garden Month, the Brandywine Conservancy launched the **Brandywine Native Garden Hub**, a new online resource designed to inspire gardeners to incorporate native plants into their landscape. This free, user-friendly website serves as both an educational guide and interactive database, where users can search for and learn about native plants of Pennsylvania and northern Delaware, save their favorites to personalized "Garden Boards" and browse educational resources. NativeGardenHub.org.



PHOTO CREDIT: MARK GORMEL

History Reimagined. Historic Yellow Springs recently celebrated the grand opening of the **Fraleley Art Studio**, transforming the village's last remaining vacant building into an interactive studio and community hub for arts, culture, history and education. Originally built in the mid-1800s, the building has served as a general store, post office, private residence and offices. Now, it houses modern studios and learning spaces for artists, students and the community. 1671 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. YellowSprings.org.



More Murals. The halls of **Pickney Hills Commons** at the Melton Center are becoming more colorful. Downingtown artist Adrian Martinez is painting three murals, one on each floor, depicting famous faces of different backgrounds, including actors Benicio del Toro and Cynthia Erivo along with scientist Albert Einstein, all wearing tribal outfits with long, streaming ribbons. The ribbons will be painted by the children of Pickney Hills and their families. 500 E. Market St., West Chester. WestChesterCommunityCenter.org.

Local Reads. Add two new books by local authors to your reading list. In **"Gettysburg Mysteries and More: Unexplained Personal Paranormal Phenomena"** (Regent Press), Bruce E. Mowday details several unexplained experiences while researching history. And Gina Marie Wilson draws on her experience as a software engineer in Malvern in **"Silicon Valley East"** (Bayfront Press), a novel about a young woman working in the tech industry during the 1980s. Find them at your local independent bookstore. Mowday.com. GinaMWilson.com.



Dream & Discover!



MD 5 Star at Fair Hill

October 16-19



Bucks County Designer House and Gardens

Through May 26



Get your tickets early to tour Hidden Trail Farm, a 14-acre property in Ivyland with a 5,000-square-foot farmhouse featuring many gathering and entertaining areas, including an impressive

custom-designed chalet with an open, multi-story living area. Benefits Doylestown Health and Village Improvement Assoc. Tours, Tues.–Sat., 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Sun., 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. \$45. BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org.

Willowdale in White

May 8

Wear white to this elegant dinner held in a picturesque setting, the location being emailed to those who purchase tickets. Bring your own dinner and beverages, table settings and decor and enjoy music and dancing. 7 to 10 p.m. \$40 for individual tickets; \$300 for a table of 8. For details, text 610-564-9276. Willowdale-In-White.



Showcase of Homes at Hershey's Mill

May 8



The Paoli Hospital Auxiliary presents this tour, which includes six beautifully renovated and decorated homes, a luncheon at Hershey's

Mill Golf Club, vendor boutique and raffle. Benefits Paoli Hospital's 3 South Inpatient Bed Expansion Campaign. 1500 Greenhill Rd., West Chester. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. House tour ticket, \$40; lunch and tour ticket, \$80. For tickets, Events.org/ES/PHASOH25 or 484-535-2639.

Bourbon and Bluegrass at Winterthur

May 9

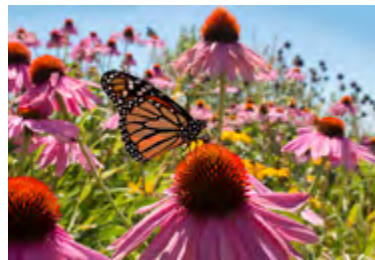
A Kentucky Derby-style celebration including four bourbon tastings, a mint julep cocktail, Winterthur rocks glass, a Southern-inspired snack box, live music and access to the garden. Rain



date, May 11. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 5 to 8 p.m. \$65; \$35 for designated driver and student; under 12, free. Reservations required. Winterthur.org.

Malvern Welcomes Spring with The Perennial Party

May 17



Bring a chair or blanket and relax while enjoying performances by a local choir and a guitarist. The Chester County Beekeepers and a master gardener will also be on

hand, giving insights into pollinators and sustainable gardening. Snacks and light refreshments will be provided. *Burke Park, 21 S. Warren Ave., Malvern. 3 to 5 p.m. Malvern.org.*

Willistown Conservation Trust Barns & BBQ

May 31

Take a glimpse into some of Chester County's iconic barns on this self-guided tour. Morning Tour, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., \$50;



Evening Barn Tour with BBQ dinner, starting at 2 p.m., \$300, with a cocktail hour, three-course meal and live music. Benefits the Trust's conservation works. 925 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. WCTrust.org.

FAMILY FUN

MAY 2, 9, 16, 30

PlayIn Time Music Circle. Get ready to dance, jam, learn and have fun in the Circle Garden. This interactive musical program is geared to children up to age 5. *Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden*, 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 10:15 am. \$24. NatLands.org.

MAY 2-4

"Frozen Jr." at Uptown. The show features all 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

Sheep & Wool Day at Springton Manor Farm. The sheep are losing their winter wool and everyone is invited to come celebrate. Enjoy shearing and spinning demonstrations, farm animals and tractors, kids inflatables, face painters, craft vendors, wagon rides, food trucks and more. 860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore. 11 to 3. Free. ChesCo.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 a special appearance from Paw Patrol. Don't miss the headline musical performance in *Burke Park*, 26 S. Warren Ave. Noon to 6 pm. MalvernBusiness.com.



MAY 10-25

"Alice in Wonderland" at Media Theatre. A perfect blend of farce and heartfelt humanity, this rendition of the classic tale promises an unforgettable experience for audiences of all ages. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

MAY 14-17

Phoenixville Dogwood Festival & Parade. The Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation continues the tradition with a midway filled with games, rides and vendors, live

music nightly at the bandshell and the Dogwood Beer Garden. Benefits local nonprofits. *Reeves Park*, 148 3rd Ave., Phoenixville. Wed-Fri, 6 to 10 pm; Sat, 1 to 10; Sun, parade at 1 pm. PhoenixvilleDogwoodFestival.org.



MAY 15, 22, 29

Winterthur—Story Time in Enchanted Woods. Ages 3–6 sit among the Story Stones to hear nature-based stories. After, they'll enjoy a sensory station with objects and activities to match the day's story. *Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library*, 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. 11 am. \$8–\$25. Winterthur.org.



MAY 16

Movies in the Park. Pack a picnic, a blanket, chairs and the family, and come out to Marshall Square Park to enjoy a movie, TBD. Food trucks on site. 405 N. Franklin St., West Chester. Starts at dusk. West-Chester.com.

MAY 18

7th Annual Brandywine Backyard BBQ Festival. Fun for the whole family with live music, BBQ, burgers, wine and beer and a variety of food trucks offering tasty desserts and drinks — all in a relaxed, picnic-style atmosphere. *New Garden Township Park*, 8938 Gap Newport Pk., Landenberg. Noon to 5. \$5; under 18, free. On Facebook.

MAY 24

Summer Kick-Off Celebration at

Hagley. Enjoy the unofficial start of summer as Hagley has something for everyone with special programs, tours, food trucks and hands-on activities for the whole family. 200 Hagley Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 4. \$10–\$20. Hagley.org.

MAY 25

West Chester Railroad Memorial Day Special. Take a relaxing trip to Glen Mills and back on a Sunday afternoon. All veterans and active military passengers ride for a special reduced fare. Trains depart Market Street Station, West Chester. Noon and 2 pm. \$5–\$25. WCRailroad.com.



MAY 31

Great American Backyard Campout. Bring your camping gear and supplies and enjoy a night outside with your family. Activities include camp cooking and fire making demos, fishing, orienteering, s'mores, movie and more. Rain date, June 14. *The Willows Park*, 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. 4 pm. To register visit Radnor.com/Campout.

JUNE 1–NOVEMBER 2

First Sundays

Steamin' Days at Auburn Heights. Climb into an antique automobile or board one of the trains and experience what it was like to travel at the turn of the 20th century. Tour the 1897 mansion that was home to three generations of the Marshall family. 3000 Creek Rd., Hockessin, DE. 12:30 to 4:30. \$8–\$15. AuburnHeights.org.

JUNE 6 & 7

Downtown Coatesville First Fridays—Strawberry Festival Special Edition. A new take on the traditional Strawberry Festival, featuring midway rides for younger children, performing arts area with live entertainment, vendors, crafts and more. Benefits the greater Coatesville community. 1st & 3rd Aves., Coatesville. 5 to 9. Free with some pay-as-you-go attractions. DowntownCoatesvillePA.com.

ART, CRAFTS & ANTQUES

See *Art Gallery Roundup* in this issue for more.

MAY 16

Craft & Mercantile Night Market. This curated night market celebrates local makers and artisans and offers live music, food and drink. Kimberton Garden & Gift Shop, 2123 Kimberton Rd., Phoenixville. 5 to 8:30 pm. GrowingRootsPartners.com.



MAY 18, JUNE 1

Clover Markets in Bryn Mawr & Kennett Square. Featuring 100 curated vendors with a wide variety of handmade and vintage goods along with food trucks, live music, beer and wine, free kids crafts and many additional shopping and dining options in town. **May 18**, 7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. **June 1**, 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 10 to 4. TheCloverMarket.com.



MAY 30-JUNE 1

Frog Hollow Art Show. Presented by Diving Cat Studio Gallery, local artists exhibit creative styles in art and craft in a uniquely restored 1790s four-story mill house. 1655 Hollow Rd., Chester Springs. Fri, Preview Party, 5 to 9; Sat-Sun, 10 to 6. 484-919-8774; FrogHollowArtShow.com.

BOOKS.....

MAY 1-JUNE 5

Wellington Square Bookshop. **NonFiction Book Group:** **May 1**, “The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny and Murder” by David Grann, 7 pm. **Classics Book Club:** **May 7**, “In Our Time” by Ernest Hemmingway, 2 pm. **Fiction Book Group:** **June 5**, “The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales” by Oliver Sacks, 7 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

MAY 7-28

Reads & Company. **The Big Reads Book Group:** **May 7**, “The Antidote” by Karen Russell. **International Voices Book Group:** **May 14**, “Hula” by Jasmin Iolani Hakes. **Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group:** **May 21**, “Story of My Life” by Lucy Score. **Then and Now Book Group:** **May 27**, “Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow” by Gabrielle Zevin. **The What’s the Tea? Book Club:** **May 28**, “Stag Dance” by Torrey Peters. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. ReadsAndCompany.com.

MAY 11-29

Main Point Book Club. **Book Launch:** **May 11**, Sawyer Lovett and his debut YA novel “Shampoo Unicorn”, 4 pm. **Fiction Book Group:** **May 20**, “Absolution” by Alice McDermott, 1 pm. **NonFiction Book Group:** **May 29**, “Be Ready When the Luck Happens” by Ina Garten, 7 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

CAR SHOWS.....

MAY 24

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Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. A community of specialty food businesses offering authentic foods for a sustainable community. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net.

Berwyn Farmers Market, 511 Old Lancaster Rd. Local farmers, producers, artisans, nonprofit organizations on hand. Sun, 10 to 1. BerwynFarmersMarket.com.

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. A producer-only farmers market uniting farmers with communities. Sat, 9 to 1. FarmToCityMarkets.com.

Market at Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fresh produce and eggs grown onsite. Fri, 2 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 3. DelNature.org.

Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania Ave. A marketplace for local farmers, food producers and artisans offering locally sourced and crafted goods. Sat, 9 to 1. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. See *Downingtown Farmers Market*. Thurs, 3 to 6. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Farmer Jawn Agriculture at Westtown Farm Store, 1225 E. Street Rd., West Chester. Fresh, locally grown produce and goods from local makers. Tues & Wed, 10 to 6; Thurs–Fri, 10 to 7; Sat–Sun, 9 to 5. FarmerJawn.co.

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 600 S. Broad St. A variety of locally grown products offered to the

community. Updates in the weekly What's Fresh newsletter. Fri, 3 to 6. KSQFarmersMarket.com.

Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. A huge variety of meats, produce, cheeses, flowers and gifts at this indoor market. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.

Malvern Farmers Market, Burke Park, 26 S. Warren Ave. A marketplace for local farmers, food producers and artisans offering locally sourced and crafted goods. Sat, 9 to 1. GrowingRootsPartners.com.

Media Farmers Market, Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. A producer-only farmers market uniting farmers with communities. Sun, 10 to 1. FarmToCityMarkets.com.

New Garden Growers Market, 8934 Gap Newport Pk., Landenberg. Local farmers, artists and crafters gather in the township parking lot. Sat, 9 to noon. On Facebook.

Newtown Square Food & Makers Mkt., 3625 Chapel Rd. Local vendors, live music, story time and community fun in St. Alban's. 2nd Fri, 4 to 7. On Facebook.

Oxford Village Market, 193 Limestone Rd. Locally sourced produce, handmade crafts and antiques. Thurs, 8 to 6; Fri, 8 to 7; Sat, 8 to 5. OxfordFarmMarketPA.com.

Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. A wide variety from produce, to cheese, meats, fish, flowers and artisan food products. Sat, 9 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.

Pottstown Farmers Mkt., 100 E. High St. Offering fresh produce, specialty foods and unique crafts. Every other Sat starting May 10, 9–1. PottstownFarm.org.

Royersford Farmers Market, 2nd Ave. across from Victory Park. Locally sourced and crafted goods by farmers, artisans and entrepreneurs from the area. Sat, 9 to noon. RoyersfordFarmersMarket.com.

Swarthmore Farmers Market, 121 Park Ave., next to Swarthmore Borough Hall. Vendors, artists, musicians and kids activities are offered. Starting May 10, Sat, 9 to noon. SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org.

Thornbury Farmers Mkt. & CSA, 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. Farm market fare plus award-winning extra virgin olive oil and ice cream. Thurs–Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 9 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. ThornburyFarmCSA.com.

Thornton Farmers Mkt., 330 Glen Mills Rd. Produce, products and creations from local farmers, crafters and food artisans. Start May 24, Sat, 10 to 1. On Facebook.

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. Celebrating its 30th year with a weekly roster of 28 producers offering seasonal fruits & vegetables as well as meats, cheese, local wines and more. Sat, 9 to 1. WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.

Westtown Amish Market, 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. An indoor market with a wide variety of vendors and special events. Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4. WestChesterAmishMarket.com.

For more visit the *Chester County Farm Guide* online, Chesco.org/JAGDEV/FarmGuide



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.

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BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org 215.345.2191

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Proceeds benefit the Doylestown Health Foundation and the mission of the VIA.

Doylestown Health Foundation

Village Improvement Association of Doylestown

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

Show. Featuring antique and classic cars, street rods, trucks, flea market, food vendors, music and raffle. Benefits the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Rain date, May 25. 853 E. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. 9 to 3. CCACC.Club.



MAY 25

44th Anniversary Chester County Mustang & Ford Show. Hosted by the Valley Forge Mustang Club, this long-running show features awards, auctions, food, music and more. Rain date, May 26. Kimberton Fire Co. & Fairgrounds, 61 Firehouse Ln., Phoenixville. 9 to 3. For details, TheVFMCo.org.

MAY 31

Penn Park Car Show. A great afternoon that includes food trucks, beer garden, family-friendly activities, music, raffle baskets and unique cars and other vehicles. Penn Township Park, 260 Lewis Rd., West Grove. Noon to 4. Free. AllEvents.in.

JUNE 1

State Street Car Show in Media. Hosted by Media Business Authority and managed by the Historical Car Club of PA, the show is free and open to the public from noon to 3 pm on State St., Media. Free parking in Media borough public lots. VisitMediaPA.com.

JUNE 7

Ales & Petals—Cars & Motorcycles of England Car Show. Enjoy food, live music, craft beers and tour one of the largest British motoring shows on the East Coast with over 250 classic British cars and motorcycles. Historic Hope Lodge, 553 Bethlehem Pk., Ft. Washington. 10 to 4. \$10; 12 and under, free. HistoricHopeLodge.org/Ales-Petals-Car-Show.

DANCE.....

MAY 17 & 18

Brandywine Ballet Presents "Sleeping Beauty." The story of Princess Aurora, who was born to the king and queen of a magical fairytale kingdom and cursed by a wicked fairy. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Sat, noon and 4 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$30–\$50. BrandywineBallet.org

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

See *Steeplechase and Devon Horse Show* articles in this issue.

MAY 17 & 18

Derby at The Vineyard. A hunter derby



horse show in Penns Woods' vineyard with wine, local beer and cider, live music, food trucks, artisan vendors and more. Penns Woods Winery, 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. 10 to 6. \$15. PennsWoodsWinery.com/Derby.

MAY 25–SEPTEMBER 28

Fridays & Sundays


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

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MAY 24 & 25

Therapeutic Riders Division. *May 24*, riders of all abilities compete in equitation, dressage and trail classes at Thorncroft Equestrian Center, 190 Line Rd., Malvern. *May 25*, presentation of trophies and championship class at the grounds of the Devon Horse Show Grounds, Rt. 30, Devon. Benefits Thorncroft. 190 Line Rd., Malvern. Thorncroft.org.

FESTIVALS & FAIRS

MAY 3

Annapolis, MD Irish Festival. Join the crowd for great bands, food and drink at this family-friendly event, with lots of activities for all ages. Anne Arundel County Fairgrounds, 1450 Generals Hwy., Crownsville, MD. 11 am to 9 pm. \$20–\$50. ABCEventsInc.com.



MAY 4

Cinco de Mayo Festival in Kennett Square. Festival celebrating traditions, art and history of the Mexican community with vendors, live music, dances and arts and crafts. 600 S. Broad Street Parking Lot, Kennett Square. 2 to 7 pm. KennettCollaborative.org.

MAY 10 & 11

Mother's Day Market at the Vineyard. Enjoy wine, live music, food trucks and an artisan market with local vendors. Penns Woods Winery, 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. Sat, noon to 7; Sun, noon to 6. PennsWoodsWinery.com.

MAY 17

The 63rd Fair Hill Scottish Games. Enjoy a day of iconic athletics, music, dancing, food and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture. Rain or shine. Fair Hill Grounds, 4600 Telegraph Rd., Elkton, MD. Gates open 8 am. \$10–\$25. FairhillScottishGames.org.



MAY 26

Memorial Day Parade in Kennett Square. A great hometown parade featuring bands, veterans, reenactors, dancers, antique cars, bagpipers, fire and drum corps, fire trucks and more. Starts at Kennett High School, 100 E. South St. and ends at Union Hill Cemetery. 10 am. KennettCollaborative.org.

MAY 26

Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony. Come for the annual Memorial Day celebration. A brief Memorial Ceremony will immediately follow the parade at the corner of Runnymede and S. Wayne Aves. Parade starts at 9:45 am. RadnorMemorialDay.org.

MAY 26

Memorial Day Parade in Media. The Veterans Legacy Project and Media Borough host the annual parade, which starts at Barrall Field, at the intersection of State and Edgmont Sts., Media. Ceremony at the Delaware County Courthouse immediately following. 10:30 am. VisitMediaPA.com.



JUNE 1

Malvern's 157th Parade and 209th Memorial Ceremony. The Upper Main Line Memorial Assoc. sponsors this event that begins on King St. at the fire station and ends at Memorial Park on Monument Ave. 1:30 pm. MalvernMemorialParade.com.

FOOD & BREWS

MAY–SEPTEMBER

Wednesdays

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

MAY 2

Community Supper Series Picnic at Willistown Conservation Trust. Enjoy a sunset picnic overlooking Rushton Farm featuring local food producer Vesta Kitchen's homemade barbecue menu, Deer Creek Malthouse craft beer and barley tea and live music. Rushton Farm, 911 Delchester Rd., Newtown Square. 5:30 to 8. \$10. WCTrust.org.

What's Happening at West Chester University

WCU's spring semester comes to a close and brings events for the community to enjoy. For more, check WCUPA.edu.

Music on Campus

May 1. Concert on the Quad featuring the WCU Symphony Orchestra & Criterions. Held outside Main Hall, 720 S. High St. 4:30 pm.

May 2. Criterions Jazz Ensemble Concert. Madeleine Wing Adler Theatre, 817 S. High St. 7:30 pm.



May 3 & 4. WCU Opera Theatre presents "Hansel and Gretel." Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St. Sat, 7:30 pm; Sun, 3 pm.

May 5. WCU Trumpet Ensemble Concert. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St. Sat, 7:30 pm.

WCU Graduation Weekend May 9–11

Commencement ceremonies bring family and friends to our area. Plan for traffic near campus and crowded restaurants. Commencement will be held at sites around campus.



MAY 8

ACT in Faith's Annual Chef's Best Food Truck Event. Guests taste the offerings from competing food trucks and vote for their favorite. Proceeds support ACT in Faith of Greater West Chester. Goodwill Fire Hall, 552 E. Union St., West Chester. 6 to 9 pm. \$100. ACTInFaith-GWC.org.

MAY 10

Pints on the Preserve. East Branch Brewing Company will be pouring suds at ChesLen Preserve's Lenfest Center pavilion. Purchase food truck fare, enjoy hiking and fun for the whole family. LaMancha Animal Rescue will be on hand from 3 to 5 pm, so you can meet adorable, adoptable dogs. 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 3 to 7 pm. Free. NatLands.org.



MAY 24 & 25

FlavorFest at Mount Hope. Enjoy samplings from over 25 wineries and distilleries and shop with unique merchants of all types, then grab a bite at one of the onsite kitchens. 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. 11 to 5. \$24.95; ages 12–20, \$6.95; under 12, free. PARenFaire.com.

MAY 29

Wine & Wander at Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden. Enjoy an exclusive, after-hours tour featuring plants and wine. Take an evening stroll through the garden and enjoy a specially curated sampling of four different natural wines. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 5:30 pm. \$75. NatLands.org.



MAY 30

Brandywine Zoo—Brew at the Zoo. Visit the zoo after hours and enjoy a variety of beer, wine and spirit tastings, light fare and ice cream, live music and animal encounters. Food and beverages are included in admission ticket. Brandywine Park, 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$35–\$55. BrandywineZoo.org.

JUNE 1–6

Restaurant Week Supports the Red, White & Blue on the Culinary Coast. Diners can enjoy either menu discounts or prefix menus at restaurants in Rehoboth Beach,

Dewey Beach, Lewes and Coastal Delaware. Benefits military and first responders. BeachFun.com/Restaurant-Week.html.

JUNE 4–AUGUST 27

Wednesdays

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

FUNDRAISERS.....

See also, Food & Brews and Outdoor Activities.

MAY 1

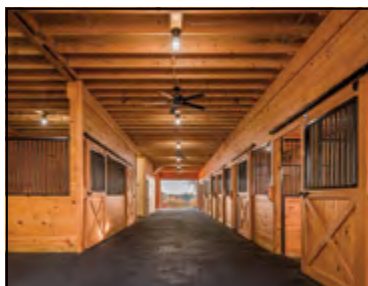
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western Main Line features “notable” local chefs offering a variety of samples of their cuisine and florists who provide arrangements to accentuate each home’s decor. Hosted by the Main Line Committee for the Philadelphia Orchestra. 10 to 3. \$50. NotableKitchens.org.

MAY 1

“All That’s Purple Affair.” The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County’s annual gala 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. 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.

MAY 4

19th Annual Victorious Woman Celebration—The Girlfriend Gala. Join in for an afternoon of networking and supporting Unite for HER’s Wellness Program. Enjoy appetizers, lunch, swag bag, silent auction, raffles and more. Penn Oaks Golf Club, 150 Penn Oaks Dr., West Chester. 4 pm. \$75. EventBrite.com/e/Girlfriend-Gala-2025-Tickets-1271751937279.

MAY 9

Bridge of Hope Spring Gala. Celebrate the mission to end family homelessness with live entertainment, a silent auction and luncheon. Doubletree, 2400 Willow Street Pk., Lancaster. Doors open at 10:30; luncheon and program, 1:30. For tickets visit BridgeOfHopeInc.org/Gala.

MAY 10

2025 Annual Uptown Gala: Moments of Magic. Mark your calendars for a night to remember featuring cocktail hour, gourmet small plates, open bar, live music and entertainers and a performance by illusionist Anthony Salazar. Benefits Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center’s mission to bring world-class arts and culture to our community. 5:30. \$125. UptownWestChester.org.

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May 18th
1-4 pm

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MAY 16

People’s Light High Five-O Event—In Good Company. Company artists gather to toast 50 years of ensemble work through performances and reminiscence. Benefits the theater. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. 6 pm. \$100. PeoplesLight.org.

MAY 18

The Arc of Chester County Bubble Walk & Fun Day. Enjoy food, music, dancing, activities and more at this event held by The Arc of Chester County, advocating for individuals with disabilities and their families. West Goshen Com-

munity Park, 900 Lawrence Dr., West Chester. 11 to 2. \$10–\$30. ArcOfChesterCounty.org.

GARDENS

See Home & Garden article in this issue.

MUSEUMS

THROUGH MAY 11

Brandywine Museum of Art. “Robert Frank & Todd Webb: Across America, 1955.” 1 Hoffman’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 Warhol: 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

MAY 2–16

The Keswick Theatre. *May 2*, Leonid & Friends, tribute to the band Chicago; *May 3*, The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA; *May 10*, Almost Queen; *May 16*, Trisha Yearwood. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Visit website for more. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

MAY 2–23

At The Grand in Wilmington. *May 2*, Micky Dolenz of The Monkees; *May 3*, Saturday Night Jokes; *May 7*, Jon Anderson and The Band Geeks perform the music of Yes; *May 10*, The Weight Band; *May 23*, Roger McGuinn. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Visit website for more. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

MAY 3–21

At The Colonial Theatre in Phoenixville. *May 3*, Shannon Curtis: 80s kids; *May 17*, The Ledbetter & Superunknown: Tributes to Pearl Jam & Chris Cornell; *May 21*, Phoenixville Area High School’s Vocal Fusion Spring Concert. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Visit website for more. Times and tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.

MAY 3

Chester County Choral Society Concert—



Mozart Requiem. The choral society joins forces with the Brandywine Valley Chorale and Unionville High School Chamber Choir, featuring over 170 voices along with professional soloists and orchestra. Unionville High School, 740 Unionville Rd., Kennett Square. 7:30. \$20. ChesCoChoral.org.

MAY 4

Delaware County Symphony Concert. “The Planets” featuring the music of Louise Farrenc, Peter Illyich Tchaikovsky and Gustav Holst. Neumann University, Meagher Theatre, 1 Neumann Dr., Aston. 3 pm. \$20–\$25. DCSCMusic.org.

MAY 10

Mother’s Day Chamber Music with Kennett Square String Quartet. A Mother’s Day celebration with intimate chamber music by members of Kennett Symphony’s String Quartet in Copeland Lecture Hall at Winterthur, 5105 Kennett Pk., (Rt. 52) Winterthur. 11 to 2. \$25. KennettSymphony.org.

MAY 15–31

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *May 15*, Chelsea Reed and the Fair Weather Band; *May 16–18*, “Mean Girls, High School Version”; *May 22*, The Laugh Lounge with Heather Shaw; *May 31*, The Great Dubois—Master of Variety.

Chester County Library System's Summer Reading Program June to August 2025

- Sign up at your local library or set up a Beanstack account to track your family's summer reading progress.
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226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

MAY 17

West Chester Porchfest 2025. Organized by the West Chester Green Team, this family-friendly event invites you to stroll from porch to porch and relax on front lawns and sidewalks as you enjoy live music from over 70 bands, plus food trucks, kids activities and more. 1 to 7 pm. WestChesterPorchfest.com.



MAY 29

Media Theatre Special Event: Cricket Comedy. Get your laughs on with comedian Tom Cotter. 104 E. State St., Media. 7:30 pm. \$30. MediaTheatre.org.

MAY 29, JUNE 26

Concerts in the Parks. Bring a chair or blanket

and kick back to enjoy live music. Bands TBD. Food trucks on site. **May 29**, Hoopes Park, 700 Hoopes Park Ln.; **June 26**, Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St.; West-Chester.com.

MAY 30

WXPN Welcomes The Ladybug Music Festival. A celebration of women in music with a 100% female-fronted lineup, giving platforms to women in all areas of music event production. Venues located on the 400 and 500 blocks of Market St., Wilmington. Free. TheLadybugFestival.com.

JUNE 1

Historic Yellow Springs Jazz at the Springs. Bring lawn chairs, your family and enjoy an afternoon of jazz at this annual outdoor music festival, held in the field behind the Chester Springs Studio. Food and beverages available for purchase. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 3 to 5:30 pm. Free. YellowSprings.org.



OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

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

Cinco de Mayo Benefit Bike Ride & Walk. Cyclists with and without disabilities support the PA Center for Adapted Sports. Pick your distance from one mile to 23 miles on the Ches-



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ter Valley Trail or 25- and 50-mile road routes. Chester Valley Trail Parking Area, 140 Church Farm Ln., Exton. Reg., 7:30. \$50. Post-ride fiesta at noon. CincoDeMayoRide.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.

MAY 10

14th Annual Main Line Animal Rescue Tails & Trails 5K Run/2K Walk. Rescue. Run. Repeat. Make a difference in the lives of animals in need while having fun with friends, family and



furry companions. 1149 Pike Springs Rd., Chester Springs. 7:30 to noon. \$10-\$40. PSCA.org.

MAY 17 & 18

Tough Mudder. Participants test themselves against miles of muddy, winding trails and legendary obstacles. Plantation Field, 387 N. Green Valley Rd., Unionville. 8 to 5. Spectator and mudder village pass, \$15. ToughMudder.com.



JUNE 5

13th Annual Trail Blazer Run. Three events are offered: a 5 Mile Run, 5K Run and the 1.5 Mile Fun Run for families and youngsters. Benefits East Bradford Township's public trails program. Participants receive a free beer from Artillery Brewing Co. (root beer for minors) and a race t-shirt. 1300 Valley Creek Rd., Downingtown. 6 pm. \$20-\$30. EastBradford.org.

THEATER.....

THROUGH MAY 18

Special Presentation: Hershey Felder as Monsieur Chopin at People's Light. A romantic story and music of Polish pianist-composer, Fryderyk Chopin, set in Chopin's Parisian salon teaches a piano lesson that actually took place March 1848. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

THROUGH MAY 18

"Forever Plaid" at Fulton Theatre. Sing along to the songs and enjoy the delightful patter that keeps audiences rolling in the aisles when they're not humming along to some of the great pop hits of the 1950s. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

MAY 2-4

"Hadestown" at The Playhouse. Two mythic tales—that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of King Hades and his wife Persephone—are intertwined as the play takes you on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-888-0200; TheGrandWilmington.org.

MAY 2-25

"Grease" at Media Theatre. Oh those sum-

Friday, May 30: 5:30 PM–8:30 PM

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mer nights! Coming to the Media Theatre stage is Rydell High's senior class of 1959. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

MAY 29–JUNE 22

"Cooking with the Calamari Sisters" at Delaware Theatre Company. Hilarity, failed dishes and food during this live "broadcast" of a cooking show. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-594-1100; DelawareTheatre.org.

MAY 30 & 31

The Savoy Company Presents "The Mikado." Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular work, performed at Longwood's Open Air Theatre, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 8:30 pm. \$24–39, includes all-day gardens admission. LongwoodGardens.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS

MAY 2

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.

MAY 2–SEPTEMBER 28

Open-Air Market in West Chester. Four blocks of Gay Street (from Matlack to Darlington Street) are closed to vehicles so everyone can enjoy all fresco dining and shopping. Gay Street will be shut down for the Open-Air Market every weekend (Fri morning through Mon morning). DowntownWestChester.com.

MAY 15–OCTOBER 16

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

MAY 17 & 18

HerStory: A Timeline of Women in America. A living history encampment that brings the stories of American women's lives in the 19th century to the spotlight through display, demonstration, performance and presentations. Presented by Historic Sugartown, 260 Spring Rd., Malvern. 10 to 4. \$10. HistoricSugartown.org.

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. Victory Brewing, 420 Acorn Ln., Downingtown. 6 to 9. \$20. MyCCHC.org.

MAY 23–OCTOBER 6

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

MAY 29– SEPTEMBER 9

Wednesdays

West Chester TAPS. Enjoy a borough-wide happy hour to unwind with friends every Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm. Participating locations offer select \$5 beers, \$6 wines and \$7 cocktails plus half-price appetizers. DowntownWestChester.com for locations. ♦

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:

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Chester County's Garden Legacy

FROM MAIL-ORDER CATALOG TO PEACE AND KNOCK OUT ROSES

Jennifer Green, Chester County History Center



1

CHESTER COUNTY MAY HAVE BUILT ITS COLONIAL reputation on agriculture, but its rich soil also allowed other industries to blossom here. And long before Longwood Gardens put Chester County on the horticultural map, other enterprising individuals made their names not just by studying but by selling plants.

In fact, the county's roots in commercial botany go back to Humphry Marshall — of Marshall Square Park fame — who not only published a book of American trees and shrubs in 1785 called “*Arbustrum Americanum*” but also used it as a sort of mail-order catalog a century before Sears and Roebuck got into the business.

Other figures like Joseph Kift, who started his nursery in West Chester, made waves in the horticultural world with his introduction of the Easter lily from Bermuda. In addition, on 600 acres northeast of the borough, Josiah Hoopes's Maple Avenue Nurseries was the largest producer of peach trees in the United States by 1898.

But one of the most lasting businesses in the county was certainly the Conard-Pyle Company.

CONARD-PYLE CO.

Starting with a mail-order plant and seed business 10 years before the Civil War, Alfred Conard later partnered with Morris Jones in 1897 to form Conard & Jones Co. In 1899, the partners hired Robert Pyle, a whirlwind salesman who took the company into the 20th century. When Conard died in 1906, Pyle purchased the business, naming it Conard-Pyle Co.

Pyle determined early on that his company should have a specialty, and for that specialty he chose roses. He further decided that his roses must instill unshakeable confidence in buyers. Pyle believed the best way to do that was to identify his product with a distinctive symbol and to back that symbol with an assurance that every plant would be replaced if it failed to bloom during its first natural season.

That was when “Star Roses” were born.

When Sidney Hutton joined the company during the Great Depression, he introduced the idea of expanding the business beyond just mail-order. He noted that customers stopped by the nursery all the time, so instead of treating those visits as a nuisance, he urged starting a cash-and-carry option.

Soon, Conard-Pyle opened retail spots to the public in West Grove, Jennersville and even Lancaster. In the summer, customers could visit their “living catalog” and see all the latest rose cultivars in bloom.

ROSE OF PEACE

Pyle also partnered with hybridizers around the world, including a most lucrative partnership with Francis Meilland in Cap d'Antibes, France. In the late 1930s, Meilland developed a stunning new hybrid tea rose he called “Mme. A. Meilland,” but the clouds of war and a possible invasion of France inspired Meilland to ship cuttings to Germany, Italy and the United States.

Until June 1945, the Meillands had no idea what had become of the rose in America until they received word from Conard-Pyle



1. The Conard-Pyle rose fields at the corner of State Road and Rose Hill Road in West Grove, 1950
2. Red Rose Rent Day in Jennersville around 1939
3. The Conard-Pyle sign in West Grove
4. Sidney Hutton in Conard-Pyle's Living Catalog in West Grove, 1961



that the company had successfully cultivated it. The name “Peace” was chosen for this tea rose.

The ceremony at which “Peace” was formally introduced took place on April 29, 1945 — coincidentally, the day Berlin fell. Soon after, 49 delegates to the United Nations received a single “Peace” rose. The Duke of Windsor himself said he had never seen another rose like it: “It is certainly the most beautiful rose in the world.”

Later, in 1976, the World Federation of Rose Societies chose “Peace” as the World’s Favorite Rose — the first year the prize was given — and inducted it into the Rose Hall of Fame. In 2018, the U.S. Postal Service issued a Forever stamp celebrating the Peace Rose.

TURNING OVER NEW LEAVES

When Robert Pyle died in 1951, Sidney Hutton purchased the company, kicking off three generations of Hutton family ownership. Under Hutton leadership, Conard-Pyle introduced the Knock Out family of roses in 2000, which became the most commercially

Red Rose Rent Day

To increase acreage for growing roses, in 1928 the Conard-Pyle Co. purchased a tract of land in Jennersville, which included what’s now known as the Red Rose Inn. Determined to restore the old inn, the company started doing research and discovered an interesting proviso attached to the land.

In 1731, the Jennersville parcel was deeded to William Penn IV, grandson of the founder of Pennsylvania, on condition of an annual payment of a single red rose, when demanded. The proviso was included in several later deeds, then gradually forgotten. But Robert Pyle, amused that the land would now be used to grow acres of roses, decided to renew the ceremony.

For decades, beginning in 1937, Conard-Pyle presented a single red rose to a descendent of William Penn, using Red Rose Rent Day to debut new rose varieties. The tradition died out in the 1980s but was revived for a one-time event in 2021 when Steve Hutton, retired former president of Conard-Pyle, presented roses once again to Cuyler Walker, a descendent of William Penn.



Francis Meilland at Red Rose Rent Day, 1947

successful group of roses ever introduced. The company’s products grew to include hardy perennials, shrubs and trees, plus over 300 plant patents.

In 2015, CEO Steve Hutton made the difficult decision to sell the company. He hand-picked Ball Horticultural Company as the new owner and stayed on to assist with the transition.

Today, two Star Roses offices are still located in Chester County, serving as part of the worldwide Ball Horticultural Family. The company maintains ties with the Meilland family’s rose-breeding business, and Star Roses continue to be found in garden centers and retail stores across the country. ♦

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.



Flavorful Flora:

ENJOYING EDIBLE FLOWERS

ELEVATE YOUR MEALS WITH BLOSSOMS FROM YOUR GARDEN.

Terry Miller, Herb Society of America, Phila. Unit



HAVE YOU EVER NOSHD A nasturtium or tasted a tulip? Edible flowers can be such a delight to both the eyes and the palate. Some posies on a plate or in a dish elevate the appeal of the meal and enhance the invitation to dine.

Eating flowers is making another comeback — not surprising for a practice with a long history. The Chinese incorporated daylily buds into their cuisine for centuries. Dianthus were used to make cordials in medieval times, and dandelion wine has been around for years. You may notice more edible flowers cropping up in meals.

I've been captivated by edible flowers for four decades and have found a floral enhancement in a meal makes guests feel special. They may comment about how much trouble you've taken. Rather than reply as I had for years that I just walked to my yard, now I say, "Oh, you're worth it!"

A FEW POSSIBILITIES

Nasturtiums are probably the first edible flower that comes to mind to most people. These colorful flowers have a peppery bite similar to arugula, and they're a wonderful addition to salads.

The blossoms can also be used to infuse vinegar, imparting both color and flavor. Be sure to rinse and spin dry the blossoms before covering them with white wine vinegar, as water can cause cloudiness. Just strain out the spent blossoms after infusing and enjoy the enhanced vinegar in your salad or other dishes. For another use, try herbed cream cheese balls nestled in nasturtium centers — that's a real show-stopping appetizer.

Other familiar edible flowers include all members of the viola family. **Pansies, violets, violas and Johnny jump-ups** are more than just pretty faces. They can be candied by painting them with egg whites, coating with a fine sugar, and then letting them dry. Candied flowers are a lovely adornment to a special cake. Freshly picked Johnnys perch pertly atop deviled eggs, or darker pansies smile through rice paper wraps of spring rolls, and wild violets make an exotic jelly. Plus all violas pop against a backdrop of salad greens.

Perhaps surprisingly, **tulips** are edible and taste like peas. But unfortunately, the deer know how delicious tulips are as well. If you can rescue a few tulips from your garden to

Words of Caution

There are a few rules to keep in mind as you begin your forage of flora.

Carefully consider where the flowers originated and how they were grown. Be certain the flowers are organically grown and pesticide free. Even flowers from your own garden need to be pristine to be safely edible.

No matter how inviting the flowers, begin by tasting them in small amounts, especially if you have allergies or asthma.

Take care to remove the pistils and stamens. In daylilies and tulips, these are easy to remove. But for small flowers, such as violas, it's virtually impossible to remove all pollen (alert to the highly sensitive).

Roadside flowers have absorbed toxins and should not be eaten. Wildflowers are similarly suspect. Nor should flowers from a florist be eaten, since the origins and use of sprays are unknown.

Learn to identify poisonous plants — such as foxglove, oleander, lily of the valley — as well as the edibles. Use a trusted source or app to verify edibles.

And most important, if there's any doubt whether it's safe to eat, don't!



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enjoy, carefully remove the center pistil and anthers, rinse, and then fill the cup with chicken or tuna salad for a dish that makes a lasting impression.

Another larger edible flower, **daylilies** delight when upended into a glass and filled with a scoop of sorbet, again, after clearing the center of pistil and anthers. They have a range of flavors from floral to metallic. I find the lighter yellow and peach colors taste better than the orange and deeper colors. As the name suggests, daylilies only last a day, so make the most of them!

Shortbread cookies take on a marvelous flavor when **lavender** is added to the mix. Lavender can overpower, so don't add too much. Be sure to use only culinary lavender, as the wrong choice can add a camphor taste that's unappealing. Another option: strawberry-lavender jam treats the palate to the sweetness of the strawberry with a lavender finish. And lavender is a wonderful addition to drinks.

Even the humble **rose** can be candied, scattered over a dish, or made into a delicious ice cream. At the base of each petal is a white tip that ideally should be removed before use, as it tends to be bitter.

Can't decide on one type of flower to add? Try **flowerfetti**, a mixture of fresh or dried flowers used to adorn cakes or sprinkled on cheeses and ice cream. Several different kinds of edible flowers can be combined to create the festive addition. Consider marigolds, cornflowers, roses, calendula and pineapple sage as just some of the possible combinations that give the feeling of a celebration.

HERBS AND VEGETABLE SOURCES

In addition to certain decorative flowers, the flowers of all culinary herbs are edible. Probably the best



3



4

1. Nasturtium blossoms can be used to infuse vinegar
2. Pansies and other members of the viola family can be candied by painting them with egg whites and coating with a fine sugar
3. Tulips are edible and taste like peas
4. Daylilies have a range of flavors from floral to metallic



5. Lavender makes a wonderful addition to drinks
6. Chive blossoms can be used for herbal vinegar, incorporated into butter or added to a salad
7. Fried courgette (zucchini) flowers are a delicacy
8. Roses can be made into delicious ice cream

PHOTO CREDIT: PHENO GENO ROSES

known are **chive blossoms**. Chives that bloom in late spring with their dazzling light purple orbs can be used for herbal vinegar, incorporated into butter, or just added for a colorful accent to a salad. The tiny florets should be separated, as consuming the entire blossom head at once gives an overwhelming onion flavor. Also consider **garlic chive blossoms** that grace August gardens. These florets are a lovely accent to soup, butter or a vegetable-laden white pizza appetizer.

Slipper-shaped **flowers of peas and bean plants** have a mild flavor of the vegetables they produce. Do remember that eating the attractive flower means no veggies are produced, so plant extra if you want both. Two varieties to try: the Sugar Magnolia pea has a bicolor lavender/purple bloom, and the scarlet runner bean lives up to its name with a brilliant red blossom.

You've likely already enjoyed **squash blossoms** — perhaps stuffed with goat cheese, battered or fried. The female flowers grow close to the base of the plant, and the male flowers have a long stem. Picking the male flowers won't sacrifice the squash production, but keep a few males for pollination. Careful harvest of a female flower attached to a developing courgette (French for zucchini) is a delicacy.

I hope you share my view that edible flowers are guaranteed to invite, excite and delight by enhancing any dining experience. Enjoy! ♦

The Philadelphia Unit of the Herb Society's 86th Annual Herb Sale is on Thursday, May 8, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., in the meadow at Historic Yellow Springs, rain or shine. Herbs at the sale are arranged alphabetically along the perimeter of the meadow around tables displaying specialty plants, including many scented geraniums and unusual salvias. Cash or check only. Stay for lunch and order a box lunch (\$18, by Apr. 30) provided by Dixie Picnic. 610-993-3344; HSAPhiladelphia.org.

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Art Gallery Roundup

DISCOVER ART SHOWS, TOURS AND EXHIBITIONS IN THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY THIS SPRING

Shannon Montgomery

SPRING HAS FINALLY SPRUNG, BRINGING SUNNY days, beautiful blooms and inspiring works by local artists from across the Brandywine Valley. *County Lines* country is blossoming with art shows, tours, exhibits and more events. It's the perfect time to explore our area's flourishing art scene.

We've rounded up area art galleries and events for you to explore, plus a self-guided tour of downtown West Chester's murals. Of course, there's more art on display at our local museums — see our Best Local Events section in this issue for details.

Mark your calendars for these exciting encounters with art.



52ND ANNUAL YELLOW SPRINGS ART SHOW

A beloved spring tradition for over 50 years, the Yellow Springs Art Show returns April 26 to May 11. Explore an impressive collection of over 4,000 works of art by more than 200 juried artists in the historic Lincoln Building galleries, open daily from 10 to 4. The exhibition spans two floors, with the popular second-floor "mini" galleries showcasing small-scale pieces (11"x14" or smaller) — great for new art collectors.

The show kicks off with an opening gala on Friday, April 25 from 6 to 9 p.m., when you can be one of the first to shop the 2025 collection while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and wine. Or visit during Happy Hour on Friday, May 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. for an evening of stunning artwork, delicious appetizers and a cash bar. Tickets for both events are available online.

Celebrate Mother's Day (Sunday, May 11) with Art Around the Village, a family-friendly day of artist demos, live music, kids activities, food trucks and more in the picturesque historic village. Maybe you'll find the perfect gift for mom.

Admission is free, and proceeds from art sales support Historic Yellow Springs' conservation projects, arts education and historical programs. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. HistoricYellowSprings.org.



WEST CHESTER SPRING GALLERY WALK

Discover a wide variety of artwork, connect with fellow creatives and find the perfect piece for your home at West Chester's Spring Gallery Walk, Friday, May 2 from 4 to 8 p.m. Hosted by Downtown West Chester, this self-guided art tour includes free, on-street metered parking starting at 4 p.m.

Download or pick up a brochure at more than 20 participating locations to start your tour. Local galleries, including newly opened ArtSho on East Market Street, and "one-night-only" venues showcase some of Chester County's talented artists. As an added bonus, presenting sponsor Founders Brewing Co. will provide beer at each location to sip while you survey the art.

After your tour, enjoy the start of the Gay Street Open-Air Market, which closes four blocks of Gay Street (Matlack to Darlington Streets) to vehicles on weekends through September 28. You've earned an al fresco dinner at one of the fine restaurants there!

For more fun, mark your calendar for the Fall Gallery Walk on Friday, October 3. DowntownWestChester.com.

17TH ANNUAL WAYNE ART CENTER PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

One of the longest-running outdoor painting events in the country, the Wayne Art Center Plein Air Festival returns May 4 to 10. For six days, 32 artists from around the country travel across the region (within 30 miles of Wayne) to create 300 original works, drawing inspiration from the historical architecture and lush landscapes that make the Brandywine Valley so special. All paintings will be completed on site and from direct observation — in other words, *en plein air*.

The week culminates with the Collectors' Preview & Sale, May 10 at the Wayne Art Center. Meet the artists, sample hors d'oeuvres, sip martinis flowing from a hand-sculpted ice luge and take in the sounds of live jazz. Over \$25,000 in prizes will be awarded for the best paintings.

Throughout the festival and exhibition (on display until June 21), the Art Center hosts workshops, lectures, kids activities and more. On Mother's Day (May 11, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.), enjoy Minis and Mimosa for Mom — a special exhibition of miniature paintings featuring, of course, mimosas. See the full schedule of events and register online.

413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. WaynePleinAir.org.

PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDA CARPENTER



CHESTER COUNTY STUDIO TOUR

Celebrating 15 years, the Chester County Studio Tour showcases local artists across the county on May 17 and 18. Take a peek behind the scenes of 170 artists across 60 studios open to the public for the weekend. Artists will be available to discuss their works — painting, sculpture, jewelry, photography, clay, glass, paper and fiber — with buyers and tourgoers, offering a glimpse into their creative processes.

Design your own self-guided tour on the County Studio Tour interactive website. Choose your favorite artists, click "Add to Itinerary," and let Google Maps plot the most efficient route, providing turn-by-turn directions to each studio. Or use the "Find 5!" feature to find the five studios nearest you.

This year, get a sneak peak of the tour at the Chester County Art Association. "The Pre'View': Preview the Art of the Chester County Studio Tour" runs May 8 to 31, with an opening reception on May 8 from 5 to 7.

For a special keepsake, the County Collectors Series offers original framed 6"x6" artworks for \$90. CountyStudioTour.com.



ART GALLERY AT DEVON, HORSE SHOW, THAT IS

In between events in the Dixon Oval, drop by the Art Gallery at Devon for a fine selection of art. See the Devon Horse Show article in this issue.

LOCAL ART GALLERIES

1. During West Chester's Gallery Walk and beyond, check out **The Art Trust at Meridian Bank**. On display through May 9, "Uncommon Nature" explores how contemporary artists see the natural world in fresh, unexpected ways while still capturing its raw beauty and sense of wonder, featuring 10 regional artists working across a variety of mediums.

Next up is "Text Me," May 14 to June 27, highlighting the powerful intersection of language and visual form, where written words become integral to expressing emotion, nuance and layered meaning. Visit during the artists' reception (May 16, 5 to 8) or artists' talk (June 5, 7 to 8). 16 W. Market St., West Chester. TheArtTrust.org.



1. Denise Sedor,
"Wildwoods" at The Art
Trust at Meridian Bank



2. Elizabeth Endres,
"Just Picked Flowers" at
Somerville Manning Gallery



3. Garden Sculpture
Exhibition at the
Main Line Art Center



4. Delaware Valley
Art League
plein air painting event



5. West Chester
University 2025 Senior
BFA Exhibition

PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID JOHANSON



6. "Les Chevaux Blancs de
Camargue" at Sunset Hill
Fine Arts Gallery



7. Ginkgo Arts



8. Glasswork by
Laura Sallade at
Werring Contemporary

2. Delaware's **Somerville Manning Gallery** has two exciting shows this month. Running through May 10, "All the Blooms You Are" is a solo exhibition of work by Christine Lafuente, a still life and landscape oil painter known for her masterful use of color and painterly approach. Another solo exhibition, featuring work by Elizabeth Endres, will be on display May 16 to June 14. This is the gallery's third solo show with Endres, following sold-out shows in 2021 and 2023. From gardens to tablescapes to botanical shapes, Endres paints from things remembered, familiar and collected, drawing inspiration from walks about, observing and wondering. *101 Stone Block Row, Greenville, DE. SomervilleManning.com.*
3. In Haverford, the **Main Line Art Center** has two shows on view through June 7. The inaugural Judy Herman Members Exhibition showcases a range of works from the center's members and teaching artists, including mosaics, photography, sculpture, painting, drawing, mixed media, jewelry and ceramics. The fifth annual Garden Sculpture Exhibition features the work of talented local artists, with sculptures thoughtfully placed around the center's gardens. *746 Panmure Rd., Haverford. MainLineArt.org.*
4. The **Delaware Valley Art League** is busy this month. See members' artwork on display at Bryn Mawr Hospital's Warden Front Lobby and Bodine Lobby through June 7, and view a special exhibition, "Portraits of Nature," at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens in Devon through June 15. Or let your creative juices flow with plein air painting at Wallingford's Pendle Hill, May 19 (rain date May 21) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. See more plein air dates and locations at *DelawareValleyArtLeague.com.*
5. At **West Chester University**, see award-winning work from some of the region's most exciting young artists and designers at the 2025 Senior BFA Exhibition, May 1 to June 9 at the John H. Baker Gallery in the E.O. Bull Center

for the Arts. This interdisciplinary exhibition showcases sculpture, painting, ceramics, drawing, printmaking and more, all curated by WCU students and faculty. While in E.O. Bull, drop by the Old Lockers Gallery, a new student-run gallery — "Lost and Found: A Student Exhibition by Mia Markford" opened April 22. *2 E. Rosedale Ave., West Chester. WCUPA.edu/Arts-Humanities.*

6. **Sunset Hill Fine Arts Gallery** presents a captivating exhibit of large-scale photos by West Chester photographer Darci Goldberg, "Les Chevaux Blancs de Camargue." Translating to "The White Horses of Camargue," these unique wild horses have thrived for centuries in the harsh, uninhabited wetlands of the Rhone River delta in southern France. To capture their beauty and spirit, Goldberg traveled deep into their regional park sanctuary. The exhibit opens with a reception during West Chester's Gallery Walk, May 2, 4 to 8 p.m. and runs through June 7. *23 N. High St., West Chester. SunsetHillJewelers.com.*
7. While in downtown West Chester, drop by **Ginkgo Arts**, a community of artists that have their studios in the heart of the borough. Join them for Open Studio the first Friday of each month and enjoy beverages and snacks while browsing resident artists' work, getting to know the artists and purchasing directly from them. And on Friday, May 30 from 5 to 8 p.m., see "Oddly Enough," a solo exhibition of self-portraiture by Annie Jean Linn. *21 S. High St., West Chester. GinkgoArtsWC.com.*
8. Finally, look forward to **Werring Contemporary's** newest show. "Emergence," a captivating dual exhibition, showcases the transformative sculpture of Wendy Liss and the luminous glass-work of Laura Sallade. Hosted at Werring Contemporary's satellite location at the Devon Design Center, "Emergence" opens with a reception on June 7 from 3 to 6 p.m. and runs through July 31. *111 Lancaster Ave., Devon. WerringContemporary.com.* ♦

More Art Outdoors in West Chester

After exploring our area's many art galleries, step outside to find that art is all around you. In downtown West Chester, you'll find several murals adorning the borough's buildings.

- The **Care Center Foundation mural**, 127-129 S. Matlack St., painted by artist Paul Santoleri, depicts a mother and baby birds in a nest along with a butterfly, a symbol of hope.
- The **Melton Center mural**, 501 E. Miner St., was painted by artist Carrie Kingsbury and features Charles A. Melton, former executive director of the Charles A. Melton Arts & Education Center, founder Dr. Leslie Pickney Hill and longtime volunteer Bertha Williams Porter.
- The Fund for Women & Girls' "**Votes for Women**" **Suffrage Mural**, 119 E. Market St., was painted by artist Kendra Beitzel to celebrate the 100th anniversary of 19th Amendment, granting women the right to vote.
- The **Friends Association mural**, 113 W. Chestnut St., painted by West Chester University student artist Noah Burns, commemorates the nonprofit's 200th anniversary.
- The **Master's Baker mural**, 319 W. Gay St., painted by local artist Erica Dehart, features a scene of downtown West Chester, native Pennsylvania flowers and, fittingly, cakes.

Additionally, the West Chester Public Arts Commission hopes to create a new mural for the borough's 225th anniversary featuring historic photographs. Follow them on Instagram @WCPublicArts.



Care Center Foundation mural

Sounds Amazing!

Healing with Horses, Sound and Music



1

EXPLORING EQUINE-ASSISTED AND SOUND THERAPY

Emily Hart

POINTY EARS TWITCH AT THE BEAT OF A DRUM at a preserve in Chester Springs. At a farm in West Chester, a velvety nose gently dips into a crystal singing bowl, sending a soft chime floating across the field. Elsewhere, a miniature horse named Boone sticks his head — and part of his punk rocker-style mane — between fence rails to check out a tongue drum delivering mellow tunes into his paddock.

Horses have shared humans' world of music for centuries. Ancient art in China, Italy and Greece depicts horses dancing to trumpets and drums. Italian Renaissance horse parades, choreographed to music, inspired the invention of the steam-driven carousel in England during the late 1800s. A century later, the Olympics added music to equestrian dressage events.

Today in Chester County, collaborations of equine-assisted and sound therapies are at play for wellness.

DRUMBEATS, HOOFBEATS AND HEARTBEATS

Part of the mission of a bucolic farm in Chester Springs — The Nokota Preserve — is to share the joy of Nokota horses along with information about the horses' role in the expanding field of thera-

peutic horse work. Nokotas are the feral descendants of Sitting Bull's horses from the North Dakota Badlands. Exceptionally strong, resilient, intelligent and committed to the survival of their herd, the horses that were once referred to by the Lakotas as their brothers and sisters are also extraordinary healers for horses and people.

Christine McGowan, equine specialist heading the Nokota Preserve, said she's observed domesticated horses with painful injuries, depression and disconnection recover under the care of a feral herd. Ostensibly programmed not to abandon a member of the herd but to bring it back to health, the Nokotas connect with their fellow equines through a silent, seemingly magical language that possesses rare healing powers, she said. As a herd lives in the wild, free to sleep and move together outdoors, they facilitate restoration of natural rhythms that are in tune with nature — footfall on the ground, two or 20 horses' synchronized movements across a field and life within changing seasons. Horses destined for rehab or retirement end up jumping again and reengaging with life.

People can also tap into the world of the Nokotas for wellness. Beating handheld drums — an activity that can enhance focus and motor coordination, according to research — participants of



1. Nokota Preserve in Chester Springs
2. Allerton Farm horses and sound bath

3. Boone, the miniature horse, listening to the sound of a tongue drum

drum circles this past fall sought to connect with the small local herd through the common language of rhythm. In unison, they echoed the patterns of heartbeats and hoofbeats. The human group appeared to become accepted by the horses as a subset of their herd, allowed to stand next to them as they ate and to closely observe their beautiful eyes.

Robin Nelson-Woodward, board member of the Nokota Preserve, said she believes that deep down, the horses remember the drumbeats, chanting and dancing that their ancestors experienced. Because such sounds resonate with them, they are a way for people to communicate with the horses.

HEALING WITH HORSES AND HARMONY

Many equestrians have sensed for a long time that horses and humans mirror each other's emotions. McGowan pointed to recent findings from the HeartMath Institute indicating that human hearts and the calm heartbeats in a herd of horses will

synchronize. So, for a person whose heart rate and anxiety are running high because of trauma, synchronizing with a slower equine heartbeat has the effect of instilling tranquility.

A collaboration of Chester County's Kellie Lynch, equine therapist at Stewarding Connections, and Carol Metzker, sound practitioner at Sound and Wellness, led to sound baths for people and horses together at Allerton Farm last summer. Listening to lyrical crystal singing bowls — found to calm brain waves — and evening birdsongs in the field at sunset, human participants reported a feeling of “serenity” they had not experienced for a long time.

Horses in a field across a lane came closer to the music source and the group. A deer on a nearby hill bounded closer and observed.

At another session, a survivor of human trafficking said her feelings of awe and connection were “almost magical.”

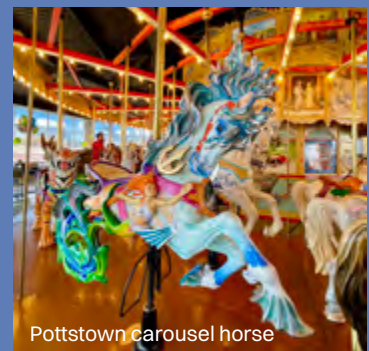
Special equine observers at Allerton Farm reported that the horses, too, experienced great calm and a sense of curiosity about the

Curious? Explore More.

With the Brandywine Valley's rich trove of equestrians, horses and farms, there's a wide variety of therapeutic programs with different offerings for mental, physical and emotional wellness: spending time with horses, collaborative sound baths, riding and more.

In addition to Stewarding Connections, Allerton Farm and the Nokota Preserve, check out offerings at Locust Lane Riding Center in Coatesville, Thorncroft Equestrian Center in Malvern, Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy in Chester Springs and Harmony Hollow Equine in Quarryville.

Can't make it out to the paddock? For fun, take a whimsical whirl on a horse — or zebra or tiger — at the gorgeous, restored historic carousel in Pottstown. Ride the double-decker Island Carousel inside the Plymouth Meeting Mall or hop on other animals for a spin on Elmwood Park Zoo's carousel in Norristown.



Pottstown carousel horse

people and singing bowls that had temporarily joined their herd.

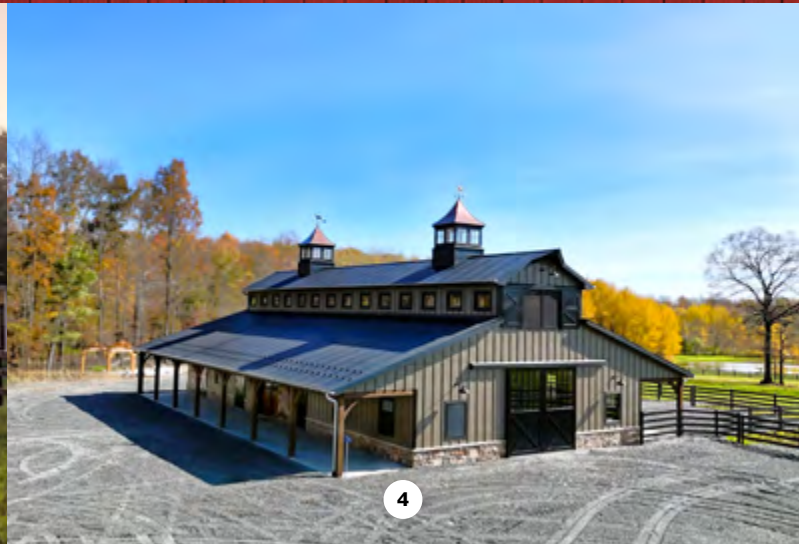
Perhaps most amazing about the power of the sounds, combined therapies, and healing presence and quiet wisdom of the horses is not the measure of what is observed, but what is felt: the reassuring sense of belonging shared by two- and four-footed partners together.

Fall in love with the Nokotas through the lens and story arc of Sabina Louise Pierce, a National Geographic Explorer. Learn more about “Saving the Nokotas” at SabinaLouisePierce.com/About. ♦

Dream Barns



1



4



2

1. B&D Builders
Paradise

BAndDBuilders.com

2. Beechdale Woodworks/Precise Buildings
Bird-in-Hand

BeechdaleWoodworks.com; PreciseBuildings.com

3. Cullen Construction
Wayne

CullenConstructionInc.com

4. King Construction Co.
New Holland

KingBarns.com

5. Dewson Construction
Wilmington

DewsonConstruction.com



3



5



Take a drive through the scenic Brandywine Valley countryside and you're bound to find barns, both old and new. You'll find working barns, sprawling equestrian centers, party barns and even barns converted into homes. With the help of local architects and builders, you can create your own perfect barn. Find inspiration on these pages and let yourself dream ...



6



8

6. McComsey Builders

Parkesburg

McComseyBuilders.com

7. Warren Claytor Architects

Wayne

WarrenClaytorArchitects.com

8. MR Roofing

Manheim

MR-Roofing.com

9. Stable Hollow Construction

Manheim

StableHollowConstruction.com

10. White Horse Construction

Parkesburg

WHCHorseBarns.com



9



7



10



The Devon Horse Show & Country Fair

MAY 21 TO JUNE 1, 2025

Story by Laurel Anderson | Photos by Brenda Carpenter





ENJOY 12 DAYS OF FUN AND excitement at the 129th anniversary of this beloved equestrian event. With a long history of special traditions — the tea cart and family skyboxes — plus philanthropy — Bryn Mawr Hospital is the sole beneficiary — the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair engages fans ranging from Olympic riders to tiny tots with attractions including the Budweiser Clydesdales, Philly Phanatic and so much more.

The oldest and largest outdoor multibreed show in North America with almost \$1 million in prize money, this event promises unforgettable memories both inside and outside the rings. Check the schedule at the end of this article to plan your visit ... or better yet, visits.

OUTSIDE THE RING AT THE COUNTRY FAIR

Matching the all-star lineup in the ring, the Country Fair offers entertainment, gourmet food, specialty boutiques, amusement rides, carnival games and more fun outside the ring. Over 2,000 volunteers run the fair, often involving generations of helpers — from the information booth and food stands to the souvenir booth and Ladies' Day activities.

The fun kicks off at First Night, May 21, when the Art Gallery at Devon welcomes guests to an evening of art, community and philanthropy at a ticketed cocktail party with the first chance to purchase over 700 artworks and see the unveiling of the 2025 Devon poster by Nicola Soricelli.

Throughout the 12 days, stroll the grounds to visit boutique shops in miniature cottages, let the kiddos enjoy amusement rides — an antique carousel and towering Ferris wheel — along with midway games, lemon sticks and Devon fudge.

Make a day of it and sample the dining options and live entertainment. And be sure to visit during Family Days on May 22 and June 1 for special events like the Dog Contest and Itty Bitty Tea Party. Or come on Ladies' Day, May 28, for the hat contest, reception and luncheon honoring the legacy of "Hollywood and Horses." *See the schedule at the end of this article.*

Food highlights this year include a "Tea for Two" reinvention at the Tea Cart, adding to the usual teas, scones, finger sandwiches and sweet treats; starting your day off at Sips & Bits with treats like Di Bruno Bros.'s avocado toast, yogurt parfait or protein-packed box; Cafe Gourmino's espresso drinks crafted for coffee lovers; and Madi's on a Roll bringing back multi-flavored gourmet egg rolls.

For new shopping options, visit the souvenir stand to shop specialty brands — Vineyard Vines, Crab and Cleek, Clover Baby, Frank Green — with Devon-inspired custom prints and logos on just about everything you can think of; Devon Boutiques celebrate 35 years of Hats by Katie's fine handcrafted millinery; and the Plein Air Art Event on Ladies' Day has artists painting miniature scenes of Devon to be sold in the Art Gallery.

For something new for the kiddos, the Itty Bitty Tea Parties, ages 4–7, will feature performances by Two of a Kind, a local musical duo engaging audiences in song, plus a third tea for ages 8–12, a fun "grown-up" version.









INSIDE THE RING

As the largest multibreed outdoor horse show on the continent, there's action and variety packed into each of the 12 days of the Devon Horse Show. Some may come for the breed classes, or the hunters, jumpers and thrilling arena eventing. Others may prefer the tradition of the carriage driving and coaching events, plus horn competitions and hounds scurrying in the Dixon Oval.

Those with specialized tastes look forward to the hackneys, saddlebreds and daring sidesaddle riders. While still others come for the fun of the pony races, colorful costumed pony hunt clubs and the parade of munchkins in the lead line — a major crowd-pleaser, scheduled for Saturday, May 24. See the lead line article in this issue.

For those who mark their calendars for the big-ticket events — after all, there's almost \$1 million in prizes — get ready for the \$226,000 Sapphire Grand Prix of Devon on Thursday, May 29, when world-class riders and their equine partners perform under the bright lights. Other competitions include the \$50,000 Arena Eventing competition, May 25; \$38,700 Jet Run Welcome Stake, May 27; \$38,700 Main Line Challenge Speed Stake, May 28; \$25,000 International USHJA Hunter Derby, May 29; \$38,700 Devon Speed Derby, May 30; and \$145,100 Idle Dice Open Jumper Stake on Saturday, May 31.

And for thrills of another kind, the acclaimed Clydesdales will wow the crowds with three nights of high-stepping trips around the Dixon Oval on the evenings of May 29, 30 and 31.

Can't attend every night? You're in luck, because the action is livestreamed on the USEF Network and ESPN. ♦

IF YOU GO

Where: Dorset Rd. & Lancaster Ave., Devon

When: May 21–June 1. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

Info & Tickets: DevonHorseShow.net; 610-688-2554

Beneficiary of the Country Fair: Bryn Mawr Hospital

Your Guide to 12 Days of Fun at the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair

Wednesday—May 21

DAYTIME (8 a.m. - 2 p.m.)

Welcome Back! 8 a.m.

First Night Event/Art Gallery, 6 p.m.

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Small Jr. Hunter 3'3"
- ☉ Large Jr. Hunter 3'3"

Wheeler Ring, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Hunter Pony Breeding
- ☉ Best Young Pony
- ☉ PHBHA Trophy

Thursday—May 22

Junior Weekend - Family Day

The Country Fair open till 9 p.m.

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ WIHS Equitation Jumper
- ☉ USEF Talent Search

Wheeler Ring, 7:30 a.m.

- ☉ Small/Large Jr. Hunters
- ☉ Jr. Hunter Grand Champion

Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

- ☉ The Dog Show at Devon — Enter in person from 6 to 6:45 p.m. on the grounds.

Friday—May 23

Visit the 60+ vendors.

Dixon Oval, 7:30 a.m.

- ☉ ASPCA Maclay & R.W. Mutch Equitation Champ.
- ☉ Small/Large Jr. Hunters

Wheeler Ring, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Pony Hunters

Dixon Oval, 7:30 p.m.

- ☉ Junior Jumpers

Saturday—May 24

This is Hunt Night. Radnor Fox Hounds 7 p.m.

Dixon Oval, 7:30 a.m.

- ☉ Junior Hunters

Not before 1 p.m.

- ☉ Lead Line
- ☉ Small/Large Hunter Champ.
- ☉ Devon Grand Jr. Hunter Ch.
- ☉ Angelo Award
- ☉ Best Child Rider on a Horse

Wheeler Ring, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Pony Hunters
- ☉ Devon Grand Pony Hunter Ch.
- ☉ Best Child Rider on a Pony
- ☉ Costume Pony Hunt Teams

Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

- ☉ Junior Jumper Classic
- ☉ Leading Jr. Jumper Award

- ☉ Exhibition: Parade of the Radnor Hunt Hounds

- ☉ Horse Hunt Teams
- ☉ Parent & Child & Family Classes

Sunday—May 25

Junior Weekend. Wear your tea party attire for the Itty Bitty Tea Party at The Devon Club. Arena Eventing.

Wheeler Ring, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Jr. & Adult Amateur Jumpers

Dixon Oval, noon

- ☉ Exhibition: Pleasure Drive — Antique carriages parade through local neighborhoods, with awards in the Dixon Oval.
- ☉ Exhibition: Shetland Pony Steeplechase

Dixon Oval 7 p.m.

- ☉ Devon Arena Eventing

Memorial Day Monday—May 26

A special ceremony honors local military and emergency responders.

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Hunters
- ☉ Scurry Driving
- ☉ Pair Horses Championship

Wheeler Ring, 10 a.m.

- ☉ Adult Jumpers
- ☉ Hunters

Dixon Oval, 6:30 p.m.

- ☉ Tribute to Heroes, 6:30 p.m.
- ☉ NAL Adult Jumper Classic
- ☉ Pony Races
- ☉ Coaching — Appointments
- ☉ Single/Pair Pony Champ.

Tuesday—May 27 Family Day

Enjoy Hunter classes then head to Clydesdale Corner for an adult beverage before the Welcome Stake!

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Hunters
- ☉ Green Hunters
- ☉ High Performance Working Hunter
- ☉ Coaching Pleasure
- ☉ Coach Horn Competition

Wheeler Ring, 9 a.m.

- ☉ 5, 6 & 7-Year-Old Jumpers

Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

- ☉ FEI Jet Run Devon Welcome Stake
- ☉ Single Horse Driving & Scurry

- ☉ Single Horse Championship

Wednesday—May 28

Ladies' Day

Free general admission for ladies wearing elegant hats and the popular Ladies' Day contest, 10 a.m. to noon.

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Hunters
- ☉ Leading Lady Rider Award
- ☉ Leading Mare Award
- ☉ Devon Grand Hunter Champ.
- ☉ Devon Leading Hunter Rider
- ☉ Leading Groom Award
- ☉ Ladies Side Saddle

Wheeler Ring, 8 a.m.

- ☉ 5, 6 & 7-Year-Old Jumpers

Dixon Oval, 1:45 p.m.

- ☉ Harness Pony
- ☉ Saddlebred Pleasure Driving
- ☉ Coaching

Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

- ☉ Main Line Challenge
- ☉ Roadster Horse/Pony
- ☉ Park Horse, Amateur
- ☉ Harness Pony, Fine Harness

Thursday—May 29

\$226,000 Sapphire Grand Prix.

Dixon Oval, 8:30 a.m.

- ☉ USHJA \$25,000 Internat'l Hunter Derby

Wheeler Ring, noon

- ☉ Amateur Jumper

Dixon Oval, 2 p.m.

- ☉ Country Pleasure Driving
- ☉ Western Country Pleasure
- ☉ Open Park & Hackney Pleasure
- ☉ Roadster Horse & Pony

Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

Sapphire Grand Prix of Devon

There's nothing more thrilling than the Sapphire Grand Prix.

Friday—May 30

The highlight tonight is the Devon Speed Derby.

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ AO Hunters

Wheeler Ring, 7:30 a.m.

- ☉ Amateur Jumper
- ☉ Local Hunters

Dixon Oval, 2 p.m.

- ☉ Roadster Pony Under Saddle

- ☉ Western Country Pleasure Ch.
- ☉ Open Harness Pony Champ.
- ☉ Coach Horn Competition
- ☉ Coaching Champ.

Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

- ☉ Devon Speed Derby
- ☉ Roadster Pony Championship
- ☉ Open Hackney Pony Champ.
- ☉ Fine Harness Champ.

Saturday—May 31

Tonight is the Devon Derby drawing — \$10 for 12 chances! This evening's Idle Dice Jumper Stake is beyond exciting!

Dixon Oval, 7:30 a.m.

- ☉ Amateur/Owner Hunters
- ☉ Devon Grand A/O Hunter Ch.
- ☉ Devon Leading A/O Hunter/Rider
- ☉ Sambalino Award

Wheeler Ring, 7:30 a.m.

- ☉ Amateur/Owner 3'3" Hunters
- ☉ Grand A/O Hunter Champ.
- ☉ Working Fox Hunter

Dixon Oval, 12:30 p.m.

- ☉ Saddle Seat Equitation Ch.
- ☉ Roadster Pony Champ.
- ☉ Hackney Horse Champ.
- ☉ Amateur Jumper SJHOF Classic
- ☉ Amateur Jumper Leading Rider

Dixon Oval, 6:45 p.m.

- ☉ Devon Derby Drawing
- ☉ Idle Dice Jumper Stake
- ☉ Open Jumper Champ.
- ☉ Leading Open Jumper Rider
- ☉ Roadster Horse Champ.
- ☉ Hackney Pony Champ.
- ☉ English Pleasure Saddle Seat Championship

Sunday—June 1

Children's Day and the famous Devon Plant Sale.

Dixon Oval, 8 a.m.

- ☉ Thoroughbred Breeding Division
- ☉ Non-Thoroughbred Breeding Division
- ☉ Best Yearling
- ☉ Best Young Horse
- ☉ Leading Handler Award
- ☉ Plant Sale ♦



Come back next year
for the 130th!





For the Love of Leadline

GENERATIONS CONNECT AT THE DEVON HORSE SHOW

“MY HORSE WON THE race!” That’s how the top leadline rider Audrey Barthelmeh described earning 1st place last year in what many fans consider the most adorable event of the 12-day Devon Horse Show, a star of the spring season.

“Audrey’s a seasoned leadline rider,” said her proud grandmother, Helen “Buttons” Corkhill, who championed the experience. “She won 7th place her first year in leadline, then 3rd place before being awarded the silver plate in 2024. But she’s sitting out 2025,” said Corkhill. That gives other fledgling riders a change for a trophy, top eight prize ribbon or Devon blue ribbon and lollipop for every munchkin who’s led around the Dixon Oval before an audience of appreciative “awwwwws.”

Although neither of Corkhill’s two daughters participated in leadline as children, one daughter, Emily, got to lead her niece twice in the event while mom Katherine watched the action in the ring.

“The Devon experience has been part of my family since my grandfather showed and sold hunters back in the 1920s. I also remember an aunt who drove a cart,” she added. The Corkhill family continued to support the Devon Horse Show. Buttons has been an active volunteer for many years — enlisting Katherine to carry on that tradition — and her late husband Eric was the long-term Trophy Chair.

So, what does it take to have your child (or grandchild) shine in the Dixon Oval, “Where Champions Meet,” as the sign above the gateway reads?

The first requirement is age: the two leadline classes (groups) are for kids who have not reached their 4th or 6th birthday by December 1, 2024 — there are some very tiny tots in baskets atop ponies in the younger group. And don’t forget the online

entry form, plus \$220 in fees. Amazingly, entries are accepted up until 10 a.m. on the Saturday morning of the event!

Then there’s the cool official outfit of a miniature rider’s show jacket, shirt, breeches, boots, gloves and helmet — required for safety. The total leadline look runs from \$500 to \$1,200 new, and parents pray everything fits for more than one year. “Luckily there’s a good market in gently used leadline clothes at pony clubs and elsewhere,” advised Corkhill. “Don’t forget the colorful ribbons in the girls’ pigtails.” Riders will look well turned out from the back, as well.

Plus a horse. Of course. Owning a horse makes this step easy. “You can rent or borrow a horse for the event. Just make sure you also plan for practice time with that horse,” said Corkhill. Since one purpose of leadline is to foster love of horses, the child needs to be comfortable. A few sessions should be enough for most new riders. The horses should also have spit-shined tack to look sharp in the ring, along with a braided mane for that trophy-worthy appearance.

And if it’s called leadline, there must be a leader (or handler) to take the reins and walk the horse and tiny rider around the ring, then reverse direction, and finally line up in the center of the ring. Handlers’ outfits are not regulated — military uniforms, suits, dresses with colorful hats, or classic rider apparel are seen and add to the overall look. Anything but stilettos that sink into the sandy ring.

What about judging? The informal advice: “Don’t be a banana. Sit straight and don’t be curved over like a banana,” advised Corkhill. Others say, heels down, chin up. The official website states: “To be judged on manners and suitability of pony to rider.” In short, overall presentation of horse and rider.

Finally, things to remember: “Melt-downs can happen. But it’s worth it,” shared Corkhill. And another leadline winner we talked with still fondly remembers her singular leadline appearance 60-some years ago and the ribbon she got on that special day with her dad.

—Laurel Anderson

IF YOU GO: *Leadline classes, Saturday, May 24, not before 1 p.m. at the Devon Horse Show Grounds*



Photo Left: Three generations of the Corkhill family: (Clockwise from left) Eric, Buttons, Emily and 1st-place winner Audrey Barthelmeh

PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDA CARPENTER

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Jumping Into Steeplechase

A SEASON OF THRILLS AND TRADITION

Olivia Pagliaro



Winterthur Point-to-Point

PHOTO CREDIT: TISA DELLA-VOLPE

SPRING HAS ARRIVED IN THE BRANDYWINE Valley, and that can only mean one thing — steeplechase season is here! With the season's return comes the highly anticipated lineup of three dazzling May weekend races we've eagerly awaited since the bleak days of winter. And, to continue the equestrian excitement, the Devon Horse Show takes place from May 21 through June 2.

These exciting races are a perfect excuse to spend the weekends in the countryside. Breathe in the fresh air and enjoy displays of equine athleticism alongside glamorous fashion and the best tailgating with all the essentials — delicious food, intoxicating drinks, and sparkling crystal and silver — all while supporting the great causes the racing season benefits.

Steeplechase races continue to be equal parts tailgate party, fashion show and sporting event, allowing fans to join the tradition and enjoy a day in the country. For everyone from experts to first-timers, we'll guide you through what you need to know about this year's races to make memories you won't forget.

CHASING VICTORY AND STYLE

First, what exactly *is* a steeplechase? It's time for our annual refresher! Steeplechase races date to 18th-century Ireland, where riders tested their horses' athleticism by racing across rolling hills

Chasing the Triple Crown: The Quest for Glory!

We can't talk about horse racing without mentioning the legendary Triple Crown Races, a prestigious series of flat races for 3-year-old thoroughbreds, testing speed, stamina and recovery, and which only 13 horses have won in the past 100 years.

- **The Kentucky Derby (1.25 miles, May 3, Churchill Downs, KY).** The first jewel in the crown is the Run for the Roses (winner gets a blanket of roses) and "The Most Exciting Two Minutes in Sports." It's known for celebrity spotting, a sea of colorful hats and its mint juleps.
- **The Preakness Stakes (1.1875 miles, May 17, Pimlico, MD).** While the Derby has glamour, this short race has increased excitement as it determines a potential contender for the Triple Crown, not won since Justify in 2018.
- **The Belmont Stakes (1.5 miles, June 7, Belmont Park, NY).** The oldest of the races, named the "Test of the Champion" because of its grueling distance, the Belmont is known for dramatic victories, especially when the Triple Crown is on the line.

Sunday, May 4



Tisa Della-Volpe


POINT-TO-POINT
A WINTERTHUR TRADITION



Tisa Della-Volpe



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and jumping over the iconic stone walls and wooden fences that dotted the landscape. Races would typically have a starting point, like a church steeple, and end at another landmark — hence the name steeplechase. The main difference in our three events is that a steeplechase is sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association, while a point-to-point race is not.

While the horses race toward victory, you'll notice many spectators are also competing for a title. The honor of Best Dressed is a long-standing tradition at all three races, where prizes and bragging rights go hand in hand. This love for fashion dates back to 18th-century Europe, which set the standard for the styles we see today.

The tradition of women wearing stylish hats to the races began in 1711 at Royal Ascot, a flat race attended by British royalty and governed by strict dress codes including for elaborate hats, a symbol of wealth, status and femininity. This aspect of race-day pageantry crossed the Atlantic, landing at several early American equestrian events, including the first Kentucky Derby (1875), the Virginia Gold Cup (1922) and Iroquois Steeplechase (1941) in Nashville, continuing the tradition of race-day hats.

Today in the Brandywine Valley, steeplechase crowds figuratively tip their hats to this stylish tradition. Fashionable ladies in whimsical fascinators or wide-brimmed hats, adorned with a kaleidoscope of vibrant flowers, feathers and other decorations, blend nostalgia and pageantry with a personal twist. Men can join the fun with tweed jackets, bold ties and pocket squares, and the occasional classic Panama straw hat.

And our best advice for winning Best Dressed? Start with the hat and let the rest of your outfit follow that lead. You'll make a bold statement without saying a word.

47TH WINTERTHUR POINT-TO-POINT

On the first Sunday in May, the elegant crowd on the thousand-acre former du Pont country estate eagerly awaits the four thrilling steeplechase races of the annual Winterthur Point-to-Point. Soon, the horses will thunder over the three-and-one-quarter-mile course, jumping eight timber fences a total of 17 times. Since its beginnings in 1979, Winterthur continues its tradition of prestige horse racing.

While the steeplechase races are the *mane* event — featuring professional and amateur riders vying for purses totaling \$60,000 — race day also offers festivities for the whole family, including your four-legged companions. Cheer on the pony races, enjoy the Parade of River Hills Foxhounds, marvel at the George A. "Frolic" Weymouth Antique Carriage Parade and admire the display of vintage Rolls-Royces and Bentleys. Add to the fun at the Winterthur Hunt area for stick-horse races, pony rides and hayrides.

For the stylish set, dress to the nines and let your fashion sense shine! The chicest chapeaux will compete to win a fashionable hat or fascinator from Christine A. Moore Millinery or \$250 gift cards. Stroll through the Marketplace to discover more stylish apparel, equine-themed gifts plus tastes from local food purveyors. Visit the

PHOTO COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY



Winterthur Point-to-Point

PHOTO CREDIT: TISA DELLA-VOLPE



Winterthur Point-to-Point

PHOTO CREDIT: BOB PLANT



Radnor Hunt Races



PHOTO CREDIT: TISADELLA VOLPE



PHOTO COURTESY OF WINTERTHUR MUSEUM, GARDEN & LIBRARY



PHOTO CREDIT: BOB LETTICH

Winterthur Point-to-Point

WDSD 94.7 FM tent to win passes to the Barefoot Country Music Festival, while designated drivers unwind at the Betty Buzz Lounge with refreshing faux mint juleps or mojitos.

And it's not a steeplechase without the tailgates — from casual to elegant. So bring your finest tableware and refreshments and compete for the Point-to-Point Silver Tray. Or have a relaxing day and reserve a spot in a catered tent, ranging from the Winterthur Hunt Brunch Tent (21 and up) to the family-friendly Fiesta Tent, all within sight of the finish line. While you watch, build your stable of horses from the day's races and place your wagers using StableDuel.

Proceeds from this fundraising event support Winterthur's environmental and landscape stewardship initiatives, such as programs managing woodland, meadow and wetland habitats and preserving the gardens.

So, grab your finest hat and pack your tailgate for a day guaranteed to please.

IF YOU GO: *Sunday, May 4. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Admissions: \$60–\$300, advance sales only. Rain or shine. 800-448-3883. Winterthur.org.*

TIP: *Bring your wristband back during the month of May for a day's free admission to Winterthur.*

32ND WILLOWDALE STEEPLECHASE

Hold the reins, because the spring equestrian season has more fun in store. The Willowdale Steeplechase continues "Racing for Life" on May 10 on the beautiful 160-acre property nestled in picturesque southern Chester County. Celebrated over Mother's Day weekend, this annual event combines tradition, community spirit and equestrian excellence.

Willowdale features six officially sanctioned jump races across three beautifully designed courses of rolling turf. Spanning just over 1.2 miles, the courses boast impressive elements. The hurdle races will run over natural hedges, while the timber course features solid post-and-rail timber fences, hedges, an open ditch plus the iconic Willowdale Water Jump, which includes an 18-inch drop and a 12-foot span. The courses are set in a natural amphitheater, offering excellent visibility and thrilling vantage points for spectators to enjoy the action. Riders will race for purses totaling \$115,000.

Race-day activities also include the loveable Jack Russell Terrier Races and the fan-favorite Pony Races. Car enthusiasts can explore the Classic Car Exhibit, featuring vintage vehicles, or register to participate with their own pre-1985 ride. Additional attractions include a vendor market with souvenirs, boutique clothing and jewelry, plus local food and sweet treats. Youngsters can join the fun in the Kids' Alley, which offers stick-pony jumping courses and coloring contests.

Join fashionable spectators and take part in the Tailgating Contest, with this year's theme, "The Wicked Wild West at Willowdale." Display your finest attire — best dressed and best hats — and tailgate spreads to show the judges how you Defy Gravity! New for 2025, the Turf Club offers an exclusive, fully catered tent with prime racecourse views and TVs to follow the action in comfort. Plus Mal-

The Willowdale Steeplechase

Saturday, May 10, 2025



©Robert Keller



The Willowdale Steeplechase

RACING FOR LIFE



Exciting Jump Races • Jack Russell Races • Pony Races • Boutique Shopping • Kids Alley

NEW IN 2025 - THE TURF CLUB VIP TENT

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for more information & to purchase your tickets

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Radnor Hunt Races

Saturday, May 17, 2025



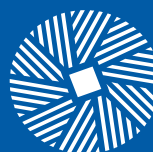
Celebrate 94 years of horseracing on the Main Line. With everything from amazing tailgates and fancy hats, to the parade of antique carriages and thoroughbreds racing for the finish, Radnor Hunt Races is a day filled with excitement and fun. It's also about *Racing for Open Space* as all proceeds benefit the clean water and open space programs of the Brandywine Conservancy. Reserve your tickets now!

Interested in becoming an event sponsor? The Radnor Hunt Races offer an unparalleled opportunity to promote your brand, entertain clients, and support the protection of our region's precious natural resources. Visit our website for more information!

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RADNOR HUNT RACES
RACING
FOR OPEN SPACE



**BRANDYWINE
CONSERVANCY**

vern's Pennsylvania Distilling Company is developing signature cocktails for the races.

Willowdale's mission goes beyond equestrian competition — it's about racing with a higher purpose. The event benefits Stroud Water Research Center and Penn Vet's New Bolton Center, both dedicated to advancing the stewardship of our natural resources and educating the next generations.

IF YOU GO: *Saturday, May 10. 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Rain or shine. Advance sales only. 610-444-1582. WillowdaleSteeplechase.org.*

TIP: *Visit the paddock area to get a close-up view of the horses and jockeys preparing for their races.*

94TH RADNOR HUNT RACES

The grand finale of our region's three-event steeplechase series, the Radnor Hunt Races celebrates nearly 100 years on the Main Line on May 17 at the W. Burling Cocks Racecourse at the Radnor Hunt Club grounds. This historic event continues the springtime tradition of elegance, excitement and fun with a day capped by four thrilling races and memorable experiences with friends and family.

All four jump races are sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association and feature some of the best thoroughbreds, riders and

trainers in the county. Racegoers will see a variety of events, as each race differs in length and challenges, such as the type of track and the number of jumps.

Other special events planned around the races include the fifth annual Katherine W. Illoyay Invitational Sidesaddle Race, the return of the adorable pony races, the perennial antique carriage parade and the beloved parade of foxhounds. While roaming the grounds, take time to people-watch, as patrons don fabulous hats, jaunty bow ties, and colorful outfits of all styles.

The Picnic Tailgating competition theme this year is "Old Hollywood Glamour." Think vintage movie posters and the golden age of cinema or channel your inner Marilyn Monroe or Cary Grant to wow the judges and earn bragging rights.

Box seats on the hillside are at the center of the action and the most traditional way to watch the races, but there are plenty of options to enjoy the day. Tailgating on the rail or in a rail tent gives your party a perfect spot for up-close viewing. For a hassle-free VIP experience, try Skip's Fox's Den — featuring gourmet catering, open bar, private restrooms — located on the hillside this year, overlooking the finish line. Children accompanied by an adult are welcome.

The Radnor Hunt Races have been "Racing for Open Space" for more than 40 years and raised over \$5.5 million for the Brandywine



PHOTO CREDIT: ROBERT KELLER



PHOTO CREDIT: TISA DELLA VOLPE



PHOTO CREDIT: TISA DELLA VOLPE



PHOTO CREDIT: ROBERT KELLER

STEEPLECHASE SCHEDULES*

47TH POINT-TO-POINT AT WINTERTHUR SUNDAY, MAY 4

- 10:30 am – Gates open
- 11:45 am – Delaware State Police Pipes and Drums
- 12:00 pm – Alison Hershbelt Large Pony Races
- 12:30 pm – Parade of River Hills Foxhounds
- 1:00 pm – George A. "Frolic" Weymouth Antique Carriage Parade
- 1:30 pm – Tailgate Picnic Competition Winner Announced
Stick Horse Races (ages 4 and under)
- 1:50 pm – National Anthem (performed by Miah Wallace)
- 2:00 pm – Isabella du Pont Sharp Memorial Maiden Timber Race
- 2:15 pm – Best Dressed from Head to Toe Winner announced
Stick Horse Races (ages 5-7)
- 2:30 pm – Winterthur Bowl Open Timber Stakes
- 2:45 pm – Stick Horse Races (ages 8-10)
- 3:00 pm – Vicmead Plate Amateur Apprentice Timber Race in
Honor of Louis "Paddy" Neilson III
- 3:30 pm – Middletown Cup Amateur Training Flat Race
- 3:45 pm – Presentation of the Greta Brown Layton Trophy
- 4:00 pm – Gates close

32ND RUNNING OF THE WILLOWDALE STEEPLECHASE SATURDAY, MAY 10

- 10:00 am – Gates open
- 10:30 am – Jack Russell Terrier Races
- 11:30 am – Pony Races
- 12:00 pm – Tailgate Competition judging begins
- 12:30 pm – Themed Hat and Best Dressed competition
National Anthem performed by Dana Guthrie
- 1:00 pm – 1st Race: Apprentice Rider Hurdle: Liam Magee
Apprentice Rider Race
- 1:30 pm – 2nd Race: Maiden Claiming Hurdle: The Folly
- 2:00 pm – 3rd Race: Conditioned Claiming Hurdle: Rose Tree Cup
- 2:30 pm – 4th Race: The Willowdale Steeplechase Stakes
Amateur Timber Stakes
- 3:00 pm – 5th Race: The Willard Speakman Memorial
Foxhunter's Chase - Amateur Apprentice Timber
- 3:30 pm – 6th Race: Maiden Timber: The Landhope Cup
- 5:30 pm – Gates close

94TH RADNOR HUNT RACES SATURDAY, MAY 17

- 9:00 am – Gates open
- 11:00 am – Pony Races
- 12:00 pm – Picnic Tailgate Competition: Theme: Old Time
Hollywood
- 12:30 pm – Mounted Color Guard and the National Anthem
performed by Orpheus Club of Philadelphia
- 1:00 pm – The Katherine W. Illoway Invitational Sidesaddle Race
- 1:30 pm – 1st Race: The Milfern Cup
- 1:45 pm – Parade of the Radnor Hunt Foxhounds
- 2:10 pm – 2nd Race: The Radnor Hunt Cup
- 2:25 pm – Carriage Parade
- 2:50 pm – 3rd Race: The National Hunt Cup
- 3:05 pm – Presentation of the Charles Wayne (Skip) Achuff Jr.
Annual Memorial Stalwart of Steeplechase Award
- 3:30 pm – 4th Race: The Henry Collins Steeplechase
- 4:30 pm – Gates close

*Schedules are subject to change

Conservancy, the races' sole beneficiary. These funds have fueled the Conservancy's vital efforts to protect open space and water resources in the Brandywine Valley.

IF YOU GO: *Saturday, May 17. 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. Rain or shine. Purchase tickets by May 7. 610-388-8383. RadnorHuntRaces.org.*

TIP: *Leave the stilettos at home, as the grounds are grassy fields. Flat shoes recommended. ♦*



Radnor Hunt Races

PHOTO CREDIT: BOB PLANT

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The Main Line: More than Mansions

FROM THE LENAPE TO THE RAILROADS TO SUBURBAN SQUARE

Edwin Malet

THOSE WITH A DEEP KNOWLEDGE OF LOCAL history may know that Philadelphia's Main Line was originally inhabited by the Lenape tribe, considered by William Penn to be its true owners. Penn paid the tribe for the land in 1683, although King Charles II had chartered it to Penn two years earlier.

Shortly afterward, Penn sold the land — a region full of hills, forests and streams — to several Quaker families. Over time, small towns emerged. One, named Humphreysville, eventually became Bryn Mawr, Welsh for “great hill.” Today, Bryn Mawr is often regarded as the heart of the Main Line.

The area continued to develop — hosting more towns with Welsh names like Narberth, Radnor, Berwyn — becoming “the Main Line” in the 1830s, when the Pennsylvania Railroad laid its track from Philadelphia to Lancaster. Although the Main Line is noted for its extravagant mansions — see “Found Mansions on the Main Line” in the May 2021 issue of *County Lines* (another version in July 2024)— there are notable historic religious, educational and commercial buildings in the area as well.

RELIGIOUS BUILDINGS

There are still several religious buildings standing from the beginning of the 18th century.

For example, the [Merion Friends Meeting House](#) (653 Montgomery Ave., Merion) has been in continuous use since 1715. The Welshmen who made up the Merion Meeting contributed labor, materials, loads of stone and wood to build the meeting house. Largely unaltered today, it's the most photographed meeting house in America. In 1998, it was named a National Landmark by the U. S. Department of the Interior.

The [Radnor Meeting House](#) (610 Conestoga Rd., Villanova), according to an inscription on its gable, was erected in 1718, but the site was used as early as 1693 for a wedding. Later, during the Revolutionary War, it served as an officers' house and a hospital for the Valley Forge encampment. The meeting house is still in use, conducting meetings online and in person. It was added to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1978.

Made of logs, the original [St. David's Episcopal Church](#) (763 S. Valley Forge Rd., Wayne) was founded in 1700, replaced by a stone church in 1715. Today, it consists of a chapel, church offices, a school and cemetery. The church had a notable role in the Revolutionary War, providing shelter for both British and Continental soldiers. Sixteen British soldiers are buried in its cemetery, which was later immortalized in a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. The original church and cemetery were placed on the NRHP in 1978.

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1. Merion Friends Meeting House
PHOTO CREDIT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS
& PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, PA, 46-NARB.V.1
2. St. David's Episcopal Church
3. Wayne Presbyterian Church, before 1923

Founded in 1870 and still active, the [Wayne Presbyterian Church](#) (125 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne), designed by John Fraser, is an inspiring stone structure, crowned with a 108-foot steeple. In 1893, the growing congregation prompted the construction of the new sanctuary. Since then, the church continued to grow, adding an education wing in 1939 and a three-story building in the 1960s.

[Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary](#) (City Line Ave. & Lancaster Pk., Wynne-wood) was the oldest Catholic institution of higher learning in both the Archdiocese of Philadelphia and Pennsylvania. Designed by Addison Hutton and Samuel Sloan in Spanish style with golden stucco, earth-tone brick detailing and soft arches, the seminary opened to 128 students in 1871 — by the 1960s, it accommodated nearly 600 seminarians — and closed in 2024. Sold to Main Line Health, the seminary is now closed to the public. It was added to the NRHP in 1979.

SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Offering free education to all, the [Lower Merion Academy](#) (501 Bryn Mawr Ave., Bala Cynwyd) was first named the Lower Merion Benevolent School when it opened 1812. It was added to the NRHP in 2002. By the early 20th century, the federal-style stucco stone building had become too small for the growing community, so lower and middle public schools were built nearby. It's the oldest school building in Montgomery County and currently houses the Lower Merion Historical Society.

Since [Haverford College's](#) founding, the centerpiece of its campus has been [Founders Hall](#) (370 Lancaster Ave., Haverford). It's eligible, but not on, the NRHP as part of the Haverford College campus historic district. Completed in

1 ▶

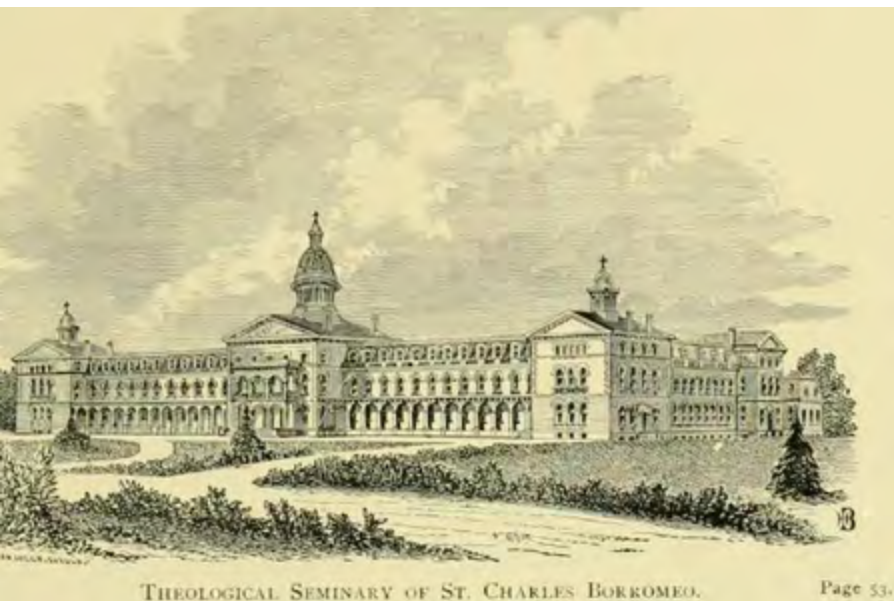


2 ▶



3 ▶





4. Engraving of Saint Charles Borromeo Seminary, 1897

5. Engraving of Haverford College's Founders Hall, 1862

6. The Baldwin School
PHOTO CREDIT: MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION

◀ 4 1834, the building originally served the entire operations of the college. Over the years, with additions, it's been used as a student and faculty dormitory, dining hall, library and other purposes and is the location of Haverfest, an annual two-day end-of-year party.

Originally called College Hall, the east wing of [Alumni Hall](#) (800 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova) is the oldest structure on the [Villanova University](#) campus, dating to 1848, and listed on the NRHP. Over the years, Alumni Hall has contained classrooms, offices, library, auditorium and dormitories. Now used as a dormitory, it houses about 110 students.

Designed by Addison Hutton in 1884 in Victorian-Gothic style, [Taylor Hall](#) (101 N. Merion Ave., Bryn Mawr) is the original administrative and academic building of [Bryn Mawr College](#). As part of the College's Historic District, it's listed on the NRHP and currently contains offices and classrooms.

The [Baldwin School](#) (701 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr) is an independent school for girls, originally to prepare them to enter Bryn Mawr College. It's housed in the former Bryn Mawr Hotel, previously called the Keystone Hotel. In 1896, the school leased the hotel and, in 1922, bought it. Built in 1892 and designed by Frank Furness in chateau style, it was placed on the NRHP in 1979.

[Rathalla](#) (1400 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr) is the main building of [Rosemont College](#). The stone building, designed by Edward Hazelhurst and Samuel Huckel and completed in 1891, was originally the home of Joseph Sinnott. It was sold to the Society of the Holy Child of Jesus in 1921 and in 1927 for \$1 to Rosemont College. It was added to the NRHP in 1980.

TURNPIKES AND RAILROADS

In 1741, the Pennsylvania colony built the [Great Conestoga Road](#), connecting

7. Rosemont College's Rathalla
PHOTO CREDIT: MONTGOMERY COUNTY PLANNING COMMISSION
8. Strafford Railroad Station, 1958
9. Merion Cricket Club
PHOTO CREDIT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS
DIVISION, PA-6037-3

Philadelphia with Lancaster. Use of the road, however, lapsed. Not until 1794 was a graded gravel private toll road opened connecting the two cities. The next connection between Philadelphia and Lancaster was in 1834, when the [Philadelphia and Columbia Railroad](#) finished an 84-mile stretch of tracks. Eventually, in 1857, the P&C Railroad was purchased by the [Pennsylvania Railroad](#) and became part of a system that reached Pittsburgh.

The railroad, of course, needed stations. In 1863, the Philadelphia architectural firm, the Wilson Brothers, designed the [Bryn Mawr Train Station](#) (54 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr), listed on the NRHP in 1979. The largest and busiest of the Main Line stations, the Victorian-style building was demolished in 1969. Only the freight and baggage building — now The Pullman Restaurant and Bar — remains.

What's now the [Strafford Railroad Station](#) (97 Old Eagle School Rd., Wayne) was originally the Japanese Pavilion in the 1876 Fairmount Park Centennial Exposition. After the event, the building was purchased by the railroad and moved to Louella (Wayne), where it was used as a station for two years. In 1887, the two-story building was moved to Eagle (renamed Strafford). It was added to the NRHP in 1984.

SPORT, RECREATION AND SOCIALIZING

The first Devon Horse Show, held in 1896, took place at the Devon Race Track and Polo Grounds, now called the [Devon Horse Show Grounds](#) (23 Dorset Rd., Devon). It was then a one-day event but has since evolved (see the article in this issue). In 1914, a grandstand was erected, and comfortable box seats were installed. By the 1920s, stalls were built, first for William du Pont, then for others. Today the [Devon Horse Show and Country Fair](#) has become the largest outdoor multi-breed horse show in the country.

Designed by Frank Furness and built in 1896, the [Merion Cricket Club](#) (325 Montgomery

7 ▶



8 ▶



9 ▶





10



The former Strawbridge & Clothier is credited as the first true suburban department store. In 1930 — and still — the building dominates those around it.

10. Merion Tribute House

11. Strawbridge & Clothier at Suburban Square, 1980s
PHOTO CREDIT: LIBRARY OF CONGRESS, PRINTS & PHOTOGRAPHS DIVISION, PA-6053

11

Ave., Haverford), a National Historic Landmark since 1987, was once described as “the most complete and largest country-club house in this country.” Its history covers cricket, lawn tennis, platform tennis, bowling, golf, soccer, squash, racquets, field hockey and badminton, and it remains a sports and community hub.

Since 1924, the [Merion Tribute House](#) (625 Hazelhurst Ave., Merion Station), designed by Livingstone Smith and Walter Karcher using local stone and Gothic features, has hosted weddings, social gatherings and corporate events. Eldridge Johnson, founder of the Victor Talking Machine Company and popularizer of the Victrola, offered his property as a tribute to local men who served during World War I. He asked that it be “the most beautiful structure of its kind in this locality.”

HEALTH AND SHOPPING

[Bryn Mawr Hospital](#) (130 S. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr) was founded in 1893 and designed by Frank Furness in a style known as Furness Classic. Initially, it had a capacity for just 20 patients, with only three physicians on staff. Now a 264-bed acute care hospital, it’s known for outstanding patient care and a history of medical advancements. Its Gerhard Building is eligible for listing on the NRHP.

Established in 1928, [Suburban Square](#) (Anderson & Coulter Aves. Ardmore) is one of the country’s first outdoor shopping centers. The eight-story former [Strawbridge & Clothier](#) building was designed by the firm of Dreher and Churchman and is credited as the first true suburban department store. In 1930 — and still — the building dominates those around it. It became a Macy’s in 2006 and, in 2017, was replaced by a health club and furniture retailer.

The Main Line has come a long way since the Lenape struck their deal with Billy Penn and the first settlers began to till its soil. Farms gave way to meeting houses then churches. Rough paths gave way to turnpikes then railroads and paved streets. Modest cabins became mansions. Schools, recreation, hospitals and retailing became big business. In the 21st century, however, we can still find its roots in its 300-plus years of buildings. ♦

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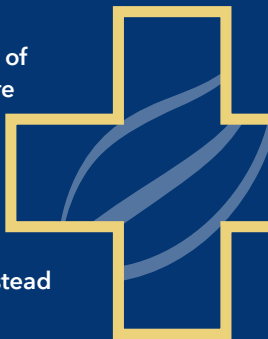


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A Main Line Mainstay Evolves

After nearly 80 years, Walter J. Cook Jeweler is changing.



“Michael Cook’s decision to move in a new direction was, as he said, ‘bittersweet.’

“THIS IS A HAPPY BUSINESS. WE help mark engagements, weddings, anniversaries, graduations and births for families — just some of the happy times we see our customers,” said Michael Cook, owner of the legacy jewelry store in Paoli. So, his decision to move in a new direction was, as he said, “bittersweet.”

“And change is hard,” Michael continued, thinking about the impact his plans will have on customers and staff after serving generations of families. “The business as an independent, full-service jewelry store needed to evolve,” he continued. His sons, with successful careers of their own, wouldn’t be following in their father’s and grandfather’s footsteps, despite the many years the business was voted Best Jeweler on the Main Line.

“We’ve been successful for nearly 80 years by adapting and evolving.”

What’s next? “I think of the next phase as 2.0. We’re evolving while staying old-school. I envision a type of boutique jeweler with our trademark customer service and luxury quality — a personal jeweler but on a smaller scale that’s carefully curated for a right-sized business and appointment-only model. And likely within a mile of the current location,” Michael said. “Diamonds and custom-designed pieces will still be major parts of the business, along with appraisals, repairs and unique bridal design work,” he added.

Some things will change, but many will stay the same. “I expect I’ll still get calls from customers near and far looking for that special piece for a special occasion.” One goal for the next phase is improved quality of life!

“Our loyal customers can follow our plans for reopening and keep in touch by phone and email — no changes there,” said Michael. When asked when the 2.0 boutique will open, Michael shared, “Plans are evolving, but tentatively we’ll announce our reopening for the fall.”

In the meantime, this year’s annual spring sale, starting April 24, will also serve as a store closing sale of multi-million-dollar inventory. Yet another chance to find what Michael Cook calls “today’s treasures and tomorrow’s heirlooms.” ♦

Walter J. Cook Jeweler, 36 Chestnut Rd., Paoli. 610-644-5347; WalterJCookJeweler.com. Store closing sale: April 24 to June 28.

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Home & Garden

Spring is the perfect time to visit gardens and nurseries, museums and homes, arboretums and preserves, all offering the best of the season. Let your imagination soar as you get inspired by the many offerings of the season. Enjoy!

Photo: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



Wilmington Flower Market



Scott Arboretum Peony Tour



Styers Festival of the Peony

THROUGH DECEMBER

America's Garden Capital Passport.

This free passport is an exclusive map and guide to exploring the region's public gardens. Log your visits to 30+ gardens within 30 miles. Download your garden map, AmericasGardenCapital.org.

MAY 2 & 4

Arasapha Garden Club's 82nd Anniversary

May Market in Historic New Castle. Garden experts help you choose from annuals, herbs, perennials, houseplants and native plants. Market Square, 201 Delaware St., New Castle, DE. Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 9 to 3. Arasapha.org.

MAY 2 & 3

DE Nature Society Native Plant Sale.

Rare varieties of native wildflowers, trees, shrubs, ferns and aquatic plants for sale. Many species attract wildlife. Coverdale Farm, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fri, 2 to 7 (member day); Sat, 9 to 3. DelNature.org/NPS.

MAY 2 & 3

25th Annual St. Mary Anne's Garden Market.

Over 75 garden-related vendors sell flowers, trees and shrubs for spring planting. A family-friendly event. 315 S. Main St., North East, MD. Fri, 9 to 6; Sat, 9 to 4. On Facebook.

MAY 3 & 4

Tyler Arboetum Plant Sale.

Come pick out the best plants to flourish in your gardens. Knowledgeable staff will help you plan your garden and select plants that thrive and provide ecosystem benefits to pollinators and other wildlife. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Daily 8 to 2. TylerArboretum.org.

MAY 4

Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival.

Explore plants, crafts, artwork, vintage goods and collectibles from vendors. Enjoy live music and food. Germantown Ave. from Rex to Willow Grove Aves., Chestnut Hill. 11 to 5. ChestnutHillPA.com.

MAY 8

86th Annual Phila. Herb Society of America

Herb Sale. Culinary and fragrant herbs and rare and unusual scented geraniums and salvias are featured. Box lunch catered by Dixie Picnic available. Cash or check only. Historic Yellow Springs, 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 10 to 1 pm, rain or shine. HSAPhiladelphia.org.

MAY 8

Showcase of Homes at Hershey's Mill.

The Paoli Hospital Auxiliary presents this tour, which includes six renovated and decorated homes, a luncheon at Hershey's Mill Golf Club, vendor boutique and raffle. Benefits Paoli Hos-



White Horse Village Garden Day



Stoneleigh Home & Garden Tour

pital. 1500 Greenhill Rd., West Chester. 10 to 4. Tour, \$40; with lunch, \$80. For info or tickets, visit Events.org/ES/PHASOH25 or call 484-535-2639.

MAY 8–10

Wilmington Flower Market. Benefits dozens of nonprofit Delaware children's agencies. Carnival rides, art, gifts, beer, entertainment, flowers and plants of all kinds are available. Rockford Park, Lookout Dr., Wilmington. Thurs–Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 10 to 7. WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org.

MAY 9–SEPTEMBER 28

Festival of Fountains at Longwood. Revisit nature and revel in brilliant blooms to stunning vistas from the Conservatory Overlook as you watch dancing fountains. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Thurs–Sat, 9:15 pm. \$18–\$25. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

MAY 9 & 10

Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire. Plants from the museum's Heirloom Seed Project plus natives and other hard-to-find varieties on sale. Find handmade garden decor and accessories and live entertainment. Refreshments available. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. \$8–\$12. LandisValleyMuseum.org.

MAY 10

Dahlia Society Tuber Sale. All tubers are \$7 at this sale held in front of Longwood Gardens Visitor Center, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 10 to 3. Philadahlia.org.

MAY 10

Uwchlan Garden Club Plant Sale. Find a selection of vegetable and herb plants, crafts, perennials, shrubs, trees, a kids corner and gifts. Benefits the 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House. 5 N. Village Ave., Lionville. 8 to 2. UwchlanGardenClub.org.

MAY 10 & 11

Wildflower, Native Plant & Seed Sale.

Shop from a wide variety of native wildflowers, grasses, ferns, vines, shrubs and trees. Staff will be on hand to provide planting and horticultural information. Benefits the Brandywine Conservancy & Museum of Art's Garden Program. Brandywine Museum of Art, 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 9:30 to 4:30. Brandywine.org.

MAY 10, 24, JUNE 14, 28

Home and Garden Tours at Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden. Dazzling displays of native plants, ancient trees and landscape designs are highlighted, along with a tour of the spectacular Tudor Revival Main House. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 10:30 to noon. \$15. StoneleighGarden.org.

MAY 11

Mother's Day Open Gardens at Welkinweir. The gardens, with azaleas at their peak, will be open to visitors to walk and hike. Bring a picnic to enjoy in the garden. 11 to 3. 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown. Welkinweir.org.

MAY 14

Shipley School's 50th Annual Secret Gardens Tours. Enjoy a self-guided tour through private gardens with a lunch stop on Shipley's campus. 9 to 3. For info and tickets, ShipleySchool.org/SecretGardens.

MAY 6 & 21

Scott Arboretum Tours: Peonies. *May 6*, Tree Peony Tour: learn about the different types of tree peony hybrids in the collection from the horticulture staff, 6 pm. *May 21*, In Person Peony Tour: explore the arboretum's wide variety of peonies on a tour led by an expert horticulturist, 3 pm. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. ScottArboretum.org.

MAY 16–26

7th Annual Festival of the Peony. Walk through 25 acres with more than 55,000 peonies and cut your own to take home. Bring

a vase for transporting your peonies. 4313 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 8 to 6. \$15/person or \$30/car. StyersPeonies.com.

MAY 17

Jenkins Arboretum Spring Blooms Celebration. Enjoy a roving dinner, garden games, music and floral festivities at this annual fundraiser. Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 6 to 9 pm. \$150. JenkinsArboretum.org.

MAY 17

A Day in Old New Castle. Take a look into the private homes and gardens and historic landmarks and museums. Enjoy historical reenactments, entertainment, artisans, children's games, tours of the Kalmar Nyckel tall ship and more. 50 Market St., New Castle, DE. 10 to 5. \$5–\$25. HistoricNewCastle.com.

MAY 21

Garden to Vase: Opulent Peonies at Winterthur. Take a special after-hours tour of the Peony Garden, designed by renowned landscape architect Marian Coffin, then use peonies to design an arrangement. Bring a glass vase. Reg. req. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 1 pm. \$80. Winterthur.org.

JUNE 6

Moonlight & Roses at Morris Arboretum. Dining and dancing under the stars, surrounded by the beauty of roses in bloom. Supports all aspects of the Arboretum's mission. 100 E. Northwestern Ave., Philadelphia. For info and tickets, MorrisArboretumGala.org.

JUNE 14

Garden Day at White Horse Village. The senior living community showcases the talents of resident gardeners. Self-guided tours, complimentary lunch at noon, reg. required. 535 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square. 10:30 to 2. WhiteHorseVillage.org. ♦

All events are free, unless otherwise noted.

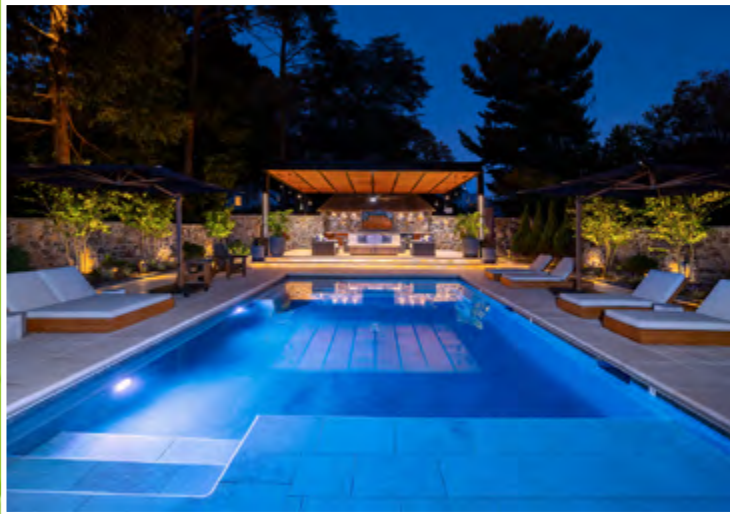
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Cheers to NA Beers

ELEVATE YOUR TAILGATES WITH ALCOHOL-FREE BREWS

Shannon Montgomery



AS THE SUN SHINES BRIGHTER AND THE DAYS get longer, spring in the Brandywine Valley is the perfect time to get outside with a cold drink in hand. Whether you're gearing up for thrilling polo matches, cheering on horses and riders at a local steeplechase, or enjoying a sporting event or picnic, there's no better way to enjoy the action than with a well-stocked tailgate. This year, in addition to equestrian tailgate classics like Champagne and mint juleps, consider adding nonalcoholic beer to the mix.

NA beer is on the rise, and it's got wide appeal — from designated drivers to craft beer fans looking to dodge a hangover or calories, anyone can drink NA beer. And with recent recommendations from the American Cancer Society, World Health Organization and other experts that there's actually no safe level of alcohol consumption, there's no better time to be on trend.

Here's the scoop on NA beer — some history, how it's made and recommendations for your tailgate spread.

SOME BACKGROUND

As the name suggests, nonalcoholic beer is like regular beer — made with water, grain, hops and yeast — but little to no alcohol (less than 0.5% ABV). Today, most NA beers are made through a process known as controlled or arrested fermentation, where beer starts the usual fermentation process but is stopped before it starts producing alcohol.

Though NA beer is having a moment, it's been around longer than you might think. As it turns out, it dates back to at least the Middle Ages. Medieval Europeans brewed low-alcohol “small beer,” which was thought to be safer to drink than water (sadly, often polluted) and cheaper than high-alcohol options like stouts, porters and ales.

NA beer saw a resurgence in the United States during Prohibition. After the 1919 Volstead Act limited alcohol content in beverages to 0.5%, brewers had to get creative. Anheuser-Busch and Pabst were among the first to brew “near beer” using a process called

dealcoholization, essentially boiling off the alcohol produced when fermenting beer.

When Prohibition was repealed in 1933, demand for near beer diminished. While some NA beers cropped up over the years — most famously O'Doul's in 1990 — the industry didn't really take off until the late 2010s, following the craft beer craze.

In 2017, Athletic Brewing Company was founded as the first U.S. brewery dedicated solely to producing NA craft beer. Many others followed, including Untitled Art, Best Day Brewing and Tom Holland's BERO. Today, many of the biggest names in beer have NA brews — Heineken 0.0, Coors Edge, Corona Cero, Stella Artois Liberté, Guinness 0 and Samuel Adams' Just the Haze, to name a few.

LOCAL OPTIONS

Beyond the national brands, we recommend, as always, choosing local for NA brews in your tailgate spread. Here are a few to try.

With locations in Ardmore, Kennett Square and Philly, and soon in West Chester and Newtown Square, Tired Hands Brewing Company has been getting a lot of buzz lately. Their NA beer, N/Alien Church, is brewed with oats, experimental yeast and the same hop bill as their popular 7% ABV Alien Church but with double the hops for a juicy citrus and tropical flavor, with notes of lemon-lime soda, peach rings and pineapple.

Started in Skippack, Brothers Kershner Brewing Company recently released their Pacer line of NA beverages: Pacer Amber, Pale, Pils and Hop Water, all less than 0.5% ABV. Find it at their Skippack Brewery & Tasting Room, Brothers on the Brandywine Beer Garden in Coatesville and The Barrel by Brothers Kershner, slated to open this month in Avondale.

For something a little different, try hop water: a nonalcoholic sparkling beverage combining carbonated water with hops, offering many of the same flavors of beer in a light, refreshing drink. Originally a limited-time release for Dry January, Iron Hill Brewery's Hop Water has a permanent place on the menu. This zero-calorie drink uses a blend of six hops — Azacca, Jarrylo, Cascade, Chinook, Cashmere and El Dorado — for a juicy, tropical fruit flavor. Order it at one of Iron Hill's 20 locations, including West Chester, Exton, Media and Wilmington.

Hershey-based Troëgs Independent Brewing offers hop water as well. Their Sidekick Sparkling Hop Water is infused with Mosaic hop oil to deliver a tropical, hoppy finish to this bubbly beverage with notes of citrus, lime and passionfruit. Plus, it's 100% gluten-free, sugar-free and zero calories.

Adding NA beer to your tailgate spread is a great way to elevate the experience for everyone, from the stone-cold sober to the sober-curious to those looking for a new brew. With a growing variety of options, you're sure to find a beer for every taste. Cheers to good company and a not-so-boozy brew! ♦

1. Winterthur Point-to-Point
PHOTO CREDIT: BOB LEITCH
2. Tired Hands Brewing's N/Alien Church
3. Brothers Kershner Brewing's Pacer Pils
4. Iron Hill Brewery's Hop Water
5. Troëgs Independent Brewing's Sidekick Sparkling Hop Water

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[Food News]

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

Avondale Ale. Brothers Kershner Brewing Company, with a location in Skippack plus seasonal Brothers on the Brandywine Beer Garden in Coatesville, is expanding to Avondale. The Downingtown natives' new taproom, **The Barrel**, is set to open in May inside a



historic two-story building (previously Be Here Brewing Co.). Look for 12 beers, a cocktail program plus ciders and wine along with pub grub classics — including delicious smash burgers. Check for updates. 122 *Pennsylvania Ave., Avondale. BrothersKershner.com/Brewery.*

Taqueria Tuesday. Starting as a food truck at the Shell Station, **Taqueria Los Poblanos** has quickly become a West Chester fave, now with a red-and-yellow, brick-and-mortar location (former Sam's Pizza Island). This family business is known for authentic and simple yet bold flavors of street tacos, including a popular al pastor. Open daily, with late-night weekend hours. Note: takeout and cash only. 445 *Hannum Ave., West Chester. On Instagram @Tacos_WC.*



All-Star Spring. Hotel du Pont's Le Cavalier and Chef Tyler Akin are hosting a **Delaware All-Stars Chef Series** this spring, showcasing the area's top chefs and restaurants. On May 19, Atkin joins forces with Chef Dwain Kalup from La Fia Bistro in Wilmington for a one-night-only, collaborative six-course dinner highlighting the chefs' respective specialties of French-inspired cuisine and sustainable ingredients. Stay tuned for more dinners. \$85/person, wine pairing extra. 42 *W. 11th St., Wilmington. LeCavalierDE.com.*

Riders Up! Take the reins and race to **The Jockey Tavern** at the former McKenzie Brew House in Malvern. The Mangan family's third restaurant (The Crown Tavern, Will's + Bill's Brewery & Restaurant) blends equine decor with vintage flair. Grab a seat and indulge in dishes of tomahawk pork chops, bison burgers and the traditional Sunday roast. Or reserve an event space, from the intimate Trophy Room to the grand Polo Lounge. 240 *Lancaster Ave., Malvern. JockeyTavern.com.*

Ooh La La Oola. The nutrition-focused brand **Oola Bowls** started at Lancaster Central Market and expanded to 10+ locations and 11.5k Instagram followers. When the West Chester shop opens this spring (more Chester County spots planned), it



will be the Borough's fifth acai option! Oola also offers pitaya bowls, fruit smoothies, Oola bites (peanut butter, Nutella, PB chip), healthy snacks plus an at-home acai bowl kit. 16 *E. Gay St., West Chester. OolaBowls.com.*



Treat Mom to Breakfast for Mother's Day

CLASSICS FOR BREAKFAST IN BED

Victoria Rose



HAVING SOMEONE ELSE COOK FOR YOU IS ONE of life's most delicious indulgences. For busy moms who spend every day caring for others, it's a rare treat. So there's no better way to show appreciation on Mother's Day than kicking Mom out of the kitchen! Let her put her feet up while everyone else pitches in. Or let the pros take care of breakfast at a hotel or B&B.

Generations cooking together is a familiar sight at the **Inn at Whitewing Farm**, a family-run bed & breakfast located near Longwood Gardens. "Our family is incredibly close, and we cherish the memories we create together every day," said Lance Shortt, owner, innkeeper and head chef. He personally cooks breakfast for guests every day, treating them to homemade breads, handcrafted parfaits and savory dishes made with local ingredients.

Shortt's grandchildren, Maddie and Jagger, frequently help on weekends, serving breakfast and welcoming new arrivals. The whole family lives onsite, including Lance and his wife Sandy, and daughter

Samantha, who manages the business, plus her family. "When we discovered Whitewing Farm — just minutes from where my family lived — we were captivated by its potential," said Shortt. They originally envisioned a unique wedding venue, then realized it would be an ideal B&B, especially with its location in America's Garden Capital.

"With our years of hospitality experience and a shared passion for creating memorable guest experiences, we'd found our calling," Shortt said. "Together, we turned Whitewing Farm into a destination where guests could immerse themselves in the beauty of Longwood, enjoy our grounds and experience personalized hospitality."

That love for hospitality continues through the generations at Whitewing Farm. "One of the most special things has been watching our grandchildren develop a love for cooking," Shortt said. "They've mastered some of our signature dishes, like our French toast soufflé, quiche and even their great-great-grandmother's lemon blueberry ricotta pancakes." These recipes are perfect for Mother's Day, whether you're cooking for a crowd or a simple breakfast in bed.

Shortt loves cooking for guests, chatting about their plans and giving suggestions for their getaway. But his favorite diners are Maddie and Jagger. "Being part of how they start their day, sending them off into the world with a full belly and a smile, is something I'll always cherish."

Guests at Whitewing Farm enjoy breakfast in the restored 1796 hay barn or delivered to their own private patio. "Every dish is made with love, using fresh, high-quality ingredients that make for a truly memorable start to the day," said Shortt.

That sounds like the perfect recipe to make Mother's Day a special treat for your own family. Just make sure to clean the kitchen when you're done!

◀ Inn at Whitewing Farm



Lemon Blueberry Ricotta Pancakes

A light and delicious alternative to the standard version, these pancakes are perfect to make together in the morning. For an extra treat, warm up the maple syrup and put it in a small pitcher to serve.



Serves 4 to 6

For the pancakes:

- 1 C. ricotta cheese
- $\frac{3}{4}$ C. milk
- 2 large eggs
- 3 T. lemon juice, freshly squeezed
- 1 T. lemon zest
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 C. all-purpose flour
- 2 T. sugar
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. baking soda
- $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp. salt
- $\frac{3}{4}$ C. fresh blueberries
- Butter or oil for cooking

For topping:

- Real maple syrup
- Powdered sugar
- Blueberries
- Sliced strawberries
- Whipped cream
- Lemon zest

In a large bowl, whisk together ricotta cheese, milk, eggs, lemon juice, lemon zest and vanilla extract until smooth.

In a separate bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt.

Gently fold dry ingredients into wet ingredients until just combined. Be careful not to overmix — you want a slightly thick batter. Gently fold in blueberries.

Heat a nonstick skillet or griddle over medium heat and lightly grease with butter or oil. Pour about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of batter per pancake

Next Level Whipped Cream

Make your own lemon zest whipped cream!

- 1 C. cold heavy cream
- 2 T. granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 T. lemon zest
- Small pinch of salt

Add the cream to a cold mixing bowl with whisk attachment and whisk on medium-high speed until soft peaks form. While continuing to whisk, slowly add sugar, vanilla, zest and salt until medium peaks form. Serve immediately or place in a bowl and refrigerate for up to 24 hours. If mixture becomes over-whipped (looks curdled or heavy), add a bit more cold heavy cream and gently fold in until the mixture becomes smooth.

onto the skillet. Cook for 2 to 3 minutes, until bubbles start to form on the surface and the edges look set. Flip and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes.

Stack pancakes and top with a dollop of whipped cream, blueberries, sliced strawberries, powdered sugar and fresh lemon zest. Serve with real maple syrup.

French Toast Soufflé

Make this a day ahead of time and refrigerate, then bake on Mother's Day to serve a crowd. This is a great recipe for little hands to help mix and pour. These magical moments of cooking together and making memories are truly priceless!

Serves 10 to 12



For the base:

1½ loaves French bread
8 large eggs
2 C. buttermilk*
1 C. whole milk
1 tsp. vanilla extract
2 T. granulated sugar
¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
Softened butter for spreading
Fresh berries, optional

For the crumble topping:

½ C. butter (1 stick)
¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
¼ tsp. ground nutmeg
1½ C. brown sugar

***Note:** If you don't have buttermilk, you can make a substitute. Put 2 T. lemon juice or vinegar in a measuring cup, then top with whole milk to measure 2 cups. Let sit for 5 minutes before using. Mixture will look slightly curdled — that's a good sign!

The night before serving, butter a 9"x13" baking dish. Slice French bread into about 20 slices, each 2 inches thick, and arrange in buttered dish.

In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, buttermilk, milk, vanilla extract, sugar, nutmeg and cinnamon. Pour wet ingredients over bread in baking dish, cover and refrigerate to soak overnight. (The Whitewing kids love adding fresh blueberries, too.)

The next morning, preheat oven to 350° and remove baking dish from the refrigerator.

To make the crumble topping:

Cut a stick of butter into small pieces. In a large bowl, use your fingers to combine butter with cinnamon, nutmeg and brown sugar until it's crumbly. Then sprinkle over the soaked mixture in the baking dish.

Cook for 45 minutes or until golden brown and cooked through. Let rest for 5 minutes before serving. Enjoy with plenty of maple syrup!

Parfaits, Featuring Chocolate Chip Raspberry Granola

This gluten-free granola recipe is perfect for whipping up a big batch, putting it in an airtight container and using as needed. Add your own toppings to create a picture-perfect parfait table, and serve in parfait cups or stemmed clear glasses.

Serves 8

For the granola:

1½ C. rolled oats



½ C. oat bran
1 C. crispy brown rice cereal
1 C. freeze-dried raspberries
1 T. cocoa syrup or stevia chocolate syrup
¼ C. bittersweet chocolate chips

For each parfait:

3-4 sliced strawberries
¼ C. Greek yogurt
1 raspberry, for garnish

To make the granola:

Preheat oven to 325°.

In a large mixing bowl, combine all ingredients except chocolate chips. Stir to combine.

Line a baking sheet with parchment paper and evenly spread the granola. Bake for 10 minutes, toss, and bake another 10 minutes until crispy.

Remove from the oven, let cool, then add chocolate chips and stir.

To make the parfaits:

Line the inside of a martini glass with sliced strawberries. Add a few spoonfuls of granola. Top with Greek yogurt.

Finish with a sprinkle of granola and a single raspberry. Serve immediately.

Spinach and Fire-Roasted Pepper Crustless Quiche

A crustless quiche is an easy, gluten-free twist on the classic. Add seasonal vegetables to create your own variations of this delicious quiche year-round!

Serves 6 to 8

Olive oil for cooking
1 C. yellow onion, diced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tsp. kosher salt, to taste

Create a Mimosa Bar with Ingredients Perfect for All Ages!

Take your brunch to the next level with a mimosa bar! There are so many more options for the base of this drink than just orange juice. And include fauxmosas in the bar, ideal for anyone looking for a nonalcoholic treat. Use glass pitchers and small bowls to create a fabulous display for your guests.

Start with:

- Tall clear stemmed glasses (plastic for young guests)
- Champagne, prosecco, sparkling grape juice or seltzer

Add a splash of:

- Fresh-squeezed orange juice
- Raspberry lemonade (see recipe below)
- Pineapple, cranberry, pomegranate or other juice
- Peach nectar

Serve with:

- Sliced oranges
- Blueberries
- Raspberries
- Pomegranate seeds
- Mint leaves

Add a fun surprise:

- Rock candy
- Sticks of rosemary or basil
- Cocktail stirrers

Finish with:

- Strawberry or orange on the rim of the glass

Raspberry Lemonade

In saucepan, combine 1 C. water and 1 C. sugar. Cook over medium heat, stirring occasionally, until sugar is dissolved and the mixture is entirely clear. Set aside to cool.

Squeeze 10-12 lemons to get about 1½ cups of juice.

Strain the juice into a pitcher.

Puree, blend or mash 8 oz. raspberries. Push through a sieve to remove seeds. Add juice to pitcher.

Stir in the cooled sugar syrup, then top with 5 C. of water (or more to taste). Serve over ice with lemon wedges and fresh mint.



3 C. baby spinach, roughly chopped

1 C. roasted red peppers, diced

6 large eggs

Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

¾ C. mozzarella cheese, shredded

2 T. feta cheese, plus more for serving

Preheat oven to 350°. Prepare a 9" round baking dish or scalloped pie plate with a coating of softened butter or olive oil, then set aside.

Put a few tablespoons of olive oil in a nonstick skillet and swirl to coat. Add onion and garlic with a pinch of kosher salt. Heat on medium-low, sauteing until tender and onions are translucent.

Remove pan from heat. Add chopped baby spinach and roasted red peppers with a pinch of kosher salt. Stir until spinach starts to wilt.

In a mixing bowl, lightly whisk the eggs. Add a pinch of kosher salt and freshly ground pepper. Whisk until thoroughly combined.

Once the spinach mixture has cooled, add it to the eggs along with the mozzarella. Stir to combine. Pour into prepared dish and sprinkle with feta.

Bake on middle rack of oven for 30 to 35 minutes, rotating the pan halfway through baking.

Cool quiche for 5 minutes before serving. ♦

Victoria Rose is an editor, writer and fan of all things creative. As soon as she could hold a wooden spoon, she started cooking with her mother, a former chef, and never stopped. Victoria spent the pandemic cooking, baking and posting food videos online, loves spending time in the kitchen testing new recipes with her children, and is always searching for unique additions for her vintage cookbook collection.



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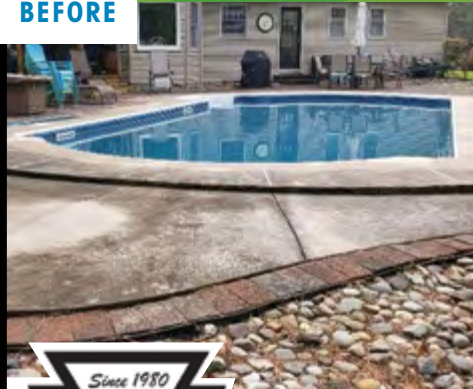
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