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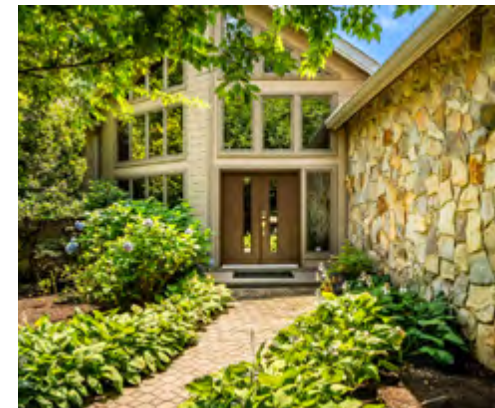
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This may be the most architecturally distinct and amenity-rich home on the market today. Privately set on 12 acres on the most exclusive road in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, this grand 7,248 sf residence features 5 BR & 3.2 BA plus geothermal heating and cooling. At the heart of the home is the spectacular indoor Pool which is viewed from multiple rooms in the home. The gourmet Kitchen is a chef's dream with high-end appliances and wonderful work spaces. The Primary Suite is a sanctuary with two walk-in closets, a spa-like bathroom, and an adjoining Office. Enjoy views from the elevated Deck, garden paths, coy pond with tranquil areas. A Party Barn, Play House and small stable complete the estate.

\$3,495,00



## Tastefully Remodeled Home in Unionville Schools

This 4 BR, 3.1 BA home with 11 acres also has a charming barn apartment with 2 BR, 2 BA and set in Unionville-Chadds Ford School District. The home's main level has an open floor plan with beautiful marble flooring. The Kitchen offers high-end cabinetry and appliances plus overlooks the pool and terrace. The Primary Bedroom has a large walk-in closet and a wonderful bathroom. An indoor arena has been transformed into a spacious athletic space the family will love!.

\$2,950,000



## Superior Family Compound with Four Living Units

This fabulous c.1886 house features 3 BR, 2.1 BA, great Kitchen and wonderful open floor plan. Additionally, the property has 3, one or two bedroom living units, making this an exciting opportunity for a someone seeking a superior family compound! A very short walk to the Brandywine Creek & in Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools! This 3+ acre property boast super amenities and all of the mechanical systems have been updated. You will love the low taxes!

\$1,778,000

NEW  
LISTING



## Great Horse Farm in Unionville Schools

This delightful property features a charming 3BR, 2.1 BA home with a lower-level apartment and a well designed six-stall barn. The home has beautiful post & beam construction and a nice floor plan. The spacious living room features a cozy fireplace with marble facings and access to a patio. Equestrians will love the 10 acre setting with ample pasture and the Unionville equestrian area location. The farm is set in Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools and enjoys low taxes!

\$1,200,000



## Wonderful Home with First Floor Primary Suite

Located down a long drive in a quiet community, sits this well kept 4 BR, 4.1 BA home on 3+ acres. The light-filled home has a terrific flow and features a well-appointed first floor primary suite and finished basement. Meticulously maintained and boasting superior landscaping with mature woodlands, this property offers an incredible lifestyle opportunity for the discerning buyer. Located in the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District.

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*Presented by Amy McKenna*  
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*Presented by Camille Gracie*  
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## Newlin Township

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from the  
**EDITOR**

This September we highlight homes, horses, history, plus pawpaws, apples and more — part of the bounty of the Brandywine Valley.

“Chester County Day’s 84th Tour of Tours” previews stops on the October 4th annual house tour and hospital fundraiser. The stunning barn on the cover is just a taste. And in Dream Home, Laurel Anderson finds tranquility at the end of a private drive leading to 12 parklike acres in Pocopson Township.

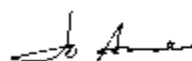
Learn a little something about Victorian architecture, as Jane E. Dorchester explains in “What Style Is It?”, that there are actually four styles — Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne — lumped together.

For horses, in “Autumn on Horseback,” Kari Mullan describes a season full of equestrian entertainment — Ludwig’s Corner Horse Show, Devon Fall Classic, Plantation Field International Horse Trials and more — with plenty of family fun. Plus, in “Golden Moments at Dressage at Devon’s 50th,” Sue Weakley writes that the event isn’t just for horse people. It’s for families, foodies, history buffs, fashionistas and many more. In Worth Knowing, we get some expert tips from local attorney Peter Murphy on buying a horse.

This month’s Brandywine Stories feature is about “Art as Witness.” Kim Andrews shares artist Adrian Martinez’s retelling of the Battle of Brandywine, one hour at a time. In our quarterly book feature, “Need Some Book Club Books?”, Shelley Laurence of Main Point Books has recommendations. Meanwhile Liz Tarditi shares a few “Spirited Tales” with backstories about wine and spirits.

We promised pawpaws, and Sharon Richardson delivers, telling us about Pennsylvania’s tropical secret and the next super food in “Way Down Yonder in the Pawpaw Patch.” As for apples, there’s nothing quite like picking apples on an autumn afternoon. In this month’s Brandywine Table, we suggest you “Pick Your Own Apples for Farm-Fresh Fall Flavor.”

Finally, check out our Best Local Events section for more to discover in the Brandywine Valley. Thank you for reading.

  
Jo Anne Durako  
Editor

## COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

September 2025

Volume XLIX Number 1

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# The Impact of Addiction on Families

## PEER SUPPORT

Kim Porter, Be a Part of the Conversation

WHEN SOMEONE WE LOVE IS SUFFERING the negative effects of substance use, family members find themselves living in fear, confusion and — because of the associated stigma — isolation. That was my reality when I finally accepted that my 21-year-old son had a substance use disorder (addiction). I was desperate for understanding and support, but I had no idea how to find it.

According to the Pew Research Center, nearly half of Americans have a family member or close friend who has been addicted to drugs or alcohol. Even with all that company, I felt completely alone. How could I have missed the signs? And when my eyes were finally open to my son's drug use, I felt I must be the best person to keep him safe and put him on the right path.

Many family members like me become enmeshed with our loved

one and their addiction for years, and it doesn't always occur to us that we've also paid a price — experienced trauma and poor health, lost relationships and are less productive at work. We're consumed with our loved one's substance use disorder and related behaviors, just as they are consumed with drugs or alcohol.

## TWO RECOVERIES

My son entered treatment in 2010, and through much hard work and personal growth, has remained in recovery ever since. At the very same time that his recovery began, so did mine.

I had the extremely good fortune to learn about a support group that was just for parents whose child of any age has a substance use disorder. Being with other family members who understood what I was going through was imperative for my own recovery.

## PEER SUPPORT

Once I found the support I desperately needed, I helped launch an initiative called "Be a Part of the Conversation" in 2011. Today, we're a growing nonprofit organization that serves thousands of individuals in southeastern Pennsylvania and beyond.

We provide community programs — both virtually and in person — that educate the public about substance use and addiction. We help with addressing prevention and early intervention, raising awareness about substance use disorders and related behavioral health challenges, navigating pathways to recovery and supporting the entire family system.

Knowing the value of the peer support that carried me through some very scary times, and seeing so many new meetings springing up throughout the region, I knew it was time to welcome the groups under the Be a Part of the Conversation umbrella. Today we offer a network of 20 Parent Partnership meetings, which take place every week throughout the year, some meeting in person and some virtually.

In addition to community programs and Parent Partnership meetings, Be a Part of the Conversation also offers a Family Recovery Course — a three-part course for parents, guardians or grandparents whose child (at any stage of life) has struggled with substance use. The course is offered online with some in-person opportunities.

Each series is capped at 12 participants and is led by two trained peers with lived experience. Participants receive a manual and are offered periodic alumni meetings so we can all stay connected, providing support and understanding whenever needed.

All these programs and services are available at no charge. The positive impact is made evident by the fact that we now have more than 50 Parent Partnership Leaders and Family Recovery Course Instructors, all who come from many different walks of life but give their time and freely share their experience in the service of others.

We all have a shared goal: to shine a light for families who are traveling down a road that none of us were prepared to navigate. We don't have to be alone on our journey toward healing our family.

Find out more about Be a Part of the Conversation, Parent Partnerships and the Family Recovery course at [Conversation.zone](https://Conversation.zone). ♦

*Kim Porter, CFRS, is the Executive Director and Co-Founder of Be a Part of the Conversation. She's passionate about helping communities understand the impact of addiction on individuals and their families. Kim is a Certified Family Recovery Specialist, which equips her to provide peer support and share her lived experience with other families. Reach her at [Kim@Conversation.zone](mailto:Kim@Conversation.zone).*



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## Cross Rails to Contracts

### BUYING A HORSE WITHOUT LOSING YOUR HEAD

Peter S. Murphy

**B**UYING A HORSE IS RARELY JUST A PURCHASE. It's often a milestone — a first show partner for a child, a move up to bigger fences or, in some cases, a return to the saddle after years of standing at the rail.

As a barn dad and lawyer, I've watched these moments unfold up close — sometimes with joy, sometimes with quiet regret. And I've reviewed contracts that were vague, incomplete or missing entirely, not because of bad intentions, but because no one slowed down long enough to ask the right questions or put expectations in writing.

This article is not legal advice. It's a practical guide to help you approach one of the most personal — and potentially expensive — decisions in the equestrian world with clarity, caution and confidence.

**Do Your Homework.** Before you ever set foot in the barn, start with the basics. Ask for videos, show records, vet history and a detailed summary of the horse's current program. If the horse is represented as a seasoned partner, ask when it last competed, with what

kind of rider and at what level. A trustworthy seller won't hesitate to provide details.

Always invest in a pre-purchase exam. Choose a veterinarian who's independent of the seller and experienced in performance horses. Radiographs of the hocks, stifles and front feet may reveal maintenance needs or long-term concerns. Have a candid discussion about the findings.

If a trial is offered, confirm everything in writing: who pays for transport, who insures the horse, where it will be kept and what happens in the event of injury. Trial periods can be valuable, but they carry risks.

Also confirm the horse's registration status. If the horse is registered with a breed or sport association, request a copy of the papers and confirm the seller has the legal authority to transfer ownership. Registration may affect competition eligibility and resale value, so verify that details match.

**Take Your Time.** Psychologist Daniel Kahneman describes two modes of thinking. System 1 is fast, emotional and intuitive. It's what causes someone to fall in love with a horse before reading the vet report. System 2 is slow and deliberate. It studies costs, matches goals to ability and asks hard questions.

Horse buying encourages System 1. It's human nature. But decisions made in haste, even by well-meaning buyers, often lead to regret. Pause. Reflect. Sleep on it. Ask your trainer or trusted adviser to play devil's advocate. If the horse is truly the right one, it will still be the right one tomorrow.

**Put It in Writing.** Even in a close-knit barn community, verbal deals are vulnerable to misunderstanding. A written agreement protects both sides.

It should include identifying details — name, age, breed, markings — as well as the full purchase price, payment terms and whether the horse is sold "as is." If commissions are involved, those should be clearly disclosed.

Include anything material to the horse's condition or suitability: training history, maintenance routines, known medical issues and included tack or equipment. If a trial is permitted, spell out the details. The more you clarify upfront, the less room there is for confusion later.

**Think Ahead.** Few riders stay the same for long. Children grow stronger and more ambitious. Horses grow older and slower. Consider whether this horse is likely to meet your needs in two or three years — and what the options are if it doesn't.

Does the horse have resale value? Could it step down into a lesson program or be leased out? Is there a clear path to retirement if it becomes unrideable? Planning your exit at the time of entry may sound pessimistic, but it's simply responsible.

**Final Thoughts.** A well-matched horse can build confidence, teach discipline and create memories that last a lifetime. But even with the best intentions, mismatches happen — and when they do, the costs are rarely just financial.

Take your time. Ask questions. Put things in writing. Buying a horse is a leap of faith. But it doesn't have to be a shot in the dark. ♦

*Peter S. Murphy is a transactional attorney and founder of P.S. Murphy Ltd., a boutique practice based in Kennett Square. He helps businesses and entrepreneurs navigate commercial law, contracts, corporate structuring and regulatory issues. When he's not working with clients, you'll find him ringside with coffee in hand at local horse shows. PSMurphyLtd.com.*



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# [Good to Know]

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

**Meet Me at the Mill.** Get a glimpse of times gone by at the **Mill at Anselma**, an 18th-century working grist mill. Attend a mill technology lecture on September 6, or catch a milling demo on September 13, complete with hands-on activities for kids and stone-ground flour and cornmeal for sale. Then drink like a colonial at Cider Fest, September 27. Enjoy mill tours, raffles, food and merch from local vendors, plus children's games and face painting. *1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs. AnselmaMill.org*

PHOTO CREDIT: ANITA BOWER



**Trailside Treasures.** Next time you hike or bike the Kennett Greenway, take a look around. The Kennett Trails Alliance's **Art on the Greenway** initiative is adorning the 14-mile multipurpose trail loop with local art. Projects include handmade banners, a yarn bombing installation at Cypress Beach Park and four Eco Mural panels at Anson B. Nixon Park. The finale event on October 17 at The Creamery is a mural panel unveiling, plus an aerialist, R&B performance and live art models. *KennettGreenway.com*



**Support the Arts.** Mark your calendar for the Media Theatre's 2025 gala, Marquee Moments, September 5. Enjoy an exclusive sneak-peek of the upcoming season plus some of the Media Theatre's most iconic musical moments. You'll also have the opportunity to bid on large, experience-based silent auction items. Proceeds benefit the theater's programming and operations, including the scholarship fund. *104 E. State St., Media. MediaTheatre.org*

**The Big Seven-Oh.** Back to school isn't just for kids. Learn something new with a course from **Chester County Lifelong Learning**, celebrating its 70th birthday this year. Since 1955, CCLL has provided engaging and enriching classes to the local community. Fall classes include fun like Country Line Dancing, Guitar for Beginners, Yoga for All, Back to Basics: Cooking Skills and Artificial Intelligence: Make It Your Ally. Find the online course catalog and register at *CCLifeLearn.org*

**And the Winner Is ...** *County Lines Magazine!* We are honored to receive the Preservation Service Award at the upcoming 2025 **West Chester Preservation Awards** from the Downtown Foundation. The award recognizes individuals and organizations for projects that promote a better understanding of the history of West Chester and the need to preserve the physical evidence of that history. Catch us at the awards ceremony, October 16 at the Chester County History Center. *WCDF.org*



PHOTO CREDIT: R. KENNEDY FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

# Come for the Event. Stay for the Experience!

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## [ best Local Events ]

### Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance

September 5-7



Visit this nationally recognized motor car exhibition plus other car events with special guests: racing legend David Hobbs and motorcycle trailblazer Erik Buell. Benefits Thorncroft Equestrian Center. **Sept. 5**, Welcome Barbecue, 6 p.m.; **Sept. 6**, The Bill O'Connell Memorial Road Rally,

8 a.m., gala and auction, 6 p.m.; **Sept. 7**, The Concours d'Elegance, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. Gen. adm., \$40-\$80. RadnorConcours.org.

### Up On The Roof

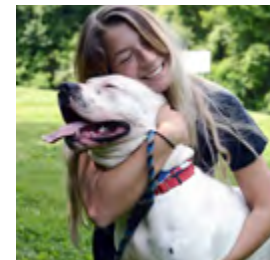
September 13

Music and dining at this unique venue make it an unforgettable fundraising effort between the West Chester Downtown Foundation and Downtown West Chester. Enjoy appetizers by Limoncello Ristorante & Caterers and John Serock Catering along with desserts by some of West Chester's favorite sweet shops. Complimentary beer, plus wine and the always-popular Rooftop Martini. Benefits the beautification of West Chester. 14 E. Chestnut St. Garage. 5 to 8:30 p.m. \$90. DowntownWestChester.com; WCDF.org.



### Rescued on the Runway

September 14



Francisvale Home for Smaller Animals and Providence Animal Center invite you to an afternoon of adorable fun. Raffle baskets, lunch, music and, most importantly, adoptable pets strutting down the runway looking for the perfect home. Providence Animal Center, 555 Sandy

Bank Rd., Media. Noon to 3:30 p.m. ProvidenceAC.org.

## September Picks

by Marci Tomassone

### Bike the Brandywine

September 20

Explore the scenery, glimpse the history and discover the lure of the Brandywine. Choose from three scenic routes that take in the beautiful Brandywine Creek Greenway and surrounding countryside with distances of 25, 45 and 62 miles. Benefits the Brandywine Conservancy. Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 N. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. 6:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. \$65. Brandywine.org/Conservancy.



### Oktoberfest in West Chester

September 27



Participating restaurants offer \$6 fall beers or ciders and fall-themed appetizers. Live music happening around town for you to enjoy as you walk to and from each restaurant. No tickets needed, simply show up at one of the participating locations and ask for the Oktoberfest specials. Note that Gay St. will be closed to vehicles for the Open-Air Market. DowntownWestChester.com.

### Main Line Music Festival

September 27

Formerly Paoli Blues Fest, the festival offers blues, R&B, rock 'n' roll, and even a little C&W. This is a celebration of music, community and fun. The littlest live music enthusiasts are in for a treat with the KidsZone, and for the adults they've added a beer and wine garden to enhance the festivities. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Wayne. Noon to 8 p.m.. Free, donations accepted. MainLineMusicFest.com.



# FAMILY FUN

## THROUGH NOVEMBER 2

### First Sundays

**Steamin' Days at Marshall Steam Museum.** Climb into an antique automobile or board one of the trains and experience what it was like to travel at the turn of the 20th century. Tour the 1897 mansion that was home to three generations of the Marshall family. 3000 Creek Rd., Hockessin, DE. 12:30 to 4:30. \$10–\$15. [AuburnHeights.org](#).

## SEPTEMBER 6

**Historic Sugartown Bee Day.** Celebrate National Honey Month with Historic Sugartown and the Chester County Beekeepers Association. A fun, educational and family-friendly event all about our vital pollinators. Carriage Museum at Historic Sugartown, 273 Boot Rd., Malvern. 10 to 1. \$5. [HistoricSugartown.org](#).



## SEPTEMBER 7, 14, 21, 28

**West Chester Railroad Picnic Special Train Ride.** Enjoy a relaxing 90-minute train ride from West Chester to Glen Mills and return. Pack a lunch to have at the Glen Mills station picnic grove, the 1880s station building or the Red Brick Winery. Trains depart 230 E. Market St., West Chester. Noon. \$25. [WCRailroad.com](#).

## SEPTEMBER 13 & 14

**Battle at Chadds Ford—Historic**



**Chadds Ford Days.** Take a historical journey back to September 11, 1777, when the British army engaged Washington's troops at Chad's Ford. Two timed skirmishes and a firing demo will take place each day with reenactors and demonstrators. Live music, food and beverages available. 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5–\$10. [ChaddsFordHistory.org](#).

## SEPTEMBER 20

**Fall Festival at Newlin Grist Mill.** Featuring a variety of historic skills and trades demonstrations, archaeological excavations and activities, hayrides and hands-on activities for kids of all ages. Visit the vendors of handcrafted goods in the Colonial Market and enjoy locally made beer, wine and food vendors at the Tavern. 219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 10 to 4. Free. [NewlinGristMill.org](#).

## SEPTEMBER 20

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

## SEPTEMBER 23

**Butterfly Festival at Colonial Gardens.** Wander through the gardens, visit local artisans and learn about these amazing pollinators. Make a reservation to release a butterfly during one of the mass releases. 745 Schuylkill Rd., Phoenixville, 9 to 5. Free. [ColonialGardensPA.com/Butterfly-Festival](#).



## SEPTEMBER 27

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

## OCTOBER 3

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

## OCTOBER 4

**Truck & Tractor Day at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.** Get up close to trucks and tractors, suit up in firefighter gear, take a hayride and milk a mechanical cow. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 10 to 4. \$6–\$20. [Winterthur.org](#).

## OCTOBER 4

**The Lights Festival at Plantation Field.** Enjoy food, live music, dancing, play areas and games for all ages and the sight of the sky lit with thousands of lanterns. 1547 W. Doe Run Rd., Kennett Square. 4 pm. \$36–\$60. [TheLightsFest.com](#).

## OCTOBER 5

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

## OCTOBER 5

**Westtown Day 2025.** The annual community day features live music, food trucks, petting zoo, historical reenactors, bounce castle, inflatable axe throwing, emergency vehicle touch-a-truck and more. Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 11 to 3. Free. [WesttownPA.org](#).



## OCTOBER 5

**Radnor Fall Harvest & Great Pumpkin Patch.** Spend the day enjoying fall-themed activities including tractor rides, pumpkin picking, mechanical bull, balloon twisters, food, entertainment and more. Rain date, Oct. 12. The Willows Park, 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. 11 to 4. Free. [Radnor.com](#).

## ART, CRAFTS & ANTQUES .....

### SEPTEMBER 6 & 7

**Brandywine Festival of the Arts.** Over 200 artisans from all over the country display and sell their work in Brandywine Park's Josephine Gardens. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5. [BrandywineArts.com](#).

### SEPTEMBER 6 & 7

**Rose Squared Art Show at Ludwig's Corner.** This show features exhibitors in many mediums, including apothecary, artisanal foods, ceramics, digital art, decorative and wearable fiber, glass, jewelry and more. Food and beverage trucks on site. 1326 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore. Daily, 10 to 5. \$6. [RoseSquared.com](#).

### SEPTEMBER 13

**Quilt Turning at Chester County History Center.** Enjoy a rare up-close look at some of CCHC's remarkable quilts, focusing on the 1800s and including recent acquisitions. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 10 to noon. \$35–\$40. [MyCCHC.org](#).



### SEPTEMBER 20 & 21

**Kennett Arts Festival.** Featuring over 100 artists, live music, kids activities and a selection of local food vendors, including beer and wine. 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, noon to 4. \$5. [KennettArts.com](#).

### SEPTEMBER 26

**Chester County Art Walk.** Take a ride to East Goshen Park, where over 100 artists line the trails. Enjoy the food trucks, live musical acts and a teen artist competition as you enjoy the artwork on display. Rain date, Sept. 27. 1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 10 to 4. [EastGoshen.org](#).

### OCTOBER 3

**Fall Gallery Walk in West Chester.** Explore the vibrant art scene in downtown West Chester. Galleries combine with additional “one-night-only” venues throughout the downtown area to showcase Chester County artists. Presented by Founders Brewing Co. and hosted by Down-

town West Chester. 4 to 8 pm. Free parking. [DowntownWestChester.com](#).

### OCTOBER 4-12

**6th Annual Delco Arts Week.** The Delaware County Arts Consortium hosts more than 60 events, many free to the public. Enjoy concerts, festivals, films, gallery exhibitions, kids activities and workshops. For details, visit [DelcoArts.org](#).

### OCTOBER 5 & 19

**Clover Market.** Shop from a curated lineup offering handmade, antique and vintage

wares, plus enjoy food trucks, music and more at two locations in October. *Oct. 5*, 7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. *Oct. 19*, 600 S. Broad St. parking lot, Kennett Square. 10 to 4. Free. [TheCloverMarket.com](#).

## BOOKS.....

### SEPTEMBER 3-18

**Wellington Square Bookshop. Classics Book Club:** *Sept. 3*, “Catch-22” by Joseph Heller, 2 pm. **NonFiction Book Group:** *Sept. 11*, “Going Infinite: The Rise and Fall of a New Tycoon” by Michael Lewis, 7 pm. **Fiction Book**

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**Group: Sept. 17 & 18,** “Jackie” by Dawn Tripp, Wed, 2 pm; Thurs, 2 & 7 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

**SEPTEMBER 3-24**  
**Reads & Company.** **The Big Reads Book Group:** *Sept. 3*, “Vera, or Faith” by Gary Shteyngart. **International Voices Book Group:** *Sept. 10*, “The Lion Women of Tehran” by Marjan Kamali. **Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group:** *Sept. 17*, “Before I Let Go” by Kennedy Ryan. **Then and Now Book Group:** *Sept. 23*, “Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead” by Olga Tokarczuk. **The What's the Tea? Book Club:** *Sept. 24*, “Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead” by Emily Austin. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. ReadsAndCompany.com.

**SEPTEMBER 16, 30**  
**Main Point Books.** *Sept. 16*, “Beyond This Place of Wrath and Tears” by Jack Ford, 7 pm at Radnor Memorial Library, 114 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. *Sept. 30*, “You’ve Found Oliver” by Dustin Thao with guest Chloe Gong, 6:30. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

**CAR SHOWS.....**  
**SEPTEMBER 5**  
**11th Annual Car Show in Oxford.** One of downtown Oxford’s biggest events, with over 200 cars, trucks and bikes on the streets. 13 S. 3rd St., Oxford. 3 to 8 pm. OxfordMainstreet.com.

**SEPTEMBER 21**  
**Hagley Car Show.** Browse through more than 500 antique and restored cars and enjoy the vehicle parade, motoring music and food trucks. This year’s theme is Pony Cars—compact, sporty, highly-styled coupés or convertibles. 200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 10 to 3. Advance tickets only; no day-of tickets. \$25/carload. Hagley.org.



**DESIGN / HOME SHOWS.....**  
**SEPTEMBER 6 & 7**  
**Greater Philadelphia Fall Home Show.** Find experts, inspiration and more at this show. Valley Forge Casino Resort, 1160 1st Ave., King of Prussia. Sat, 10 to 8; Sun, 10 to 5. Free with

online registration or \$10 at the door. Greater-PhillyHomeShows.com.



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

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28**  
**Fridays-Sundays**  
**Brandywine Polo.** Spectators picnic and tail-gate at the grounds. Fri 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.....**  
**THROUGH OCTOBER 26**  
**Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire.** A cast of hundreds fill the shire. Visit the website for themed weekends such as Fairies and Fantasy and Pyrate Invasion Weekends. Mt. Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Sat–Sun, 11 to 8. \$22–\$38. PARenFaire.com.

**SEPTEMBER 6 & 7**  
**Annual Mushroom Festival in Kennett Square.** Enjoy tasty mushroom dishes, exhibits, cooking demos, contests, a car show and kids activities. 600 S. Broad St. lot. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 9 to 4. \$5, cash only. MushroomFestival.org.

**SEPTEMBER 13**  
**VetFest 2025.** Family-friendly food and brew festival featuring veteran-owned and -operated businesses from the area. Kids activities, games, vendors and live music by veteran musicians. Free. Rain or shine. 400 Chesterfield Pkwy., Malvern. 11 to 4. VetFestPA.com.

**OCTOBER 4**  
**174th Annual St. David’s Country Fair.** A

## 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.  
**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 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.  
**New Roots by Ramsey’s Farm,** 4336 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily, 9 to 6. NewRootsByRamseys.com.  
**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.  
**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.  
**Upper Merion Farmers Mkt.,** Nor-View Farm, 670 N. Henderson Rd., King of Prussia. Sat, 10 to 2. UMTownship.org.  
**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, ChesCoPlanning.org/Agriculture/FarmGuide.cfm*

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



**OCTOBER 5**  
**State Street Fall Festival in Media.** State Street in downtown Media will be alive with a mix of food, music, artists, crafters, home decor, nonprofits and lots of family fun. 11 to 5. Visit-MediaPA.com.

**FILM.....**  
**SEPTEMBER 10**  
**“Our Blue World: A Water Odyssey.”** The

film explores visionary relationships with water, inspiring positive change. Kennett Library, 320 E. State St., Kennett Square. Doors open at 6 for light refreshments, movie at 6:30. Free, but need to RSVP at StroudCenter.org.

**SEPTEMBER 18-21**  
**3rd Annual Phoenixville Film Festival.** The festival is a celebration of independent film that includes screenings, filmmakers panels, workshops, after-parties and awards ceremony. The Colonial Theatre, 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, PhoenixvilleFilmFestival.com.



**FOOD & BREWS .....**  
**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 18**  
**Thursdays**  
**Sculpture Garden Happy Hour at Delaware Art Museum.** Summer series features live music, local brews, lawn games, wine, cock-

tails and food vendors. N. Terrace, Copeland Sculpture Garden, 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 5 to 7:30 pm. Free. DelArt.org.

**SEPTEMBER 6**  
**Historic Odessa Brewfest.** Come for a lively celebration of craft beer from more than 50 breweries, live music, local gourmet food and more. Held on the scenic grounds and gardens of the 256-year-old Wilson-Warner House, 202 Main St., Odessa, DE. 12 to 5:30 with VIP entry at noon, general admission entry at 1. \$60–\$75. OdessaBrewfest.com.



**SEPTEMBER 13, OCTOBER 11**  
**Pints on the Preserve at ChesLen Preserve.** Hike, picnic and have fun. East Branch Brewing Company will be pouring suds at the Lenfest Center pavilion. Snacks available for cash-only purchase. 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 2 to 7 pm. Free. NatLands.org.

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SEPTEMBER 17, 24

**SIW Field to Fork Dinner.** An unforgettable dining experience celebrating locally grown food and community. Featured: *Sept. 17*, Mike DiBianco of Ciro Food & Drink; *Sept. 24*, Gerald Allen and Friends. Hill Girt Farm, 4311 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. 6 pm. \$127. SIWVegetables.com/Field-To-Fork.

SEPTEMBER 21

**44th Annual Chester County Restaurant Festival.** Over 50 restaurants and food vendors and 60+ crafters and artisans participate. Festival on Gay St. from Matlack to Darlington

Sts. with bands performing on Gay St. at Darlington, Matlack St. and the Beer Garden on the 100 block of N. Church St. Benefits West Chester Parks & Recreation. Noon to 5:30. West-Chester.com.

SEPTEMBER 25

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

SEPTEMBER 27

**A Taste of Coverdale—Coverdale Farm Preserve.** Sip cocktails among the colorful varieties of U-Pick flower beds, soak in the history of the Stone Barn and the views of the Overlook, all while experiencing food that is locally grown on site, with specially curated accompaniments. 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. 4 to 8:30. \$250. DelawareNatureSociety.org.

OCTOBER 4

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



FUNDRAISERS .....

SEPTEMBER 13

**Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital Volunteer Auxiliary—Designer Bag Bingo.** Win a designer handbag and play bonus games for hiking baskets. Benefits the Patient and Family Lounge Renovation. Villa Maria Academy High School, 370 Central Ave., Malvern. 1 to 3. \$40. Events.org/ES/BMRHBingo25.

SEPTEMBER 18-21

**The Saturday Club's Women's & Children's Consignment Sale.** Shop gently used women's and children's fall/winter clothing, shoes, accessories, purses, belts and jewelry. Benefits local charities. The Saturday Club, 117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. Thurs Preview, 5 to 8, \$10. Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 9 to 2; Sun, 9 to noon. SaturdayClub.org.

SEPTEMBER 21

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

SEPTEMBER 25

**Stroud Water Research Center—Water's Edge Gala.** Presentation of the 2025 Stroud Award for Freshwater Excellence to Paul O'Cal-

Take a Ride to Harford County



*Just a short trip down I-95. Pack up the family and take a ride for one of these fun events in Harford County, MD.*

September 26

**Galbani Maryland Italian Festival.** A weekend of Italian culture, cuisine and entertainment with carnival rides, a bocce tournament and a wine, beer and liquor piazza. *Ripken Stadium, 873 Long Dr., Aberdeen, MD. Starts at noon. \$12. MarylandItalianFestival.com.*

September 27

**19th Annual Harford County Wine Festival.** Featuring more than 50 vendors and exhibitors and discounts on all featured wines, delicious food, Oktoberfest beer garden, exclusive VIP area and much more. *Rockfield Manor, 501 Churchville Rd., Bel Air, MD. 1 to 6 pm. \$65. HarfordCountyWineFest.com.*

September 27

**Extreme Boat Dockin' & Riverfront Festival.** Fun on the waterfront with a Dinghy Poker Run, vendors and family fun, boat docking competition, live music and a lighted boat parade. Benefits HDGinBloom, The Lock House Museum and other local nonprofits. *Lock House Museum, 817 Conestee St., Havre de Grace, MD. Starts at 9 am. \$18. On Facebook.*

laghan and enjoy cocktails and dinner. Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. 6:30 to 9 pm. \$500. Stroud-Center.org/Events.

OCTOBER 3

**Paoli Hospital Auxiliary Presents A Passion for Fashion.** Featuring a fashion show, boutique, premier raffle and luncheon highlighting the latest trends and styles from local boutiques. The Desmond Hotel, 1 Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 11 to 3. \$85. For tickets, Events.org/ES/PHAFashionShow25 or call 610-291-8512.

GARDENS .....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

**Festival of Fountains at Longwood.** Stroll through the gardens with brilliantly blooming annuals and perennials. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Thurs–Sat, 9:15 pm. \$20–\$35. 610-388-1000; LongwoodGardens.org.

SEPTEMBER 3–OCTOBER 8

**Mt. Cuba Center—Native Plants and Gardening Workshops.** Their mission is to inspire an appreciation for the beauty and value of native plants and a commitment to protect the habitats that sustain them. Register at MtCubaCenter.org.

SEPTEMBER 6

**West Chester Friends Secret Gardens of West Chester Tour.** A self-guided walking tour of privately owned gardens in the northeast area of the borough, including at the school and at Barclay Friends. Stop by the plant sale located on the campus of West Chester Friends School to shop. Benefits West Chester Friends School, 415 N. High St., West Chester. 10 to 2:30. \$25. Birdease.com/SecretGardensOfWestChester.



SEPTEMBER 6

**Biodiversity Bash: Stoneleigh Bioblitz.** You'll enjoy guided walks, make discoveries and observations that help grow an understanding of Stoneleigh's biodiversity and participate in community science while enjoying a day in the garden. 1829 County Line Rd., Villanova. 11 to 2. \$25. NatLands.org.

SEPTEMBER 18

**Uwchlan Garden Flower Show, "Beacons."** Featuring a competition of entries in four categories: Horticulture, Floral Design, Botanical Arts and a Youth Division. Uwchlan Meeting House, 5 Village Ave., Exton. 10 to 4. Free. UwchlanGardenClub.org.

SEPTEMBER 20

**Penn State Extension Master Gardener Annual Fall Fest.** Featuring workshops, plant sales, kids activities, a walking tour of Smedley Park and a "Frugal Gardener" marketplace. Smedley Park Environmental Center, 20 Paper

Mill Rd., Springfield. 9 to 3. \$5. Extension. PSU.edu/Master-Gardener-Fall-Fest.

SEPTEMBER 20-21

**Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society Show at Longwood Gardens.** Brilliant dahlia blooms fill the ballroom in a display of many types, sizes and colors. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Fri, 10 to 9; Sat, 10 to 6. Free with garden admission, \$20–\$35. Longwood-Gardens.org.



SEPTEMBER 27

**Bondsville Mill Pawpaw Festival.** Learn the history and the benefits of the state's native pawpaw trees and sample tasty treats made with pawpaw products at their farmers market. 1647 Bondsville Rd., Downingtown. 11 to 3. Free. BondsvilleMillPark.org.

OCTOBER 4

**Delaware Nature Society Fall Native Plant Sale.** Shop a variety of native plants for a yard that supports clean water, birds, butterflies and more. Proceeds support conservation and protection of waterways. Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. 9 to 3. Free. DelawareNatureSociety.org.

MUSEUMS .....

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

**Brandywine Museum of Art. *Through Sept. 7*,** "This Earthen Door: Nature as Muse and Material." *Through Sept. 28*, "Andrew Wyeth at Kuerner Farm: The Eye of the Earth." 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 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, Thurs, 4–8, free. 302-571-9590; DelArt.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT .....

SEPTEMBER 4

**Summer in the Park Concert at Wilson Farm Park.** Busted Band—Will's & Bill's will be providing beverages—Kona Ice will be providing sweet treats. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Chesterbrook. 7 pm. Free. Tredyffrin.org.



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## It's Porch Fest Time!



*Bring a chair and a blanket and stroll through one of these neighborhoods to listen to all genres of music. Musicians set up on porches, and you're invited to take a seat and enjoy their performance. Be sure to take some time and visit one of the many restaurants and shops each town has to offer.*

### SEPTEMBER 13

**South Wayne Porch Fest.** A community celebration with live music from 60 diverse musical acts on the porches of private homes in South Wayne. Streets are closed on Midland Ave., St. Davids Rd. and Windermere Ave., creating nearly a mile of car-free melodies. 11:30 to 6. Free. SouthWaynePorchFest.com.

### SEPTEMBER 20

**Media Borough Porch Fest.** A day filled with live music and good vibes, featuring performances from local bands and artists on porches, in yards and driveways throughout the borough. Noon to 4. Free. VisitMediaPA.com.

### OCTOBER 4

**6th Annual Malvern Porch Fest.** Presenting 25 musical acts from varying genres on front porches and lawns across town, all within walking distance of each other. A complete schedule will be available at the end of September on the website and on Facebook. MalvernPorchFest.org.

### SEPTEMBER 4–OCTOBER 4

**Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center.** *Sept. 4*, Better than Bacon; *Sept. 5*, '90s Rock-fest; *Sept. 11*, The Laugh Lounge; *Sept. 12*, Portrait of Aretha; *Sept. 18*, Jazz Cocktail Hour; *Oct. 4*, New York's Finest: A Tribute to Sting & the Police. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.

### SEPTEMBER 4–OCTOBER 5

**At The Grand in Wilmington.** *Sept. 4*, The Music of ABBA; *Sept. 7*, George Thorogood and the Destroyers; *Sept. 10*, Celtic Thunder; *Sept. 13*, Motown Magic; *Sept. 14*, Trombone Shorty; *Sept. 19*, The Ultimate Tribute to the Bee Gees; *Sept. 20*, An Evening with Cowboy

Junkies; *Sept. 24*, Ana Popovic; *Sept. 27*, Damon Williams; *Oct. 3*, Violent Femmes; *Oct. 5*, Pat Metheny. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

### SEPTEMBER 5

**Bryn Mawr Twilight Concert.** Ron Sex-smith. The Gazebo, 9 S. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. 7 pm. For tickets, BrynMawrTwilightConcerts.com.

### SEPTEMBER 5–28

**The Keswick Theatre.** *Sept. 5*, The Farewell Tour: Al Stewart; *Sept. 8*, Mad! Tour—Sparks; *Sept. 9*, The Waterboys; *Sept. 10*, 10CC; *Sept. 13*, Tom Petty Tribute: The Breakers; *Sept. 18*, CoComelon Sing-A-Long Live; *Sept. 20*, An Evening with Emerson, Lake & Palmer; *Sept. 25*, Shaun Cassidy *Sept. 26*, Mo'Nique & Friends; *Sept. 28*, Steve Hofstetter. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

### SEPTEMBER 5–OCTOBER 1

**American Music Theatre.** *Sept. 5*, Gabby Barrett with special guest Payton Smith; *Sept. 6*, Get the Led Out; *Sept. 7*, The Malpass Brothers and Wilson Fairchild; *Sept. 11*, The Nelsons; *Sept. 14*, Celtic Thunder: An Intimate Evening; *Sept. 15*, ZZ Top; *Sept. 18*, Clint Black: Back on the Blacktop Tour; *Sept. 19*, The Texas Tenors; *Sept. 21*, The Australian Pink Floyd Show: Wish You Were Here Tour; *Oct. 1*, An Evening with David Sedaris. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.



### SEPTEMBER 6–OCTOBER 1

**The Colonial Theatre.** *Sept. 6*, Dann Pell—Songs to Ground and Uplift; *Sept. 12*, Tucked In; *Sept. 26*, Better Than Bacon; *Sept. 27*, The Jayhawks; *Oct. 1*, Eric Johnson—Texaphonic Tour 2025. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.

### SEPTEMBER 10

**Music at Oakbourne Park.** Bring a chair and a picnic dinner and sway to the West Chester Swing Kings as they cover a wide repertoire of songs from Glenn Miller to Brian Setzer. Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. Free. Westtown.org.

### SEPTEMBER 13, 14

**Upper Merion Concerts Under the Stars.** *Sept. 13*, Mdou Moctar; *Sept. 14*, Robert Ran-

dolph. Township Bldg. Park, 175 W. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia. 7 pm. Visit website for tickets and more. UMTownship.org.

### SEPTEMBER 20

**Trinity's Spotlight Concert.** Flagship Romance performs alternative folk music at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 640 Berwyn Ave., Berwyn. 7 pm. Free. Donations welcome. TrinityBerwyn.com.

## OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....

### SEPTEMBER 6

**Run the Vineyards—Penns Woods Yoga & 5K.** Enjoy scenic views, delicious wine, live music, food trucks, live music and more. HEADstrong Foundation is the charity partner for this race. Penns Woods Winery, 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. Yoga, 9 am; race, 9:20. \$48. PennsWoodsWinery.com.

### SEPTEMBER 19–21

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

### OCTOBER 4

**Willistown Conservation Trust Run-A-Muck Countryside Bash.** Come run the 5K or muck (walk) the cross-country trail over diverse terrain. Enjoy food, beer, wine, a bonfire, live music, lawn games, mechanical bull rides and more. 912 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. 2:30 pm. \$25–\$50. WCTrust.org/Run-A-Muck.



## THEATER.....

### SEPTEMBER 11

**"Hokus Pokus Live!" at The Keswick Theatre.** With hauntingly hilarious comedy, powerhouse vocals and a dash of magic, this live spectacle brings the cult classic to the stage like never before. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. 8 pm. Tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

### SEPTEMBER 12

**Live Performance of "The Life and Adventures of Nicholas Nickleby" at Winterthur.** Enjoy a captivating adaptation of the epic novel performed by Gerald Charles Dickens, the great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens.

5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 6 pm. \$15–\$40. Winterthur.org.



### SEPTEMBER 13–OCTOBER 26

**"Ragtime" at The Candlelight Theatre.** Three uniquely American tales are woven together and united by their shared belief in the promise of the future. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.

### SEPTEMBER 15–21

**SALT PA Presents "The SpongeBob Musical."** Based on the animated series, featuring irresistible characters and magical music. Bring canned pineapple for the Chester County Food Bank. 1645 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Times and tickets, SALTPA.com.



### SEPTEMBER 17–OCTOBER 19

**"The Unexpected 3rd" at People's Light.** Award-winning theater artist Kathryn Grody explores a surreal, devastating and hilarious potpourri of self-discoveries at 75 years young. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

### SEPTEMBER 19–21, 25–28

**"A Chorus Line" at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center.** Don't miss this classic that continues to resonate with audiences. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.

### OCTOBER 2–26

**"Young Frankenstein" at Media Theatre.** An adaptation of this legendarily funny film by comedic genius Mel Brooks into a brilliant stage creation. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

### SEPTEMBER 17–OCTOBER 5

**"Spinner" at Delaware Theatre.** A new play based on the true story of NHL player Brian "Spinner" Spencer. It's a powerful tale of sacrifice,

family and the lengths he went to to make his dreams a reality. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, DelawareTheatre.org.

### SEPTEMBER 12–28

**"Driving Miss Daisy" at Fulton Theatre.** A warm-hearted study of the relationship between an aging white Southern lady and a proud Black man. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

## TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS .....

### THROUGH SEPTEMBER 9

Wednesdays

**West Chester TAPS.** Enjoy a borough-wide

Happy Hour to unwind with friends every Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm. Participating locations offer select \$5 beers, \$6 wines and \$7 cocktails plus special-priced appetizers. DowntownWestChester.com for locations.

### THROUGH SEPTEMBER 28

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

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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.

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.

SEPTEMBER 3-24

Wednesday & Sunday

**Chester County History Center—Plagues and Pestilence: A Walking Tour.** This tour will explore how diseases impacted families, changed burial practices and how the borough worked to overcome cholera, typhoid, diphtheria, rabies and smallpox. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 6 pm. \$16. MyCCHC.org.

SEPTEMBER 21

**Kennett Underground Railroad Heritage Bus Tour.** Visit documented Underground Railroad sites, historic homes and Quaker meetinghouses while learning about anti-slavery activity in the area. Begin at the Kennett Heritage Center, 120 N. Union St., Kennett Square. 1 pm. \$15–\$25. KennettUndergroundRR.org.

OCTOBER 4

**Paoli Battlefield Paranormal Tour.** Interstate Paranormal Research leads you on a paranormal investigation of the battlefield. Discover “hot spots” of activity located along the trail and in other areas around the battlefield. Rain date, Oct. 11. Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. 7 to 11 pm. \$45. Register on PBPFIInc.org.

OCTOBER 4

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

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](mailto:Newsletter@ValleyDel.com).

Send a description of your activity to [Info@ValleyDel.com](mailto:Info@ValleyDel.com) by the first of the month preceding publication.

For more events visit:

[CountyLinesMagazine.com](https://CountyLinesMagazine.com)

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# Art as Witness

## ARTIST ADRIAN MARTINEZ AND THE 12 HOURS OF THE BATTLE OF BRANDYWINE

Kim Andrews



PHOTO CREDIT: FRIENDS OF A250

IN A SHADED VICTORIAN STUDIO in Downingtown, artist Adrian Martinez brings the Revolutionary War to life — one hour at a time. A classically trained painter whose work fuses technical precision with emotional depth, Martinez is internationally recognized, with paintings in public and private collections across the U.S. and Europe.

Now, Martinez turns his masterful eye to a subject close to home: the Battle of Brandywine. In a new series of 12 monumental oil paintings — one for each hour of the pivotal day on September 11, 1777 — he aims not just to depict a historic clash, but to illuminate the quiet turmoil, courage and humanity of those who lived through it.

### 12 PAINTINGS FOR 12 HOURS

The series of paintings was conceived in collaboration with Martinez's friend and longtime patron, Mark Slouf, a history enthusiast, America250 PA Commission

member and builder. Slouf lives on land near Trimble's Ford, a key crossing used by 9,000 British forces during the battle.

According to Slouf, the idea came to him in the middle of the night years ago: "I woke up thinking, 'Adrian should be painting the Brandywine battle, hour by hour.'" He immediately called Martinez, who agreed.

Martinez has completed six of the 12 planned canvases. Each painting captures a specific moment and mood, beginning before dawn, when the fog-covered British troops initiated their flanking maneuver while crossing the West Brandywine Creek, and ending at dusk, as the exhausted armies collapsed into darkness.

But this is not a traditional battlefield chronicle filled with saber-wielding generals and cannon blasts. "These are about the people — their emotions, their daily lives, what they lost, what they saw," Martinez said.

Martinez's attention to historical and emotional detail is exacting. He spends years researching his subjects, visiting battle sites, reading letters, maps and journals, and consulting with reenactors. This dedication isn't about perfectionism for its own sake. For Martinez, fidelity to historical detail is a gateway to larger truths. "You can't understand the meaning without the texture," he explained. "It's not just about who shot whom. It's about what was at stake — land, home, culture." Martinez's layered sensibility infuses each canvas.

### TRIMBLE'S FORD MUSINGS

The "Baking Day" painting evokes childhood memories from Mark Slouf. "As a young boy, I fished in the Brandywine Creek at Trimble's Ford. I was intrigued by the fact that General Howe learned from Kennett loyalists about two undefended fords. He devised a strategy to split the British Army to trick General Washington and outflank



1

us. Starting at dawn in Kennett, half the Redcoats marched in full sight on Baltimore Pike directly to Chadds Ford," he said.

Historians tell us the other half of the troops "secretly" marched north to cross Trimble's Ford, and then east to cross Jeffers Ford before coming up to Osborne's Hill at Birmingham. On that incredibly hot, humid day, the troops wore heavy wool clothes and boots, carrying 60-pound packs and 13-pound muskets.

Slouf continued, "After crossing the waist-deep fords, did the cool water offer temporary relief or just a heavier burden on their march to an unknown fate? And then, after their 11-hour march, with loaded flintlocks and bayonets attached, they charged into battle. The kid in me always wonders how they must have felt."

### PERSONAL STORIES

Martinez's Quaker background deeply informs the tone of the series. "The Revolution was a disaster for Quakers," he said. "They were pacifists. Their farms were torn apart by both sides. I wanted to show that without making it sentimental."

Indeed, Martinez is less interested in glorifying combat than in exploring how individuals — Quakers, Hessians, enslaved people, women — weathered its chaos. The stories of the officer combatants are well known. Martinez wants his viewers to put themselves in the position of other voluntary and involuntary participants and witnesses.

Ultimately, Martinez's Brandywine series is about more than illustrating past battles.

It's about reviving memory and emotions through art — bringing the war into kitchens, into expressions, into the silent corners of a smoke-filled dusk. "When people see these paintings," Martinez said, "I want them to feel something — curiosity, empathy, recognition. I want them to step into that moment."

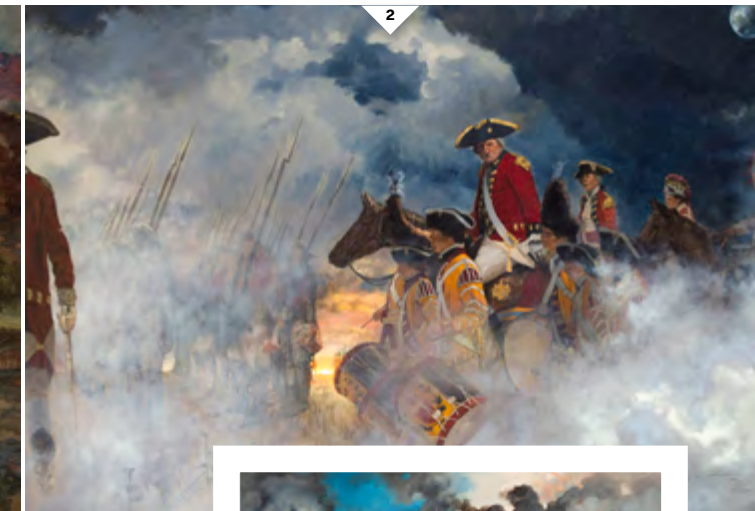
### PUBLIC EXHIBITIONS

Martinez and Slouf envision a public exhibition in 2026 and 2027, coinciding with America's 250th anniversary and the Battle of Brandywine's own semiquincentennial. They hope to find a host site with deep ties to the region's artistic legacy in the Brandywine Valley. Slouf said, "Adrian's work brings something contemporary and deeply human to this history."

For civic leaders seeking to engage their communities in America250, Martinez's work offers a model: history not as artifact, but as living memory that persists today — felt, shared and made visible once again. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ADRIAN MARTINEZ

Kim Andrews is an A250 Friends Outreach Officer of the Community Foundation and nonprofit consultant. She wrote this article to raise awareness of Chester County's role in our nation's fight for freedom, building engagement for 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. To get involved, contact: America 250 Friends, Chester County Community Foundation. 610-696-8211; A250Friends.org.



2



3

- "Baking Day at Trimble's Ford" captures the domestic disruption of war. Women's half-prepared food — bread, eggs, pies — sits abandoned on tables as British cavalry charges through, and Redcoat soldiers gather on the hillside. The battle occurred on a Thursday, interrupting the traditional baking day in Quaker households.
- "Cornwallis Fog" shows the general emerging from the fog, his face etched with stoic dread. "The morning of September 11 was exceptionally foggy and warm. How did it feel to be Cornwallis?" Martinez said. "Did he know he'd win the battle and lose the war? Did he understand the American mind? That's in his expression."
- "Lafayette at the Battle of the Brandywine" depicts a young man putting his life at risk for a cause he believes in. He was a trained military officer, fortifying the line by his example, not his words. A man in control, his saber in one hand and pistol in the other. Note in the upper-right corner is a cloud formation, intended as a subtle image of an eagle. But everyone notices it, said Martinez.



# Need Some Book Club Books?

CHECK OUT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM LOCAL BOOKSELLERS

Shelley Laurence, Main Point Books

AS WISE PERSON ONCE SAID, “We read to know we are not alone.” That simple truth also captures what makes book clubs so special.

There’s nothing quite like gathering with friends to explore new ideas, share different perspectives and grow together — or just enjoy a great story and a few good laughs.

If your book group is looking for fresh inspiration, you’re in luck. My colleagues at Main Point Books have put their heads together to recommend some fantastic picks for the months ahead. Read on and get ready to refresh your reading list!

Influencers are certainly having their moment. But are they for real? Local author Jo Piazza has written a chilling thriller called “Everyone is Lying to You.” It’s about two former best friends, a grisly murder and the truly shocking revelation that everyone is lying about something! Main Point

Books owner Cathy Fiebach said, “This is a page-turner with a twisty plot that brings you inside the world of influencers. Do you believe that you know the Kardashians better than you know your best friend? Maybe not! This book is ripe for some lively talk about trust.”

There’s also a lot of buzz these days among the women I know about aging and change. “Sandwich” by Catherine Newman addresses those issues head on. Fiebach gave a hearty thumbs up to this book as well, saying it’s “the story of one week in Cape Cod from a menopausal mother’s perspective as she reflects on her children’s growing up and her aging parents. I loved reading this. I really did laugh and cry.”

How about a true story that covers love, crime and passion to spark some conversation? Fiebach said you need to check out “The Art Thief” by Michel Finkel. “It’s true that fact is stranger than fiction. This is the

true story of the world’s most prolific art thief who stole a billion dollars’ worth of art while living with his mom. You’ll want to talk about this book with your book group.” (I also read this one and was astounded by the level of chutzpah on display.)

Bookseller extraordinaire Anmiryam Budner singled out a couple of her favorites. She goes local for her first pick — “All We Were Promised” by Ashton Lattimore. A housemaid with a dangerous secret teams up with a wealthy young abolitionist to help an enslaved girl escape volatile pre-Civil War Philadelphia. Budner called this “a thrilling story that gives you a great look at Philly history from a clear perspective.”

Next up, Budner chose a tale of sibling rivalry that nearly everyone can relate to. It’s called “The Accidental Favorite” by Fran Littlewood. Here’s Budner’s take: “Love, hate, siblings, parents. Who’s the favorite, who’s the prettiest, who’s the ... It’s a swirl

of emotions that binds families together and pushes them apart. On a family vacation in a glass house, the three Fisher sisters and their parents confront the secrets and resentments they’ve buried for decades. It’s funny, sad and so very true. You won’t come away with a favorite — you’ll love them all, even when they’re so, so annoying. It’s a true-to-life family, complete with conflicting memories and clashing perspectives.”

Budner also loved “A Marriage at Sea” by Sophie Elmhirst. It’s the true story of a young couple shipwrecked at sea and a mind-blowing tale of obsession, survival and partnership stretched to its limits. Budner said, “Some books defy categorization and straightforward praise. ‘A Marriage at Sea’ is so many things: a harrowing survival story, a look into a complicated marriage, a biography of a complicated and odd man. It excels along all of these dimensions and in mere 256 pages! You’ll read it in an afternoon, but think about it for much, much longer.”

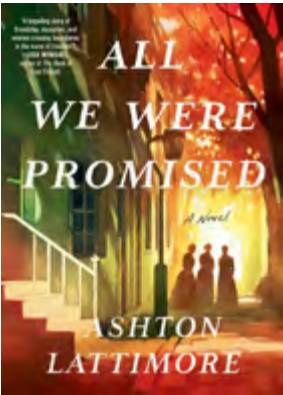
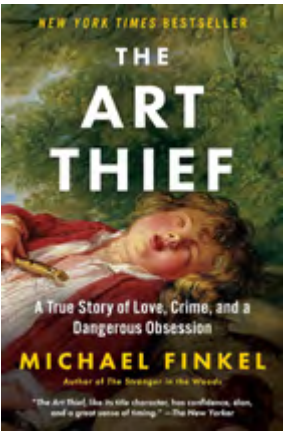
Mariga Temple-West turned to home and hearth for her picks. The complex heroine of “Brooklyn” returns in Colm Tóibín’s affecting and moving novel “Long

Island.” Temple-West was captivated once again by Eilis Lacey, saying, as her “marriage frays she returns home to Ireland and rekindles an old romance. But secrets and unforeseen complications turn the story into a first-rate soap opera.” If you loved “Brooklyn” (and who didn’t?), this is a great choice with plenty to talk about.

Temple-West also recommended another story of marital decay, “The Most” by Jessica Anthony. She described it this way: “A marriage is slowly imploding. Secrets float to the surface. A story of what-might-have-been but there’s no going back.”

There are plenty more where these came from! Visit your local independent bookstore for more ideas. No matter what you’re looking for, we can help you find the right book. ♦

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.



# WAY DOWN YONDER in the Pawpaw Patch

## PENNSYLVANIA'S TROPICAL SECRET

Sharon Richardson



DO YOU REMEMBER GROW-  
ing up singing about pawpaw  
patches? Although I knew all the  
lyrics, I'd never seen a pawpaw patch or  
tasted a pawpaw.

My first introduction to pawpaw trees  
was in an edible plants class at Longwood  
Gardens. There I learned, among other  
things, pawpaw trees produce the largest  
fruit native to North America! And they're  
found in 26 states, from southern Louisi-  
ana to Lake Ontario and from the Atlan-  
tic shoreline to Nebraska and Oklahoma.  
Although pawpaw trees are native in the  
wild, they're rarely found in our residential  
landscapes.

With peak pawpaw harvest season com-  
ing in early September and National Paw-  
paw Day celebrated on the 18th of the  
month this year, it's the perfect time to learn  
more about this intriguing fruit.

### A LITTLE HISTORY

Native American tribes planted pawpaw  
trees along their route from inland villages  
to the Atlantic seaboard so when they  
returned from summer fishing expeditions,  
their path would be marked by the trees,  
as well as ensuring access to fresh, delicious  
food all the way home.

Native Americans weren't the only peo-  
ple in colonial America enjoying pawpaw  
fruit. Thomas Jefferson planted pawpaw  
trees at Monticello and was so enamored  
with pawpaws he had seeds sent to him



1. Different pawpaw cultivars have pulp with different colors, textures and tastes as well as seeds of different sizes and numbers.
2. Pawpaw patch  
PHOTO CREDIT: "FOR THE LOVE OF PAWPAWS" BY MICHAEL JUDD

“When ripe, the skin becomes thin and fragile and is easily bruised. But the riper the fruit, the sweeter the taste.”

when he was living in France. Members of the Lewis and Clarke expedition sub-  
sisted on pawpaws when that was all they  
had to eat for several days in September  
1806. And pawpaws reemerged during the  
Depression as a substitute for other fruit,  
earning the name “poor man’s banana.”

Native Americans also found other uses  
for pawpaw trees. The tough, fibrous inner  
bark was used to make cordage, rope, fish-  
ing nets and mats. Pawpaw logs were used  
to build split-rail fences, while the inner  
bark was used for fiber to mend clothes and  
weave baskets. Another fun fact: crushed  
seeds were used to treat head lice.

Pawpaw patches gave way to residential  
development and almost disappeared from  
notice. Like a few things once feared gone,  
they're experiencing a resurgence.

### ABOUT PAWPAWS

Some facts: *Asimina triloba* (the botanical  
name) is a small understory tree, typically  
about 35 feet tall. These trees can grow in  
many conditions, but are most often found

in floodplains, along deep, fertile river  
banks, and in shady, rich bottom lands, as  
well as in the woodland understory. They  
spread by root suckers and are often seen  
in clumps or patches, hence the term paw-  
paw patch. You may be able to find trees in  
Brandywine Conservancy's Waterloo Mills  
Preserve and at some local farms, like Weav-  
ers Way Farm.

The tree has a tropical appearance with  
large leaves that are about 10 to 12 inches  
long and 4 to 5 inches wide. These large  
leaves are clustered symmetrically at the  
ends of branches and provide a distinctive  
overlapping appearance to the tree's foliage.

Pawpaw trees are one of the last East  
Coast trees to get their leaves in spring.  
Their leaf buds stay tightly wrapped until  
late spring, perhaps to protect the tropical  
fruit from late-winter frosts. Fall foliage is a  
bright yellow, and the color makes it easy to  
spot a pawpaw patch from a distance.

The pawpaw trees produce a small  
red-purple or maroon flower that hangs  
upside down and appears in early spring,

around the same time or slightly before new  
leaves appear. The flowers produce a faint  
fetid or yeasty smell.

The fruit appears in late summer or early  
fall, starting out green and hard as a rock,  
but as it ripens, it softens and becomes yel-  
low, then brown to black. The fruit is typi-  
cally 3 to 6 inches long and weighs between  
5 and 16 ounces. It's the size of an avocado,  
with the shape of a kidney. The fruit has a  
fleshy, custardy texture and contains 10 to  
14 black seeds in two rows.

When ripe, the skin becomes thin and  
fragile and is easily bruised. But the riper  
the fruit, the sweeter the taste. Some people  
prefer to eat pawpaws when they're still a bit  
firm and have a milder taste, while others  
wait until the fruit is at its peak of softness  
and stickiness with a caramel sweetness.

### EATING PAWPAWS

You're likely wondering what a pawpaw  
tastes like. Many people compare its flavor  
to a mix of banana and mango, while some  
varieties also have a hint of pineapple. Leg-

“ One pawpaw is about 80 calories and is a rich source of vitamin C, magnesium, iron and manganese, plus a moderate amount of vitamin A.

end has it that chilled pawpaw was George Washington's favorite dessert.

Pawpaws may be used in any recipe that calls for bananas — think smoothies, puddings, breads and ice cream. But because pawpaws are much sweeter than bananas, the amount of sugar should be reduced. You can find five delicious pawpaw recipes — including for beer and jam — at [NationalToday.com/National-Pawpaw-Day](http://NationalToday.com/National-Pawpaw-Day).

So why don't we see these fruits in our grocery stores? It's mostly because pawpaws have a very short shelf life and bruise easily, making them very perishable. Farmers markets tend to carry them in the fall, or better yet you can forage for pawpaws, an increasingly popular pastime.

Another option: grow your own. With their unusually large tropical leaves, pawpaws can make an interesting addition to your landscape, highlighted by their brilliant yellow-gold fall color. Plus, pawpaw

trees are a key larval host plant for black swallowtail butterflies.

### NEXT SUPERFOOD?

Recent studies suggest that despite their fragility, under cultivation, pawpaws may become the next superfruit, packed with nutrients. Pawpaws have 20 to 70 times as much iron, 10 times as much calcium, and four to 20 times as much magnesium as bananas, apples and oranges. Research from Ohio State found pawpaws have antioxidant levels that rival cranberries and cherries.

One pawpaw is about 80 calories and is a rich source of vitamin C, magnesium, iron and manganese, plus a moderate amount of vitamin A.

### GET TO KNOW PAWPAWS

To celebrate National Pawpaw Day, there's a Pawpaw Festival at Horn Farm in York, PA on September 20. The festi-

### A Few Pawpaw Nicknames

- Hillbilly mango
- Appalachian banana
- Banango
- Pawpaw apple
- Fetid bush
- Custard banana
- False banana
- Poor man's banana
- Wild banana
- Kentucky, Kansas, West Virginia, Indiana, Michigan, Ozark, Hoosier and prairie banana!

val offers an opportunity to buy different cultivars of pawpaw fruit and young trees, but the most fun is tasting them! More at [HornFarmCenter.org/PawpawFest](http://HornFarmCenter.org/PawpawFest).

More locally in East Brandywine Township, Bondsville Mill Park has tentatively scheduled a pawpaw celebration for September 27 with pawpaw food, recipes and more. Check the website for updates, [BondsvilleMillPark.org](http://BondsvilleMillPark.org).

Finally, learn more by reading Michael Judd's "For the Love of Pawpaws: A Mini Manual for Growing and Caring for Pawpaws from Seed to Table." Then maybe you'll start picking up pawpaws and putting them in your pockets, as the song suggests. ♦

*Sharon Richardson is a longstanding PA Master Gardener and Longwood Gardens volunteer docent. She's active in the Greater Philadelphia Dahlia Society, Philadelphia Unit of the Herb Society and the Uwchlan Garden Club. The Uwchlan Garden Club will present "Beacons," a free flower show at the Uwchlan Meeting House, on Sept. 18, 10 to 4. Sharon also recommends the Greater Phila. Dahlia Society's show at Longwood Gardens, Sept. 20–21.*

3. Ripe pawpaw  
PHOTO CREDIT: CONNIE BARLOW
4. Flowering pawpaw plant  
PHOTO CREDIT: "FOR THE LOVE OF PAWPAWS"  
BY MICHAEL JUDD



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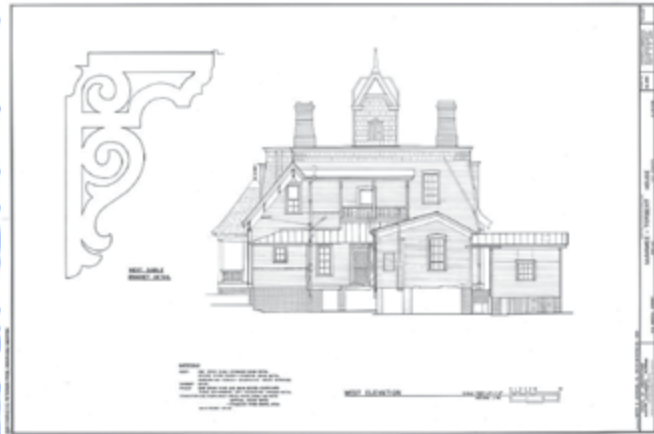
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FOR ARCHITECTURE FANS WHO YEARN to identify some of the later styles of buildings in the Brandywine Valley — beyond those covered in the August issue of *County Lines* magazine — here's the next chapter to help you spot Victorian buildings.

Ever wondered what the Victorian architectural style was? That's a complicated question because there *is* no single Victorian architectural style. Instead, there are four main styles — Italianate, Gothic Revival, Second Empire, Queen Anne — that were popular in the United States during the Victorian Era (c. 1840 – c. 1910) and come under the umbrella of Victorian.

# WHAT STYLE IS IT?

## IS IT VICTORIAN?

Jane E. Dorchester



Although these four styles spawned variations and permutations, only the basic characteristics can be described here. As always when identifying architectural styles, keep in mind that no one building displays all of a style's defining characteristics.

### ITALIANATE ARCHITECTURE (C. 1840 – C. 1890)

You've probably seen Italianate buildings but didn't know what they were because they don't fall obviously into our notions of what Victorian architecture looks like. That's because their design is based on traditional Italian architecture, which is more closely related to classical design than the other Victorian styles. Italianate is the most stately of all the Victorian architectural styles, characterized by tall proportions and carefully placed ornamentation.

Italianate buildings can be identified by the following basic characteristics (see [Photo #1](#)):

- **Construction** of brick or clad in stucco over stone or frame. Occasionally you'll see frame Italianates that are not stuccoed.
- **Width** of three to five bays (a bay is approximately 10 feet between studs). You can identify bays by how many openings (windows and doors) there are across the width of the first floor.
- **Height** of at least three stories.

- **Roofs** that are low-pitched side-gable, pyramidal or flat.
- **Cupolas or belvederes** (a structure designed to offer views of the surrounding landscape).
- **Eaves** that overhang and are supported by pronounced brackets at the cornice.
- **Symmetrical** placement of windows and doors (aka fenestration), sometimes with **half windows at the third floor**.
- **Long rectangular transoms** above the front door paired with **narrow side-lights**.
- **Porches** that are wide and full-length (sometimes called verandas) and wrap around one side or more of the building.
- **Wrought or cast iron posts, with trim and bargeboards** (fastened to the cornice or gable ends of a roof) supporting the porch roof.

Conservative interpretations of Italianate style can be hard to distinguish from conservative interpretations of Federal and Greek Revival styles because all three can have half windows on the third story.

Also, there's a variation of Italianate style that looks like two or three rectangular boxes put together in an asymmetrical way. In either case, remember: flat roof with overhanging eaves and prominent brackets equal Italianate style!

### GOTHIC REVIVAL ARCHITECTURE (C. 1840 – C. 1890)

The Gothic Revival style is the earliest Victorian architectural style to live up to our notions of what Victorian architecture is. This style's design aesthetic is based on the traditional architecture constructed predominately in England and northern Europe (including France) during the Medieval Period.

Gothic Revival buildings can be identified by the following basic characteristics (see [Photo #2](#)):

- **Construction** of brick, stone, frame or clad in stucco.
- **Width** of three to five bays.
- **Height** of two-and-a-half to three stories.

- **Roofs** that are steeply pitched side-gabled, featuring cross-gables, either on the front or on both front and back of the building.
- **Pavilions** that are central or offset, with front-gable roofs.
- **Eaves** that overhang, sometimes supported by discreet brackets at the cornice.
- **Decorative bargeboards** at the cornice.
- **Symmetrical fenestration**, sometimes featuring one or more **lancet (Gothic) windows** (tall, narrow and pointed arch shape).
- **Door hoods, porticos**.
- **Porches** that are half-length, full-length or wrap-around.
- **Gingerbread ornamentation** or decorative bargeboards and trim at the house and porch roof cornices and decorative porch posts.

To identify conservation interpretations of the Gothic Revival, remember: a steeply pitched roof and a cross-gable (two or more gable rooflines intersecting, typically at right angles, to form a cross-shaped design) equals Gothic Revival.

### SECOND EMPIRE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (C. 1855 – C. 1895)

Many people think of the Second Empire as the epitome of Victorian architecture, probably because Second Empires seem to be especially popular in horror films. Almost invariably, the haunted house is an example of Second Empire.

This phenomenon may be because Charles Addams housed the fictional Addams Family in a Second Empire structure, supposedly based on College Hall at the University of Pennsylvania, which Addams attended. Regardless, its design aesthetic is based on a style of French architecture popular in the 1600s and originated by French architect Francois Mansart.

Second Empire buildings can be identified by the following basic characteristics (see [Photo #3](#)):

- **Construction** of brick, stone, frame or clad in stucco.



Italianate



Gothic Revival



Second Empire

- **Width** of three to five bays.
- **Height** of three stories, with the third or top floor under the roof.
- **Mansard roof** that's concave, straight or convex sides. The house in **Photo #3** features a concave-sided mansard roof. Generally, the tops of the roofs are flat, but they could feature either a bell above the mansard or a truncated hip, seen in **Photo #3**.
- **Large dormers** with a variety of roofs.
- **Eaves** that slightly overhang, supported by discreet brackets at the cornice.
- **Symmetrical fenestration**.
- **Decorative trim and pillars** supporting the porch roof.

Examples of conservative interpretations of the Second Empire are easily recognizable by their mansard roofs.

### QUEEN ANNE ARCHITECTURAL STYLE (C. 1880 – C. 1910)

Queen Anne style is the hardest of the Victorian-era styles to describe because its characteristics include all of those of the other styles popular at that time. In fact, the name of the style is actually Queen Anne Revival, and even that is a misnomer.

The style was introduced to the U.S. at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition of 1876 in the design of the British pavilion. That style was known in Britain as Elizabethan Revival and was based on the architecture popular during the reign of Elizabeth I. But some misguided journalist labeled it Queen Anne Revival, and the name stuck.

While the original style was more subdued in ornamentation and limited in construction materials, during its popularity, it moved from its original simplicity and became the most ostentatious of all the Victorian styles. Also, the variety of construction materials led to a wide variation in how Queen Anne structures look. For example, the house in **Photo #5** is delicate in design while the one in **Photo #4** is more robust.

That said, Queen Anne style buildings can be identified by the following basic characteristics:

- **Construction** of brick, stone or frame, clad in stucco, wood shingle, weatherboard or half-timbering; using at least two, if not more, construction materials.
- **Width** of two to five bays.
- **Height** of two-and-a-half to three stories.
- **Roofs** that are pyramidal, hipped, mansard or steeply pitched side-gabled.
- **Broken rooflines** created by pavilions, cross-gables, towers or changes in roof styles.
- **Dormers** with a variety of roofs.
- **Pavilions** that are central or offset, with front-gable roofs. See **Photo #5**.
- **Eaves** that overhang, sometimes supported by brackets at the cornice.
- **Decorative bargeboards or soffits** at the cornice.
- **Towers, turrets, bay windows, bow windows** (see **Photo #4**) or oriel windows.
- **Asymmetrical fenestration**. May include "Queen Anne" windows (multiple small panes surrounding a large

central pane in the top sash over a single pane in the bottom sash, see **Photo #5**).

- **Balconies, door hoods, porticos**.
- **Porches** that are half-length, full-length or wrap-around, often more than one kind of porch (see **Photo #5**).
- **Decorative barge boards, trim and pillars or posts** supporting porch roofs.
- **Columns** that are classically derived, found only on Queen Anne buildings built later in the era.

In conservative interpretations of the Queen Anne style, remember: broken rooflines plus mixed use of construction materials and voilà! You have a Queen Anne building.

Of all the architectural styles found in Chester County, the easiest to identify are those popular during the Victorian and Edwardian Eras. See if you can spot them in your trips through the county. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY: JANE E. DORCHESTER AND NANCY SARCINELLO

*Jane E. Dorchester has been an architectural and local historian, historic preservationist, lecturer, researcher and writer since 1983. She's researched the histories of many properties, conducted historic resource inventories and surveys, written historic impact studies, National Register nominations and more. She provides historic preservation consulting services based in East Goshen Township. Contact her at JEditorHSPV@gmail.com.*



Queen Anne



Queen Anne

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# Chester County Day's 84<sup>th</sup> Tour *of* Tours

Story by the Chester County Day Committee  
Photos by Roman Coia

ICONIC STONE COLONIAL HOMES. HISTORIC INNS THAT survived centuries. Massive bank barns and converted spring houses that join past history with present life. Once again on the first Saturday in October, Chester County residents welcome visitors to step back in time or marvel at a modern renovation at the many stops on this year's Chester County Day Tour.

Mark your calendar for October 4, a day to support the ongoing work of Chester County Hospital, made possible by generous homeowners and the many volunteers. Now an 84-year-old tradition, the tour takes guests to the southwest quadrant of our beautiful county. See you on The Day!



## 120 East Ashbridge Street, *West Chester*

This stately c.1935 fieldstone home is perched high on a hill in the lovely northeast quadrant of the Borough, not far from the golf course. It was home to the Porter family for 50 years.

Fortunately, this classic stone colonial had been meticulously preserved for almost a century when the current owners bought it three years ago. The new owners added a beautiful tiered entrance to the property with stone walls and staircases, walkways and plantings. The paved tile driveway complements the fieldstone exterior. (See photo on the prior pages.)

Unlike many period homes on the tour, this one has a modern, sun-filled interior, including a living room design by FAR Studio, known for organic modernist interior design. The entryway with curved transom and archway is consistent with the home's original architectural style, but the table and mirror in the foyer hint of the renovation. Once inside, you're transported to the 21st century, with both classic and contemporary style.

Upstairs boasts the newly renovated and luxurious primary suite with walk-in closet. Formerly two bedrooms with bath and hall-way, the space was reimagined to accommodate the homeowners' next stages of life.

In addition to the detached office, be sure to walk through the inviting redesigned backyard patio area and view the charming garden shed along with the property's mature trees, including a noble copper beech. The homeowners worked with Arrowwood Landscape Design on hardscaping and plantings to create an idyllic space for outdoor entertaining.

A gem within walking distance of downtown West Chester.





## Lucky Hill Farm, 145 Lucky Hill Road, *West Chester*

What a fitting name for this charming property. The iconic 1721 three-story fieldstone country home sits on 15 lush acres of farmland just off the East Branch of Brandywine Creek. Nestled in a peaceful valley, the property also includes an 1801 Normandy-style barn (featured on the cover), barnyard, carriage house and spring house.

The current owners have deep roots in the county and a long history of involvement in equestrian activities, fox hunting and carriage driving clubs as evidenced throughout the home and property. (Notice the prize ribbons and trophies.)

The entry hall, library and living room make up the original part of the 18th-century home. Note the rose medallion china on display in the built-in corner cupboard. A cozy library has an original fireplace as well as built-in bookcases.

The focal point of the formal living room is an impressive walk-in stone fireplace with cooking arm and small window. The rooms include ancestral portraits as well as Barclay Rubincam paintings featured in both the living room and adjacent dining room. Also on display in the dining room is a collection of Quaker family samplers dating back as early as 1812. Built-in china cabinets store antique china pieces.

The beautifully renovated kitchen has an island and other amenities needed for today's families. An open-space design provides access to a family room with corner fireplace and large bay window with a window seat overlooking the carriage house and grounds.

Be sure to stroll around the grounds to view the carriages the homeowner will have on display on The Day.



THE VIP STOP: Longwood Residence, 160 East Doe Run Road, *Kennett Square*

Surrounded by acres of quiet pasture, the Longwood Residence is a storied Chester County farmhouse with nearly 280 years of history. Originally built in 1746, consisting of a keeping room and one bedroom above, the home had additions built in 1794, the 1960s and 2023, transforming it into the country home it is today. These milestones are marked by a datestone on the exterior chimney.

Dr. Hoobler, a local physician, purchased the home in 1963 and ran his practice from the front portion of the house, now a sunny family room, part of an expansion designed by Period Architecture. In 1985, the home became a bed-and-breakfast with an antique shop, owned and operated by Bill and Judy Campbell. Original features such as the walk-in fireplace, wide-plank flooring and hand-hewn beams remain intact, connecting the home to its roots.

The current homeowners, who enjoy collecting antiques, were drawn to the structure’s age and architecture as well as its layered past. Since acquiring the property, they’ve taken care to curate furnishings that reflect the home’s colonial-era origins. Throughout the interior, period-appropriate pieces enhance the historic millwork and timeworn textures, lending each room a sense of lived-in authenticity.

Just off the tree-lined drive, rubble ruins remain from a once-active stone barn and a concrete slab from the original silo, just two hints at the property’s working farm days. Today, views of active cornfields reinforce the property’s rural spirit.

Thoughtful improvements honor the character of the home and introduce elements for contemporary living. The Longwood Residence is a quintessential example of traditional Pennsylvania farmhouse architecture transformed for a present-day family.





## Red Rose Inn, Old Baltimore Pike, *Jennersville*

Built in 1808, the Federal-style Red Rose Inn served as a tavern and inn for weary travelers for almost two centuries. Located at a colonial-era crossroads, the red-brick inn was issued its first license in 1825 to innkeeper John Doratt.

Although the Inn went by many names over 200 years — Penn Crossroads Inn, Penn Inn, Jennersville Inn — it didn't receive the name "Red Rose" until Conard-Pyle Star Roses Nursery purchased the property in 1928.

Robert Pyle, president of the nursery, ordered a deed search that uncovered a 1731 deed between William Penn's descendants, subject to the payment of "One Red Rose annually" for the land grant on which the Inn sits. Conard-Pyle, at the time one of the country's largest rose growers, bought the Inn plus 60 acres and discovered the two-century-old red rose deed. The Inn was renamed the "Red Rose Inn."

The rent tradition is celebrated in September at Red Rose Rent Day, when the building's owner offers the token rental of one red rose to a descendent of William Penn. A mural in the Inn, painted by Maryland artist John Moll in 1965, depicts the Penn descendants paying the red rose rent.

Following extensive renovations, the Inn opened for business and became a destination restaurant for diners from as far away as Philadelphia and Baltimore. Many local families celebrated special events here.

In 2011, Penn Township purchased the Inn to facilitate widening the Jennersville Road/West Baltimore Pike intersection. Township supervisors oversaw restoration of the Inn to its original early 1800s layout. It's currently used as a house museum featuring displays highlighting the township's history and is well worth a visit.

## IF YOU GO

The 2025 tour features Chester County's most beautiful homes and restored barns in the southwest quadrant.

A project of the Women's Auxiliary to Chester County Hospital, this is the longest-running historic home tour in the country, raising more than \$5 million for the Hospital.

### Event Details

**WHEN:** Saturday, October 4, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Foxhunt at 8:30 a.m. hosted by Cheshire Hunt

**WHERE:** SW quadrant of Chester County  
**LIMITED TICKETS:** General admission \$60, VIP tickets \$100. On sale online and at designated satellite locations. Check website for box lunch info and lunch spots.

**INFO and TICKETS:** [ChesterCountyDay.com](http://ChesterCountyDay.com)

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES:**

Email [ChesterCountyDay@Gmail.com](mailto:ChesterCountyDay@Gmail.com)





# GOLDEN MOMENTS

## at Dressage at Devon's 50th

### WHERE ELEGANCE MEETS EXPERIENCE

Sue Weakley

**J**OIN A BELOVED EAST COAST tradition as Dressage at Devon celebrates a golden milestone. This internationally acclaimed horse show on the Main Line returns for its 50th anniversary, September 23–28. And it's poised to be the most magical year yet.

Presented by Kingsview Partners, this event combines equestrian sport with boutique shopping, gourmet food, educational experiences and family fun in a setting brimming with historic charm. Whether you're a lifelong horse lover or just seeking a unique autumn experience, Dressage at Devon awaits. And it's dressed to impress.

#### LEGENDS AND LEGACY

For 50 years, Dressage at Devon has enchanted spectators and competitors alike with its blend of European sophistication and East Coast style. What began in 1975 as a grassroots effort to showcase the art of dressage has blossomed into one of the most prestigious events on the North American

equestrian calendar. From Olympic-level athletes to young horses taking their first steps in the show ring, this is where legacies and legends are born.

Its longevity is no accident. It's the result of besotted horse lovers, devoted volunteers and generous sponsors crafting an unforgettable annual destination experience. And you're cordially invited to attend.

#### FESTIVAL OF FASHION

The heart of the Dressage at Devon experience beats in the Dixon Oval, where top competitors vie for blue ribbons in this Olympic sport as breeders jockey for bragging rights. But its soul shines through in the Fall Festival. No tacky souvenir stands and generic merchandise — this is an upscale, curated shopping experience.

Browse artisan jewelry, boutique fashion, European tack, bespoke home goods, gift-worthy pottery and refined antiques. Whether you're outfitting your horse, getting a jumpstart on your holiday shopping, or

updating your home or your fall wardrobe, the selection here is eclectic and tempting.

Circle Wednesday, September 24 on your calendar for the Shop, Sip & Stroll event, when the Festival Village comes alive with live music, seasonal refreshments and the glow of golden-hour shopping. Who can resist the scents of a warm funnel cake, buffed leather and fine chocolate? There's something for every kind of shopper. A final highlight is the annual plant sale after the show ends on Sunday afternoon, offering natural decorations and hand-painted pumpkins.

#### SAVOR EVERY BITE

Let's not forget the food! Voted "Best Food on the Show Circuit" by riders who know their way around a piaffe and a pulled pork sandwich, Devon's culinary offerings raise the bar.

Craving comfort? Head to the Picnic Grove for gourmet burgers, fresh-cut fries and decadent mac & cheese. Feeling fancy? Sample imported cheeses and pastries that

tempt even a picky palate. For an ideal viewing-and-dining combo, cozy up in The Pub, where closed-circuit coverage lets you watch every pirouette while enjoying local micro-brews and Devon's famous crab cakes.

Don't miss the fan-favorite artisanal treats: Chocolate Moonshine and Bridge Street Chocolates that somehow taste even better while watching riders and horses dance in time to the music.

#### EXCELLENCE AND EDUCATION

Take a break from shopping and noshing and check out Dressage at Devon's educational offerings, a testament to its mission to promote dressage through access, excellence and education.

This year, Olympian Ingrid Klimke will headline a masterclass, sharing elite-level insights in an exclusive session on Thursday, September 25, along with a pop-up book and shirt signing. A perfect opportunity to snag a personalized keepsake.

More seminars are offered throughout the week. From Dr. Hilary Clayton's deep dive into the biomechanics of "Harmony Between Horse and Rider" to a hands-on demo on linear scoring, these sessions are where you'll find top-notch educational opportunities accessible to any horse enthusiast.

#### HORSES, OF COURSE

Remember the stars of the show: horses, starting with the breed division, September 23–25. Known as the largest open breed show in the world, this highlight offers a rare chance to see foals still figuring out their legs, mares with regal presence and stallions with swagger to spare.

Tuesday's Parade of Breeds showcases equine diversity, while the Born in the USA Breeders Awards acknowledge achievements of American sport horse breeders. Thursday's USDF Breeders Final brings together the finest sport horse prospects in a must-watch spectacle of future champions.

Dressage has been called poetry in motion and ballet on horseback, its beauty dating back hundreds of years. The sport gained increased mainstream notoriety more recently



1. Adriane Alvord rode Selfmade to a personal best in the Grand Prix Freestyle.  
PHOTO CREDIT: PRICELESS EQUINE PRODUCTIONS
2. Kevin Kohmann, aboard Dünensee, claimed blue ribbons in the Grand Prix and Freestyle in 2024.  
PHOTO CREDIT: PRICELESS EQUINE PRODUCTIONS
3. Jim Koford is dressed to impress at the Dressage at Devon Dance-Off, where Grand Prix riders go head-to-head in a fabulously fun freestyle competition.  
PHOTO CREDIT: PRICELESS EQUINE PRODUCTIONS
4. Everyone has fun at Sunday's Dressage Explorers Day.  
PHOTO CREDIT: NEMZOFF INTERNATIONAL FOR PHELPS MEDIA GROUP



5. Kids and families love Sunday's Dressage Explorers Day activities including the annual stick-horse competition. PHOTO CREDIT: PRICELESS EQUINE PRODUCTIONS
6. Iconic Devon Horse Show grounds

when Snoop Dogg called it “horse crip walking” at the 2020 Olympics and returned for more coverage at the 2024 Olympics, accompanied by Martha Stewart.

A little background: dressage is a French word meaning “training” and describes the sequential development of a horse’s suppleness, obedience and strength, resulting in a blend of power and artistry. Competition involves a series of movements based on a horse’s action, similar to gymnastics or figure skating competitions.

## DANCING UNDER THE STARS

As the sun sets, the magic doesn’t dim — it ignites. The popular Dressage at Devon Dance-Off returns on Friday, September 26, as horse and rider duos perform musical freestyles to live music while celebrity judges share commentary and pick the winner. Think “So You Think You Can Dance,” but with piaffes instead of pirouettes (oh, there are actually pirouettes!).

Saturday’s Grand Prix Freestyle under the lights is theatrical elegance, complete with the return of the local DVCTA Quad Squad — a costumed quadrille team with choreography as clever as their horse-



themed attire. If you’ve never seen horses canter in perfectly synchronized formation to pop music, now’s your chance.

## SUNDAY FUNDAY

Even the final day is packed with action, especially for families. Sunday, September 28 is Dressage Explorers Day, featuring hands-on, kid-friendly fun. Little ones can try their hand at stick-horse competitions, equine trivia, scavenger hunts and get up close and personal with real horses (supervised, of course). It’s an unforgettable intro to the equine world — no breeches or boots required.

Sunday’s Musical Freestyles and Mimosas on the Midway has a playlist that includes ... brunch and mimosas! Watch the freestyle rides with a side of bubbles for a Sunday morning with sparkle.

Meanwhile, national and international dressage competition classes continue, including the new Jackpot Grand Prix for

rising stars. It’s a fitting end to a weeklong celebration as inclusive as it is eclectic.

## A GOLDEN YEAR

If you’re still wondering whether Dressage at Devon belongs on your fall calendar, consider this: Where else can you witness Olympic-caliber performances, snag a hand-dyed scarf, sip a glass of chardonnay and learn the physics of half-passes all in the same day?

Dressage at Devon isn’t just for horse people. It’s for families, foodies, history buffs, fashionistas and anyone with an appreciation for excellence and elegance in a charming, historic setting.

Saddle up. Shop on. Sip slowly. The golden anniversary of Dressage at Devon awaits. ♦

**IF YOU GO:** *September 23–28, 2025, Devon Horse Show Grounds. Tickets, schedules and updates at [DressageAtDevon.org](https://DressageAtDevon.org).*



# CHESTERBROOK ACADEMY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Chesterbrook Academy Elementary School in West Chester offers an engaging and supportive learning environment where every child is encouraged to grow with confidence. Our innovative approach combines a strong academic foundation with opportunities that reflect each student’s strengths, interests, and potential, helping them build a clear path to individual success.

Our curriculum, informed by current educational research and best practices, challenges students to think critically, solve problems creatively, and collaborate effectively. Teachers take the time to get to know each learner, customizing lessons to spark curiosity and maintain meaningful engagement. We encourage students to take ownership of their learning through goal-setting and their active choice in expressing their opinions and making decisions—from clubs and sports offerings to classroom projects.

A dynamic blend of core academics and specialty subjects in art, music, Spanish, technology, and physical education ensures a well-rounded experience. Learning also extends outdoors, where our greenhouse and natural spaces inspire exploration and hands-on discovery.

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# BRUMBAUGH WEALTH MANAGEMENT CONTINUES COMMITMENT TO GROWTH IN 2025



Luke Wojciechowski



Kyle Niedenthal

Brumbaugh Wealth is proud to announce two exciting developments that mark a new chapter in our firm’s continued growth and long-term vision. We are thrilled to welcome two promising, next-generation administrative associates—Luke Wojciechowski and Kyle Niedenthal—to our team, and to announce plans for the October opening of our new, expanded office space designed to better serve our clients and support the future of the firm.

Luke Wojciechowski joins Brumbaugh Wealth as a new administrative associate with a strong academic foundation and a passion for helping others achieve financial clarity. Luke recently earned his MBA from Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where he concentrated on finance and business strategy.

With a fresh perspective and a commitment to ongoing learning, Luke brings a thoughtful and analytical approach to financial planning. He is eager to build lasting relationships with clients.

Also joining the team as an administrative associate is Kyle Niedenthal, a recent addition to the industry who brings valuable experience from his time at SEI, a global investment and technology firm. Kyle’s exposure to innovative investment platforms and client service solutions has shaped his understanding of modern wealth management.



Driven, curious, and committed to delivering personalized advice, Kyle embodies the forward-thinking mindset that complements the Brumbaugh Wealth team and its service to its clients.

These new additions reflect our dedication to nurturing fresh talent and building a multigenerational team that can serve clients today and into the future. Luke and Kyle will work closely with our senior

advisors to develop their skills and contribute meaningfully to the trusted guidance we provide.

In tandem with the expansion of our team, we are also excited to announce the upcoming opening of our new office within Eagleview Corporate Center in Exton. This larger, modern office represents a significant investment in our growth and client experience. It features expanded meeting

areas, collaborative workspaces, and upgraded technology to ensure we continue to deliver outstanding service in a comfortable and professional environment.

As Brumbaugh Wealth grows, our mission remains the same: to deliver personalized, strategic financial advice with integrity, insight, and care. We look forward to introducing you to Luke and Kyle and welcoming you to our new space soon.

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Ludwig's Corner Horse Show and Country Fair

PHOTO CREDIT: ALYSSA MURPHREE MEDIA

# AUTUMN ON HORSEBACK: A Celebration of Equestrian Events

## JUMP INTO FALL'S THRILLING EQUESTRIAN SEASON WITH THESE SHOWS!

Kari Mullan

ENJOY A SEASON FULL OF EQUESTRIAN ENTERTAINMENT and plenty of family fun! As fall comes to the Brandywine Valley, our area comes alive with all the excitement of equestrian tradition.

From show rings to cross-country fields, the lineup for the season is packed with highlights, including Ludwig's Corner Horse Show and Country Fair, Devon Fall Classic, Plantation Field International Horse Trials, Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill and ending with the 90th running of the PA Hunt Cup.

With events extending from Labor Day weekend through early November, the next few months are packed with horseplay that's fun for the whole family!

### LUDWIG'S CORNER HORSE SHOW & COUNTRY FAIR

Start the current equestrian season off right with an 82-year-long Labor Day weekend tradition — August 30 to September 1 — at Ludwig's Corner. The centerpiece of the event is, of course, this

beloved community horse show, one of the most popular equestrian events in the Brandywine Valley.

This locally rated competition kicks off each day at 8 a.m. and continues until dusk. With three rings running throughout the weekend, there's always something to see!

Saturday's competitions highlight hunter classes, where riders are judged on equitation — meaning the horse and rider's manners, movement, style and overall performance, both over fences and on the flat. Sunday features the derby classes, where riders wear formal attire and jump fences typically found in the hunt field. Then on Monday, the focus shifts to jumpers — those fast-paced classes where speed is key, but accuracy is just as important. Riders must avoid knocking down any fences or face a time penalty.

In addition to the main competitions, each day includes a variety of other events, including the annual carriage exhibition and pleasure drive, crowd-favorite leadline classes with the kiddos and side saddle divisions.

But the excitement doesn't stop in the rings. Ludwig's Corner also presents a Country Fair offering plenty of family-friendly fun, including inflatables, carnival rides and games enjoyed all day when you purchase a wristband. There's even more fun with the costumed pet parade, horseback archery demonstrations and the antique car show, all on the showgrounds.

Remember to grab a bite from the many food trucks with mouthwatering options or kick back at the beer garden while you take in all the action. Plus, there's a vendor marketplace featuring local artisans and boutique shops great for some retail therapy.

**IF YOU GO:** Aug. 30–Sept. 1, \$10/carload. 1326 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore. [LudwigsHorseShow.com](http://LudwigsHorseShow.com)

### DEVON FALL CLASSIC

For a long weekend full of fun, the Devon Fall Classic returns for their 12th anniversary, September 11 to 14. This event is a quieter, less crowded counterpart to May's Devon Horse Show and offers an opportunity for a wider range of riders. This four-day, all-jumper — and all excitement — event is held in the famous Dixon Oval at the Devon Horse Show grounds.

Highlights include the jumper shows, including Welcome Stake on Thursday, Open Speed Stake on Friday and, of course, the Devon Fall Classic on Saturday evening. Plus a leadline class — featuring the smallest equestrians — on Saturday afternoon. These high intensity events are thrilling to watch, as riders compete for the fastest times and biggest prizes — up to \$25,000. Events kick off each day at 8 a.m.

While you're there, take a stroll through Vendor Village, with 30+ shops offering everything from handmade goods to unique gifts from sources like Highland Cottage Candles and Tuyet Distinctive Jewelry. Then check out what's happening at the pavilion, from a kids craft zone at noon Saturday to live music in the evenings, Thursday through Saturday.

Looking for something more laidback? Head to Clydesdale Corner for their Septemberfest beer garden to enjoy food, wine, mixed drinks, beer (of course) and great live performances from DJ Brian Bohn, the Rick Office Band and Just Add Water. If you're hungry for more, visit A Taste of Philly food truck or the many food stalls on site offering tacos, gyros, burgers, grilled cheese and more treats.

Be sure to check out the fair rides and classic carnival games at the Midway — they're a hit with kids of all ages!

**IF YOU GO:** Sept. 11–14, \$15; reserved seats, \$15–\$25; kids 5 and under, free. Livestreamed on USEFT network and ESPN3. 23 Dorset Rd., Devon. [DevonHorseShow.net/Fall-Classic](http://DevonHorseShow.net/Fall-Classic)

### PLANTATION FIELD INTERNATIONAL HORSE TRIALS

Immerse yourself in the thrilling world of eventing at the Plantation Field International Horse Trials and Country Fair,

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



September 18 to 21, in the heart of Chester County. Widely regarded as one of the premier equestrian events on the East Coast, this four-day spectacle blends elite competition with the charm and warmth of a classic country fair.

Often described as an equestrian triathlon, eventing is a test of both horse and rider's versatility, partnership and athleticism. Horse-and-rider pairs must demonstrate their skill across a distinct and demanding

set of three disciplines — dressage, cross country and show jumping.

Set in the stunning rolling hills of southern Chester County, the 350-acre site for Plantation Field is a venue like no other — breathtaking, historic and perfectly suited for the world-class event. Whether you're a lifelong equestrian enthusiast or a curious newbie, you'll be captivated by the energy of top-tier competitors, including local rising stars and Olympians alike.

For something extra special on Friday, buy a Cocktails on Course ticket (\$40) so you can grab a drink while walking the course alongside the riders. Or slip on your best cowboy boots and head for a hoedown on Saturday (\$50) complete with live music and a mechanical bull.

If you're craving a treat, check out the beer garden and food court for some delicious food while you watch the festivities. There are plenty of vendors and

**Devon Fall Classic**  
PHOTO CREDIT: OLIVIA AIRHART, MANE SOURCE MEDIA FOR PHELPS MEDIA GROUP



**Plantation Field Interational Horse Trials**  
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**What Style Is It?**

Learn how to recognize early architectural styles in Chester County.

MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill  
PHOTO CREDIT: SHANNON BRINKMAN (TOP AND MIDDLE), EXIT 10 (BOTTOM)



kids activities to keep you occupied when you aren't watching the equestrian events.

Spend the weekend surrounded by thrilling competition, festive country fair fun and the unmatched beauty of one of our area's most scenic landscapes. It's more than just a horse show — it's an unforgettable celebration of equestrian sport and country charm.

**IF YOU GO:** Sept. 18–21, \$20. 347 Green Valley Rd., Coatesville. [PlantationField.com/International](http://PlantationField.com/International)

### MARS MARYLAND 5 STAR AT FAIR HILL

The evening fanfare continues this fall in Cecil County as the fifth annual MARS Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill gallops into action October 16 to 19. As one of only two 5 Star events in the U.S. — and among just seven worldwide — this prestigious competition draws elite international eventing to Maryland for four days of equine sporting excitement. The Maryland 5 Star showcases the best of the best — Olympians, national champions and rising stars — all vying for top honors on the renowned grounds of Fair Hill Special Event Zone.

In addition to the equestrian competition, the Maryland 5 Star offers a wide variety of activities and attractions. From live music and shopping to local food vendors, plus a beer, wine and spirits showcase, there's something to suit every taste.

For those eager to learn more about the unique history of equine athletes, swing by the Hall of Champions exhibit. Or if you're trying to keep the little ones entertained, head to the kid's corner for all sorts of fun. This year marks the return of popular events like pony racing on Saturday and the fan-favorite Maryland Corgi Cup — adorable pups racing to the finish line on the iconic turf track on Sunday.

New this year is an exciting addition to the schedule: the Real Rider Cup — a charity jumper show where riders compete on off-track thoroughbreds (retired racehorses), aiming to complete a course quickly and cleanly. Participants range from Olympians and champion jockeys to veterinarians and exercise riders. All riders pledge to raise at least \$1,000 for charity, a generous feature of this elite event.

**IF YOU GO:** Oct. 16–19, \$18–\$35; kids 10 and under, free. 4600 Telegraph Rd., Elkton, MD. [Maryland5Star.us](http://Maryland5Star.us)

### PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP

After being forced to cancel last year due to unsafe ground conditions, the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup returns for its 90th year on Sunday, November 2. Competitors vie for glory in a timber steeplechase race over four miles and 18 fences. A substantial test of both horse and rider, it's one of just three four-mile steeplechases sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association.

The PA Hunt Cup is once again "Racing for Food." Proceeds benefit the Chester County Food Bank, which distributes food to over 50,000 residences annually — because no one in our community should go hungry! ♦

**IF YOU GO:** Nov. 2. Ticket sales start Sept. 1. 1759 Newark Rd., Kennett Square. [PAHuntCup.org](http://PAHuntCup.org)



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referring to the stunning freeform pool visible from many rooms in the home. "And I fell in love with all the potential of the property — the gardens, koi pond, waterfall, trees. It was all so peaceful." The wooden interior spaces — beams, ceilings, floors, beaded-board paneling — along with stone details, create a home that's an organic part of its nature setting.

With more than 7,000 square feet of space, this home offers flexibility and versatility. Five bedrooms and three full plus two half-baths provide plenty of room for a growing family attracted by the Unionville-Chadds Ford schools. The two-level layout, with primary suite on the main floor and four more bedrooms below, makes for easy living during multigenerational visits. And a large in-law/au pair suite with separate

bath and entrance suggests other options for today's evolving families.

The verdant wooded property provides privacy from neighbors as well as a sense of serenity. While trees and shrubs cover most of the acreage, open spaces allow for a variety of uses. Visit the large fenced flower and vegetable garden, then stroll the enormous grassy field, perfect for hosting parties under outdoor lights. The field is anchored by the two-story party barn at one end and adult-friendly treehouse at the other. For equestrians, there's a small stable and fenced paddock.

### FAMILY COMPOUND OR GETAWAY

The many amenities offer everyday entertainment and reasons to visit, with the center of attention being the indoor



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pool area (58'x28'). Located along the back lower level of the home and integral to the interior, the pool area is enclosed in a two-story, wood-paneled space with skylights and large south-facing windows. A sauna, steam shower and bar with fridge, beer taps and counters to the pool and a billiards room with fireplace are just some fun features. For other indoor entertainment, there's a 128-bottle wine cellar as well as a home gym (one of the four lower-level bedrooms).

Outdoors, enjoy two levels of decks, the upper boasting a charming pergola with awning. Follow the stairs down to garden paths onto the wood patio surrounding the impressively large and deep, fully stocked koi pond. A waterfall provides a soothing soundtrack for the outdoor kitchen or luxuriating in the tranquility.

Outbuildings include a small stable (convertible for horses), spacious party barn with interior loft, and a treehouse with electricity, perfect for kids of all ages.

**THE MAIN HOUSE**

In addition to the parklike setting, spectacular pool and ample amenities, the home itself offers something special at every turn. Entering the two-story foyer immediately impresses with soaring beaded-board ceilings, ceramic tile floors and abundant windows that flood the open-space layout with light. Plus you get your first glimpse of the pool.

Just beyond, the living room boasts a wall of windows and a dramatic fireplace, while the adjacent family room mirrors this sense of scale with skylights, a beaded-board ceiling and its own massive stone fireplace, ideal for cozy gatherings. This open space, further illuminated by spotlights, is large enough to accommodate a dining area.

The gourmet kitchen is a chef's dream, equipped with high-end appliances (Blue Star six-burner range, Bosch dishwasher), granite island and breakfast nook with copper-topped plant



window sill. Nearby, the butler's pantry with washer/dryer and entry to the oversized three-car garage with storage adds everyday convenience. Beyond the kitchen, surrounded by windows and nature views, the dining room is capped by a custom chandelier.

The main-level primary suite is a sanctuary tucked at the end of the hall, complete with two walk-in closets (one cedar, one with a window, chaise and chandelier) and a spa-like bathroom with soaking tub, dual vanities and skylight. An adjoining wood-paneled office/library with fireplace and custom cabinetry completes this comfortable suite.

Four additional bedrooms (one a separate suite) on the lower level, plus hall bath and tons of storage throughout, provide space for family, guests or au pair. A utility room includes the geothermal unit for the entire house (a separate unit operates the pool), water treatment unit, hot water heater and more. A whole-property generator eliminates those worries.

### SPECIAL MEMORIES

New owners can create memories of feeding their gasp of koi (yes, gasp not school) and swimming indoors as they watch snow fall this winter in their private Pocopson paradise. ♦

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LONG BEFORE TASTING NOTES and terroir created backstories, wine and spirits were steeped in myth. From ancient offerings to modern toasts, alcohol played a role in celebration, ceremony and transformation. Wine was seen as a divine elixir, while spirits, named by medieval alchemists, were believed to contain the very soul of a substance. Across cultures and millennia, these beverages have carried more than flavor — they’ve carried stories.

Here are a few to savor.

**THE WINE THAT HEALED A QUEEN**

In the cradle of winemaking — the modern Republic of Georgia — wine has been crafted for over 8,000 years. One legend from its long history tells of a Persian queen who suffered from debilitating migraines. In desperation, she drank the fermented juice of grapes that had “turned evil” in a clay jar. But instead of death, she found relief! The king ordered more of the same to be made, and wine became a remedy, not a curse.

You can taste that legacy in **Sulavi Alazani Valley Semi-Sweet Red Kakheti Ceramic** (\$24.99), which is still fermented

and aged in amphorae, then bottled in clay vessels, imparting a distinct earthy richness to the ripe plum, black cherry and sweet spice notes.

**THE BLOOD OF A LION, THE BIRTH OF A WINE**

Hercules’ first labor was to slay the Nemean lion, a beast so fierce its hide was impenetrable. When the hero emerged victorious, the lion’s blood forever stained the soil of Nemea. From that very ground, it’s said, grew the agiorgitiko grape: dark-skinned, bold and full of power.

Taste the work of a demigod in **Mitravelas Red on Black Peloponnese 2023** (\$17.99). A plush red wine with black cherry, cocoa and peppery spice, it’s powerful yet polished — an everyday wine with mythic swagger.

**THE GOD OF WINE AND THE MADNESS HE BRINGS**

Dionysus wasn’t just the god of wine; he was the god of ecstasy, transformation and divine madness. His followers danced barefoot in the vines, trusting the wine to unlock vision and spiritual release. But not all Dionysian energy is chaos. The Greeks



believed true civilization meant knowing when to revel and when to stop. Excess was for barbarians; moderation was divine.

Looking for a wine that channels joy and intensity? **Domaine Skouras Zoe Peloponnese** in white, rosé or red (\$14.99) are award-winning wines of complexity and vibrancy from an estate deeply rooted in terroir, varietal clarity and elegance.

**VESUVIUS, THE DEVIL AND THE TEARS OF CHRIST**

On the ash-strewn slopes of Mount Vesuvius, Roman soldiers carved vineyards into volcanic rock. The soil was porous, mineral-rich and harsh — conditions that force grapes to struggle and, in turn, produce wines of remarkable character. Centuries later, a new legend emerged. It was said that when Lucifer was cast from Heaven, he landed in this beautiful region, bringing destruction. Where Christ wept for the loss, vines grew. And so was born Lacryma Christi, the “Tears of Christ.”

Taste the epic triumph of this region in **Mastroberardino Lacryma Christi del Vesuvio**, each \$19.99. Try Rosso, full of cherries, plums, raspberries, black pepper and dark volcanic minerals with refined,

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## THE CROSSROADS OF MYTH, MEDICINE AND MAGIC

Wine may hold the oldest stories, but distilled spirits come with legends of their own. Early distillers believed they were capturing the soul of a substance, giving rise to the word “spirit.” Elixirs were crafted not just to intoxicate but to heal, enchant and awaken.

No spirit walks that line more famously than absinthe, “The Green Fairy.” Once banned, often misunderstood and forever bound to its reputation as a muse of artists, its defining ingredient — wormwood — has been revered as both medicine and magic.

**Grand Absente Absinthe** (\$69.69) is handcrafted in Provence using the time-honored methods of the Belle Époque. Today, the myth lives in every green-hued pour, whispering of bohemian cafés, wild visions and the space between inspiration and illusion.

And if absinthe is the muse, then gin is the herbalist. Born of juniper berries and monastery stills, gin began in the 13th century as a medicinal tonic said to ward off disease, ease digestion and lift the spirits.

From there, it became a staple of sailors, poets and empire.

One modern expression of this timeless potion is **Bluecoat Dry Gin** (\$31.99), distilled in Philadelphia with organic botanicals and bold citrus flavor. Every glass offers a refreshing reminder: Magic isn’t just myth — it’s in the mix.

From ancient amphorae to Parisian cafés, wine and spirits have always carried more than flavor — they carry memory, myth and civilization. The next time you raise your glass, remember: You’re not just tasting history. You’re part of the legend.

So, in the spirit of ancient wisdom, your friends at Fine Wine & Good Spirits remind you to please drink responsibly! ♦

*Liz Tarditi, WSET II, is an entrepreneur and classically trained chef with 35 years’ of culinary experience. She graduated from Villanova University and 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 her at the Villanova Fine Wine & Good Spirits location.*





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## [Food News]

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

**Legend-Dairy Cheese.** Two cheeses from **The Farm at Doe Run** in Unionville made the list of the “15 Highest Quality Cheeses in America”! Try award-winning Hickory on the Hill, washed in Bluebird Distilling’s rye whiskey, Wayvine’s sauvignon blanc and brine, or the Creamery Collection Batch #17, an 80-20 goat-cow-milk blend. All Doe Run’s cheeses are made from milk from their three milking herds, which include sheep. Order online or find local vendors. [TheFarmAtDoeRun.com](http://TheFarmAtDoeRun.com)



**Say Cheese ... steak.** Craving a Philly classic? Soon you won’t have to drive through traffic for great cheesesteaks with **Jackson Street Steaks**, set to open in Media this September. The restaurant, with a European vibe, will serve city faves like cheesesteaks, hoagies and burgers, while the bar will pour beers from Meyers Brewing Company. Media resident and co-owner Pete Kada looks forward to bringing great cheesesteaks to the ’burbs. *110 S. Jackson St., Media. [JacksonStreetSteaks.com](http://JacksonStreetSteaks.com)*



**Flavor Fest.** The 44th annual **Chester County Restaurant Festival** takes over downtown West Chester on September 21 for a delicious afternoon celebrating local flavors! Enjoy 50+ food vendors, 60+ crafters and artisans, live music on three stages, plus a beer garden on North Church Street benefiting the Parks & Rec Department. This free event kicks off at noon, drawing over 25,000 people for a day of food and fun. *Gay St. (Matlack to Darlington Sts.), West Chester. [West-Chester.com](http://West-Chester.com)*

**Chasing Copper Cups.** For those who take sipping from a copper mug seriously, there’s a new Instagram account for you — **@Mule\_Tracker**. The account covers PA, NJ and NY but has already sampled and approved of some local Moscow mules. So far, they’ve ventured to eight local venues, including Appetites on Main, Black Powder Tavern, VK Brewing Co. and The Pour House. Plus they’ve already found some great prices — \$7! *On Instagram @Mule\_Tracker*



**New Flavors on the Vine.** Taste something new as **Grace Winery** debuts a fresh new tasting room menu crafted by new Executive Chef Dan Netter, formerly at Parc and Le Cordon Bleu-trained. Featuring hyper-local ingredients and a French-inspired flair, selections include dishes like shrimp Provençal and oysters, both made with Grace wines, plus main courses including French county chicken wrap and squash Milanese sandwich. Extended hours in the tasting room. *50 Sweetwater Rd., Glen Mills. [GraceWinery.com](http://GraceWinery.com)*



## A Bushel of Fun

### PICK YOUR OWN APPLES FOR FARM-FRESH FALL FLAVOR

County Lines Staff



THERE'S NOTHING QUITE LIKE PICKING APPLES on an autumn afternoon. Admiring the fall foliage as you drive down idyllic country roads, romping through the orchard with family and friends, taking a bite out of a ripe, crisp apple just plucked from the branch. And, of course, bringing home delicious fall goodies to enjoy for days — and perhaps weeks — to come. It's the perfect weekend adventure.

We're lucky to live in Pennsylvania, which boasts one of the longest and most diverse apple seasons in the country. From mid-July to early November, dozens of varieties come into season, from the tart and crunchy to the sweet and juicy. It's no wonder we're surrounded by a bushel of apple orchards ready to welcome you and your family.



Dating back nearly three centuries, **Barnard's Orchard** in Kennett Square has been a go-to destination for generations of apple lovers. Most years, they grow around 20 varieties of apples, though pick-your-own options vary throughout the season — check Farmer Lewis' Facebook posts to see what's available. If you're lucky, you might catch an applesauce-making demo, a true fall treat.

Just outside Media, **Indian Orchards** is a family-run orchard with over 110 years of history. Take your pick of a variety of sustainably grown, pesticide-free apples, from Honeycrisp to heirlooms from century-old trees. Before you leave, drop by the farmstand for a jug of freshly pressed apple cider — you can even watch them make it — and other local goodies.

Or take a drive out to Boyertown, home of **Frecon Farms**. Celebrating 80 years, this third-generation family farm is fun for all ages. Take a hayride around the orchard to find the perfect apple. Afterwards, enjoy live music, hard cider on tap for grown-ups and a play area for kiddos. You can even cut your own zinnias for a bright addition to your table.

Wherever you go, you're bound to come home with enough apples to keep the doctor away until next fall.

So, time to get cooking! From gooey desserts to scrumptious spreads, there's loads you can do with the humble apple. Plus, you can dry or freeze any leftovers so you can keep enjoying those comforting fall flavors long after the season has passed.

Read on for our staff's favorite apple recipes and fill your kitchen with the aromas of autumn.

### Caramel Apple Cheesecake

*Everyone has their own favorite apple pie recipe. For something a little different, how about a cheesecake? Passed down to Associate Editor Shannon Montgomery by her grandmother, this caramel apple cheesecake is a decadent and delicious way to enjoy a classic fall flavor combo.*



Serves 12

- 1½ C. graham cracker crumbs
- ¾ C. sugar
- ¼ C. butter, melted
- 14 oz. caramels (Brach's Milk Maid recommended)
- 1.5 oz. can evaporated milk
- ½ C. pecans, chopped
- 2, 8-oz. packages cream cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1½ C. apples (about 2 medium apples), chopped
- 1 T. flour
- ½ tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine graham cracker crumbs, ¼ C. sugar and butter. Press into the bottom and 1 inch up the sides of a 9-inch springform pan.

Place caramels in a 2-quart heavy saucepan. Add evaporated milk and melt over high heat, stirring until smooth. Reserve ½ C. of caramel mixture, then pour the remainder over the crust. Sprinkle ¼ C. pecans over caramel mixture.

In a large bowl, beat cream cheese and remaining ½ C. sugar until smooth. Add eggs one at a time, beating until smooth after each addition. Toss together 1 C. apples, flour and cinnamon, then fold into cream cheese mixture.

Spoon mixture into cake pan. Bake for 40 minutes.

Combine reserved caramel mixture and remaining ½ C. apples. Spread caramel and apple mixture onto cheesecake, then sprinkle remaining pecans on top. Bake for 15 more minutes.

Loosen cake and let cool before removing from the pan. Chill before serving.

### Jewish Apple Cake

*This quick and simple recipe has been in our editor Jo Anne Durako's family for three generations — from her great-aunt, Rose Kennedy. Although it can be made with fresh apples, canned apple pie filling is much easier and makes a very moist cake. Perfect for breakfast, tea, snack or dessert.*



Serves 16

- 2 C. sugar
- 1 C. vegetable oil
- 4 eggs
- ½ C. orange juice
- 2½ tsp. vanilla extract
- 1 T. baking powder
- 3 C. unsifted flour
- 1, 21-oz. can apple pie filling\*
- ¼ C. cinnamon-sugar combination (1:4 ratio)

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix the first seven ingredients in a bowl (sugar through flour). Beat until smooth.

Pour half the batter into a well-greased Turk's head baking pan (or tube baking pan).

Place half the can of apple pie filling on top of the batter. Sprinkle with half the cinnamon sugar.

Add remaining batter. Top with remaining apple pie filling, pushing apples mostly below the surface. Sprinkle with remaining cinnamon sugar on top.

Bake for 1+ hour. Test for doneness using a knife until it comes out clean. Let cool about 15 minutes before removing from the pan. Finish cooling on a wire rack.

\*A can of apple pie filling equals about 5–6 peeled, cored, sliced apples. If you use fresh apples, toss them in the cinnamon-sugar mixture before adding to the batter layers.

## Classic Vienna Apple Strudel

*This crowd-pleasing recipe comes from one of our account executives, Ivana Samsonova. It's perfect for parties or even a midday snack. She recommends serving it with coffee or vanilla ice cream.*



Serves 12

### For the dough:

2 C. all-purpose flour  
Pinch of salt  
1 egg  
3½ T. unsalted butter, melted

### For the filling:

6½ C. shredded apples  
¾ C. granulated sugar  
¾ C. walnuts or pecans, finely chopped  
½ C. raisins  
Zest of 1 lemon (optional)  
3 T. ground cinnamon (or to taste)  
½ C. plain breadcrumbs  
7 T. unsalted butter, melted, for brushing

### To make the dough:

In a mixing bowl, combine flour and salt. Add the egg, butter and ⅓ C. lukewarm water. Mix until the dough comes together, then knead until smooth and elastic, about 8 to 10 minutes by hand. Cover and let rest in a warm place for at least 30 minutes.

### To make the filling:

While the dough rests, shred apples and squeeze out excess juice using a clean kitchen towel or cheesecloth. In a large bowl, combine the apples with sugar, nuts, lemon zest (if using) and cinnamon. Mix well and set aside.

## Use 'Em or Lose 'Em!

Went a little wild at the orchard and picked more apples than you need? It happens to the best of us. Our former Food Editor, Laura Muzzi Brennan, recommends two methods to make your apples last for months to come.

### Dried Apples

Preheat oven to 225°. Wash and slice apples into ¼-inch pieces, thinner if you want to make apple chips. No need to peel or core.

Line a few baking sheets with parchment paper. Lay apple slices in a single layer with a little space between them. Sprinkle with pumpkin pie spice or cinnamon, or leave plain.

Bake for 1 hour. Flip slices over and bake for 1 hour more, until slices start to curl up at the edges.

Let cool. Store in an airtight container in a cool, dark place.

### Frozen Apples

Fill a bowl with water and add lemon juice, about 1 T. per gallon of water.

Peel and core apples. Slice into desired shape.

Dip apples in water. *Tip:* If you have a colander that fits right into a bowl, just throw the apple slices in, dip in water, remove and shake off excess water.

Line a few baking sheets with parchment paper. Lay apple slices in a single layer with a little space between them.

Place baking sheets in freezer for 1 hour or more, until frozen through.

Store in freezer bags for up to 6 months.

### To make the strudel:

Preheat oven to 350°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper. Divide rested dough in half. On a floured surface, roll out one piece into a large, thin rectangle. If needed, gently stretch the dough with your hands until it's paper-thin, almost see-through.

Sprinkle half the bread crumbs evenly across the dough. Spread half the apple mixture over breadcrumbs, leaving about an inch border around the edges. Fold the short sides in and gently roll up the strudel from the long side, tucking it in tightly.

Transfer to the prepared baking sheet, seam-side down. Brush generously with melted butter. Repeat with second half of dough and filling.

Place both strudels on the baking sheet and bake for about 40 minutes, or until golden brown and crisp. (Every oven is different, so keep an eye on them.)

Let cool slightly, then slice diagonally into thick pieces. Dust with powdered sugar before serving. Best enjoyed warm.

## Apple Butter

*Have an abundance of apples after a day at the orchard? Enter apple butter: a smooth spread that can be enjoyed all season long. It's simple to make, but time-consuming — definitely worth it! Spread it on toast, dollop on pancakes or waffles, or add to your baked goods. Adapted from New York Times Cooking.*



PHOTO CREDIT: WHITNEY IN CHICAGO

Makes about 4 cups

4 lb. apples, cut into 1-inch chunks, peels and cores reserved (about 10 to 12 medium apples)  
½ C. apple cider vinegar  
3 allspice berries  
2 cinnamon sticks  
1, 2-inch piece of ginger, peeled and sliced  
1 star anise pod  
1¼ C. sugar  
1 C. light brown sugar  
Kosher salt

In a large, heavy-bottomed pot, combine apples, vinegar and spices with 4 C. water. Secure apple peels and cores in a square of cheesecloth and add to pot. Bring to a simmer, then reduce heat to medium-low.

Cook, stirring occasionally, until apples have completely softened and liquid has reduced by half, around 30 to 40 minutes. Remove from heat and let cool slightly before setting aside softened apples, discarding everything else.

Preheat oven to 300°. Place apples into a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. Add white and brown sugar, then stir to dissolve. Place baking dish in oven and let cook, stirring about every 30 minutes, for about 3 to 3½ hours or until mixture is thick, glossy and a deep, golden brown.

Test thickness by spooning some onto a plate — the mixture should set almost immediately, not spread or be watery. When the

## Apple Picking 101

Ready to hit the orchard? Here are some pro tips to make the most of your apple-picking experience.

**1. Know before you go.** Apple-picking conditions can change based on weather, availability and crop status. Check online or call ahead to find out which varieties are available, potential weather closures, and whether they accept cash or cards. Some orchards require advanced reservations, especially for large groups.

**2. Come prepared.** Dress comfortably and appropriately for the weather. Fields can be muddy or uneven, so wear closed-toed shoes or boots. Especially early in the season, pack sunscreen and water. Some orchards provide containers for your apples, while others are BYO bag or basket.

**3. Pick the perfect apple.** Look for apples that are firm, smooth and mostly bruise-free. Apples come in all shades of red, yellow and green, so it's hard to determine ripeness by color — ask if you're unsure. A good rule of thumb is to work from the outside in — apples on the outer branches ripen first. Look for the apples that are furthest from the base of the tree.

**4. Pick your apple properly.** Once you've found a good apple, lift it upwards and twist gently. A ripe apple will easily release from the branch. Don't pull the fruit down or straight towards you, and definitely don't shake the tree — you'll end up with a shower of apples, not to mention damage the trees. Make sure kids know how to treat apple trees with care.

**5. Transport with care.** Be gentle with your apples. Grasp them in the palm of your hand, not with your fingers. When you're toting your apples, place them down gently — dropping or throwing them into your container can cause bruising. Don't let the fruits of your labor go to waste!



mixture reaches the desired consistency, season with a small pinch of kosher salt.

Store in an airtight container and refrigerate for 3 to 4 weeks. For longer storage, freeze or can in a sterile mason jar. ♦

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