

COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE

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JUNE 2025

COUNTY LINES

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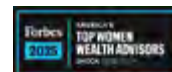
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NEW
LISTING



West Chester Boro

Historic elegance meets modern Borough living!

700 North Walnut may be one of the most distinguished homes currently offered in the Borough of West Chester. Set on nearly an acre and surrounded by mature trees and refined neighboring properties, this 5-bedroom, 2.1-bath residence blends historic charm with enduring craftsmanship. Built in 1900, it features handcrafted woodwork, triple return crown moldings, and timeless architectural details. The gracious foyer introduces intricate crown molding, bubble glass windows, and a built-in hutch beneath a keystone arch. A sweeping staircase leads up, while an arched entry opens to the formal Living Room with a striking fireplace mantel and French doors to a sun-drenched nine-window sunroom.

The elegant Dining Room offers arched built-ins, raised paneling, and light from three exposures. The Kitchen includes cherry cabinetry, Corian counters, dual Jenn Air wall ovens, a Bosch dishwasher, and an island with dual sinks and breakfast bar. A sunny Breakfast Room with built-in desks opens to a covered porch. Function meets elegance in the Mud Room and Laundry with tiled floors and ample storage. Upstairs, white oak floors with walnut inlays run throughout. The Primary Suite features a walk-in closet and marble bath with quartz vanity and rain shower. Additional bedrooms offer unique character, including one with a fireplace and porch access. With a detached two-car garage and walkable location, this is Borough living at its finest \$2,185,000



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



Birmingham Township

*Fabulous Tastefully Redone Home
with Much More!*

This 4 bedroom, 2.1 bath home on 11 acres has been totally updated. The main level has an open floor plan with marble flooring. The large Kitchen offers high-end cabinetry, stainless appliances, beautiful counters, huge center island and offers access to the terrace and pool. The Living and Family Rooms, as well as the Kitchen, have fireplaces with handsome marble stone facings. The Primary Bedroom has a large walk-in closet and a wonderful bathroom plus a Sitting Room. Two more bedrooms complete the Upper Level. An indoor riding arena has been transformed into a large athletic space. There is a large gym and a 2 bedroom apartment. Located in Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.

\$2,950,000



from the EDITOR

June at last! Couples are getting married. Travel plans are being made. Meals are moving outside. For weddings, Carol Metzker writes that more couples welcome fate into their day in “Weddings: A Million Dreams.” Shannon Montgomery shares that reception menus do more than feed a crowd — they tell a story. In “Eat, Drink and Be Married,” she notes food and drink choices express the couple’s tastes, honor their roots and create memories. Marci Tomassone adds a “Guide to Wedding Venues & Services.”

As for travel plans, Shelly Laurence of Main Point Books suggests reading is simpler and cheaper in “Read Your Way Through Southeast Asia.” Something closer? Try a “Weekend in West Chester.” Cara Corridoni’s got a 36-hour itinerary, from hotels to dining, shopping, sipping and live entertainment.

Yes, West Chester’s a dining hub, but we’ve rounded up scores of other options in our “Summer Dining Guide.” For sipping, Liz Tarditi suggests breezy seasonal cocktails in “Effervescent Escapes.” And Brandywine Table’s Victoria Rose says it’s “Strawberry Season” and includes tips for pick-your-own fans, plus recipes from Highland Orchards.

Gardeners can learn about “The Secret Lives of Mushrooms” from Alyssa Turner of Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, who explains how summer storms brings mushrooms to life and how fungi improve our soil. Both flower lovers and photographers will enjoy perusing our “Chester County in Bloom” photo finalists. Everyone can vote for their favorite on Facebook.

School may be out, but we’ve highlighted star athletes at area private schools. Find out which schools dominated on the field, pitch and court (tennis, this season) and the colleges that spotted the talent. Want to know more about history? Check out Brandywine Stories’ coverage of an enslaved woman’s path to freedom in “Mrs. Denny’s Route to West Chester.”

As always, we have the “Best Local Events” along with plenty of Family Fun ideas to help you enjoy June. Thank you for reading.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

June 2025

Volume XLVIII Number 10

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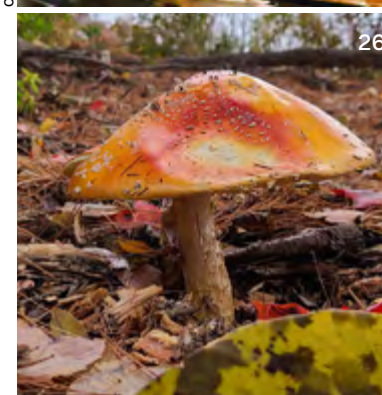
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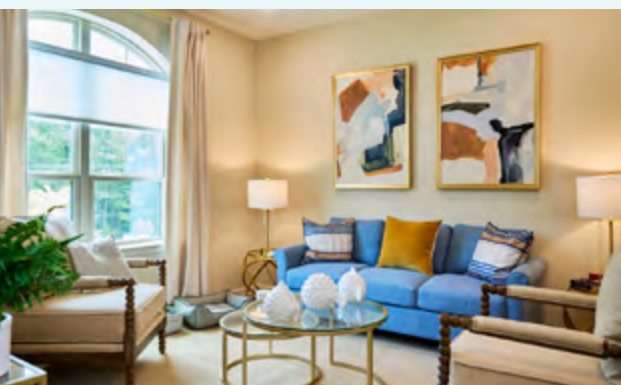
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[Good to Know] *Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

Pollination Station. The Chester County Justice Center is now home to a **pollinator garden**. County commissioners joined county employees, Keep Chester County Beautiful and the West Chester Green Team to break ground on the project on Earth Day back in April. In early May, volunteers and county staff planted over 400 native perennials, trees and shrubs. Signs educate visitors about the garden's plants, pollinators they attract and the importance of providing habitat for pollinators. 201 W. Market St., West Chester: Chesco.org.



Tickets to Tea. Got a dreaded West Chester parking ticket? Boost your spirits with a free drink from **OneZo** in Gay Street Plaza. Treat yourself to authentic Taiwanese bubble tea with chewy boba, jelly or popping bubbles, or a tasty latte, smoothie or slushie on the house with a valid borough parking ticket from May 2025 onward. 555 E. Gay St., Unit 28, West Chester: OneZoUS.com.



Notable Nominees. Know a gorgeous historic property or top-notch preservationist in West Chester? Nominations are open for the 14th annual **West Chester Preservation Awards**. The awards celebrate winners in three categories: Bricks and Mortar Awards for construction projects, Preservation Service Awards for educational and advocacy projects, and the West Chester Preservation Legacy Award for outstanding contributions to preservation. Nominations are accepted through June 10. Forms available at the Downtown West Chester office, 137 N. High St., and WCDF.org/Preservation.

Farm-Fresh Quest. Get rewarded for supporting local growers on the **Chester County Farmers Market Trail**. Through December, visit 10 diverse farmers markets across the county and collect a stamp at each one. Ten stamps get you a special Ag Swag Bag with gifts and info on the freshly grown, locally produced goodies found year-round in Chester County's markets, farms, stores and restaurants. Pick up a trail map at participating markets or download at Go-AgConnect.org.



New Discoveries. After renovations and a temporary relocation, the **Pottstown Children's Discovery Center** returns to Montgomery County Community College. The 7,000-square-foot space features a costume area and stage for kids to put on skits, a farm-to-table learning room, STEM activities and a LEGO-building area. Join them for the grand reopening, June 21, with costumed characters and face painting. New this year, the center will offer a weeklong, half-day summer camp in August. 95 S. Hanover St., Pottstown. PottstownDiscoveryKids.org.



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[best Local Events]

Stardust — A Summer Celebration

June 6



The secret to Stardust's magic? Being outdoors on a beautiful summer evening — wrapped in a stunning conserved landscape as far as the eye can see — for cocktails, a roving supper and merriment under the stars. And knowing you're supporting Natural Lands'

effort to save open space, care for nature and connect people to the outdoors ... and each other. *Bryn Coed Preserve, 1869 Flint Rd., Chester Springs. 6:30 p.m. \$350. NatLands.org/Stardust.*

Kennett Summerfest Wine & Food Festival

June 8

Indulge in a fusion of the finest local wines, culinary delights and live music.

Ticket options include a VIP experience with curated food stations, exclusive wine pairings, workshops and early festival access. Benefits Kennett Collaborative, a nonprofit that helps Kennett thrive through programs, events and initiatives. *100 block S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 2 to 6 p.m. \$60–\$100; designated driver, \$30. KennettSummerfest.com.*



2025 Town Tours and Village Walks

June 12–August 21



June 12, join the 31st Town Tours kickoff celebration in West Chester and explore some of the borough's "Untold Stories" at the *Church of the Holy Trinity, 212 S. High St., 5:30 p.m.* Upcoming tours: *June 26*, Coatesville; *July 10*, Warwick County Park; *July 17*, Valley Forge NHP; *July 26*,

Lafayette Day; *July 31*, Barnard Station, Pocopson Township; *Aug. 7*, Oxford Region Self-Guided Driving Tour; *Aug. 14*, Hopewell Furnace NHS; *Aug. 21*, Historic Yellow Springs. *Tours begin at 5:30 p.m.; last tour at 7 p.m. For details visit ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours.*

June Picks

by Marci Tomassone

Chester County Balloon Festival

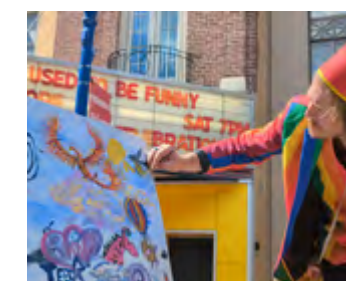
June 13–15

Balloons from all over the country are highlighted, along with a Special Shaped Balloon Rodeo, untethered and tethered balloon rides, and a walk-thru balloon. In addition, you'll enjoy a beer garden, live music, great food, crafts, kids zone and more. The festival benefits Scouting America Troop 52, Chester County Hero Fund, local police, fire and fire police plus EMS. *Willowdale Steeplechase Grounds, 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. \$10–\$22. Visit website for hours. CCBalloonFest.com.*



8th Annual Phoenixville Art Street Festival

June 14



Art, music and community combine in one event, featuring 70+ artists, live music, interactive entertainment, a community painting, drum circle and more. After exploring original art, peruse the shops of historic downtown

Phoenixville and refuel at one of many eateries or craft breweries. *100–200 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 11 to 5. PhoenixvilleChamber.org.*

Surrey's Premier Garden Party

June 18

Enjoy cocktails, conversation and light supper as you support Surrey's work for older adults in the community. Celebrate with the "Best of the Blooms" competition featuring local designer arrangements, a silent auction, Scotch tasting and more. *The Scottish Highlands at Bryn Clovis, 749 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$150. SurreyServices.org.*



FAMILY FUN

THROUGH OCTOBER 31

Brandywine Treasure Trail Passport.

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

JUNE 1

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.*

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.*

JUNE 7

Strawberry Harvest Celebration at Highland Orchards. Live music, food trucks, local vendors, games, activities for all ages, beer garden, goats and lots of strawberries. *1000 Marshallton-Thorndale Rd., West Chester. 10 to 4. HighlandOrchards.net.*



JUNE 14

Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area Strawberry Festival & Flea Market. Enjoy the flea market from 8 to 2, and the Strawberry Festival from 11 to 3. Hot dogs and hamburgers, side salads, strawberry shortcake and ice cream will be available for purchase. There will be games for the kids and music. Benefits the Historical Society. *204 Church St., Phoenixville. HSPA-PA.org.*

JUNE 15

Father's Day Express. Take Dad on a 90-minute round-trip train ride from West Chester to Glen Mills and return on his special day. Explore the historic Glen Mills train station as well as the picnic grove along the Chester Creek. *West Chester Railroad, 230 E. Market St., West Chester. \$20–\$25. Dads ride for a special reduced fare, \$5. Noon & 2 pm. WCRailroad.com.*

JUNE 21

Family Fun Day at DE Museum of Nature & Science. Get outdoors for a fun family day, with community partners hosting a variety of activities in the museum's backyard. You can interact with live birds from around the world and have your face painted. Event is outside (weather permitting). *4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. 10 to 2. \$15.50. DelMNS.org/Events.*

JUNE 28

Nottingham Country Fair. Loads of fun for the whole family with a pie eating contest, wagon rides, games, bubbletopia, kids inflatables, food trucks, vendors and much more. *Nottingham County Park, 150 Park Rd., Nottingham. 3 to 8 pm. ChesCo.org.*



JULY 4

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



JULY 4

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

JULY 4

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

ART, CRAFTS & ANTQUES

JUNE 1

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

JUNE 21 & 22

PA Guild of Craftsmen Summer Fine Craft Fair. Artisans offer contemporary fine crafts including jewelry, functional and decorative pottery, men's and women's wearables and upscale home furnishings. Foundry 48 Event Center, 100 W. Millport Rd., Lititz. Daily, 10 to 5. \$15. *PACrafts.org.*



BOOKS.....

JUNE 4–19

Wellington Square Bookshop. Classics Book Club: June 4, “The Ministry of Utmost Happiness” by Arundhati Roy, 2 pm. **NonFiction Book Group: June 5,** “The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat: And Other Clinical Tales” by Oliver Sacks, 7 pm. **Fiction Book Group: June 18 & 19,** “The One-In-A-Million Boy” by Monica Wood. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. *WellingtonSquareBooks.com.*

JUNE 4–25

Reads & Company. The Big Reads Book Group: June 4, “Madame Sosostris and the Festival for the Brokenhearted” by Ben Okri. **International Voices Book Group: June 11,** “We Have Always Been Here” by Samra Habib. **Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group: June 18,** “When the Tides Held the Moon” by Venessa Vida Kelley. **Then and Now Book Group: June 24,** “One Hundred Years of Solitude” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez. **The What's the Tea? Book Club: June 25,** “Disco Witches of Fire Island” by Blair Fell. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. *ReadsAndCompany.com.*

JUNE 17, 26

Main Point Book Club. Fiction Book Group: June 17, “All We Were Promised” by Ashton

Lattimore, 1 pm. **Fiction Book Group: June 26,** “Soil: the Story of a Black Mother's Garden” by Camille T. Dungy. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. *MainPointBooks.com.*

CAR SHOWS.....

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,

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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.

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....
THROUGH JUNE 1
Devon Horse Show & Country Fair. See Olympic-caliber riders, junior classes and Lead Line or come for the fun outside the ring at North America's oldest and largest outdoor multi-breed horse show. Visit the Country Fair's midway attractions and boutiques. Benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital. 23 Dorset Rd., Devon. DevonHorseShow.net.



THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28
Fridays-Sundays
Brandywine Polo. Spectators picnic and tailgate at the grounds. Fri Sunset Polo—gates open at 4:30; match at 5:30. Sat Night Starlight Polo (2x monthly), 6 pm, check schedule online. Sun, gates open at 12:30; match at 3. 232 Polo Rd., Toughkenamon. Call for weather updates and field assignments, 833-272-7656. BrandywinePolo.com.



FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....
JUNE 7
Chester County PrideFest. Enjoy live music, art displays, entertainment, a variety of vendors, fun games and activities. Bridge St., Phoenixville. 12 to 5. LGBTEAChesCo.org.

JUNE 7
Havertown Irish Festival & Crafter Village. Top Irish bands from Ireland and stateside are featured along with Irish dancers, Crafter Village offering handmade crafts by 90 artisans, food trucks, beer garden and children's fun zone. The Kelly Center for Music, Arts and Community, 50 E. Eagle Rd., Havertown. Noon to 8 pm. Free. KellyCenter.org.

JUNE 28-29
Celtic Fling and Highland Games. Enjoy traditional pipe bands and Celtic rock bands. Savor delicious Celtic cuisine, fresh brewed ales, wines, ciders and more. Mount Hope Estate & Winery, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Fri night concert, at 5, \$29.95; Sat-Sun, gates open at 11 am, \$13.95-\$33.95. PAREnFaire.com.



FOOD & BREWS.....
JUNE 1-6
Restaurant Week Supports the Red, White & Blue on the DE Culinary Coast. Diners can enjoy either menu discounts or prix-fixe menus at restaurants in Rehoboth Beach, Dewey Beach, Lewes and Coastal Delaware. Benefits military and first responders. 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.

JUNE 7
For Shore! Celebrating the Bayshore's Bounty. Enjoy a 21+ event focused on tasty



Local Farm Markets

Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net.
Berwyn Farmers Market, 511 Old Lancaster Rd. Sun, 9 to 1. BerwynFarmersMarket.com.
Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. Sat, 9 to 1. FarmToCityMarkets.com.
Market at Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fri, 2 to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 3. DeNature.org.
Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. Thurs, 3 to 6. GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Farmer Jawn Agriculture at Westtown Farm Store, 1225 E. Street Rd., West Chester. 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. Fri, 3 to 6. KSQFarmersMarket.com.
Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com.
Malvern Farmers Market, Burke Park, 26 S. Warren Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. GrowingRootsPartners.com.
Media Farmers Market, Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. Sun, 10 to 1. FarmToCityMarkets.com.
New Garden Growers Market, 8934 Gap Newport Pk., Landenberg. Sat, 9 to noon. On Facebook.
Newtown Square Food & Makers Mkt., 3625 Chapel Rd. 2nd Fri, 4 to 7. On Facebook.
Oxford Village Market, 193 Limestone Rd. Thurs, 8 to 6; Fri, 8 to 7; Sat, 8 to 5. OxfordFarmMarketPA.com.
Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. Sat, 9 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org.
Pottstown Farmers Mkt., 100 E. High St. Every other Sat starting May 10, 9-1. PottstownFarm.org.
Royersford Farmers Market, 2nd Ave. across from Victory Park. Sat, 9 to noon. RoyersfordFarmersMarket.com.
Swarthmore Farmers Market, 121 Park Ave., next to Swarthmore Borough Hall. Sat, 9 to noon. SwarthmoreFarmersMarket.org.
Thornbury Farmers Mkt. & CSA, 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. Thurs-Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 9 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. ThornburyFarmCSA.com.
Thornton Farmers Mkt., 330 Glen Mills Rd. Sat, 10 to 1. On Facebook
West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. WestChesterGrowersMarket.com.
Westtown Amish Market, 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4. WestChesterAmishMarket.com.
For more visit the Chester County Farm Guide online, ChesCo.org/AGDEV/FarmGuide

food and cool beverages, outdoor games and live music. Bring the kids and enjoy Parents' Night Out, exclusively for kids who will spend an evening doing fun sea activities. Pizza dinner served or bring your own meal. 4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington, 5:30 pm. \$35-\$65. Preregistration req. DelMNS.org/Events.

JUNE 7
Alex's Lemonade Stand Great Chefs Event. Culinary superstars along with local stars from the best bars, wineries and craft breweries share their creations at this annual fundraiser at the Navy Yard. Urban Outfitters Headquarters, Bldg. 543, 5000 S. Broad St., Phila. 1 to 4. \$255. AlexsLemonade.org.

JUNE 12, AUGUST 21
Summer Pop-up Biergartens at Historic Sugartown. BYO chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy live music, beverages from Locust Lane Craft Brewery, Manatawny Still Works and Chaddsford Winery and delicious foods from food trucks onsite. 260 Spring Valley Rd., Malvern. 5 to 8. \$10. HistoricSugartown.org.



JUNE 14
Habitat For Humanity Hops for Homes Beer Festival. Join in sampling Chester County craft brews, cider, spirits and wine and help build affordable homes. Adults 21 and over. Benefits Habitat for Humanity. Chester County Art Association, 100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. Noon to 5. \$10-\$45. HFHCC.org.

JUNE 14
Brews at the Battlefield. Beer enthusiasts mingle with the passionate brewers behind the beverages. Learn about the brewing process, discover unique flavors and gain insights into the world of craft beer. Benefits the Brandywine Battlefield Park Associates. Must be 21. 1491 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. 5 to 8 pm. \$15-\$45. BrandywineBattlefield.org.

JUNE 26
Brandywine Zoo—Sip & Stroll. Family-friendly happy hour series, featuring a local food vendor and live music along with adult beverages,

including craft beer and wine. Concession stand with snacks and soft drinks. Brandywine Park, 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 5:30 to 8:30 pm. \$7-\$10. BrandywineZoo.org.



FUNDRAISERS.....
JUNE 4
Pints with a Purpose & Cornhole for Charity Tournament. Food and beverages will be available for purchase, along with a cornhole tournament and raffle. Benefits Safe Harbor of Chester County. Locust Lane Craft Brewery, 50 Three Tun Rd., Ste. #4, Malvern. 5 to 8 pm. Free. SafeHarborOfCC.org.
GARDENS.....
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28
Festival of Fountains at Longwood. Stroll



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through the gardens with brilliantly blooming annuals and perennials and discover the Illuminated Fountain Performances and live music in the beer garden. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Thurs–Sat, 9:15 pm. \$20–\$35. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.



JUNE 21
Phoenixville Summer Garden Tour. Dig into summer with this self-guided tour of private gardens throughout Phoenixville. This year's tour spotlights kitchen gardens, herbs and edible landscapes. Benefits Phoenixville Area Transition and the Phoenixville Senior Center. Starts at the senior center, 153 Church St., Phoenixville. 10 to 2. \$20. GiveButter.com/PlantJoy.



MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7
Brandywine Museum of Art. *Through Jun 15*, “Andrew Wyeth: Human Nature.” *Through Sept. 7*, “This Earthen Door: Nature as Muse and Material.” 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
THROUGH JUNE
The Keswick Theatre. *June 4*, Joan Osborne;

June 7, That Motown Band; *June 15*, Robin Trower; *June 21*, Get The Led Out. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Visit website for more. KeswickTheatre.com.

THROUGH JUNE
At The Grand in Wilmington. *June 6*, Both Sides Now: the music and lives of Joni Mitchell and Leonard Cohen; *June 7*, The Taylor Swit Experience; *June 26*, The Allman Betts Band; *June 30*, Diana Krall. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Visit website for more. TheGrandWilmington.org.

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.



JUNE 1–14
National Music Festival—10th Anniversary Year. Kent County is transformed into a hub of music, featuring performances to suit virtually every taste. Historic Chestertown, MD. Some concerts are free, others require a ticket. For times and tickets visit NationalMusic.us.

JUNE 1–29
Long’s Park Summer Music Series. *June 1*, David Uosikkinen’s In The Pocket; *June 8*, Della Mae; *June 15*, Alsarrah and the Nubatoners; *June 22*, Skerryvore; *June 29*, The U.S. Army Band, “Pershing’s Own.” Concerts through Aug. 17. Long’s Park Amphitheater, Rt. 30 & Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. 7:30 pm. LongPark.org.

JUNE 3
Ephrata Chamber Ensemble: “Baroque on the Piazza.” Bring chairs and blankets to Historic Rock Ford for an evening of chamber music on the lawn of the Hand Mansion. 881 Rock Ford Rd., Lancaster. Charcuterie box and wine available for purchase when reserving tickets. 6:30 pm. Tickets, \$15. HistoricRockFord.org/Special-Events.

JUNE 5–28
Kennett Flash. *June 5*, Seth Walker with special guest Chris Kasper; *June 13*, Better Than



JUNETEENTH
Juneteenth commemorates June 19, 1865, when enslaved people in Galveston, Texas, finally heard the news they were free. For more events in Chester County visit CultureChesCo.org.

Coatesville
Check websitrr for events. CultureChesCo.org.

Kennett Square
• *June 19* – Juneteenth Jubilee. Learn about the significance of Juneteenth and enjoy live performances from local artists. 100 State St. 5 to 9.
• *June 15* – Kennett Underground Railroad Bus Tour, 1 pm. Kennett Heritage Center, 120 N. Union St. KennettUndergroundRR.org.
• *June 20* – Comedy performance and interview with comedian Preacher Lawson at Longwood Gardens. 7 pm. VoicesUnderground.com.
• *June 21* – Juneteenth at the Creamery Festival. Music, food trucks, games and more. 401 Birch St., 1 to 6. VoicesUnderground.com.
• *June 22* – Continental breakfast and multi-faith church service, followed by a festival at Lincoln University, 1570 Baltimore Pk. Starts at 10. VoicesUnderground.com.

June 22
Phoenixville Celebration
Activities to engage the community and shed light on the importance of African American history with reenactors, music, art, dance, drummers, street theater, magic, soul food and storytelling. 2 to 6 pm. 200 block of Bridge St.

Juneteenth Celebration in West Chester
• *June 15* – Music, speakers, performances. 1 to 4. The Charles A. Melton Center, 501 E. Miner St. #JuneteenthFestival. More events to come. Visit CultureChesCo.org.

Bacon; *June 20*, Dead Letter Office: A Tribute to R.E.M.; *June 28*, Gordon Sterling and The People. 102 Sycamore Alley, Kennett Square. Visit website for more. Times and tickets, 484-732-8295; KennettFlash.org.

JUNE 6–27
Bryn Mawr Twilight Concerts. *June 6*, Over the Hillbillies (free); *June 15*, Rhett Miller; *June 20*, Livingston Taylor; *June 21*, Chris Smither; *June 27*, The Point 20 Year Reunion. Concerts through Sept. 5. The Gazebo, 9 S. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. 7 pm. \$18. BrynMawrTwilight-Concerts.com.



JUNE 6–28
Upper Merion Concerts Under the Stars. *June 6*, An American Classic: Bruce vs. Petty Born to Run Down The Dream; *June 13*, Steve Earle; *June 14*, Aimee Mann; *June 20*, Spafford; *June*

21, Jealousy Curve; *June 28*, Strand of Oaks. Concerts through Sept. 14. Township Bldg. Park, 175 W. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia. 7 pm. Visit website for tickets. UMTownship.org.

JUNE 7
10th Annual Wayne Music Festival. Featuring 3 stages, highlighted by national, local and regional music, as well as over 75 local restaurants and vendors, family-friendly activities, beer gardens and more. N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 1 to 10 pm. Free. WayneMusicFestival.com.



JUNE 7
Authentic Flamenco at Media Theatre. Experience the passion of authentic Spanish flamenco as award-winning dancer Patricia Donn joins an extraordinary ensemble. 104 E. State St., Media. 3, 5:30 and 8 pm. \$59–\$119. MediaTheatre.org.

JUNE 11–AUGUST 10
Delaware County Summer Festival. This popular Delco tradition offers everything from Classical to Cajun, Motown to Broadway, Doo Wop to Rock & Pop. Visit website for concerts. Rose Tree Park, Rt. 252 & Providence Rd., Upper Providence. Free. DelcoPA.gov/Departments/Parks/SummerFestival.html.

JUNE 12–26
Summer in the Park Concerts at Wilson Farm Park. *June 12*, Tim Williams Band; *June 19*, Almost There; *June 26*, Basic Cable. Concerts through summer. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Chesterbrook. 7 pm. Free. Tredyffrin.org/Departments/Parks.

JUNE 13
Twilight Music Series in Media. Bring a picnic dinner and relax on the lawn as Steve Guyger plays the blues harmonica. Community Center, Monroe St. between 3rd and 4th Sts., Media. 6 to 8 pm. MediaArtsCouncil.org.

JUNE 15, 29
Miller Park Summer Concert Series. *June 15*, Greaseband; *June 29*, Jess Zimmerman Band. Concerts through Aug. 24. Food trucks and 50/50 raffle at concerts. Albert C. Miller

Chester County Library System's
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June to August 2025

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Memorial Park, 220 Miller Way, Exton. 6 pm. Free. WestWhiteland.org.



JUNE 20
Friday Night Lights. Live music and refreshments under the evening sky. Benefits Natural Lands. ChesLen Preserve, 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 7 to 10 pm. \$47. NatLands.org.

JUNE 22, 29
West Goshen Summer Concert Series. *June 22*, The Chatterband; *June 29*, The Sam Stinson Band. Bring dry goods for West Chester Food Cupboard. West Goshen Community Park, N. Five Points and Fern Hill Rds., West Chester. Concerts through Aug. 24. 6:30. Free. WestGoshen.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

JUNE 3
Community Volunteers in Medicine 23rd Annual Golf Classic. Join CVIM and its partners for a day of golf along with breakfast, lunch, dinner, open bar, auction and giveaways. Supports the region's largest free healthcare center for families without health insurance. Applebrook Golf Club, 100 Line Rd., Malvern. Learn more at CVIM.org.

JUNE 5
13th Annual Trail Blazer Run. Three events 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. Free beer from Artillery Brewing Co. (root beer for minors) and a race T-shirt for runners. 1300 Valley Creek Rd., Downingtown. 6 pm. \$20–\$30. EastBradford.org.

JUNE 8
23rd Annual French Creek Iron Tour—Cycling for Open Space. Rides for all levels—from beginners to accomplished cyclists—with courses from 11 to 100 miles. Benefits French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Kimberton Fairgrounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. Registration, 7 am. \$65. IronTour.org.

JUNE 14–20
Schuylkill River Sojourn. The annual 112-mi. guided canoe/kayak trip begins in Schuylkill Haven and ends at Philadelphia's Boathouse Row. Participants paddle 14–18 miles per day. Register for one day or more or the entire week. Meals, camping arrangements and shuttle service included. \$120–\$720. SchuylkillRiver.org/Sojourn.



JUNE 20
Media 5-Mile Race. Benefits community outreach with proceeds to area nonprofits. Kids' Free Fun Runs at 6 pm, Barrall Park and Field, State & Edgemont Sts. Main race at 7 pm, State St. and Veterans Square. Street Party after race on Veterans Square. \$45. Media5MileRace.com.

JUNE 20–22
Annual Pottstown Rumble. Premier grass doubles volleyball tournament, attracting nationally ranked pros, amateurs and even kids.

For spectators, there's a great selection of food, a beer tent and vendors. Main field at Memorial Park, 75 W. King St., Pottstown. \$10; children under 12 free. PottstownRumble.com.



THEATER.....
THROUGH 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.

JUNE 13–JULY 20
"Cats" at Fulton Theatre. The theater will be transformed into an abandoned amusement park that will surround the audience, delivering Andrew Lloyd Webber's classic in a magical new light. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

JUNE 14
"All's Well That Ends Well" at West Goshen Community Park. Enjoy the adaptation of Shakespeare's comedy in Clark Park, 1023 Fern Hill Rd., West Chester. Rain date, June 20. 6 pm. Free. WestGoshen.org.

JUNE 25–AUGUST 3
"Little Shop of Horrors" at People's Light. Follow an unfortunate florist who unwittingly cultivates a singing botanical menace. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

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

JUNE 6
1st Fridays
Coatesville, 484-786-8896; DowntownCoatesvillePA.com. **Lancaster City,** 717-509-ARTS; VisitLancasterCity.com. **Oxford,** 610-998-9494; OxfordMainStreet.com; **Phoenixville,** 610-933-3253; PhoenixvilleFirst.org. **West**

Chester, 610-738-3350; DowntownWestChester.com. **Wilmington Art Loop,** 302-576-2135; ArtLoopWilmington.org.

THROUGH 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.

THROUGH 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. ♦

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

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

For more events visit:

CountyLinesMagazine.com

Murder Mystery Dinner

Join us for a rockin', radical night of mystery* to benefit Hope Springs Equestrian Therapy on **Saturday, June 28th.**

Place: Montgomery School
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Time: 4:00-8:00 PM

*This event is for adults only please, ages 18+.

Tickets: www.hope-springs.org/events/ilovethe80s

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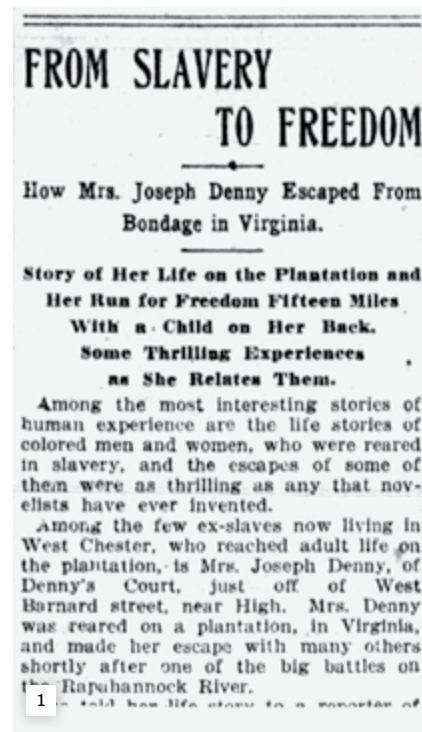
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Mrs. Denny's Route to West Chester

IN SEARCH OF FREEDOM
AND OF A WOMAN'S NAME

Jennifer Green, Chester County History Center



1

tacular show of defiance, Mrs. Burns and her companions refused to return to slavery and dared the men to shoot them.

As the freedom-seeking men, women and children looked down the barrels of Southern shotguns, something entirely unexpected happened — 10 Union cavalry officers appeared on the other side

Confederate Army pressed Charles Burns, Sr., into service driving an ammunition wagon. His wife never saw him again.

The course of Mrs. Burns's life took an abrupt turn after a routine visit to a flour mill along the Rappahannock River, about 15 miles from the plantation. Instead of the usual miller, she found Union soldiers, including General Geary, who tasked her with delivering an ominous message to her enslaver — "Every foot of ground we trod on belongs to us, with all that is on it."

Within days, Geary's forces met the Confederates in battle so close to the plantation that the sound of the cannons was deafening. It was then that Mrs. Burns convinced 25 enslaved men and women to escape with her. She had to make a difficult decision — whether to take her children with her, or leave them behind. Alonzo was 6 years old, while Charles was 4 and Grace was just 2.

With Charles on her shoulders and Grace carried by a cousin, the group left at night and traveled 15 miles on foot to the Rappahannock River, where they found the bridge had been destroyed. Traveling downriver to the very mill where she'd met General Geary, the group found themselves face to face with armed men sent by the plantation to recapture them. In a spec-

HOUSED WITHIN A COLLECTION of over one million pieces, the newspaper clippings files at the Chester County History Center hold a special allure even among seasoned historians. There are countless stories in this treasure trove.

One distinctive clipping, published on January 1, 1906 in the *Daily Local News*, told the incredible life story of a woman known only as Mrs. Joseph Denny and her quest for freedom. Before she was Mrs. Joseph Denny, she was known as Mrs. Charles Burns. Though she must have had a name of her own before she married, that mystery would require some digging.

For the staff of the History Center, uncovering her first name was only the start of her story from slavery to freedom.

FROM ENSLAVEMENT TO FREEDOM TO WEST CHESTER

Born into slavery near Culpeper, Virginia, Mrs. Burns spent her days laboring in the fields and her nights mending shirts. Her husband, Charles Burns, was enslaved by another man and lived on a nearby plantation. The couple had three children — Alonzo, Charles and Grace — but the Civil War tore the small family apart when the

Charles H. Burns

After Judy Denny moved to West Chester, each of her children grew in their own unique way.

Grace, just 2 years old when her mother made her bid for freedom, unfortunately passed away at an early age. Alonzo became a terracotta mason and worked on West Chester's famous Farmers and Mechanics Building. The middle child, Charles, left the broadest legacy.

Apprenticed as a carpenter, Charles soon shifted his considerable focus to opening his own restaurant. By 1891, he'd raised enough capital to open Burns' Great Oyster House at 34 West Gay Street (Sedona Taphouse's current location). He became a leader in local politics and vigorously protested school segregation. An active warrior for civil rights, Burns witnessed firsthand West Chester's turn-of-the-century descent into policies that echoed the Jim Crow South. After struggling with "tubercular trouble" for years, Burns died in 1917 at the age of 61.



This historic plaque, dedicated to Judy Denny's middle child, Charles H. Burns, marks the site of his original restaurant

of the river. Realizing the situation, the officers swam their horses across the water and took the four Southerners into custody.

The Union soldiers escorted Mrs. Burns and her companions on foot for four days toward Harpers Ferry, West Virginia. Along the way, 130 more freedom seekers joined them on their journey. After receiving word that Confederates were marching to Harpers Ferry to recapture the group, the Union soldiers put them on a train to Philadelphia. The soldiers could escort the group only as far as Baltimore, where they waved goodbye and returned to the front lines.

In Philadelphia, Mrs. Burns was free, but she had three small children and knew no one in the city. While she debated her next move, she met Mrs. John Ingram, who'd traveled to the city to hire farm help. Ingram decided to take Mrs. Burns and the children to her home in Chester County, where the Burns family stayed for six years. During that time, Mrs. Burns met and married Joseph Denny and had two more children with him. When Mrs. Ingram sold her farm, the family followed her into West Chester and made their lives in the borough.

DISCOVERING MRS. DENNY

In 2021, when the History Center's Anne Skillman came across Mrs. Denny's story while researching an Underground Railroad walking tour, one thing about the interview rankled her — that the reporter never gave Mrs. Denny's first name. After digging through the archives, Skillman was able to report that Mrs. Charles Burns/Mrs. Joseph Denny was, in fact, named *Judy*.

Most Chester Countians know the critical role this region played in the Underground Railroad, but few realize how that role continued all the way up to the very end of the Civil War. If you'd like to read Judy Denny's firsthand account of her journey to freedom, the full interview is available at the Chester County History Center. ♦

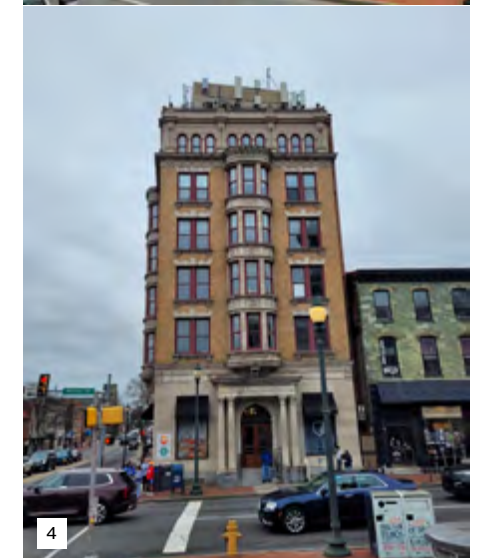
Jennifer Green, Director of Education at the Chester County History Center, wrote this article as part of Chesco250. The Brandywine Stories series is designed to raise awareness of the expansive history and culture of Chester County and build excitement for 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration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



2



3



4

1. Judy Denny's story in the *Daily Local News*, January 1, 1906
2. The Burns-Denny family lived in a home just down this alley called Wilmont Mews in West Chester, though the building is long gone
3. Charles H. Burns opened his restaurant at 34 West Gay Street, where Sedona Taphouse now stands
4. Alonzo Burns, eldest child of Judy Denny, made the incredible journey with her from Culpeper, Virginia and ultimately to West Chester. As a terracotta worker, he was one of the craftspeople who worked on the Farmers and Mechanics Building in 1907.



Read Your Way Through SOUTHEAST ASIA

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SUMMER IS JUST ABOUT HERE, AND FOR MANY of us, that means our thoughts turn to travel. You may be dreaming of a trip to some exotic destination (“White Lotus,” anyone?), though many of us may have to settle for something a bit more local or virtual.

If Southeast Asia is on your radar, a book (or two) for armchair traveling will cost much less than an actual trip, and it’s sure to be a lot less hassle. So, read on — first stop, Thailand.

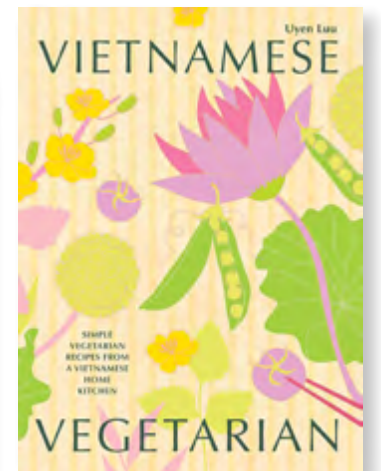
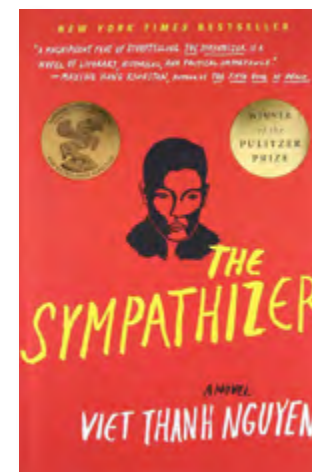
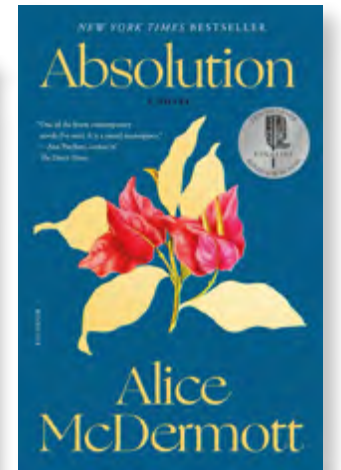
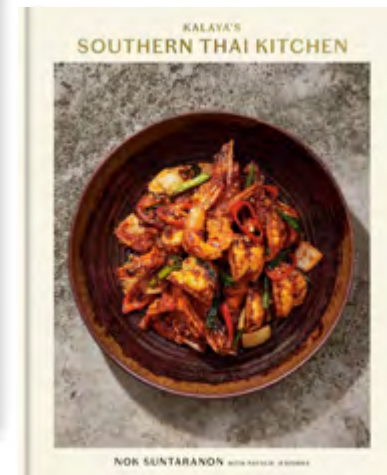
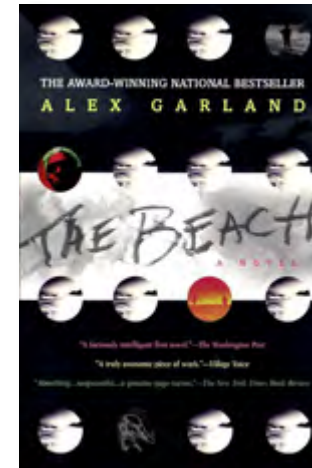
Thailand is known for its fabulous beaches, and Alex Garland’s gripping backpacking adventure “*The Beach*” will put you right there: a lagoon hidden from the sea, with white sand and coral gardens, freshwater falls surrounded by jungle, plants untouched for a thousand years. Rumor has it that a carefully selected group of expats have settled there in a communal Eden. But our guide to this paradise, a 20-something named Richard, soon learns Beach culture has troubling, even deadly, undercurrents. According to *The New York Times*, Garland’s writing really captures the sense of place, “deftly, he uses real-life travel details — smells, optical effects, quirks of language, social rituals — to keep the reader’s disbelief at bay.”

Get off the beach and wind your way through the streets of one of the world’s most exotic cities in “Bangkok 8” by John Burdett.

In this thriller with attitude to spare, a charismatic Marine sergeant is murdered under a bridge, and among the witnesses are the only two honest cops in town. Within minutes, one of them is killed, and his partner is hell-bent on revenge. *People* magazine says, “Like Thai cuisine, Burdett’s comic thriller blends spicy, sour, salty and sweet — and makes for a delicious wake-up for jaded palates.”

And speaking of Thai food, if you want a taste of the real thing, you don’t have to travel far. Just head to Philadelphia’s Fishtown neighborhood and check out Kalaya. You’ll fall head over heels, just like I did. Now you can cook like Chef/owner Nok Santaranon. Grab a copy of her cookbook, “*Kalaya’s Southern Thai Kitchen*.” This is authentic Thai cooking — but with instructions that are easy, and she includes beginner-friendly tips and suggested recipe pairings — all aimed at home cooks, so you can get your Thai on in your own kitchen.

Vietnam is also a popular travel destination these days, but that wasn’t always the case, thanks to the Vietnam War. Want to know what it was like back in the day? National Book Award Winner Alice McDermott has written a poignant tale of American women and girls living in Saigon who try to “do good” for the people there. Her book, “*Absolution*,” explores the question — Is a good deed really for the recipient or for yourself?



The war and its aftermath are also the subject of “*The Sympathizer*” by Viet Thanh Nguyen, winner of the 2016 Pulitzer Prize. It’s a sweeping epic of love and betrayal, narrated by a Communist double agent, a half-French, half-Vietnamese army captain who heads to America after the fall of Saigon. He lives among other Vietnamese refugees in Los Angeles but is secretly reporting back to his Communist superiors in Vietnam.

“*On Earth We’re Briefly Gorgeous*” by Ocean Vuong is a letter from a son to a mother who can’t read. Written when the speaker, Little Dog, is in his late 20s, the letter details a family history rooted in Vietnam and gives his mom a look at parts of his life that she’s never known. My colleague Evan Wang is a fan, describing this book as “violent and honest. This novel

blends poetry and prose. It’s a series of letters written to the main character’s illiterate mother. Written by one of the most prolific poets of our time, this book made me feel more real.”

Want to dive into the country’s backstory? In “*Vietnam: A New History*,” Christopher Goscha reaches back to antiquity to show us how the country was shaped by emperors, rebels, priests and colonizers. The bloody Cold War-era conflict between Ho Chi Minh’s Communist-backed Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the American-backed Republic of Vietnam was the most recent instance when war divided and transformed Vietnam — but it certainly wasn’t the first.

Want to eat like you’re in Vietnam? You can do it with ease thanks to Uyen Luu and her book “*Vietnamese Vegetar-*

ian.” From quick dishes like sweet potato noodles with roasted fennel and sweetheart cabbage or omelette banh mi, to dishes fit for a king such as mushroom and tofu pho, there’s a huge array of choices for any occasion, including dessert. Once you taste these delicate flavors, you’ll want to know even more.

Want to dive deeper into these enticing countries? Hit up your local independent bookstore. There’s plenty more where these came from. ♦

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

The Secret Lives of Mushrooms

TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT FUNGI THIS SUMMER

Alyssa Turner, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

AFTER A RAINSTORM, THE FOREST FLOOR silently begins to change. Small, strange shapes push through the damp duff and leaf litter. The wrinkled orange “tentacle” of a stinky squid mushroom (*Pseudocolus fusiformis*) reaches up from the woodchip mulch. Nearby, the red cap of an amanita stands like a storybook toadstool, white-spotted and proud. On the trunk of an old oak, turkey tail (*Trametes versicolor*) grows in dense, sunlit clusters of striped shelves.

These are the quiet guests we find at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens: fungi. Though they may only last a day or two, their sudden appearance signals something special happening beneath our feet. Fleeting but welcome, mushrooms are signs of a thriving ecosystem, enhancing plant growth, resilience and balance.

FUNGAL NETWORK

What we see above ground is just one small part of an interwoven and ever-expanding story of fungi. The visible mushrooms popping through the forest floor are the fruiting bodies of a much larger organism. Below the soil, thin threads called mycelium stretch and spread, forming an underground web known as the mycorrhizal network. Through this network, fungi facilitate the exchange of

nutrients and water between linked plants, especially during times of stress, such as summer droughts.

As the fungal network weaves outward, it improves soil stability, air flow and moisture retention. All the while, fungi slowly decompose organic matter like dead trees and leaves, recycling nutrients back into the soil.

Fungi provide an ecosystem service few other things can: breaking down dead wood to release the nutrients locked inside. Wood is a treasure trove of essential minerals, trapped in a network of tough cellulose and lignin. Hardly anything can digest cellulose and lignin — but fungi can and do!

By digesting dead wood, fungi kickstart the process of returning essential nutrients to the soil. It’s a quiet but powerful teamwork that helps the whole forest stay healthy.

FUNGI AT JENKINS

At Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, our organic-rich gardens depend on the work of these mostly hidden partners. In turn, our horticulture team gardens in a way that intentionally supports fungi. We minimize soil disturbance as much as possible and let nature do the heavy lifting.

We also embrace a naturalistic look to our gardens, celebrating the beauty of plants in all four seasons, never rushing to cut back or tidy up after plants go dormant.

You can do the same at home: plant native species, mulch with compost or leaves, and let fallen logs decompose where they land. With the right mix of shade, moisture and organic matter, fungi will find a place in your yard — and will return the favor by improving it!

TUNE IN TO FUNGI

With over 7,000 species in Pennsylvania alone, Kingdom Fungi poses an exciting opportunity to observe a wide variety, and summer can be a great time to see these hard-working fungi up close. Warm, wet weather after a storm often brings many kinds of mushrooms to life.

Next time you visit Jenkins or another garden, take your time to observe the quietest visitors. Look beside logs, near stones or at the base of trees. Once you tune your eyes to notice our fungal friends, you’ll start to see the diverse shapes, colors and sizes popping up all across forest floor.

Mushrooms may be fleeting, but their presence reveals a hidden world teeming with life and connection. These fascinating fungi are more than just curious forest decorations — they’re essential players in the health of our ecosystems, quietly recycling nutrients, supporting plant life and sustaining the soil beneath our feet.

When observing fungi, just remember: not all mushrooms are safe to touch or eat. Some look very similar to each other, and some are toxic if eaten. It’s always best to admire mushrooms with your eyes, not your hands.

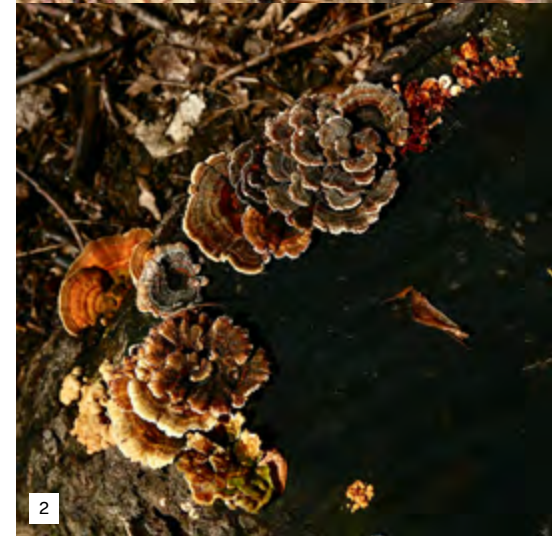
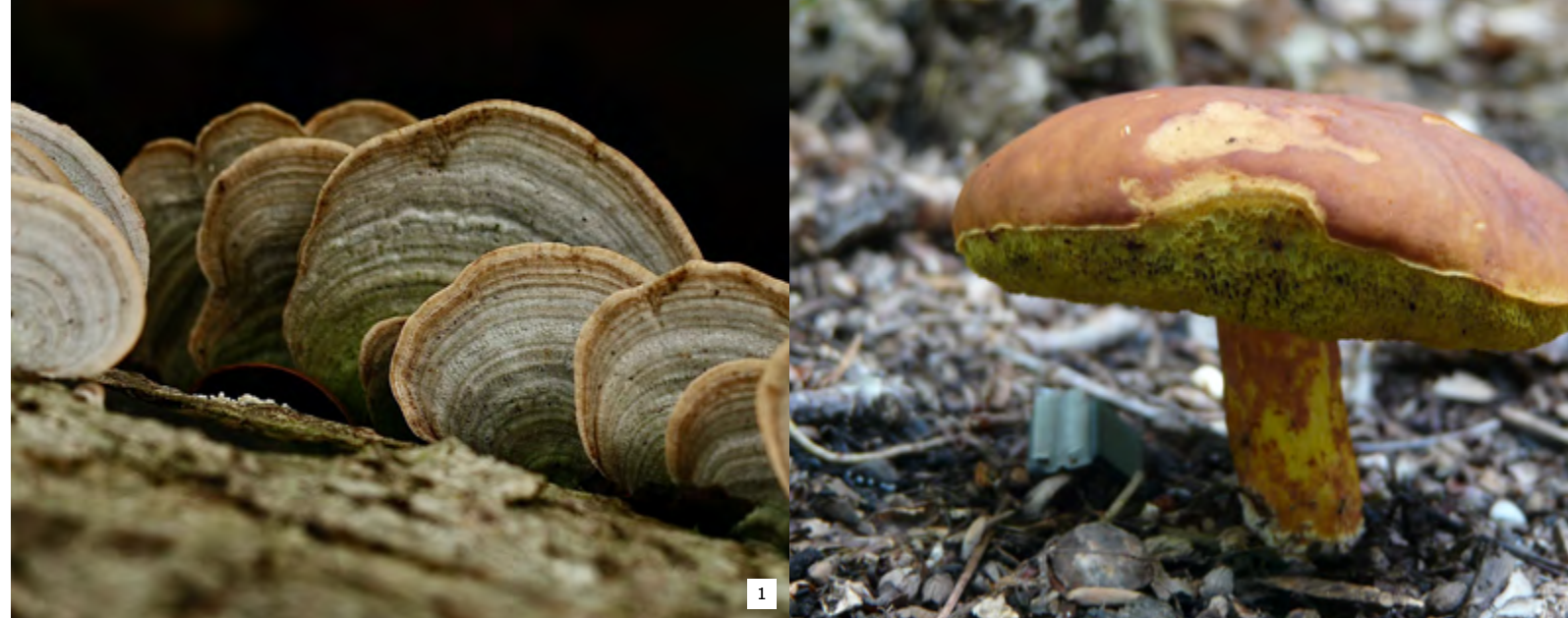
At Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens, we celebrate the vital role of fungi and invite you to do the same in your own backyard. So next time the summer rains fall, take a closer look at the forest floor. You just might uncover one of nature’s most extraordinary partnerships, quietly at work. ♦

IMAGES COURTESY OF JENKINS ARBORETUM & GARDENS

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is a 48-acre public garden showcasing native flora of the eastern United States and a world-class collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. The gardens are open every day of the year and are always free of an admission fee. Plan your visit by visiting [JenkinsArboretum.org](https://www.jenkinsarboretum.org).

More Fun with Fungi

If you’re curious to learn more, many local organizations have educational opportunities focused on fungi. This August at Jenkins, they’ll partner with the Philadelphia Mycology Club to host a Summer Fungi Walk in the gardens as well as a virtual talk exploring Fungal Ecology in Greater Philadelphia. In September they’ll celebrate the beauty of fungi with a sketching class: The Mushroom Forager’s Sketchbook. Information about these programs — and more — can be found on Jenkins’ website.



1. Fungi display a dazzling array of colors, textures, and patterns
2. Turkey tail fungi working to decompose a stump



Weekend in West Chester



PHOTO CREDIT LEIGH VOGEL/CHESTER COUNTY'S BRANDY WINE VALLEY

SHOP, DINE, TOUR, RELAX IN THE BOROUGH

Cara Corridoni

YEARS AGO, A FRIEND AND her husband would spend one weekend a year exploring their hometown of West Chester like visitors. They lived within walking distance of the downtown district, but for 36 hours, they imagined they were newbies.

The couple hit up new shops and popped into old favorites. They did — and ate — all the things recommended by friends, neighbors and the West Chester Community Facebook group. They got up early, partied all night and shared their pictures with envious friends.

Who knew the tried-and-true offered so much to do? Don't believe me? Here's your itinerary to explore West Chester, over 225 years old and still going strong.

4 P.M. EASE INTO YOUR STAY

To really escape, you'll want to book a night at one of West Chester's luxurious

new accommodations. Stay in the mix of it all at the [Hotel Indigo](#). Opened in January, everything about this hotel on Gay and Walnut Streets is gleaming new. From West Chester University's purple and gold to the Borough's clockmaking history, keep your eye out for West Chester "Easter eggs" scattered throughout.

Prefer the old-made-new-again? The [Bookhouse at Faunbrook](#) on Rosedale Avenue has recently been renovated and restored to quaint perfection. Each room in this 1860 Federal Italianate-style mansion is literary-themed and stuffed with a library's worth of titles.

After you settle yourself, head over to [Turks Head Wines](#) on Church Street. Constructed in 1870, the beautifully renovated building was once home to West Chester's second market house. Used by local farmers to sell their wares on a weekend morning, the building is once again

dedicated to agricultural endeavors, just this time of the grape variety. An ambitious new wine project, Turks Head Wines hopes to bring a Napa Valley wine experience to the Borough. Stop in for a class or a flight.

7 P.M. DINNER IN CHESTER COUNTY'S HUB

At last count, West Chester was home to more than 70 eateries (see the map at the end of this article). From small BYOBs to ambitious regional projects, casual pubs to elegant farm-to-table restaurants, there's something for everyone to savor. New American [Spence Cafe](#), award-winning [Andiario](#) and bustling [Limoncello](#) are all longtime local favorites.

If those are all familiar to you, grab yourself a reservation at new-ish [West Chester Seafood Kitchen](#). Located at the Hotel Indigo, this modern seafood-centric

restaurant is already generating buzz and repeat customers. If you like a little heat, start with the mussels diablo. They use Dutch mussels, which are a little bigger, and serve them in a rich sauce that can be dabbed up with the grilled focaccia. For the main, try the Maine lobster bucatini or, if your party's feeling ambitious, the decadent seafood tower.

9 P.M. MAKE IT A GAME NIGHT

After dinner, head over to [Bier and Loathing](#) on Market Street for some fun. At this bar-cade, you'll find a selection of retro video games, including classics like Asteroids, The Simpsons and Big Buck Hunter, plus a full beer list. In the basement, there's a pool table. So, put your quarters down, grab a beer and get ready to relive your youth.

11 P.M. NIGHTCAP AT THE SPEAKEASY

Before retiring to your room for the night, make one last stop at the [Room 109 Speakeasy](#). Located in the lower level of the Hotel Indigo, this is a speakeasy more in inspiration than actuality. "We want to be approachable," said Chris Berg, VP of Operations for the hotel. "And you can't be that if you're closed off."

You won't find hidden handshakes or membership fees, but you can get an expertly made martini and an intimate end to the night.

9 A.M. HIT THE GROWERS MARKET

From May through December, West Chester's long-running producer-only farmers market offers the community fresh fruits and vegetables and a variety of locally produced goods. With more than 28 vendors to choose from, it's hard to walk away empty-handed.

If it's their week, grab some cinnamon rolls from Hank's. If not, you can't miss with some fresh-baked goodness from Big Sky Bread and peaches from Fahnestock Fruit Farm.

10 A.M. FUEL UP

As you head back up Church Street, pop into [Twin Valley Coffee](#) for a sweet cream cold brew. With farmers market origins of its own, this expanding coffee shop has earned a reputation for doing cold brew right.

Want something more substantial? Head to [Mayday Coffee](#) on North High Street. This East Coast coffee house has an intentional West Coast vibe. Try the lavender honey latte with their popular avocado toast or any one of the breakfast sandwiches.

11 A.M. SHOPPING FIX

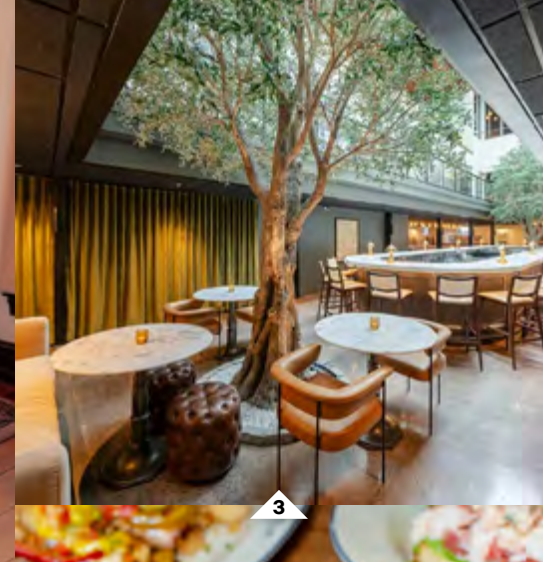
West Chester earned its reputation as a restaurant town, but over the last few years, it's slowly added cute shops that just beg to be wandered through. On Gay Street you'll



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1. Hotel Indigo
2. Bookhouse at Faunbrook
3. Turks Head Wines
4. West Chester Seafood Kitchen
5. Bier and Loathing



6



7



8



9

find the [Green House](#), an entire store dedicated to potted plants and the pottery that houses them, and [Malena's Vintage Boutique](#), West Chester's famous vintage house.

Farther east, get your bookstore fix at [Bookmarks](#). Housed in a home built 165 years ago, Bookmarks offers a history lesson and two floors worth of titles, from today's bestsellers to yesterday's classics. Next, head to [Night-ingle Materials](#) on High Street. This adorable craft store, which opened last spring, has something for everyone from budding artists to seasoned pros, plus a few things for those of us who just like to pretend.

2 P.M. GET CULTURED

Set aside this afternoon to enjoy one of West Chester's unique museums. Located just outside town to the west is the [Antique Ice Tool Museum](#). Pop inside this renovated 1834 stone barn and immerse yourself in the fascinating history of the natural ice trade.

Just outside town in the opposite direction is the [American Helicopter Museum](#). With more than 40 helicopters, autogyros and convertiplanes on display, the museum features one of the largest collections of rotorcrafts in the world.

If the day is nice, leave the car parked and walk to the [Chester County History Center](#) on North High Street for



10

a rare glimpse into life before the nation was born.

More of an art person? Last fall, Downtown West Chester introduced an [Art Loop](#). This easy, self-guided, walking tour will take you to several West Chester galleries and public art displays including a collection of murals.

5 P.M. ESPRESSO MARTINI PICK-ME-UP

As the energy begins to fade, it's time to partake in one of West Chester's favorite traditions, the espresso martini. Started at [Pietro's Prime](#) bar, this caffeine-laden concoction has been percolating on West Chester menus well before national trends caught on.

Head to Market Street for the original at Pietro's, or pop into [9 Prime](#) on North High Street for their salted caramel version. [Bar Avalon's](#) aptly named "Wake Me Up" espresso martini is another favorite. In fact, you can find this late-night nightcap at many bars in town.

7 P.M. TAKE IN A SHOW

Energized and ready to go? Continue your evening with a performance at [Uptown](#), West Chester's performing arts center. Located on North High Street, Uptown's rotating schedule includes the best in regional music, theater, dance and comedy.

Or check out up-and-coming talent at East Market Street's [Station 142](#), West Chester's newest live music venue.

9 P.M. DINE LIKE THE FRENCH

When the beat drops, head back to Gay Street and into [Jolene's](#), a modern French restaurant that opened earlier this year. The walls in this seductively lit bistro are adorned simply with paintings thrifted from French art markets. Start with the classic French onion soup, linger through the expertly cooked scallops, and end with the tender duck breast — all while sipping a French 75 and lingering over all the adventures you've had. ♦

Stay up to date with what's happening in West Chester by following [DowntownWestChester.com](#) and County Lines' [Best Local Events](#).



11



12



13



14

6. West Chester Growers Market
7. Antique Ice Tool Museum
8. Twin Valley Coffee
9. Mayday Coffee
10. Malena's Vintage Boutique

11. American Helicopter Museum, PHOTO CREDIT: CHESTER COUNTY'S BRANDYWINE VALLEY
12. Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center
13. The Green House
14. Jolene's

WEST CHESTER EVENTS

Chester County History Center ONGOING

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

Open-Air Market

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

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

West Chester TAPS

MAY 28–AUGUST 27, Wednesdays

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.

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center JUNE 6– INTO SEPTEMBER

June 6, "That's Life" starring Tony Sands; *June 7*, Whammer Jammer: J. Geils Band Tribute; *June 13*, Griesse: Sweet Baby James; *June 22*, Kanin Wren: Taylor Swift Experience; *June 28*, Green River: The Ultimate CCR John Fogerty Tribute Show. 226 N. High St. More shows, tickets and times, UptownWestChester.org.

Turk's Head Music Festival

JUNE 8

Seven bands, 50+ crafters and booths, food ven-

dors, rides & games and more in Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St. Noon to 7 pm. Free. TurksHeadFestival.com.

Mini Golf on Gay St.

JUNE 14

18 holes of mini golf between Matlack and Darlington Sts. on Gay St. during the Open-Air Market. Noon to 4. Age 12 and under, \$5; 13 and above, \$8. West-Chester.com.

Summer Solstice Music Festival

JUNE 14

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

Movies in the Park

JUNE 20, AUGUST 15

Pack a picnic, blanket, chairs and the family, and enjoy a movie, TBD. Food trucks on site. *June 20*, Veterans Memorial Park, 315 Viet Alley. *Aug. 15*, Hoopes Park, 700 Hoopes Park Ln. Starts at dusk. West-Chester.com.

Music at Marshall Square Park

JUNE 19–AUGUST 21

Picnic concerts with food trucks opening at 5 pm. Music at 6:30. Sin Brothers perform. Concerts through Aug. 21. Check website for weather updates. 200 E. Marshall St. Free. MarshallSquarePark.org.

World Music Day

JUNE 21

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

Concerts in the Park

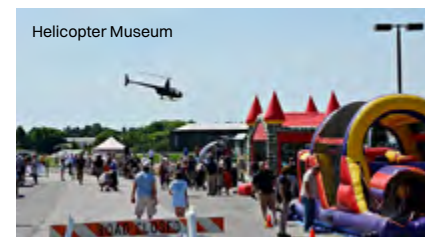
JUNE 20, AUGUST 21

Bring a chair or blanket and kick back to enjoy live music. Food trucks on site. Bands TBD. *June 20*, Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St. *Aug. 21*, John O. Green Park, S. Matlack & E. Miner Sts. 6:30 pm. West-Chester.com.

Family Fest at The American Helicopter Museum

JUNE 21

Family fun with helicopter rides, classic cars and motorcycle show, food trucks, inflatable games, static aircraft displays, music and more. 1220 American Blvd. 10 to 3. \$20; under 5, free. AmericanHelicopter.Museum. ♦



Helicopter Museum



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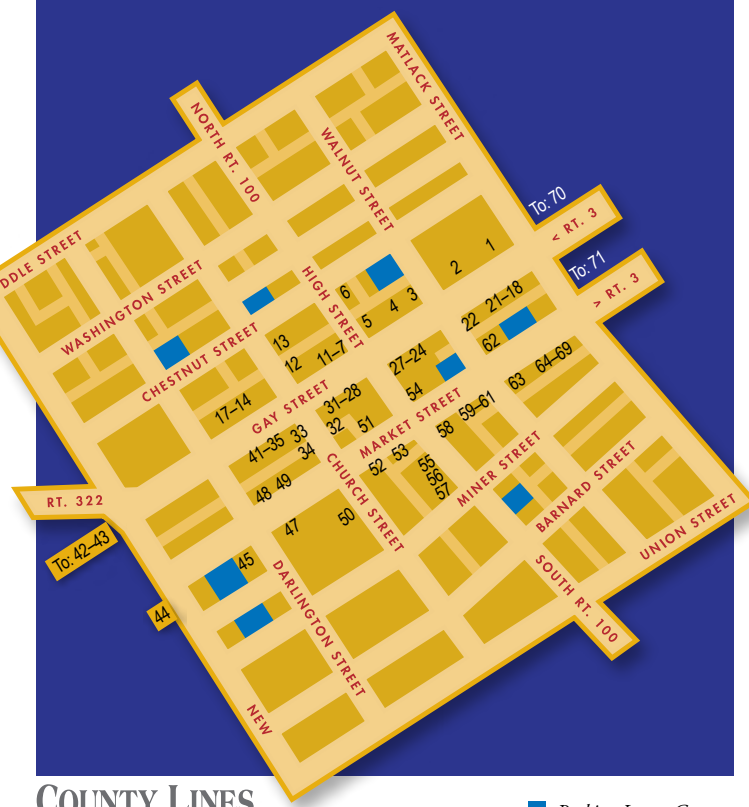
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DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER

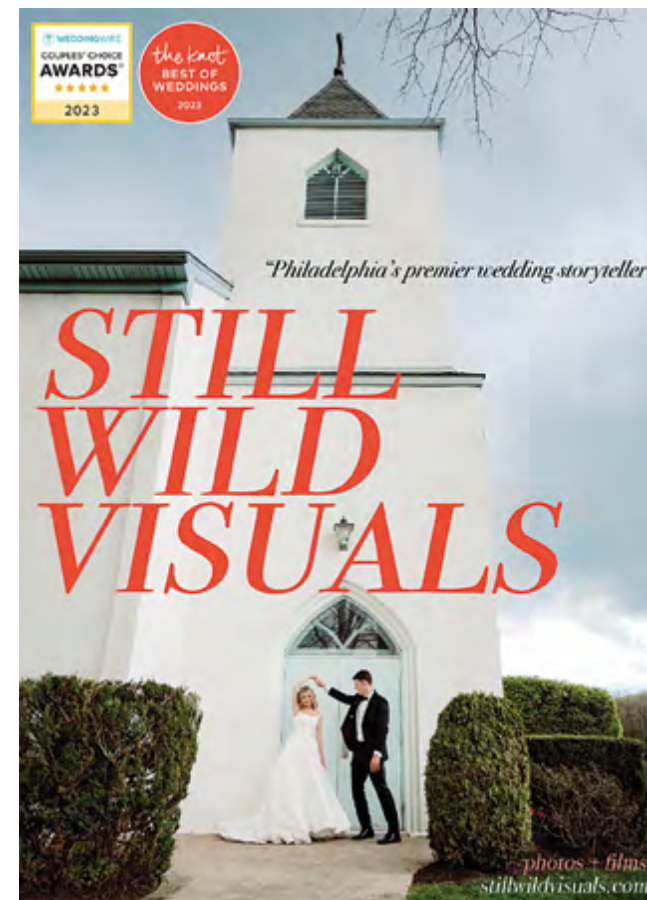


COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE

■ Parking Lot or Garage

RESTAURANT GUIDE

1. Roots Cafe
2. The Social
3. West Chester Seafood Kitchen
4. Jolene's
5. Mayday Coffee Shop
6. The Original Spence Café
7. Iron Hill Brewery & Rest.
8. DP Dough
9. The Tomato Shack
10. Buddy's Burgers, Breasts & Fries
11. Mae's West Chester
12. Turks Head Café
13. Kooma Japanese Rest.
14. La Tartine
15. Gryphon Coffee
16. Bookstore Bakery
17. Saloon 151
18. dolce Zola
19. Fire—Nashville Hot Chicken
20. Taco Mar
21. Bar Avalon
22. BierHaul Townhouse
24. Opa Taverna
25. Teca
26. Side Bar & Restaurant
27. Lorenzo & Sons Pizza
28. Mino Sushi & Ramen
29. Jaco Juice & Taco Bar
30. Kildare's Irish Pub
31. Sedona Taphouse
32. Greystone Oyster Bar
33. Slow Hand
34. New Haven Style Pizza
35. Penn's Table
36. Andiaro
37. Ryan's Pub & Restaurant
38. Jitters West Chester
39. The Mediterranean
40. Stove & Tap
41. Good Bad & Ugly
42. Wrong Crowd Brewing
43. Artillery Brewing
44. Nudy's Café
45. La Baguette Magique
47. Carlino's Specialty Foods
48. Pietro's Prime
49. Bier & Loathing
50. Love Again Local
51. Mercato Ristorante & Bar
52. Tsunami Sushi Bar and Asian Cuisine
53. Market Street Grill
54. 9 Prime
55. Playa Bowls
56. Kaboburritos
57. Mimi's Tea Cottage
58. Barnaby's
59. Santino's Tap & Table
60. Shawarma Kebab
61. Saucey's Pizza
62. Limoncello Ristorante
63. Más Mexicali Cantina
64. Bonchon Chicken
65. Rai Rai Ramen
66. Crisp Chick'n
67. Poké Bros.
68. Pizza West Chester
69. Station 142
70. Manjé Caribbean Cuisine
71. Miss Winnie's



Delaware Museum
of Nature & Science

Celebrate
Your Wedding



4840 Kennett Pike, Wilmington, DE 19807
delmns.org/rentals | 302-658-9111

Photo by Love by Joe Mac

A full-page photograph of a wedding couple in a lush green garden. The groom, on the left, is wearing a blue suit and a green patterned tie, smiling at the bride. The bride, on the right, is wearing a white lace wedding dress and holding a white parasol. She has a floral hair accessory and a tattoo on her left arm. The background is filled with dense green foliage.

Weddings:

A Million Dreams

Carol Metzker

AMID PLANNED PERFECTION, couples are allowing fate to have a hand in their wedding day, opening the way for unexpected and wonderful things to happen. Some moments are beyond their wildest imagination.

THE BRIGHTEST COLORS

When the crew of a dozen from West Chester-based We Are Wildflowers arrived at Philadelphia's Morris Arboretum, the rain was pouring down. The group unloaded vans filled with ladders, carts to carry beams for a chuppah and 2,000 stems of glorious blossoms. The happy couple decided to continue with the reception in a large tent, but exchange their vows near a pedestal fountain surrounded by extraordinary gardens and blooms despite the weather.

So, the floral team donned raincoats and went to work. Orchestrated by Wildflowers' owner, Jess, some assembled the chuppah, then covered it with a rainbow of local flora: greens, rare coral-colored Moab roses, blue delphinium, pink and orange gomphrena, white cosmos, yellow zinnias and creamy marigolds. While another group placed floral centerpieces on reception tables, yet another created gardens of pink, peach and blue bouquets along the aisle. Others tied escort cards to bud vases of dahlias and zinnias — one for each guest to collect during cocktail hour and guide them to their table for a wedding feast.

Rain, with occasional rays of sun peeking through clouds, continued on and off throughout setup and after. Guests and the bridal party gathered under umbrellas. And then it appeared — a rainbow that lasted nearly an hour, including when the bride and groom exchanged vows. It was the wedding of a million dreams.

Their occasion wasn't the only one that had its ambiance enhanced by nature. With help, West Chester harpist Elyse Rubin carried her gear along a wooded path under drizzling skies to play for a different outdoor ceremony at the Pump House near the Pocono Mountains. The mist added a sublime fairytale feel to the forest wedding as Rubin played ethereal harp music on the banks of a stream.



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DESTINATION: PENNSYLVANIA

This year, many couples are forgoing nuptials in far-away lands for the convenience of hometown or nearby locations, easily accessible and affordable for loved ones. They're also recognizing the utility of extra helping hands.

Jane Darnell, managing director of a new local venue, The Arches in Coatesville, provides guidance and resources for couples to turn their designs into reality at the beautifully renovated historic and former St. Cecilia's Church. Against the Swiss Gothic backdrop of white walls, sweeping arches, spectacular cathedral ceiling and a brilliant rose window, couples can go as modern or Victorian, and colorful or black-and-white, as their hearts desire.

Darnell helps coordinate vendors, suggests floor plans for movement, advises the best location to place a flower arch and shares ideas for additional flowers on beams or cascading over the balconies. She recommends the perfect placement for a sweetheart table — an intimate space displaying personal items where newlyweds can take a few peaceful moments to celebrate their new marriage, eat, take in festivities, and later enjoy visits and photo ops with guests.

For a charmed weekend with stunning outdoor views, book the eco-friendly Pump House near the Catawissa Creek outside Bloomsburg. It offers 85 acres of mountains, miles of hiking trails and a charming 1908 brick reception

1. A rainbow over a wedding at Morris Aboretum
PHOTO CREDIT: SWEETWATER PORTRAITS
2. Westwynd Gardens
PHOTO CREDIT: BLACKLEVEL PHOTOGRAPHY
3. The Arches
1. The Pump House
PHOTO CREDIT: JESSICA MANNS
2. Chuppah by We Are Wildflowers
PHOTO CREDIT: SWEETWATER PORTRAITS

hall. Opportunities for magical images abound: the sleigh bed in the bridal suite, the bridal party by (or in?) the babbling brook or fun at the creekside firepit. Or an image of a ladder against a tree to celebrate an earlier elopement at a subsequent multi-day celebration.

SOMETHING NEW

Mother-daughter duo Rene and Sarah dreamed of building a space that could be used in every season while capturing nature's beauty. After many moons of planning and construction, this spring their dream came true when Westwynd Gardens in Honey Brook held its first wedding.

The venue has scenic spots in every direction and for every memorable moment of a wedding celebration: a suite with floor-to-ceiling mirrors where the bride can prepare for a long awaited "reveal" in her dress, a foyer with two grand staircases and two stone fireplaces for cocktail hour pictures, and a walking path through wildflowers that leads to a hill overlooking a pond — and sundown — for breathtaking ceremonies. A greenhouse sets the stage for watching summer storms or winter snowflakes that become part of a wedding story and album.

EASY AS A PIECE OF CAKE

Behind the scenes of a gorgeous wedding cake, there's a baker with a wealth of expertise and experience who makes the process seem simpler than it is. Taking into account a couple's wishes, the process starts with a design and template on parchment, measurements and a map of icing patterns including swags and swirls.

Then comes mixing, baking, refrigerating, marking, frosting, and creating garlands, freehand scrollwork or drop-down pearls. Finally, the baker delivers the cake — a work of art fortified with internal dowels so nothing shifts during travel — for someone's dream day.

Amanda is one of those experts at Bakers of Buffington in Downingtown. Showstopping cupcakes and tiers of pound cake with raspberry or cookie fill-

ing are still favorites, she said. Another trend has returned to the scene — vintage-flair Lambeth cake. Enjoyed in England for centuries and popularized in the United States in 1934, it's a white-on-white confection with ornate piping. Covering the couples' favorite flavors are buttercream garlands, ruffled borders, shells, bows and swags with rose tips reminiscent of an enchanted ballgown. A Lambeth cake for two with some to freeze for a first anniversary is one way to have your cake and eat it, too.

THE MORE THE MERRIER

One of the best parts of a wedding — a reason to turn many tasks to a coordinator, emphasized Darnell — is spending time with cherished family and friends.

When the guest list grows, West Chester's new Hotel Indigo — opened on New Year's Eve 2024 — offers blocks of rooms with convenient dining, shopping between wedding events and town entertainment for guests who need more space than a friend's guest room or pullout sofa bed. With an elevator and rooms with roll-in showers, beloved Gram can relax in style without climbing stairs or maneuvering Aunt Eleanor's slippery clawfoot bathtub.

After the day is over and wedding dreams are fulfilled, the opening is there ... for a life together with another million dreams. ♦

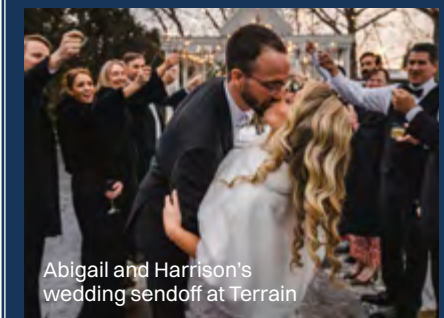
Happily Ever After

County Lines' 2024 Wedding Issue told the story of Abigail and Harrison's wedding plans. We caught up with Abigail — now married for nearly half a year — to find out about her special day.

"It was everything I hoped for," Abigail said. All the pieces fell beautifully into place. The date and time — chosen for the couple's love of winter and sunset — were perfect. Terrain's grounds still had a lovely layer of snow, but with a few blankets and handwarmers for guests, the temperature was warm enough to exchange vows outdoors.

Abigail's gifted Cinderella-style iridescent heels with crystal bows sparkled at their engagement party. Heels with pearl bows accompanied her down the aisle to harp music and a pair of "I Do" slippers kept her comfortable for the bridal dance and reception.

Just after a glowing sunset, the newlyweds left to a sparkler sendoff at dusk, as the four brightest planets began to appear, aligning in the sky.



Abigail and Harrison's wedding sendoff at Terrain



PHOTO CREDIT: STILL WILD VISUALS



SCAN ME

Elegance has a new address...in Paradise, Pennsylvania!

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Guide to Wedding Venues & Services

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



Caterers, B&Bs, Farms, Inns and Resorts



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 610.431.3077 | MATLACKFLORIST.COM



Alexander Catering

326 W. Cedar St., Kennett Square
 610-291-2850; AlexanderCateringCo.com

Planning a wedding or special event? Alexander Catering Co. in Kennett Square brings fresh flavors and warm, reliable service to every celebration. Whether it's an intimate backyard ceremony or a big reception with all your favorite people, they'll make it easy and memorable. Tell them what you're dreaming up and they will take care of the rest.



Bear Creek Mountain Resort

101 Doe Mountain Ln., Macungie
 866-754-2822; BCMR.com

Begin the next chapter of your love story at Bear Creek Mountain Resort, where mountain views and serene surroundings set the perfect scene. Celebrate in outdoor ceremony sites and elegant ballrooms, with expert wedding coordinators to handle every detail. Enjoy luxurious onsite accommodations, including a hotel, spa and culinary team.



PHOTO CREDIT: BIRDS OF A FEATHER PHOTOGRAPHY

Harper Co. Wedding Services
Gordonville; 717-454-4148; StoltzfusHomestead.com
WeddingsAtTheView.com; HarperCoWeddings.com

Offering two beautiful venues and wedding day rentals for couples wanting to say “I do.”
Stoltzfus Homestead and Gardens: Two historic barns, gorgeous gardens and stunning courtyard.
The View on Harvest Drive: Stunning 180-degree view, wedding lawn, indoor lounge and grand hall.
Harper Co. Wedding Rentals: Carefully curated table decor, accent furniture & display pieces for any venue.



The Lebanon Valley
115 Springwood Dr., Suite 500, Lebanon
717-277-0100; VisitLebanonValley.com

Nestled in the hills between Hershey and Lancaster, the Lebanon Valley is waiting to be discovered. From rustic character to modern elegance, lakeside meadows to exquisite mansions, the Lebanon Valley can accommodate your large soirees or intimate celebrations. When you’re ready to start planning, take time to discover the unexpected in the Lebanon Valley.



The Barn at Paradise Station
312 Paradise Ln., Ronks
717-687-5000 ext. 117; ParadiseStation.us

Rustic elegance has a new address at The Barn at Paradise Station in beautiful Lancaster County. A wedding, event and entertainment venue with countryside and steam train views in a state-of-the-art, meticulously restored and technologically enhanced 1812 Pennsylvania bank barn on the iconic property of Paradise Station. One-of-a-kind space is fully climate controlled and ADA accessible, with elevator and restrooms for maximum comfort. See you soon ... in Paradise.



Country Clubs

Kinwood at Jeffersonville
2400 W. Main St., Jeffersonville
610-539-0422; JeffersonvilleGolfClub.org

Jeffersonville Golf Club is excited to introduce Kinwood at Jeffersonville, the ultimate venue for unforgettable weddings. Their new events facility features a state-of-the-art banquet room accommodating up to 250 guests, complete with high ceilings, exposed beams and breathtaking views of the award-winning golf course. Let their talented chef and modern, fully-equipped kitchens craft a custom menu tailored to your wedding dreams. Experience elegance and exceptional service at Kinwood, where your special day comes to life! Phone or visit their website to schedule a consultation.



Gallery & Museum Spaces

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

Located in downtown West Chester, the Chester County History Center offers a flexible 2,600-square-foot auditorium ideal for corporate events, private parties and weddings. The space accommodates up to 175 guests seated or 250 for cocktail-style events. Surrounded by exhibits showcasing over 300 years of local history, this unique venue blends culture and charm, making it a memorable setting for any occasion.



PHOTO CREDIT: CHRISTIE GREEN



Delaware Museum of Nature and Science
4840 Kennett Pk., Wilmington
302-658-9111; DelMNS.org

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



Historic Buildings & Inns

Brampton 1860 Inn and Event Venue
25227 Chestertown Road, Chestertown, MD
410-778-1860; BramptonInn.com

For an authentic celebration filled with historic charm, choose Brampton 1860. You’ll enjoy luxurious accommodations, unexpected amenities and top-notch hospitality. From weddings to corporate retreats, their private manor estate and Maryland Eastern Shore ambiance, combined with expert vendors, ensure a unique experience. At Brampton, the focus is on you and your special event!



The Creamery of Kennett Square
401 Birch St., Kennett Square
KennettCreamery.com/Events

Originally the home of the Eastern Condensed Milk Company founded in 1902, The Creamery was reimaged as a beer garden and restaurant in 2016. This unique venue features local art, beautiful florals and salvaged design elements that honor their industrial roots. From intimate gatherings to full site buyouts, The Creamery is the perfect place to host your celebration.



Tyler Arboretum

515 Painter Rd., Media; 610-213-3097; [TylerArboretum.org](#)

Welkinweir Estate

1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown; 610-469-7543; [Welkinweir.org](#)

Historic Buildings

Anthony Wayne House at Historic Waynesborough

2049 Waynesborough Rd., Paoli; 610-647-1779; [PhilaLandmarks.org](#)

Duportail House

297 Adams Dr., Chesterbrook; 610-644-4840; [DuportailHouse.com](#)



Franklin Hall, Franklin Commons

400 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville; 610-983-4640; [FranklinCommonsEvents.com](#)

Historic Rock Ford Plantation

881 Rockford Rd., Lancaster; 717-799-8751; [RockFordPlantation.org](#)

John James Audubon Center

1201 Paulings Rd., Audubon; 610-990-3411; [JohnJamesAudubon.org](#)

Manor House at Springton Manor

860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore; 610-733-2516; [Springton-ManorFarm.com](#)

Merion Tribute House

625 Hazelhurst Ave., Merion Station; 610-664-1267; [TributeHouse.com](#)

Phoenixville Foundry

2 N. Main St., Phoenixville; 610-917-8400; [PhoenixvilleFoundry.com](#)

Radnor Hunt

826 Providence Rd., Malvern; 610-644-4439; [RadnorHunt.org](#)

Saturday Club

117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne; 610-688-9746; [SaturdayClub.org](#)

University & Whist Club

805 N. Broom St., Wilmington; 302-658-5125; [UniversityAndWhistClub.com](#)

Washington Memorial Chapel

Valley Forge National Park, Valley Forge; 610-783-0120; [WMChapel.org](#)

Wheatland

1120 Marietta Ave., Lancaster; 717-392-4633; [Wheatland.org](#)

The Willows

490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova; 484-580-8260; [WillowsVillanova.com](#)

Eat, Drink *and* Be Married

COUPLES ARE PERSONALIZING THEIR WEDDING MENUS

Shannon Montgomery

MORE AND MORE, COUPLES customize every aspect of their wedding, transforming what was once a highly traditional affair into a personalized celebration of their love. It's no wonder wedding food is changing, too. Many couples are turning their receptions into culinary experiences, where every bite reflects their personalities, values and style. From globally inspired menus to playful late-night snacks, wedding menus are all about creativity, customization and connection. Here's just a taste of what couples and caterers are doing at today's weddings.

LESS PLATED, MORE PLAYFUL

Gone are the days of checking off “chicken” or “fish” on wedding invitations. Couples are swapping traditional plated dinners for dynamic, build-your-own sta-

tions where guests can have fun customizing their meal. Imagine a burger station with toppings and sauces, a DIY bruschetta board or even a bespoke caviar bar. Interactive stations turn the reception dinner into an experience, encouraging guests to mingle and sparking conversation.

At the same time, global favors are taking center stage, with menus reflecting the couple's heritage, travels or favorite takeout spots. Delaware's Savora Catering served a wedding that combined these trends. “At one unforgettable wedding, we created a ‘global tasting experience’ with interactive food stations featuring signature dishes from the couple's favorite travel destinations,” said Lori Seward, catering and events director. “Guests indulged in everything from hand-rolled sushi to freshly made pasta, and even a build-your-own taco bar. It wasn't just a

meal — it was a journey through their love story, bite by bite.”

KEEP THE PARTY GOING

When the dance floor heats up, many weddings are offering another wave of food — late-night snacks that are as fun as they are flavorful. These crowd-pleasing nibbles may be nostalgic comfort foods like sliders, chicken and waffle bites, soft pretzels or mini donuts, offered right when guests need a pick-me-up.

Even couples who stick with a more traditional dinner are opting for late-night snacks to sprinkle some personality and whimsy into their celebration — think truffle fries in custom cones, a gourmet popcorn bar or milkshake shots served on a passing tray. It's a delicious surprise that keeps the energy high and guests fueled well into the afterparty. Because, let's be honest:



The Cornwall Inn



Warehouse435



Alden Villa

Say I Do In The Lebanon Valley

Discover the enchanting beauty of the Lebanon Valley, where your dream wedding awaits and every love story is celebrated! From the sleek sophistication of modern elegance to the warm embrace of rustic charm, our diverse venues offer something for every couple. Picture saying your vows amidst serene lakeside meadows or in the grandeur of exquisite mansions. Whether you're planning a lavish celebration or a cozy, intimate gathering, we invite you to create unforgettable memories in the Valley, no matter the size!



VISIT
Lebanon Valley

your wedding awaits

Discover more at [VisitLebanonValley.com](#)





nothing pairs better with dancing than a perfectly timed snack!

RAISE A GLASS

Wedding drinks are getting an upgrade, too. With the help of expert mixologists, guests can craft signature cocktails that tell a story, incorporating the couple's favorite flavors or named after special memories — see *County Lines*' April 2023 issue for inspo.

But it's not all about the alcohol. Mocktails are stepping into the spotlight: complex, beautifully garnished creations just as

enticing as their boozy counterparts. With sobriety — and sober-curiosity — on the rise, zero-proof drinks are a thoughtful, elegant way to make all guests feel included.

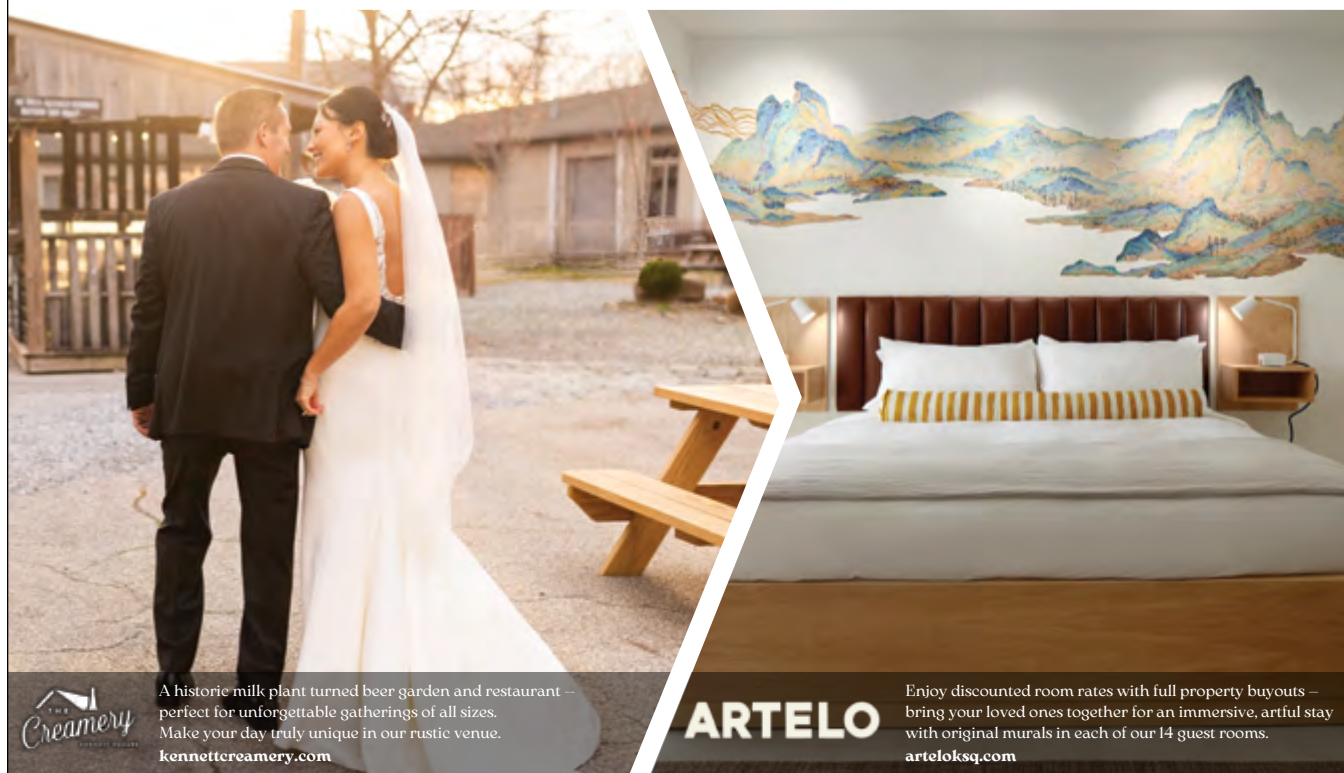
Today's wedding menus are doing more than feeding a crowd — they're telling a story. Couples are using food and drink to express their tastes, honor their roots and create memories guests will remember long after the last dance. At the end of the day, it's not just about what's on the plate, but how it brings people together. ♦



Pan-Asian, taco and sushi stations at a wedding catered by Savora Catering

CELEBRATE ON BIRCH STREET

Make one-of-a-kind memories in beautiful spaces — all within walking distance.



A historic milk plant turned beer garden and restaurant — perfect for unforgettable gatherings of all sizes. Make your day truly unique in our rustic venue. kennettcreamery.com

ARTELO

Enjoy discounted room rates with full property buyouts — bring your loved ones together for an immersive, artful stay with original murals in each of our 14 guest rooms. arteloksq.com



Summer

DINING GUIDE

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

Pennsylvania

Berwyn

- ★ **The Berwyn Tavern**
625 Lancaster Ave.
610-889-9352; BerwynTavern.net
- ★ **Nectar**
1091 Lancaster Ave.
610-725-9000; TasteNectar.com

Birchrunville

- ★ **Birchrunville Store Café**
1403 Hollow Rd.
610-827-9002; BirchrunvilleStoreCafe.com

Bryn Mawr

- ★ **Carina Sorella**
866 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-596-9166; CarinaSorella.com
- ★ **Il Fiore**
915 Lancaster Ave., 484-380-2059; IlFiorePHL.com

Chadds Ford

- Brandywine Prime Seafood & Chops**
1617 Baltimore Pk.
610-388-8088; BrandywinePrime.com
- ★ **Chadds Ford Tavern**
1400 Baltimore Pk.
484-800-4084; TheCFTavern.com
- ★ **The Gables at Chadds Ford**
423 Baltimore Pk.
610-388-7700; TheGablesAtChaddsFord.com

Chester Springs

- ★ **Bloom Southern Kitchen**
123 Pottstown Pk.
484-359-4144; BloomSouthernKitchen.com

- Epicurean Garage**
570 Simpson Dr., 610-615-5189; EpicureanGarage.com
- Limoncello Ristorante (also in West Chester)**
499 E. Uuwchlan Ave.
610-524-3112; LimoncelloRestaurant.com

★ White Dog Cafe (5 locations)

181 Gordon Dr.
610-827-9000; WhiteDog.com/ChesterSprings

Coatesville

The Iron Eagle on Lincoln Bar & Grille
143 Lincoln Hwy. E.
610-400-4407; IronEagleOnLincoln.com

Kings Tavern

313 W. Kings Hwy.
484-786-8120; KingsTavern.net

Stottsville Inn Restaurant, Hotel & Bar
3512 Strasburg Rd.
484-718-5121; StottsvilleInn.com

Devon

Pizzeria Vetri
138 W. Lancaster Ave.
484-207-6663; PizzeriaVetri.com

Terrain Cafe

138 W. Lancaster Ave.; 610-590-4675
ShopTerrain.com/Devon-Restaurant

Downingtown

Anthony's Cucina Fresca
78 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-873-5544; AnthonysCucinaFresca.com

★ **The Coffee Cup**
117 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-269-9336; TheCoffeeCupOnline.com

★ Recognized in 2025 as Best of the Best



Tonino's Pizza & Pasta Co.



Fattoush

★ **Downingtown Diner**
81 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-873-4545; [DTownDiner.com](#)

Green Street Grill
150 E. Pennsylvania St.
610-873-1700; [GreenStGrill.com](#)

La Sponda
20 E. Lancaster Ave.; 484-593-4488; [LaSponda.com](#)

Myrtos
47 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-514-0000; [MyrtosRestaurant.com](#)

★ **The Noble Goat**
200 River Station Blvd.
484-364-4369; [NobleGoatDowningtown.com](#)

★ **Pomod’oro Pizza & Italian Restaurant**
200 Chestnut St.
610-873-0405; [PomodoroDowningtown.com](#)

The Social (also in West Chester)
541 W. Lancaster Ave.
484-593-4113; [SocialOn30.com](#)

Station Taproom
207 W. Lancaster Ave.
484-593-0560; [StationTaproom.com](#)

★ **Thorndale Inn**
430 Bondsville Rd.; 610-269-5455; [ThorndaleInn.com](#)

★ **Victory Brewing Co.**
420 Acorn Ln.
610-873-0881; [VictoryBeer.com](#)

Exton

Appetites on Main
286 Main St.
610-594-2030; [AppetitesOnMain.com](#)

Bluefin
555 Wellington Sq.
610-458-3234; [BluefinEagleview.com](#)

★ **Gentili’s Pizza & Steaks**
318 Lincoln Hwy. E.
610-477-7747; [GentilisPizza.com](#)

Iron Hill Brewery TapHouse (19 locations)
260 Eagleview Blvd.
484-874-2897; [IronHillBrewery.com](#)

Mama Wong
268 Eagleview Blvd.
484-713-8888; [BestMamaWong.com](#)

★ **Nudy’s Café (15 locations)**
420 W. Lincoln Hwy.; 610-524-1508; [NudysCafes.com](#)

★ **Ron’s Original Bar & Grille**
74 E. Uwchlan Ave.
610-594-9900; [RonsOriginal.com](#)
Ron’s Original Bar & Grille is dedicated to serving “real food, for the health of it!” Offering your favorite dishes with the best in quality, clean ingredients. Available for dine-in, takeout, delivery, catering and private events! Give them a call today.

Glen Mills

★ **Taste & Sea**
1810 Wilmington Pk., Ste. 1
484-800-8331; [TasteSea.com](#)

White Dog Cafe (5 locations)
981 Baltimore Pk.
610-822-2100; [WhiteDog.com](#)

Haverford

★ **Roache & O’Brien**
560 Lancaster Ave.
610-527-6308; [@RoacheAndOBrien](#)

Kennett Square

★ **1906 & The Fountain Room**
Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd.
610-388-1000; [LongwoodGardens.org/Dine](#)

The Creamery of Kennett Square
401 Birch St.
484-732-7040; [KennettCreamery.com](#)

★ **Giordano’s**
633 E. Cypress St.
610-444-5733; [GiordanosKSQ.com](#)

Grain Craft Bar + Kitchen
108 W. State St.
484-886-4154; [MeetAtGrain.com](#)

★ **Hangry Bear Creamery**
660 E. Cypress St., Ste. 101
610-744-2722; [HangryBearCreamery.com](#)

★ **Hank’s Place**
201 Birch St.
610-448-9988; [HanksPlaceChaddsFord.com](#)

Hearth Kitchen
847 E. Baltimore Pk.
484-732-8320; [HearthKennettSquare.com](#)

La Verona
114 E. State St.
610-444-2244; [LaVeronaPA.com](#)

Letty’s Tavern
201 E. State St.
610-444-5688; [LettysTavern.com](#)

Sovana Bistro
696 Unionville Rd.
610-444-5600; [SovanaBistro.com](#)

Sweet Amelia’s
102 E. State St.
484-732-7943; [SweetAmeliasKSQ.com](#)

★ **Talula’s Table**
102 W. State St.
610-444-8255; [TalulasTable.com](#)

Trattoria La Tavola
127 E. State St.
484-731-4176; [TrattoriaLaTavolaKennett.com](#)

Kimberton

★ **Kimberton Inn**
2105 Kimberton Rd.
610-933-8148; [KimbertonInn.com](#)

Stone House Grille
1300 Hares Hill Rd.
610-933-1147; [StoneHouseGrillePA.com](#)



Ron's Original Bar & Grille

King of Prussia

King of Prussia Town Center
155 Village Dr., Ste. 100
[KingOfPrussia-TownCenter.com](#)
There are about a dozen restaurants here—*Founding Farmers, Davio’s Northern Italian Steakhouse, District Taco, Fogo de Chão, Vitality Bowls, Kooma and City Works* to name a few.

Malvern

★ **Anthony’s Pizza & Italian Restaurant**
127 W. King St.
610-647-7400; [AnthonysMalvern.com](#)

Brick & Brew (also in Media & Havertown)
400 E. King St.
484-320-8688; [BrickNBrewPub.com](#)

★ **The Buttery Cafe**
Malvern Train Station, 13 W. King St.
610-296-2534; [MalvernButtery.com](#)

★ **Cedar Hollow Inn Restaurant & Bar**
2455 Yellow Springs Rd.
610-296-9006; [CedarHollowInn.com](#)

★ **The Classic Diner**
352 Lancaster Ave.
610-725-0515; [TheClassicDinerPA.com](#)

★ **Dixie Picnic**
215 Lancaster Ave.
484-320-8024; [DixiePicnic.com](#)

Fattoush
182 E Lancaster Ave.
484-568-4465; [FattoushHealthyDining.com](#)
Their culinary passion brings a commitment to crafting memorable dining experiences for their

guests. Serving humus, falafel, stuffed grape leaves, baba ghanouj, shawarma wraps, gyro and more.

The Fern & Fable
39 Conestoga Rd.
610-647-1900; [TheFernAndFable.com](#)

★ **The Flying Pig**
121 E. King St.
610-578-9208; [@TheFlyingPigSaloon](#)

★ **General Warren**
9 Old Lancaster Rd.
610-296-3637; [GeneralWarren.com](#)

Joey Chops
245 Lancaster Ave., 484-450-8890; [JoeyChops.com](#)

Malvern Buttery
233 E. King St., 610-296-2534; [MalvernButtery.com](#)

★ **Rakkii Sushi & Ramen**
235 Lancaster Ave., 610-889-3888; [RakkiiUSA.com](#)

Restaurant Alba
7 W. King St.
610-644-4009; [RestaurantAlba.com](#)

Toninos Pizza & Pasta Co.
235 Lancaster Ave.
610-240-9566; [ToninosPizzaAndPasta.com](#)
This family-run business prides itself on using the freshest ingredients to make authentic home-made Neapolitan pizza, pasta and signature Italian dishes. They invite you to come in and dine, BYOB, Tuesday to Saturday, for lunch and dinner, Sunday, noon to 9 pm.

Media

Ariano
114 S. Olive St.
610-892-6944; [ArianoMedia.com](#)

Azie Media
217 W. State St.
610-566-4750; [Azie-Restaurant.com](#)

Brick & Brew (also in Malvern & Havertown)
26 W. State St.
484-443-8441; [BrickNBrewPub.com](#)

★ **Court Diner & Restaurant**
140 E. Baltimore Ave.
610-566-4403; [@MediaCourtDiner](#)

★ **Departure**
2 Orange St.
610-502-3833; [DepartureDelco.com](#)

Desert Rose
305 W. State St.
484-442-8012; [DesertRoseMediaPA.com](#)

Dim Sum Mania
17-19 E. State St.
610-557-8757; [DimSumMania.com](#)

★ **Fellini Cafe**
106 W. State St.; 610-892-7616; [FellinisCafe.com](#)

Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant (19 locations)
30 E. State St.; 610-627-9000; [IronHillBrewery.com](#)

★ **La Belle Epoque**
38 W. State St.
610-566-6808; [LaBelleBistro.com](#)

La Porta
1192 N. Middletown Rd.
610-358-5104; [LaPortaRestaurant.com](#)

★ **Pinocchio’s Restaurant**
131 E. Baltimore Ave.
610-566-7767; [PinPizza.com](#)

Rye BYOB
112 W. State St.
610-263-7832; [RyeBYOB.com](#)

★ **Sligo Irish Pub**
113 W. State St., 610-566-5707; [SligoMedia.com](#)

★ **Stephen’s on State**
105 W. State St.
610-891-8900; [StephensOnState.com](#)

Sterling Pig Brewery
609 W. State St.
484-444-2526; [SterlingPig.com](#)

Shere-E-Punjab
210 W. State St.
610-891-0400; [Shere-E-Punjab.com](#)

Tom’s Dim Sum
13 E. State St.
610-566-6688; [TomsDimSum.com](#)

★ **The Towne House**
177 Veterans Sq.
484-445-2041; [TowneHousePA.com](#)

Two Fourteen
214 W. State St.; 724-904-9139
[TwoFourteenRestaurant.com](#)

Mendenhall

★ **Mendenhall Inn**
323 Kennett Pk.
610-388-1181; [MendenhallInn.com](#)

Merion

★ **Hymie’s Deli**
342 Montgomery Ave.
610-668-3354; [Hymies.com](#)

Newtown Square

★ **Hiramasa**
2554 West Chester Pk.
484-420-4023; [HiramasaPA.com](#)



Outdoor Dining in Towns and Boroughs

Kennett Square

Kennett Square is in bloom again this summer. The popular **Third Thursdays on State Street** return through October with outdoor dining, live music, food trucks, pop-up vendors and more. Special events include Kennett Summerfest, June 8, with wine, spir- its, cheese and live music in a sophisticated festival atmosphere. *KennettCollaborative.org*.

Media

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

Phoenixville

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

West Chester

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

★ LaScala’s Fire

3739 West Chester Pk.
484-900-2828; *LaScalasFire.com*

★ La Locanda Ristorante Italiano

4989 West Chester Pk.
610-353-7033; *LaLocandaPA.com*

Teca (also in West Chester)

191 S. Newtown Street Rd.
484-420-4010; *TecaRestaurants.com*

★ Teikoku

5492 West Chester Pk.
610-644-8270; *TeikokuRestaurant.com*

Paoli

Main Line Tavern

516 E. King Rd.
484-320-8198; *MainLineTavern.com*

★ Trattoria San Nicola

4 Manor Rd.
610-695-8990; *SanNicola.net*

Phoenixville

★ 260 Bridge Cafe

260 Bridge St.
610-600-6570; *@260BridgeCafe*

Avlós Greek Cuisine

258 Bridge St., 610-455-4110; *AvlosGr.com*

★ Bistro on Bridge

212 Bridge St.
610-935-7141; *BistroOnBridge.com*

Black Lab Bistro

248 Bridge St., 610-935-5988; *BlackLabBistro.net*

The Boardroom Restaurant

101 Bridge St.
610-235-0620; *TheBoardroomPXV.com*

★ Fitzwater Station

264 Canal St.
610-933-1420; *FitzwaterStation.com*

★ G-Lodge Cafe

1371 Valley Forge Rd.
610-933-1646; *GLodgeCafe.com*

The Great American Pub (also in Wayne)

148 Bridge St.
610-917-3333; *TheGreatAmericanPub.com*

★ Madi’s on a Roll (also in Exton)

313 Bridge St. Also in Exton.
484-695-0162; *MadisOnARoll.com*

★ Molly Maguire’s Irish Restaurant & Pub

197 Bridge St.
610-933-9550; *MollyMaguiresPhoenixville.com*

Root Down Brewing

1 N. Main St.
484-302-5407; *RootDownBrewing.com*

Sedona Taphouse (also in West Chester)

131 Bridge St. #5
484-302-5714; *SedonaTaphouse.com*

Rivertown Taps

226 Bridge St.
484-924-9112; *RivertownTaps.com*

★ Seven Stars Inn

263 Hoffecker Rd.
610-495-5205; *SevenStarsInn.com*

Steel City Coffeehouse & Brewery

203 Bridge St.
484-924-8425; *SteelCityBrews.com*

Ridley Park

★ Rosemary

25 E. Hinckley Ave.
610-671-3770; *RosemaryRP.com*

Pottstown

The Blue Elephant (also in Wayne)

152 E. High St.
484-949-9084; *BlueElephantBar.com*

La Maison

1470 Old Ridge Rd.
484-680-2631; *MartinsKitchen.com*

Thornton

Bierhaul Farmhouse (also in West Chester)

341 Thornton Rd.
610-550-3440; *Bierhaul.com*

Wallingford

★ Fond BYOB

21 N. Providence Rd.
484-445-2108; *FondBYOB.com*

Wayne

Amada Radnor

555 E. Lancaster Ave.
484-429-2158; *AmadaRestaurant.com*

★ A Taste of Britain

503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-971-0390; *ATOBritain.com*

At the Table

118 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-964-9700; *AtTheTableWayne.com*

Autograph Brasserie

503 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-964-2588; *AutographBrasserie.com*

★ Black Powder Tavern

1164 Valley Forge Rd.
610-293-9333; *BlackPowderTavern.com*

The Blue Elephant (also in Pottstown)

110 N. Wayne Ave.
484-580-6142; *BlueElephantWayne.com*

★ Christopher’s – A Neighborhood Place

108 N. Wayne Ave., 610-687-6558
ChristophersANeighborhoodPlace.com

DanDan

214 Sugartown Rd.
484-580-8558; *DanDanRestaurant.com*

The Great American Pub (also in Phoenixville)

4 West Ave.
610-964-9535; *TheGreatAmericanPub.com*

★ Minella’s Diner

320 Lancaster Ave.
610-687-1575; *MinellasDiner.com*

★ Rosalie

139 E. Lancaster Ave.
610-977-0600; *RosalieWayne.com*

Takumi Bistro & Bar

821 Lancaster Ave.
610-922-1788; *TakumiBistro.com*

★ Teresa’s Café and Next Door Bar

124 N. Wayne Ave.
610-293-9909; *Terasas-Cafe.com*

★ White Dog Cafe (5 locations)

200 W. Lancaster Ave.
610-225-3700; *WhiteDog.com*

West Chester

See West Chester article and map in this issue.

9 Prime

9 N. High St.
610-365-3309; *9PrimeWestChester.com*

★ Andiaro

106 W. Gay St.
484-887-0919; *Andiaro.com*

Bar Avalon

116 E. Gay St.
610-436-4100; *AvalonRestaurant.net*

Bierhaul Townhouse (also in Thornton)

15 N. Walnut St.
717-918-0868; *Bierhaul.com*

★ DK Diner

609 E. Gay St.
610-692-2946; *DKDiner.com*

Four Dogs Tavern

1300 W. Strasburg Rd.
610-692-4367; *TheFourDogsTavern.com*

Greystone Oyster Bar

7 N. Church St.
610-241-3369; *GreystoneOysterBarWC.com*

Ground Provisions: Market & Dining

1388 Old Wilmington Pk.
610-355-4411; *GroundProvisionsPA.com*

★ Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant (19 locations)

3 W. Gay St.
610-738-9600; *IronHillBrewery.com*

★ Jake’s Bar

549 S. Matlack St.
610-431-3900; *@JakesBarWestChester*

★ Jitters

146 W. Gay St.; 610-696-0427; *Jitters-WC.com*

★ Kildare’s Irish Pub

18 W. Gay St.; 610-431-0770; *KildaresPubWC.com*

Kooma Asian Fusion & Sushi Bar

123 N. Church St.
610-430-8980; *KoomaFusion.com*

★ Limoncello Ristorante (also in Chester Springs)

9 N. Walnut St.
610-436-6230; *LimoncelloRestaurant.com*

★ Market Street Grill

6 W. Market St.
610-429-5328; *TheMarketStreetGrill.com*

Más Mexicali Cantina

102 E. Market St.
610-918-6280; *MasMexicali.com*

★ The Mediterranean Restaurant & Bakery

150 W. Gay St.; 610-431-7074; *TheMedWCPA.com*

Mercato Ristorante & Bar

33 W. Market St.; 610-701-6326; *Mercato-WC.com*

★ The Pear

275 Brintons Bridge Rd.
484-260-1425; *ThePearDilworthtown.com*



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★ **Penn's Table Restaurant**
100 W. Gay St.
610-696-0677; @PennsTableRestaurant

Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & Martini Bar
125 W. Market St.
484-760-6100; PietrosPrime.com

Roots Cafe
133 E. Gay St.; 610-455-0100; RootsCafeWC.com

★ **Ryan's Pub**
124 W. Gay St.; 610-344-3934; Ryans-Pub.com

Saloon 151 Whiskey Bar & Grill
151 W. Gay St.; 610-701-8489; Saloon151.com

Santino's Tap & Table
40 E. Market St.
610-738-5491; SantinosTapAndTable.com

Sedona Taphouse (also in Phoenixville)
44 W. Gay St.; 610-738-5104; SedonaTaphouse.com

The Social
117 E. Gay St.; 610-738-3948; TheSocialWC.com

Station 142
142 E. Market St.
484-947-5416; Station142.com

★ **The Original Spence Cafe**
131 N. High St.
610-918-1272; Spence.Cafe

Stove & Tap
158 W. Gay St.; 484-999-0922; StoveAndTap.com

★ **Teca (also in Newtown Square)**
38 E. Gay St.
610-738-8244; TecaRestaurants.com

West Marlborough

★ **The Whip Tavern**
1383 N. Chatham Rd.
610-383-0600; TheWhipTavern.com

Northern Delaware

Bar Reverie
4017 Kennett Pk., Greenville
302-315-3663; BarReverie.com

Bardea Food & Drink
620 N. Market St., Wilmington
302-426-2069; BardeaWilmington.com

★ **Buckley's Tavern**
5812 Kennett Pk., Centreville
302-656-9776; BuckleysTavern.com

★ **Centreville Place**
5800 Kennett Pk., Centreville
302-777-4911; CentrevillePlace.com

★ **Columbus Inn**
2216 Pennsylvania Ave., Wilmington
302-571-1492; ColumbusInn.net

★ **Krazy Kat's Restaurant**
582 Montchanin Rd., Montchanin
302-888-4200; KrazyKatsRestaurant.com

La Fia
421 N. Market St., Wilmington
302-543-4474; LaFiaWilmington.com

★ **Le Cavalier at the Hotel du Pont**
42 W. 11th St., Wilmington
302-594-3154; LeCavalierDE.com

Merchant Bar
426 N. Market St., Wilmington
302-502-3385; MerchantBarWilmington.com

Quoin Restaurant
519 N. Market St., Wilmington
302-446-5600; TheQuoinHotel.com

Wilma's
900 N. Market St., Wilmington
302-400-7766; GoodTimeWilmas.com ♦



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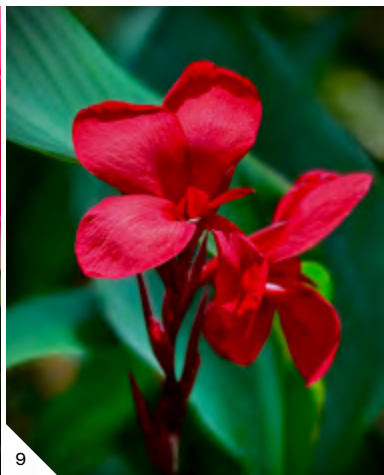


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Chester County in Bloom

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

**Check the rules on our website.*



- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Jen Asel
Longwood Gardens | 8. Rebecca J Moyer
Longwood Gardens | 15. Mi Chelle
Oxford |
| 2. Elizabeth Yoncha
Longwood Gardens | 9. Sheila Veit
Longwood Gardens | 16. Richard J Tickner
Longwood Gardens |
| 3. Amy Thomas
"Cherry Blossom Spring House," Paoli | 10. Stephen Michalec
"Sunlover Tulip," Longwood Gardens | 17. Emily Eggers
"Blue Bloom," Longwood Gardens |
| 4. Robert Schock
Longwood Gardens | 11. Rebecca Mason
Longwood Gardens | 18. Barry Rauhauser
"From the Pollinator Garden," Chester Springs |
| 5. Theresa Law
"Pretty in Pink," Styer's Peonies | 12. Ginny Jenkins
Springton Manor Farm | 19. Tricia Townsend
Longwood Gardens |
| 6. Christina Gresh
Longwood Gardens | 13. Peggy Sopeczynski Berrodin
Birmingham Battlefield | 20. Lisa Alber
Malvern |
| 7. Terri Rice
Longwood Gardens | 14. Robin Lawrence
"Delightful Dahlia," West Chester | 21. Kelly Jurs
Longwood Gardens |



Private School Stars Wrap Up Spring Sports Season

DOMINANCE ON THE FIELDS AND THE COURTS

Edwin Malet

THE SPRING SEASON IS IN THE FINAL stretch, with only a few games left. Predictions: Episcopal Academy's girls' lacrosse team will win the Inter-Ac conference, Malvern Prep's baseball team will top the Inter-Ac, and Tower Hill's girls' tennis team appear to have its competitors subdued.

Boys' lacrosse, however, is a toss-up at press time: Max-Preps has Malvern Prep as #1 and the Haverford School as #2. Episcopal is #9. The three are tied in the Inter-Ac.

BOYS' LACROSSE

Malvern Prep's lacrosse team is ranked the #1 team in Pennsylvania, 49th in the country. Coach Matt Mackrides said his team has played "the hardest schedule in the country this year," earning a record of 16-7 through the season. Clearly the team has talented players.

Ranked #13 nationally by *Inside Lacrosse* and headed for Duke University, Michael Ortlieb, playing attack, has scored 39 goals and 22 assists at midseason. He said his "best talent is fitting into Malvern's offensive system ... whether inside on the crease or behind the goal at X."

Senior Jack Carroll plays defense for the team and committed to Cornell. His believes his best talents are "communication and ability to see plays develop before they happen."

Playing midfield or attack, Jake Bickel is ranked #23 by *Inside Lacrosse*, which wrote he's a "dedicated student and multisport athlete who's disciplined, determined and ... love[s] to compete." He's headed to Georgetown. Also at midfield is Logan Turley, who's committed to Harvard.

Still, the Haverford School may be the stronger team. Haverford split their matches with Malvern Prep this season, losing the first in overtime but winning the second by two points. And the Inter-Ac has Haverford as #1. Malvern



Agnes Irwin's girls' lacrosse Coach Lauren Wray called them 'great leaders, inclusive ... with excellent communication skills.' They're 'excellent role models for the younger players' and good students as well.

is #3! Episcopal is #2. Each has an 8-2 record in the conference, but Malvern has played many games outside the conference and has an overall winning percentage that's only .696. Haverford's is .765.

At defense, Gavin Cooper is said to "embrace contact and was a force around GLE (goal line extended)." He'll join Army next season. Reece Childs "makes his presence felt at each level" and has "great speed and runs with power.... [He is] certainly skilled and a fantastic athlete." He's been recruited by the University of Pennsylvania. Midfielder Griff Meyer, who's played since age 4, has exceptional hand speed and hustle and is headed for the University of Virginia.

GIRLS' LACROSSE

Episcopal Academy, sporting a 99.90 rating at *Inside Lacrosse* and having won the Inter-Ac numerous times, is again in 1st place in girls' lacrosse with a 17-0 overall record. Coach Josie Tomaino credits a "culture of discipline, unity and hard work," and praised three senior athletes, all headed to top college programs.

Quinn Whitaker, midfielder, will attend Boston College, the #4 school according to *Inside Lacrosse*. She "plays with an effortless grace. She has a smooth, fluid style ... Her lacrosse IQ is exceptional." Midfielder Maura Irish "brings a gritty, physical edge to the game," Tomaino said. "She's aggressive and relentless ... [with] a powerful shot and great field awareness..." She's committed to Notre Dame, *Inside Lacrosse's* #2 program. And Grace Holland, at goalkeeper, "brings intensity and accountability" and will join Whitaker at Boston College.

Agnes Irwin has been a worthy challenger. Currently ranked 3rd in Pennsylvania, the school has a 11-2 record under Coach Lauren Wray. Of five co-captains, Wray selected two from her "talented, close-knit" group: midfielders Mairyn Dwyer, ranked #11 nationally, and Caroline Chisholm, ranked #4. Wray called them "great leaders, inclusive ... with excellent communication skills." They're "excellent role models for the younger players" and good students as well. Next year, Dwyer heads for the University of North Carolina, the #3 ranked school. Chisholm — also recruited for field hockey — is Boston University bound.

pionships (PA independent school league). In mid-May, they're in 1st place with a 9-1 record in Inter-Ac play, 21-5 in PAISSA, and ranked #7 in Pennsylvania.

Outfielder Chase Ecker committed to William & Mary. At the end of April, he had a .368 batting average, six RBIs and scored seven runs in 19 at-bats. Junior Brady Abate was PAISSA's RBI leader at the end of April. Teammate Ecker is #2.

Delaware Independent Schools league's second place goes to Wilmington Friends School, with star catcher Ronny Berry. Just a sophomore, he's hitting .414 mid-season,

BASEBALL

Malvern Prep has a long record of baseball success: 26 Inter-Ac championships since 1980, with 11 wins under current coach Fred Hilliard. Plus 10 PAISSA cham-

1. Malvern Prep's Michael Ortlieb
PHOTO CREDIT: MAX MANGIAN
2. Episcopal Academy's Quinn Whitaker
PHOTO CREDIT: JAMES QUINN
3. Agnes Irwin's Caroline Chisholm, left
PHOTO CREDIT: ZAMANI FEELINGS



has three doubles, two triples, a home run and gets on base more than half the time.

GIRLS' TENNIS

Halfway through the season, Tower Hill School's girls' team has won all of its six tennis matches. Ava Emrich, Delaware's #1 player, leads the team, shutting out all competitors. Coach Wendy Berkhover said she relies on "power, placement, strategy and figuring out her opponent. She's got it all." Interested in biology and the sciences, she's verbally committed to Smith College.

BOYS' TENNIS

In boys' tennis, the Haverford School is 9–1 in Inter-Ac competition and 13–1 overall. It's a consistent Inter-Ac winner, headed for a fourth year in a row.

Playing #1 singles is junior Kaiser Zhao, with a 10–2 record. At second singles is senior Phineas Manogue at 8–2, who's headed for the University of Chicago. "When it comes to the on-court desire to win and competitiveness, the team follows Zhao's lead," said Coach Tracy Tooke. "The team is hard-working and intentional in its goal to continue Haverford's long-standing history of being the best in the Inter-Ac."



4

In second place in the Inter-Ac is Episcopal Academy. Starting at first singles for his second year was sophomore Preston Lubiniecki, the 3rd best PA player in the under-18 category and 75th nationally. Senior Connor Chambers ranked 21st in Pennsylvania and generally plays second singles. An excellent student, he's taken many honors and AP classes in physics, math, history, statistics, chemistry and computer science.

Turning to Delaware, Tower Hill School was undefeated in boys' tennis this season and headed for the play-offs. Its lead player, David Chen, is only a sophomore.

With a 10–3 record, Archmere Academy's tennis team is 6th in Delaware, with two matches left in the regular season. Freshman Wika Sun, Delaware's #4 player, has played mostly first singles and won all but one match. Senior Charlie Ritterer, in second singles most of the season, won all his matches. Coach Kevin Comny reported, "Both are very strong from the baseline on both sides. Wika is remarkably composed under pressure."

As the spring season ends, the area's private schools are fighting to be the best. In lacrosse, Episcopal Academy's girls have the edge, but Agnes Irwin is close behind. Malvern Prep, Haverford School and Episcopal will continue to struggle for dominance in lacrosse. Meanwhile Malvern will likely win in baseball and Haverford tennis. In Delaware, Tower Hill and Archmere have respectable positions in tennis and volleyball. It should be exciting. We wish all the individual players well. ♦



5

4. The Haverford School's Phineas Manogue
PHOTO CREDIT: ACTIVE IMAGE MEDIA

5. Archmere Academy's Wika Sun



Liz Tarditi

AS THE DAYS GROW LONGER AND THE SUN shines brighter, there's no better time to embrace the vibrant flavors of summer with cocktails that celebrate the season's freshest ingredients. Crafting delightful concoctions using botanical spirits and homegrown produce allows you to create a refreshing experience that captures the essence of carefree moments.

Whether you're hosting a garden party or enjoying a sunny afternoon on the porch, these bright and bubbly beverages will whisk you away to a world of flavor and fun. Let's explore how to elevate your summer sipping with a mixology adventure that dances between the classic and the contemporary, the floral and the fruity, and the shimmering delights of effervescence.

THE EARTH LAUGHS IN FLOWERS

Experience the essence of summer with brilliant botanicals, because what delights your eyes will be delicious in your glass!

Let's jump right into the must-haves: [Hendrick's Gin](#) (\$42.99) has notes of cool cucumber and rose. Local favorites include [Blue-coat Elderflower Dry Gin](#) (\$36.99) with a heady infusion of organic elderflower; [The Revivalist Summertime Expression Botanical Gin](#) (\$29.99) with whispers of jasmine, rose, summer grasses and citrus; [The Revivalist Equinox Expression Botanical Gin](#) (\$29.99) with notes of spring blossoms, calming herbs and refreshing citrus; and [Penn Square Lavender Vodka](#) (\$29.99), deeply infused with lavender intensity, making it great for mixing.

But don't stop there — look to your own garden and to the indigenous wildflowers of our beautiful Delaware Valley for edible flowers to add pizzazz to your creations. Penn State Extension, every local

gardener's best friend, has lists of edible landscape blooms as well as herbs and edible flowers. What could be more boho chic than tip-toeing barefoot in the sun while popping a fresh-picked flower into your glass from your cocktail-friendly garden? For more ideas, see "Flavorful Flora: Enjoying Edible Flowers" in the May 2025 issue of *County Lines Magazine*.

BRIGHTEN UP!

Botanical spirits "lighten up" cocktails that are fruit-, flower- or herb-based. Expand your mixology repertoire with sparkling wines and seltzers for modern drinks that are lower in alcohol, more refreshing and just a bit more sophisticated and fun.

For boosts of flavor and color, add other fruit and botanical liqueurs, such as [Villa Massa Limoncello](#) (\$27.99), [Midori Melon Liqueur](#) (\$24.99), [Rothman & Winter Crème de Violette Liqueur](#) (\$30.99) and [Domaine de Canton French Ginger Liqueur](#) (\$34.99).

IT'S HOT! POP THE CORK ON '80S CLASSICS

When temperatures are in the 80s, try kickin' it old school with vintage cocktails with a contemporary twist! The vibrant and eclectic flavors and colors of the 1980s continue to inspire cocktail enthusiasts, making vintage recipes the perfect foundation for summer refreshers. Blending classic '80s favorites with the effervescence of champagne and the zing of ginger beer creates dazzling drinks that dance on the palate.

Imagine a fruity Long Island iced tea reimagined with a sparkling twist of [Fever Tree Ginger Beer Nonalcoholic](#) (\$5.99) or the



naughtily named sex on the beach elevated with a splash of bubbly. Try budget-friendly mixable sparkling wines, like [Sun Goddess Prosecco](#) (\$12.99) with fruity aromas of apple, pear and peach. Or add a splash of a clean, crisp, citrusy chenin blanc-based Chairman's Selection, [Prince Alexandre Crémant de Loire Brut](#) (\$13.99). These whimsical cocktails pay homage to a beloved decade and bring an exciting twist to modern summer sipping. Which brings us to ...

MY BLUE HEAVEN

The blue lagoon was THE quintessential '80s tropical vacation libation thanks to the magical ingredient of [Bols Blue Curaçao Liqueur](#) (\$13.49). It tastes like fresh oranges, which makes it incredibly mixable in almost anything. It inspired an ocean of blue, green and purple tipples, and the list grows every year. This is especially popular during wedding season as new signature cocktails are invented, and guests are always surprised and excited when blue cocktails make an appearance. And yes, all of them, thanks to that citrus flavor profile, can mix into sparkling wine!

THE GARDEN DELIGHTS — NATURE'S BEST FLAVORS

Embracing the farm-to-glass movement, cocktails that incorporate fresh produce from home gardens or our many local farmers markets are vibrant and packed with flavor and nutrition. Cocktails infused with fragrant basil, heirloom tomatoes and juicy cucumbers, incorporating seasonal fruits like berries, peaches and even fresh mint ensures that every sip showcases the unique taste of homegrown summertime goodness. By harnessing the bounty of our local farms and gardens, these cocktails celebrate nature's finest flavors and invite you to savor the fruits of your labor in a refreshing way.

This summer, let your sipping not only quench your thirst but nourish your spirit, making every gathering feel like a celebration of the Earth's living beauty. Please drink and entertain responsibly and enjoy a brilliant, luscious summer filled with sunny days and clear blue skies. Cheers! ♦

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



[Food News]

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

This month, we're West Chester-centric.

We've Been Screaming ...

since the Hometown Christmas Parade when we first pressed our noses to the windows of [Ice Cream West Chester](#). They heard us and (finally) opened! The latest in Speer Madanat's food empire (Pizza West Chester, Steaks West Chester), this spot also offers quality, simple, fresh, local ingredients — just taste the milk from Baily's Dairy. Sample soft serve, custard, dips and more. Plus treats like Dubai chocolate! 14 N. Church St. On Instagram @IceCreamWestChester.



More Beer.

West Chester's beer scene is about to get elevated with the addition of a new location for another award-winning brewery (with James Beard nods): [Tired Hands Brewing Company](#). Started in 2011 in Ardmore, with a taproom in Kennett Square and expansion plans, Tired Hands made a mysterious announcement about the future West Chester location. Said owner Jean Broillet IV, "It's the most unlikely spot you could ever imagine for a craft brewery." Location TBD. [TiredHands.com](#).



Cheers!

Raise a cup to [Iron Hill Brewery's](#) recent wins at the 2025 World Beer Cup, bringing its national awards to 88, while besting 1,750 breweries from 50 countries. Iron Hill nabbed a silver for its Berliner Weisse and a bronze for a Belgian blonde ale, The Cannibal, the signature beer of the late Chris LaPierre. The Cannibal, a highly rated beer, features cans with artwork honoring LaPierre. 3 W. Gay St., plus many more locations. [IronHillBrewery.com](#).



Coming Soon.

At former DeStarr's Restaurant & Bar (112 E. Gay St.), nearby neighbors [dolce Zola](#) — also hosting a pick-up/delivery lasagna-only ghost kitchen, [Lasagnola](#) — plan a yet-unnamed restaurant, plus West Chester's *third* speakeasy on the lower level. Farther west on busy Gay Street, Blazing J's (139 W. Gay St.) location will become [Bored Trading Café](#), a Philly-based fast-casual, counter-service eatery offering bagels, smash burgers, handhelds and more. [DolceZola.com](#); [BoredTradingCo.com](#).

Wondering.

With a "mission to make great food more accessible," new food hall [Wonder](#) is adding many more dining options to West Chester's 70-some. This national chain — with five PA locations and five pending — brings food from around the country with delivery, takeout and dine-in dishes from iconic restaurants for lunch and dinner — Bobby Flay steak (\$36 filet) to Royal Greens salad (\$17 Cobb) anyone? Wonder if that's too many choices? 706 E. Market St. [Wonder.com](#).



Strawberry Season

JUST MAY BE THE
BEST SEASON
OF THE YEAR!

Victoria Rose



IT'S THE PERFECT SEASON FOR fresh produce, as gardens come alive in early summer. Farm markets and CSAs are fantastic ways to support local producers, but there's nothing like picking something right off the plant itself to use in your own kitchen.

Tending a garden is a special way to connect with nature and the food on your table. But lucky for those of us with less-than-green thumbs, many local farms and orchards offer visitors the option to "Pick Your Own." And PYO spots are to be cherished, especially those offering up the star of June — strawberries!

In early summer, strawberries reign supreme. They're one of the most popular pick-your-own fruits, perfect for small hands that might sneak a few right off the vine. Sweet summer strawberries are per-



fect for everything from drinks to salads, pies to marinades.

Picking fresh fruit has evolved over the years, according to Art Whitchair at **Highland Orchards**, one of the oldest family-run farms in our area, located outside West Chester. "Picking your own has changed from serious canners looking to make jam for the winter to a family activity, where you can enjoy eating the fruit together later that day," he said. From Memorial Day through fall, the fields are full of people gathering fresh fruit — weather-dependent, of course.

Pick-your-own is a wonderful way to teach kids about not just fresh strawberries but all aspects of farm life. From how to tell whether fruit is ripe to seeing farm machinery up close, a trip to an orchard is an experience for all ages, creating lasting memories.

"Quite a few guests, including a local celebrity, were surprised to learn strawberries grow on low-lying plants and not on bushes or trees," said Alan Hodge, a third-generation family member running Highland Orchards. "We chuckle when guests show up with picking poles for apples because most fruit on our dwarf apple trees can be reached between 1 and 6 feet off the ground."



For those who prefer to skip working in the fields, most orchards have a farm market selling jams, cider, baked goods and more. At Highland Orchards, no trip is complete without their famous apple cider donuts, best enjoyed on the playground or before feeding cracked corn to goats in the pen nearby. "Everyone is welcome to visit Highland Orchards' farmers market and pick your own crops almost all year round," said Hodge.

The true joy of picking your own produce is literally enjoying the fruits of your labor. Plus there are unlimited ideas for cooking with strawberries, from traditional to modern inspirations. Just remember to wash them first!

Strawberry Cream Dip

Simple to whip up for brunch, or add to a dessert display!



Serves 8 to 10

- 2 C. strawberries, stems removed
- 2 T. honey
- 1½ C. low-fat cottage cheese

Blend all ingredients in blender until smooth.

Serve with fresh sliced fruit, apples, melons, grapes, etc. Great with graham crackers.

Strawberry Salsa

Use this salsa to elevate your summer barbecue dishes to the next level. Delicious to serve on grilled fish or pork as well as with tortilla chips.



Serves 10 to 12

- 2 C. strawberries, sliced, stems removed
- 4 plum tomatoes, seeded and chopped
- 1 jalapeño pepper, seeded and minced
- 2 cloves garlic, pressed or finely chopped
- Juice of 1 lime
- 1 T. olive oil
- Salt and pepper to taste

Gently stir all ingredients in a large bowl to combine.

Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Cover dish and refrigerate 2 hours before serving.

Strawberry and Asparagus Salad

The perfect early summer salad! Serve on its own or with a grilled protein to make a full meal.

Serves 4 to 6

- 1 lb. asparagus, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1, 8-oz. bag mixed salad greens
- 3 C. strawberries, stems removed, sliced
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- ½ C. walnuts, chopped
- 2 T. olive oil
- 2 T. balsamic vinegar
- 2 tsp. sugar
- Optional: Salt and pepper, to taste



Cook asparagus in a small amount of boiling water for 5 to 8 minutes, until bright green and just tender. Strain and set aside to cool.

In a large salad bowl, toss salad greens, strawberries, red onion, walnuts and asparagus.

In a small bowl, whisk the olive oil, vinegar and sugar.

Pour dressing over salad, then toss gently to coat.

Optional: add salt and pepper to taste.

Strawberry Rhubarb Jam

The perfect classic to make with early summer produce. Make this now and enjoy it all year long!

Makes 6 half-pint jars

- 2 C. strawberries, crushed, stems removed
- 2 C. rhubarb, chopped
- 6 T. classic pectin
- ¼ C. lemon juice
- 5½ C. sugar



Combine strawberries, rhubarb, classic pectin and lemon juice in a large sauce pot. Bring to a boil over high heat. Add sugar, stirring until dissolved.

Return to a rolling boil. Boil hard for 1 minute, stirring constantly. Remove from heat. Skim foam if necessary.

Ladle hot jam into clean, hot jars, leaving ¼-inch headspace. Seal with two-piece caps. Process 10 minutes in a boiling water canner. Remove carefully with a jar lifter and let cool.

Deluxe Berry Pie

Here’s an update on the original mixed berry pie — this version has a layer of chocolate at the bottom for a surprise sweet addition!



Serves 8

For the crust:

1½ C. all purpose flour
2 T. sugar
½ tsp. salt
⅓ C. vegetable oil
3 T. milk
½ C. chocolate chips for melting

For the filling:

¾ C. whipping cream
12 oz. cream cheese
½ C. sugar
3 tsp. fresh orange juice
2 tsp. vanilla extract
Fresh slices of strawberries, blueberries or raspberries, or mixed berries
¼ C. strawberry or apricot jam

To make the crust:

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix flour, sugar and salt in a large bowl. Add oil and milk. Stir with a fork until well blended. (Mixture will be crumbly.) Scatter evenly into an ungreased tart pan. Press over bottom and up sides of pan. Press edges into the pan rim.

Bake about 25 to 30 minutes until golden brown.

Sprinkle a thin layer of chocolate chips on the crust immediately

after removing pie crust from the oven. Let the chips turn glossy, then spread. Allow crust to cool completely.

To make the filling:

Whip cream in a chilled bowl until soft peaks form. Set aside.

In another bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until fluffy. Add orange juice and vanilla extract. Beat until smooth.

Fold in whipped cream.

Put cream mixture into cooled crust. Spread evenly and up sides. Cover and chill.

To assemble:

Fill pie shell with berries (as many as you’d like).

Melt jam in a saucepan over low heat, stirring frequently, or in microwave in 30-second intervals, stirring until melted and smooth, and brush over berries.

Let cool in refrigerator for at least 2 hours or until set.

Apple Cider Donut Bread Pudding with Strawberries

A twist on a traditional bread pudding, this is a great way to use slightly stale donuts and bread. Fresh strawberries add a bright fruit note. If you prefer a less sweet version, sugar can be reduced or omitted.



Serves 8 to 10

9 apple cider donuts
6 oz. brioche bread
3 large eggs
4 egg yolks
2 tsp. vanilla extract
⅓ tsp. salt
½ C. sugar
2 C. heavy cream
2 C. strawberries, sliced, stems removed
Butter or cooking spray

Tips for Pick-Your-Own Strawberry Season

Get the most out of your trip to the orchard with these tips from pick-your-own experts!

- 1. Check before you go.** Field conditions can change quickly, depending on the availability of fruit, weather and crop conditions. Check social media or call ahead, especially if you’re driving a long distance. Some farms require advance reservations, especially for large groups or during peak produce seasons.
- 2. Bring sunscreen+.** Depending on the day and picking conditions, you may be in the field for a while. Pack simple supplies like sunscreen, bug spray (especially later in summer), water, hand sanitizer/wipes and hats.
- 3. Be prepared for the farm.** You’ll be walking through working fields and orchards. Wear closed-toe shoes and comfortable clothing you don’t mind getting a bit dirty or stained with fruit.
- 4. Leave Fido at home.** Most working farms don’t allow pets in pick-your-own areas. Look online to check their FAQs. Registered service animals may need to be checked in prior to picking.
- 5. BYOBasket?** Some farms provide containers for picking, while others let you bring your own. Check in at the farm market or registration table, and be prepared to pay in advance for the amount you plan to pick.
- 6. Be gentle!** Strawberries grow on bushes low to the ground, planted in long rows. Avoid stepping on or over bushes — this can damage plants and fruit for future pickers. Keep an eye on young pickers and help them learn how to care for these plants as well.
- 7. Look for juicy and red.** Ripe strawberries will be red all over, without any green or white left at the tip. For the juiciest, sweetest fruit, look for those that are fully ripened. To pick, grip the stem just above the strawberry and pull or twist gently. Ripe strawberries will easily pull away, with the green leaves at the top still attached. Avoid squeezing, since strawberries bruise easily!
- 8. Plan time for pie!** Strawberries are highly perishable, especially during peak ripeness. Be prepared to use them within a day or two, or put them in the refrigerator to extend their life.

9. Freeze them. Wash the berries thoroughly, lay flat to dry completely. Then put in the freezer on a tray until fully frozen. Then toss in a ziplock plastic bag and use as needed. They’ll be softer when defrosted, but perfect for baking or cooking in sauces.



Cube donuts and bread. Grease a 9”x13” baking pan with butter or cooking spray. Put donuts and bread mixture in baking pan.

Combine eggs, egg yolks, vanilla, salt and sugar in large bowl. Stir until smoothly combined. Add heavy cream and mix thoroughly.

Pour liquid mixture evenly over dry ingredients. Add sliced strawberries and gently stir through. Let soak in refrigerator for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 325°. Prepare a water bath by putting a larger high-walled baking pan in the oven. Put rested bread pudding in the pan, then carefully pour warm/hot water in the larger pan until it comes halfway up the sides.

Bake in the hot water bath for 45 minutes or until fully set (use a toothpick to poke bread pudding in the middle; it should come out clean when fully set).

Can be refrigerated then warmed again. Or let rest for 15 minutes, then serve warm.

Optional: garnish with whipped cream, crème anglaise (recipe below), sliced Granny Smith apples or more fresh strawberries!

Crème Anglaise

This classic sauce pairs perfectly with the bread pudding above or is wonderful to drizzle over a bowl of sliced fresh strawberries.

Makes 1½ cups of sauce

1 C. heavy cream
2 tsp. vanilla extract
4 egg yolks
⅓ C. sugar

In a small heavy saucepan, heat heavy cream and vanilla over medium heat until bubbles form at edges.

While cream is heating, whisk together egg yolks and sugar until smooth. Slowly pour ½ cup of hot cream into egg yolks to temper, whisking constantly. Gradually add egg yolk mixture back to remaining hot cream mixture, whisking constantly. Continue to cook, stirring constantly, until the mixture is thickened and evenly coats the back of a spoon.

Pour into a heat-safe bowl and cover with a layer of plastic wrap pressed directly on top of the sauce to keep a skin from forming. Let cool slightly before serving, or refrigerate to serve later. ♦

RECIPE PHOTOS BY ANNIE JEAN LIN

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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