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Privately Set in Highly Protected Area
This may be one of the most architecturally distinct and amenity-rich homes on the market today. Privately set on 12 acres in an exclusive area in Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools is this spacious 5 BR, 3.2 BA home with a fabulous indoor pool! Chefs will love the gourmet Kitchen and the main level Primary Suite includes a bedroom, spa-like bath, 2 walk-in closets & a handsome office. Enjoy the views from the elevated Deck overlooking the Party Barn, Play House & Stable.
\$3,495,000



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!.
\$2,850,000



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!
\$1,698,000



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



Sought After West Bradford Location
You must see this 6800+/-sf, 5 BR, 3.2 bath home in a superior community! The main level has formal LR & DR, hardwood floors, chef's kitchen, soaring FR with fireplace, office, sunroom & deck access. The Primary Suite includes sitting room, bedroom, luxurious bath & large closet. The family BRs have easy access to baths. The finished Lower Level has a 26x42 Great Room, PR & a gym. The exterior is stone & Hardy board.
\$1,189,000 – UNDER CONTRACT ABOVE ASKING PRICE!



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.
\$933,000

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from the
EDITOR

Let our October issue help you get ready for an amazing autumn!

From scenic country roads to charming towns buzzing with festivals, shopping, dining and family fun, *County Lines* country has something for every taste. Buckle up, as Shannon Montgomery takes you on a tour of the Brandywine Valley in “Across County Lines.” For a more focused tour, Emily Hart thinks a whirlwind “Weekend in Phoenixville” might be the answer. And for spine-tingling seasonal thrills, read “Boo! It’s Halloween in the Brandywine Valley” to find spooky fun.

With more on pumpkins, Liz Tarditi, our new Brandywine Table writer with 30 years of culinary experience, offers “The Versatile Pumpkin: Far Beyond the Pie.” Roasted in cubes, in a tartine, on skewers, and in a seasonal tres leches dessert, it’s the taste of autumn itself.

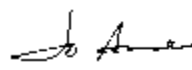
Learn about cyanotype in “Capturing Nature’s Shadows,” as Lindsey McQuiston of Willistown Conservation Trust describes preserving images of local flora. And find out how West Chester University is planning for our nation’s 250th anniversary with ideas, creativity and civic connection in our Brandywine Stories feature. Couples seeking an intimate wedding should read “Marry at the Inn,” to make their big day full of charm, convenience and character. And less stress!

Those looking for a dream home may enjoy Laurel Anderson’s tour of a hidden gem in southern Chester County, “Summer Duck Lane,” on 40 acres, with an updated 1638 home and within walking distance of The Whip Tavern.

Every year we’re amazed by the quality of our private and independent schools. Ed Malet found environmental science, global leadership, music and other offerings in “From Tilling the Soil to Traveling Internationally.” We’ve added a “Guide to Private Schools” edited by Marci Tomassone with more.

Finally, our Theater Spotlight is on the new season at Media Theatre, featuring “Young Frankenstein,” “Annie” and more. And as always, we have the Best Local Events coverage.

Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

October 2025

Volume XLIX Number 2

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Cover photo from the 2024 Great Pumpkin Carve of Chadds Ford, People's Choice Award winner, "Dragon Slayer"
PHOTO CREDIT: JENNIFER MANDERSCHIED

Level Up. Calling all gamers! The Oscar Lasko YMCA recently opened the **Metro Esports Lounge**, equipped with gaming PCs and consoles with top games like Fortnite, League of Legends and Minecraft.



Y members get access seven days a week, plus programs for kids and teens, esports day camps, tournaments, birthday parties and more. Parents have peace of mind knowing all game systems are outfitted with software to keep kids safe. *1 E. Chestnut St., West Chester. YMCAGBW.org*

Strike a Chord. Ever wanted to learn to play an instrument? Immaculata University's new **Community Music School** is for you! Musicians of all ages and skill levels can get individual and group lessons, small and large ensemble experiences, masterclasses and more from Immaculata's talented faculty, student instructors and guest artists. Students develop skills like ear training, music theory, sight reading, music history, technology and performance. Bravo! *1145 W. King Rd., Immaculata. Immaculata.edu*

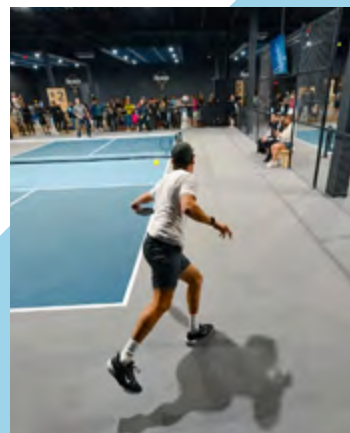


Shh! Meet fellow bookworms through West Chester's brand-new chapter of the **Silent Book Club**. Dubbed "introvert happy hour," this global community of readers gathers in public spaces to socialize and read together — BYO-book, no assigned reading. Join their next meetup at Nightingale Materials on Sunday, October 5. Bring a snack or drink, spend an hour reading silently (or sketching, journaling or crafting), then chat about what you read and browse the store. *On Instagram @SilentBookClubWestChester*



Mural Mural. Watch for a "Call for Art" for the **West Chester America250 Mural Project**, celebrating the 250th anniversary of our country's founding. The Public Arts Commission (PAC) along with Mayor Lillian DeBaptiste will be soliciting proposals for a public mural honoring the history, diversity and the evolving identity of West Chester. Interested in depicting the shared story of the Borough — past, present and future? More info to come on the PAC website. *West-Chester.com/544/Public-Arts-Commission*

Get Pickled. There's a new game in town. Opening its doors in late September, **The Picklr** is a premium indoor pickleball club in Exton. Members enjoy free court reservations, unlimited open and competitive play, unlimited club leagues and tournaments, four clinic passes per month and four guest passes per month. Other amenities include nationwide access to Picklr clubs, a pro shop, private event areas and even AI coaching. *201 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton. ThePicklr.com/Location/Exton*

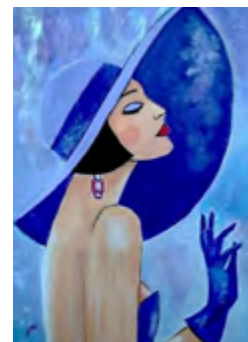


Fall Gallery Walk in West Chester October 3



Explore the vibrant art scene in downtown West Chester. Multiple galleries combine with additional "one-night-only" show hosts throughout the downtown business area to showcase local Chester County artists. Presented by Founders Brewing Co. and hosted by Downtown West Chester. *4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Free parking. DowntownWestChester.com.*

Paoli Hospital Auxiliary Presents A Passion for Fashion October 3



Save the date for this event featuring a fashion show highlighting the latest trends and styles from local boutiques, a premier raffle and luncheon. Proceeds help provide state-of-the-art equipment at Paoli Hospital, including the da Vinci 5 Robot for minimally invasive surgery. *Desmond Hotel, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$85. Events.org/ES/PHAFashionShow25.*

Radnor Hunt Pony Club Spooktacular Show & Event October 4

Ride in the classes, enter the hobby horse competition on foot, enter to win raffle baskets and enjoy a parade of costumed riders and horses. Open to all ages and sizes. *Radnor Hunt Pony Club, 810 Providence Rd., Malvern. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. RadnorHuntPonyClub.org.*



October Picks by Marci Tomassone

State Street Fall Festival in Media October 5

Enjoy a mix of artists, crafters, nonprofits, along with food, music and lots of family fun as State Street comes alive with more than 150 exhibitors offering something for everyone. Find local and global food favorites, one-of-a-kind artwork and jewelry, unique home decor and handcrafted gifts. *State Street, Media. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free. VisitMediaPA.com.*



The Classics at Brantwyn October 5



Brandywine Valley Symphony (formerly Kennett Symphony) hosts this event featuring automobiles from the beginning of the 20th century to the present. The garden party offers an open bar, gourmet brunch

catered by the DuPont Country Club and musical entertainment. Benefits the symphony. *Brantwyn Estate, 600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. \$110. BVSymphony.org.*

The Great Pumpkin Carve in Chadds Ford October 16-18

Over 70 giant pumpkins are carved by local artists and will then be lit and displayed. Enjoy a kid-friendly Haunted Trail,



raffle prizes and live music. Food, local craft beer and wine are available. *Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Thurs., 2 to 9 p.m.; Fri., 2 to 10 p.m.; Sat, noon to 10 p.m. \$5-\$15. ChaddsFordHistory.org.*

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.*

OCTOBER 2–5

101st Unionville Community Fair & Farm Show. Celebrating 101 years of agriculture and community with family activities, music, animal exhibits, beer and wine garden, food trucks and more. Come for the Thursday Night Tailgate and the Haunted Tent on Fri–Sat. *113 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Fri–Sat, 9 to 9; Sun, 10 to 4. \$5/ person, \$10/car. UCFair.org.*



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

Railroad Museum of PA 18th Annual Garden Railways Tour. Take an exclusive, self-guided tour of operating model trains in outdoor and garden settings—a fun family outing for all ages. *300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. 1 to 5 pm. \$10. RRMuseumPA.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 and entertainment. Rain date, Oct. 12. *The Willows Park, 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. 11 to 4. Free. Radnor.com.*

OCTOBER 5, 12, 18, 19, NOV. 2, 9
West Chester Railroad Fall Foliage Express. Enjoy a brisk fall afternoon along the picturesque Chester Creek Valley on a 90-minute journey back in time to the village of Glen Mills, then return. *Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. 10 am, noon and 2 pm. \$25–\$30. WCRailroad.com.*

OCTOBER 11

East Goshen Pumpkin, Food Truck & Music Festival. Come out for the hay rides, a family pumpkin carving contest, frozen turkey bowling, a petting zoo, pumpkin pie-eating contest, pony rides and free pumpkins

for kids. *1580 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 10 am. FriendsOfEastGoshen.org.*

OCTOBER 12

Historic Yellow Springs Fall Festival. It's fall fun in the Village with the annual Great Pumpkin Classic pumpkin race, a history haunted house, pumpkin painting, village tours, artist demonstrations and more. *1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Noon to 4 pm. Free. YellowSprings.org.*

OCTOBER 18

Natural Lands Fall Festival & Connect with NextGen. Celebrate the season with local artisans, all ages crafts, costume contests, a scavenger hunt, live music, food and beer trucks. *Stroud Preserve, 454 N. Creek Rd., West Chester. 1 to 5 pm. Registration req. NatLands.org.*

OCTOBER 19

Fall Festival at East Bradford Park. Featuring live music, food and beer trucks, activities for kids and seasonal activities. *835 Kenmara Dr., West Chester. Noon to 4. EastBradford.org.*

OCTOBER 25

Haunted Helis at Amerian Helicopter Museum. Family-friendly fun. Come in costume and enjoy spooky science activities and treats at the museum. *1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 6 to 8 pm. \$15 (under two free). HelicopterMuseum.org.*

OCTOBER 26

West Chester Halloween Parade. Begins on Market St. between Church & Darlington Sts. Marching bands and cheer-leading performances featured. *Market St. 7 pm. West-Chester.com.*

OCTOBER 26

KSQ Candy Trail. Kiddos in costume can follow the trail to collect treats from over 20 participating businesses throughout the Borough (look for the black and orange balloons). *Kennett Collaborative, 106 W. State St., Kennett Square. 2 to 5 pm. Free. KennettCollaborative.org.*

OCTOBER 30

Trick or Treat at Radnor Township Bldg. Kids 5 and under (with an adult) are invited to come in costume to trick or treat and have fun with pumpkin decorating and activities. *301 Iven Ave., Wayne. 9 to 2. Free. Register at Radnor.com/Treat.*

BOOKS.....

OCTOBER 1–28

Reads & Company. The Big Reads Book Group: *Oct. 1*, “Lessons in Magic and Disaster” by Charlie Jane Anders. **First Friday Book Signing:** *Oct. 3*, “Street Cats and Where To Find Them” by Jeff Bogle. **Book Release Celebration:** *Oct. 7*, “The Intruder” by Freida McFadden, tickets \$35. **International Voices Book Group:** *Oct. 8*, “The House of Spirits” by Isabel Allende. **Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group:** *Oct. 15*, “The Very Secret Society of Irregular Witches” by Sangu Mandanna. **The What’s the Tea? Book Club:** *Oct. 22*, “Bury Your Gays” by Chuck Tingle. **Then and Now Book Group:** *Oct. 28*, “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. ReadsAndCompany.com.

OCTOBER 2–16

Wellington Square Bookshop. *Closed due to fire—check back for updates.* **NonFiction Book Group:** *Oct. 2*, “Papyrus: The Invention of Books in the Ancient World” by Irene Vallejo, 7 pm. **Classics Book Club:** *Oct. 8*, “The Wild Iris” by Louise Glück, 2 pm. **Fiction Book Group:** *Oct. 15 & 16*, “The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride, Wed,

2 pm; Thurs, 2 & 7 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com.

OCTOBER 7–23

Main Point Books. *Oct. 7*, Fran Wilde with her new book “A Philosophy of Thieves” with guest host A.C. Wise, 6:30. **Fiction Book Group:** *Oct. 21*, “Remarkably Bright Creatures” by Shelby Van Pelt, 1 pm. **NonFiction Book Group:** *Oct. 23*, “Everything Is Tuberculosis” by John Green. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com.

DANCE.....

OCTOBER 10 & 11

Brandywine Ballet Presents “Dracula.” Passion and romance combine with gothic themes of legend and darkness, making this a Brandywine Ballet favorite. Asplundh Hall, West Chester University, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Fri, 7 pm; Sat, 4 pm. \$40–\$50. BrandywineBallet.org.

OCTOBER 25 & 26

First State Ballet Presents “Dracula.” Based on the novel by Bram Stoker, with choreography by Viktor Plotnikov, this ballet will haunt audiences well after the performance concludes. The Grand Wilmington Copeland Hall, 818

N. King St., Wilmington. Sat, 7; Sun, 2. \$40–\$82. TheGrandWilmington.org.

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

OCTOBER 16–19

Maryland 5 Star at Fair Hill. This equestrian event features dressage, cross country and show jumping and a wide variety of activities and attractions from live music and shopping to local food vendors and a beer, wine and spirits showcase. Fair Hill Special Event Zone, 4600 Telegraph Rd., Elkton, MD. \$18–\$35; 10 and under, free. Maryland5star.us.

NOVEMBER 2

90th Running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. Timber steeplechase race with a distance of four miles and 18 fences over fair hunting country. Enjoy vendors, a carriage parade, the PA Junior Hunt Cup, Mr. Stewart’s Cheshire Foxhounds and tailgating under tents. Benefits



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ing Creeks Conservation Trust. Stonewall Golf Club, Bulltown Rd., Elverson. 5:30 pm. Tickets \$125 and up. FrenchAndPickering.org.



NOVEMBER 8
13th Annual Bark & Whine Gala. Join this fundraiser to celebrate the Rescue’s mission with cocktails, dinner, music and dancing, auctions and adoptable pets. URBN (Navy Yard), 5000 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$350 and up. PSPCA.org.

GARDENS
THROUGH OCTOBER 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.



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EXHIBIT ADD-ON FEE
Members: \$3/adult, \$1/child
Non-members: \$5/adult, \$2/child
Admission to museum is required

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.

OCTOBER 11
Garden Club of Springfield's "Harvest Celebration." Wander through the displays of various garden ideas, houseplants, floral designs and demonstrations with fresh baked goods, raffle items, holiday crafts and a table of gently used garden articles. Old Central School, Saxer Ave. & Powell Rd., Springfield. 10 to 1.

MUSEUMS
THROUGH MARCH 1
Brandywine Museum of Art. “Jerrell Gibbs:



No Solace in the Shade,” the first decade of contemporary Baltimore artist Jerrell Gibbs’s career and his first one-person museum exhibition. 1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed–Mon, 9:30 to 4:30. \$8–\$20. Brandywine.org.

THROUGH JANUARY 25
Delaware Art Museum. “Warm Room: Photographs from Historic Greenhouses by Peter A. Moriarty,” historic greenhouses worldwide, capturing their light-filled architecture in gelatin-silver prints. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed–Sun, 10 to 4. \$14–\$25. DelArt.org.

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
OCTOBER 1–12
American Music Theatre. *Oct. 1*, An Evening with David Sedaris; *Oct. 3*, Masters of Illusion; *Oct. 9*, The Price is Right Live!; *Oct. 11*, Amy Grant; *Oct. 12*, Il Divo by Candlelight with special guest Simply Three. 2425 Lincoln



OCTOBER

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Arts, Crafts & Antiques
Fall is the perfect time to look for those unique finds, spruce up the home and enjoy the ride.

October 4
Lititz Parkwalk. Showcasing fine arts and crafts from over 45 artists, Lititz Springs Park, 24 N. Broad St., Lititz. 9 to 4. Free. LititzArtAssociation.com

October 4–12
7th Annual Delco Arts Week. The Delaware County Arts Consortium hosts more than 60 events, many free to the public. DelcoArts.org.

October 4 & 25
Artisan Days at The Shoppes at Miller's. Meet Lancaster County artisans and experience their craftsmanship firsthand. 2 to 6. 2811 Lincoln Hwy. E., Ronks.

October 5 & 19
Clover Market. Antique and vintage wares, food trucks, music. *Oct. 5*, 7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. *Oct. 19*, 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 10 to 4. Free. TheCloverMarket.com.

October 11 & 12
Artists of Landenberg Studio Tour. Nine studios feature original artwork. 10 to 4. Free. Pick up a Studio Passport, ArtistsOfLandenberg.com.

October 17 & 18
Antique & Collector Fair. Formerly the Antiques at Kimberton, featuring many quality dealers. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 4. \$10. AC-Fair.com.

October 18 & 19
Hagley Craft Fair. Artisans display and sell their fine arts, crafts and gourmet items. Hagley Museum & Library, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$8–\$12. Hagley.org.

November 1 & 2
Tuscarora Lapidary Society Gemarama Show. Browse and shop for gems, jewelry, beads and rocks, enjoy the exhibits, a silent auction, demonstrations and a kids activity area. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Oaks Ave., Oaks. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$7; 12 and under, \$1. Lapidary.org/Gemarama.



Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMT-Shows.com.

OCTOBER 3–NOVEMBER 1
The Keswick Theatre. *Oct. 3*, Magical Mystery Doors Tribute to The Beatles, Led Zeppelin & The Doors; *Oct. 5*, Buena Vista Orchestra; *Oct. 9*, Yes; *Oct. 10*, Genesis Live; *Oct. 17*, 38 Special; *Oct. 19*, Not Dead Yet!—John Cleese and the Holy Grail at 50; *Nov. 1*, Slaughter. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

OCTOBER 3–NOVEMBER 2
At The Grand in Wilmington. *Oct. 3*, Violent Femmes; *Oct. 5*, Pat Metheny; *Oct. 9*, Leo Kottke; *Oct. 17*, Patton Oswalt; *Oct. 25*, Mandy Patinkin in Concert; *Oct. 29*, The Price is Right Live! *Nov. 1*, Il Divo By Candlelight *Nov. 2*, Get The Led Out. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrand-Wilmington.org.

OCTOBER 4–31
Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Oct. 4*, New York’s Finest: A Tribute to Sting & the Police; *Oct. 5*, Nellie McKay; *Oct. 12*, The Drifters; *Oct. 15*, Greatest Moments of Philly Sports; *Oct. 17*, It’s Not Mansplaining with Tom Briscoe; *Oct. 24*, Carol King Meets the Beatles; *Oct. 25*, Grateful Dub: Music of the Grateful Dead; *Oct. 31*, Rocky Horror Film. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.



OCTOBER 12
Where the River Meets the Sky. Brandywine Valley Symphony (formerly Kennett Symphony) performs a concert at The Duffy Arts Center, Malvern Preparatory School, 418 S Warren Ave., Malvern. 3 pm. \$20–\$65. BVSymphony.org/Event/Concert.

OCTOBER 18 & 19
Crossroads Music Festival In Oxford. Featuring bluegrass, folk and old-time music from five regional acts plus music workshops, craft vendors, food trucks, raffles, outdoor games and dancing. Benefits the Oxford Area Historical Association. *Sat*, OAHA History Center, 119

S. 5th St., Oxford, free. *Sun*, The Barn at Nottingham, 101 Ponds Edge Dr., Nottingham, 1 to 7, \$55. OxfordHistorical.org.

NOVEMBER 2
Chester County Concert Band Presents: Fantasy in Flight. All ages will enjoy anenter-taining concert celebrating all things that fly, featuring marches, movie music, pop tunes and more. Fugett Middle School, 500 Ellis Ln., West Chester. 2:30 pm. \$10–\$15; under 12, free. CCCBand.org.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....
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. Benefits Willistown Trust. 912 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. 2:30 pm. \$25–\$50. WCTrust.org/Run-A-Muck.

OCTOBER 26
48th Annual Radnor Run. All levels of experience and athleticism are invited. Join as an individual or start a team as you take on the challenging 5-mile course. Benefits the American Lung Association. Starts and ends at Radnor Township Building, Encke Park, 301 Iven Ave., Radnor. Reg. 6:30 am; 1 mi. run at 8:35 am; 5 mi. race at 8:30; 2 mi. walk at 8:45. \$30–\$40. 800-LUNG-USA; Lung.org/RadnorRun.



THEATER.....
THROUGH OCTOBER 5
“Spinner” at Delaware Theatre. A new play based on the true story of NHL player Brian “Spinner” Spencer. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, DelawareTheatre.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 19
“The Unexpected 3rd” at People’s Light. Theater artist Kathryn Grody explores a surreal, devastating and hilarious potpourri of self-discoveries. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

THROUGH 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.

OCTOBER 2-26
“Young Frankenstein” at Media Theatre. See Theater Spotlight in this issue.

OCTOBER 16
Hokus Pokus Live! at The Playhouse Wilmington. Enjoy a wickedly “spooky” theatrical experience with hilarious comedy, powerhouse vocals and a dash of magic. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS
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.

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 PBPFInc.org.

OCTOBER 4
Chester County Day House Tour. Begin the day at the Foxhunt, then tour the beautiful homes of Chester County, this year featuring the southwest quadrant. Benefits Chester County Hospital. 10 to 5. \$60–\$100. ChesterCounty-Day.com.

OCTOBER 8–NOVEMBER 12
Chilling West Chester: A Dark History Walking Tour. True tales of murder, mischief

West Chester University Homecoming & Family Weekend 2025



OCTOBER 3–5
Enjoy exciting athletic events, spirited traditions, live entertainment, campus activities and plenty of surprises along the way. It’s a weekend when purple and gold shine bright — and when lifelong memories are made.

2025 Homecoming and Family Weekend schedule is coming soon. Visit WUPA.edu/_Services/STU/ Homecoming for all the details.

and misadventure, pulled from the archives of the Chester County History Center on a 90 minute walking tour. 225 N. High St., West Chester. 6 to 7:30 pm. \$18. MyCCHC.org.



OCTOBER 16
West Chester Historic Preservation Awards. The West Chester Downtown Foundation created this awards program to recognize and honor projects both large and small that help highlight and preserve West Chester’s historic character. Winners announced at the Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 5:30 pm. For tickets, visit WCDF.org.

OCTOBER 16 & 17, 24 & 25
Historic Sugartown Lantern Tours. Join one of the knowledgeable guides as they lead you through the village, where you’ll learn about the strange world of death and mourning in Victorian America. Tours begin at the Carriage Museum, 690 Sugartown Rd., Malvern. Oct. 16, 7 pm (final tour 8:30 pm; Oct. 17, 24, 25, 6 pm (final tour at 8). \$10–\$15. HistoricSugartown.org.

OCTOBER 18–31
West Chester Public Library’s Halloween Door Tour. Doors and porches in West Chester Borough are decorated for Halloween. For a donation, tourgoers will receive a map and a list of scavenger items to look for during the self-guided tour. Maps are available at the library. Vote for best decorations and look for the Halloween Door Tour sign in participating yards. Benefits library programs and services. WCPublicLibrary.org.



OCTOBER 19
Tours at Margaret Esherick House. Tour this private residence, one of only two examples of collaboration between Wharton Esherick and renowned architect Louis Kahn. 204 Sunrise Ln., Philadelphia. 10 am, 12:30 pm and 2:30. \$50. Reserve tickets, WhartonEsherickMuseum.org.

OCTOBER 22
More Than Just Parks: America’s National Parks Like You’ve Never Seen Them. Join Will and Jim Pattiz, award-winning filmmakers, for spectacular national park footage. And get the inside scoop on their tips and guides for different parks that you’ll want to visit. 30 E. Swedesford Rd., Malvern. 7 to 9 pm. \$20. PSU.edu. ♦



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

SPIRITS AT THE ZOO

Friday October 24
Age 21+
5:30–8PM

Celebrate Halloween without the kids.

Costumes are encouraged! Enjoy spooky cocktails and liquid libations, light nibbles, and bewitching entertainment with live music by **Green Eggs and Jam**. The event will be held **rain or moonshine**.

BRANDYWINE ZOO

Tickets: brandywinezoo.org/spirits
Members: \$5 • Non-members: \$10 • FREE PARKING
Drink tickets: \$6 • Food sold separately

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

HALLOWEEN AT THE HOME OF THE BLOB
A MONTH OF MACABRE MOVIES!

OCTOBER 2025

- 1 NIGHT OF THE LIVING DEAD (1988)
- 5 ABBOT AND COSTELLO MEET FRANKENSTEIN
- 8 SON OF FRANKENSTEIN 16 MM SCREENING
- 11 GHOSTBUSTERS (1984)
- 12 THE GHOST BREAKERS (85TH ANNIVERSARY)
- 15 TEEN WITCH (WITCHY WEDNESDAY)
- 17 YOUNG FRANKENSTEIN (1974)
- 18 E.T. THE EXTRA TERRESTRIAL
- 19 THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA (100TH ANNIVERSARY) WITH LIVE THEATRE ORGAN
- 22 THE WALKING DEAD (1936)
- 23 THE INVISIBLE MAN (2020)
- 24 HALLOWEEN (1978) 35 MM SCREENING
- 25 THE NIGHTMARE BEFORE CHRISTMAS
- 26 THE SIXTH SENSE
- 26 NOSFERATU (1922) WITH LIVE THEATRE ORGAN

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Celebrating 250 Years: WCU's Civic Mission Meets the Semiquincentennial

Kim Andrews

FIREWORKS? SURE. BUT WEST Chester University is celebrating America's 250th birthday with something even more powerful: ideas, creativity and civic connection.

West Chester University (WCU), a public institution with deep civic roots in Chester County and a growing regional footprint, has launched a wide-ranging initiative in alignment with America250, the national effort to commemorate the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Rather than just reflecting on where America has been, WCU is asking big questions about where we're headed and inviting students, faculty and the wider community into the conversation.

The initiative is organized around three bold themes: "Learn and Inform Our Shared History," "Uphold and Advance American Ideals" and "Engage and Sustain Community." These ideas are driving

a flurry of activity across campus — academic, artistic, historical and just plain fun.

WHAT'S IN THE WORKS

WCU's America250 undertaking stretches across departments and disciplines. Students are both attending events and shaping them, from serving on planning committees to designing campaign materials through media and communications courses. Faculty members in history, anthropology, political science and the honors college are developing new content that encourages students to reflect critically on the past and their role in shaping the country's future. From science to the arts, classrooms across campus are diving into conversations about the Constitution and civic identity, connecting democratic values to each field.

Statewide, WCU students are taking part in initiatives like America250PA's

Semiquincentennial Scholarship Contest, which awards funding to college students who demonstrate civic engagement and creativity. Another initiative is the Direct Effect Innovation Challenge, a statewide competition that invites college students to develop creative marketing campaigns that engage the public with the themes and goals of America250.

Behind the scenes, the university's Special Collections Library is mining its archives to explore WCU's own story to culminate in a major museum exhibition open to the public. Throughout its evolution from 19th-century teacher-training school to a modern public university with 17,000+ students, WCU has championed civic engagement and public service, demonstrating the American ideals being celebrated in America250.

Off campus, the university is teaming up with regional partners — including the

Chester County History Center, County Planning Commission and Chester County Community Foundation — to cohost exhibitions, share historical research, coordinate public events and foster community dialogue that connects local stories to national themes. These activities are all part of a broader effort to make America250 programming inclusive, accessible and rooted in place.

A SPECTACULAR GATHERING

One of the liveliest and most visible parts of the celebration is the Marching Band Cavalcade planned for the week of July 1, 2026. WCU will welcome marching bands from across the country, representing most U.S. states, to perform on its campus.

The event, part of the larger America250 celebration across Chester County and Philadelphia, will include a field show competition and concert. With its own "Incomparable Golden Rams" band among the nation's top collegiate ensembles, WCU is uniquely positioned to host the gathering. The event promises to be an exuberant, musical display of national pride, young talent and shared American traditions.

So yes, there will be fireworks. But at West Chester University, America250 is also about asking: What comes next? In classrooms, libraries, lecture halls and community spaces, the university is preparing students and Chester County neighbors alike not only to remember America's founding ideals, but to live them. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY

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 and to build engagement for 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. To get involved, contact America 250 Friends at the Chester County Community Foundation, A250Friends.org.



1. WCU field trip to Washington, D.C. in 1896
2. Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band

Educating Citizens, Supporting Connections

At the heart of America250 is a vital question: What does it mean to be a citizen and who is included in America's story?

WCU's President Laurie Bernotsky, a political scientist, views the semiquincentennial as a chance for universities to renew their role as citizenship mentors by engaging students in critical dialogue, community projects and active participation in democratic life.

As a civic anchor in southeastern Pennsylvania, WCU embraces its responsibility. Dr. Bernotsky explained, "I take seriously our responsibility to educate citizens, strengthen communities and uphold the enduring ideals of free expression, mutual respect and civic participation."

By engaging in community partnerships, civic projects and academic programs that encourage active participation in democracy, Dr. Bernotsky emphasized, "WCU students are not just studying history. They are helping to write the next 250 years, guided by the very principles that launched a nation and continue to shape its promise."



Dr. Laurie Bernotsky with WCU students

Capturing Nature's Shadows

DISCOVERING NATURE THROUGH CYANOTYPE

Lindsey McQuiston, Willistown Conservation Trust



ON A GOLDEN SUMMER afternoon at Rushton Farm, a small group of art lovers wandered through the meadows, baskets in hand, eyes scanning the fields for inspiration. They came for a cyanotype workshop — an event that combined a 19th-century photographic process with local flora, hand-made art and the slow joy of a creative afternoon under the sun.

The workshop, hosted by Willistown Conservation Trust in partnership with local artist Sarah Bourne Rafferty of Atwater Designs, invited participants to slow down and immerse their senses in the natural world. The smell of cut stems and soil lingered in the air as participants brushed fingers against echinacea, monarda and other familiar summer flora, gathering the very pieces of nature they would later press onto paper.

WHERE ART MEETS NATURE

Cyanotypes are an early photographic printing process known for their deep indigo

hues and delicate silhouettes. A photographic process founded in 1842 by Sir John Herschel, cyanotype was mainly used as a way of reproducing architectural and engineering documents known as blueprints.

About a year later, English botanist Anna Atkins used this method to document algal specimens, becoming the first person to illustrate a book using photographic images. Long before the digital age, this process was a way to preserve the natural world — one petal, leaf or stem at a time.

“It’s like painting with sunlight,” said one workshop participant as their print took shape in the rinse tray, the white shapes of their chosen plants emerging slowly from the deepening blue.

But the magic of the day was about more than the final print. The process itself demanded attention. To create a cyanotype, participants first gathered plant specimens that spoke to them — some chosen for their aesthetic shape, others for personal

meaning. Then they arranged the flora on paper prepared with a specific ratio of light-sensitive developer, let the sun do its work and, finally, rinsed the prints to reveal dreamy, watercolor-like impressions.

SLOWING DOWN TO SEE MORE

By gathering their own materials and working through the methodical steps of cyanotype creation, participants were invited into a rare experience, one that asked them to look closely, feel deeply and consider the beauty of the ordinary. The slow pace offered a kind of meditation on detail and texture, on the fleeting nature of summer blooms.

“You start to notice things you never would in a rush,” one participant shared. “Like how the veins of a leaf are all connected.”

Beyond the artistic technique, the day offered a deeper takeaway — a renewed sense of connection to the landscape and the stories it holds.

A LEAF, A LEGACY

For participant Cheryl Tomlinson, the workshop offered more than artistic play — it was a chance to create something meaningful. Inspired by the history of the cyanotype process itself, Tomlinson chose to feature a leaf from an American chestnut tree in her final print.

Once one of the most abundant and ecologically important trees in the eastern United States, the American chestnut was nearly wiped out by blight in the early 20th century. Today, efforts are underway to restore this keystone species.

“The process reminded me that art can be a way to honor history and carry hope,” Tomlinson said. “It’s amazing how a single leaf and a splash of sunlight can tell a much bigger story.”

Her print became more than a keepsake — it was a tribute to resilience and the enduring relationship between humans and the natural world.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

As the final prints dried and the afternoon light softened, there was a sense that something special had taken root — not just on paper, but in the hearts of everyone who came to create. In a world of fast-paced everything, the cyanotype offered a pause and a gentle invitation to reflect, reconnect and let the outdoors imprint itself on the imagination.

What's a Cyanotype?

A cyanotype is an early camera-less photographic printing method that uses sunlight to create blue-toned images. Originally developed in 1842 by English scientist Sir John Herschel, this technique gained popularity for scientific illustration, particularly in botany and engineering, and is now beloved by artists and DIY crafters for its dreamy, organic aesthetic and nontoxic, low-waste, sustainable process.

Cyanotypes are created using a 1:1 ratio of ferric ammonium citrate and potassium ferricyanide. Once combined, these chemicals form a light-sensitive solution. This is brushed onto paper — typically watercolor paper or cotton rag — which is then dried in the dark.

When plants or other objects are placed on the prepared surface and exposed to sunlight, the UV rays trigger a chemical reaction. After exposure, the paper is rinsed in water to stop the process and wash away unexposed chemicals, revealing soft, indigo-blue silhouettes.



1. Cyanotypes drying in the sun
2. Cyanotype workshop at Rushton Farm
3. Cheryl Tomlinson's American chestnut tree prints

So next time you pass a patch of wildflowers or notice the silhouette of an autumn leaf fallen on the sidewalk, imagine it cast in cyanotype blue. Perhaps you’ll be reminded, as the workshop members were on that warm day at the farm, of the quiet joy in slowing down, looking closer and letting nature leave its impression. ♦

Willistown Conservation Trust is an accredited nonprofit land trust that focuses on 28,000 acres in Chester and Delaware Counties. It has permanently conserved 7,500 acres since 1996 and offers six renowned programs for public engagement and research: Bird Conservation, Community Farm, Education and Outreach, Land Protection, Stewardship and Watershed Protection. For more resources and inspiration, visit WCTrust.org and follow @WCTrust.

Boo!

It's Halloween in the Brandywine Valley

CARVED PUMPKINS AGLOW, FALL FOLIAGE ABLAZE, LOCAL FESTIVALS ABUZZ AND ADULT TRICK-OR-TREATING AT LOCAL WINERIES

LOOKING FOR SPINE-TINGLING thrills? Family-friendly spooky fun? Or ghostly tales along with your tea sandwiches? You can find all that plus plenty of Halloween happenings in the Brandywine Valley. Notice our cover image from the 2024 Chadds Ford Pumpkin Carve? That's just a first glimpse.

Since Americans now spend more than \$11 billion annually on Halloween, it's become our second-largest commercial holiday, trailing only Christmas. We suggest you spend some of that seasonal cash on local haunted fun.

Here are a few ideas, with even more in our Best Local Events section.

HAUNTED ATTRACTIONS & EVENTS

The Bates Motel & Haunted Attractions (Sept. 19 - Nov. 2)
1835 N. Middletown Rd., Glen Mills
TheBatesMotel.com

Head to Arasapha Farm for a chilling trio of attractions — haunted hayride, a creepy

corn maze and the infamous “Bates Motel.” Rated among the scariest spots in the nation, this local institution is perfect for thrill-seekers of all scare-tolerance, especially classic horror-movie fans.

Colonial Pennsylvania Farmstead's Ghostly Tales (Oct. 18 & 25)

3900 N. Sandy Flash Dr., Newtown Square
ColonialFarmstead.org
Experience chilling fireside tales of daring deeds and deadly dread plus haunted local folklore, including theatrical renditions of the legend of Sandy Flash. Under flickering lantern light, meet the victims, captors and admirers who bring Sandy Flash's story to life. And be happy you're in the 21st century!

The Great Pumpkin Carve at Chadds Ford (Oct. 16-18)

1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford
ChaddsFordHistory.org
See over 70 giant pumpkins transformed into glowing, intricate carved masterpieces created by local artists. Enjoy live music, food trucks,

kid-friendly haunted trail, raffles and more. A great photo-op event. Maybe your photo will grace our cover next year!

Mimi's Tea Cottage Presents Sleepy Hollow (Oct. 23)

30 S. High St., West Chester
MimisTeaCottage.com

The women of Sleepy Hollow have their own stories to tell. Step into the shadows of history and hear their tales as you fortify yourself with tea, sandwiches and desserts.

Penns Woods Winery's Halloween Weekend (Oct. 25 & 26)

124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford
PennsWoodsWinery.com

Two ghoulish afternoons filled with Halloween fun and music. Sip themed cocktails while kids enjoy face painting, a hay maze and Portable Picasso Pop Up, plus pumpkin painting on Sunday. Wine tastings, local beer, cider, cheese and fall favorites apple cider donuts and kettle corn, too.

1. The Great Pumpkin Carve
PHOTO CREDIT: JENNIFER MANDERSCHIED
2. Wayne Trick or Treat
3. “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” at the Colonial Theatre and Uptown

SPOOKY PARADES & COMMUNITY TRICK-OR-TREATS

West Chester Parade (Oct. 26): A decades-old tradition, this Halloween parade, now on Sunday afternoon, loops around downtown. Visit candy stations along the route and grab a goodie bag. Watch local marching bands and cheer/dance teams perform.

Media Parade (Oct. 25): The 59th annual Delco Halloween Parade transforms downtown Media into a procession of zombies, witches and skeletons, along with marching bands, floats and more. Come in costume and expect spooky surprises and frighteningly good fun.

Wayne Trick or Treat (Oct. 25): Family-friendly downtown Wayne hosts this afternoon event with merchants handing out treats. Plus Wayne Art Center's tent has crafts and more treats, with the Radnor Firehouse adding a touch-a-truck event.

Brandywine Zoo (Oct. 17-19): “Boo at the Zoo” includes merry-not-scary trick-or-treating through the zoo in costumes, along with themed activities and a “Spirits at the Zoo” event for adults on select evenings. Plenty of adorable photo ops!

HAUNTED HISTORY IN DELAWARE

New Castle's Hauntings in History (Oct. weekends)

NewCastleHistory.org
Explore New Castle's dark past through ghost stories and historical accounts until you shiver with fright. And tour the famous haunted Amstel House, where you just may meet ... The Lady in Blue!

Fort Delaware - Paranormal Adventures (Oct. and beyond)
DEStateParks.org



This Civil War-era prison-turned-state-park offers Victorian-style Halloween experiences and three-hour paranormal investigations with Diamond State Ghost Investigators.

Rockwood Park & Museum - Paranormal Exploration
NewCastleDE.gov

Featured in “Ghost Hunters,” this Gothic mansion with reported hauntings by former residents offers paranormal investigation experience with real equipment.

STAGE AND SCREAM — MAKE THAT SCREEN

“The Rocky Horror Picture Show”
It's the 50th anniversary, and you have a choice of venues.

• **The Colonial Theatre (Oct. 14)**
227 Bridge St., Phoenixville
TheColonialTheatre.com

Come for the movie and the pre-show flash mob of “The Time Warp,” plus a costume contest, full shadow cast, the Colonial Transylvanians, themed cocktails and so much more.

• **Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center (Oct. 31)**
226 N. High St. West Chester
UptownWestChester.org

The cult classic returns for a night of outrageous fun, rock ‘n’ roll and over-the-top audience participation. Costumes and

callbacks are highly encouraged. Whether you're a Rocky virgin or a seasoned fan, get ready to shout, dance and sing along.

The Media Theatre's “Young Frankenstein” (Oct. 2-26)
104 E. State St., Media. MediaTheatre.org
See Theater Spotlight in this issue.

WALKING TOURS — CHILLING OR CULTURAL

Creepy Walking Tours in West Chester (multiple dates)
ChesterCountyHistoryCenter, 225 N. High St., West Chester. MyCCHC.org
It wouldn't be fall in the borough without a series of creepy walking tours. Chester County History Center is bringing back “Plagues and Pestilence,” a look at the impact of disease on the 19th century, as well as “Chilling West Chester: A Dark History,” West Chester's ghost tour.

Virtual Gallery Talk, Brandywine Museum of Art (Oct. 27 & 28)
1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford
Brandywine.org

Join Victoria Wyeth as she shares her personal perspectives on the art of her grandfather Andrew and uncle Jamie Wyeth. She'll include spooky and seasonal works by both artists, including some not previously on public view, to address Halloween symbolism. Zoom link will be emailed. ♦





PHOTO CREDIT: J. FUSCO FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA



Il Granaio



Fun Dungeon



The Fenix



Phoenixville Farmers' Market

Weekend in Phoenixville

CATCH THE VILLAGE VIBE

Emily Hart

IF YOU SWORE AT THE LAST Blobfest you'd come back to Phoenixville but never found the time, put aside the chores. Pick up your phone and pretend you're a tourist.

A whirlwind weekend in Phoenixville might be just what you need!

4 P.M. READY, SET, GO

To hit the ground walking, check in at **Mainstay Inn** on Bridge Street. Drop your gear at the small, friendly, family-run accommodations in the heart of the borough.

Slip on your walking shoes and take a sneak peek at what your weekend in town has in store for you. Wander sidewalks and a rainbow crosswalk. Window-shop past bright blue street lamps while working up an appetite. You'd be hard-pressed to find a more vibrant, eclectic place that has something for every taste.

Take the challenge: Starting at the Phoenixville Mural at Bridge and Main, how many murals, indoors or out, can you find over the weekend? How many creative forms of street art can you snap and post for friends to guess where you are?

And, check the community calendar for festivities — there's almost always live music, a show or festival to enjoy.

6 P.M. DINE WITH PASSION

Head back to Mainstay Inn and **Il Granaio**, where authentic Italian cuisine awaits your tastebuds. Owned separately, but located at the hotel's site, the local favorite serves up homemade meatballs, veal saltimbocca and gnocchi pomodoro with rich tomato and garlic that will leave you singing Italian love songs before dessert.

Or if your weekend involves a milestone celebration, head three miles outside town

into lovely countryside for an elegant dinner under chandelier light. Reserve a table at the **Kimberton Inn**, cozy up to the fireplace and luxuriate in lobster bisque, local cheeses, grilled Australian lamb chops or vegan and vegetarian dishes. Even if it's not late, indulge in the After Midnight chocolate cake with ganache, cream and raspberry coulis.

8:30 P.M. FUN AND GAMES

As your weekend heats up, start the next adventure in the dungeon ... that's the **Fun Dungeon** on Main Street. It's an amusement buffet of brews, beverages, billiards and classic and modern arcade games — pinball, darts, pool and more.

For more activity, bounce over to the Conshohocken Brewing Company's **Rec Room**. The brewpub offers table tennis, foosball and shuffleboard in a lively atmosphere.

When you're out of breath, **The Fenix** is just a few steps away. Find drinks and an acoustic band or, every third Friday a month, cool live jazz.

11 P.M. NIGHTCAP ON THE ROOF

Phoenixville offers some great night life for night owls. The Analog Bar Room and Beer Garden on the roof of **Bistro on Bridge** stay open until 1 a.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Make new friends over beers served from a VW bus. Strike up a conversation over vintage cocktails. From the bird's eye view, get a few glimpses of places you'll have fun the next day.

Hint: While there you might also discover another mural.

SATURDAY 9 A.M. UP AND OUT WITH THE CHICKENS

Start your day fresh with a visit to the **Phoenixville Farmers' Market**. Even in October, find local cheeses, honey and artisan foods to take home. It's not too early to

pick up a new roast of coffee beans and maple syrup for holiday breakfasts. Delight in Hickory Grove Gardens' fresh heirloom chrysanthemums. Find beeswax candles from nearby Jardine Apiaries. It's all under the Gay Street Bridge along the French Creek Trail.

10 A.M. BREAKFAST WITH JOE

Get your go juice at **Steel City Coffeehouse & Brewery**. From the corner window at the heart of town, people-watch while you sip any of a smorgasbord of coffee drinks and sink your teeth into a house-made pop tart.

If you're in a rush to hit the sidewalks, order ahead for a sweet brew and New York bagel with garden veggie or strawberry cream cheese from **Sweet Brew Cafe**.

11 A.M. ONE-OF-A-KIND SHOPPING

Discover trendy trinkets to take back for those left at home or get an early start on holiday treasure hunting. Crisscross Main



Steel City Coffeehouse & Brewery



Refinery



Cousin's Burger



The Boardroom



Artifaqt



The Colonial Theatre

PHOTO CREDIT: J. FUSCO FOR VISIT PHILADELPHIA

and Bridge Streets anytime something delightful catches your eye, or methodically head up one side of the street, turn the corner and return down the other.

Oh, the choices! With **Artifaqt's** exquisite, handcrafted platters, wooden bowls, glass-topped cheese domes and candles, you'll never eat at a ho-hum table again. The sublime creations are by John Luttman and his sons, a company of candlemakers that design serve-ware for Michelin-star restaurants and occasionally host concerts in their woodshop on Main Street.

Step over to Bridge Street into **Refinery** for jeans, clothing and woven handbags — clutch, totes and crossbody styles — that can take you from professional workday to an evening out.

Jacaranda Boutique offers fashions to wear right then and there, gifts and home goods such as irresistible tea towels — one for you and one for a friend. Whether you crave art for your fingers and wrists, or for

your house, the **Diving Cat Studio Gallery** has a selection of items designed to express your individuality.

If your shoes aren't as comfortable as you need for more zooming around Phoenixville, **All Kinds of Fast** has all kinds of running shoes. Want a good book but don't have time to browse? **Reads & Company** offers staff picks to get you engrossed in a good book. Make Fido's day when you walk back in the door with a treat from **Maddie's Castle**.

2 P.M. TAKE A BREAK

When you've worked up an appetite from some serious retail therapy, or if someone in your party wants to watch a game while you carry on with gusto, take a detour. Watch the big screen over a halal smashburger with the works or a vegan burger at new **Cousin's Burger**, on Bridge Street near the corner of Main. Or cheer for the best team over a Guinness at **Molly Maguire's**.

3 P.M. LOVELY LUXURY

Time for a bit of pampering! Take a break from the bustle of Bridge Street for a facial at **Glow Skin Boutique Spa**. Their personal attention, the soothing atmosphere and one of the most recommended facials in Phoenixville will leave you beaming.

Another possibility: thank those feet that just took you around town. **The Spa La Care Aroma's** services include reflexology and aromatherapy.

5 P.M. REJUVENATE

Spend a moment with a pick-me-up before your evening reservations. An Irvine's espresso martini at **The Boardroom** gets rave reviews. Grab your Brazilian coffee, dark chocolate, Madagascar vanilla and vodka adorned with three espresso beans at the bar and relax on the sofa by the fire pit.

Or go for a new twist on an ancient drink. The **Philadelphia Mead Com-**

pany just came up with Cafemel — a rich, wild concoction of local Cultura Coffee's Always Sunny coffee cold-brewed in mead — fermented honey, often hailed as the original alcoholic drink. Inhale those notes of chocolate. Pop back to the Fun Dungeon to find a glass.

7 P.M. IT'S SHOWTIME

The Colonial Theatre presents film fun, including "Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Oct. 4), "Young Frankenstein" (Oct. 17) and "Halloween" (Oct. 24). Add a selfie in front of the theater's marquee — pictured in *Newsweek* in 2023 — to your weekend's social media spree.

9:30 P.M. DINNER AFTER THE SHOW

Even after the spotlight is off, there's another highlight and a little more applause to find at **Sedona Taphouse**. Walk down to the rollicking pub for a great dinner

inside or out and a good view of Phoenixville's night life. The long menu has ample handhelds and mains of seafood, pasta and wood-grilled faves. Options for brews and wines are vast. Mocktails Marrakesh mint and green tea mules keep your party going while the moon shines.

SUNDAY COFFEE

Head home with one final stop for a café cup of coffee at **Kimberton Whole Foods**. Pick up last-minute artisan foods — organic fairly traded Singing Dog vanilla syrup or vanilla Celtic salt for your foodie friends to sprinkle on steamed veg or chocolate confections. Discover gifts of essential oils and hand creams with botanicals.

What a weekend! And there's more to return to.

So... how many murals did you find? ♦
For more, go to PhoenixvilleFirst.org.

Phoenixville Events This Season

The Colonial Theatre, Through December 20

Look for the October lineup of thriller movies—old and new cult classics. **Nov. 8**, Kansas and Styx tributes; **Nov. 29**, yacht rock; **Dec. 13**, Annual Children's Christmas Party; **Dec. 20**, A Charlie Brown Christmas with the Eric Mintel Quartet. 227 Bridge St. TheColonialTheatre.com

39th Annual Phoenixville Run, October 1-25

Oct. 1-25, Virtual Challenge. **Oct. 25**, in-person 5K and 10K events. Benefits Citizen Advocacy of Chester County. Reeves Park, 2nd Ave. & Main St. 8:30 am. \$40. Phoenixville.org

Flocktoberfest, October 11

Phoenixville will celebrate its new status as an official Bird Town with the first annual Flocktoberfest, showcasing bird conservation, community creativity and eco-liv-

ing in honor of World Migratory Bird Day. St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 121 Church St. Noon to 4. SaintPetersChurch.net

Fall Fest & Trunk or Treat, October 25

Food, music, games, costume contest and more at Phoenixville Recreation Center, 501 Franklin Ave. Noon to 3. Free. Phoenixville.org



8th Annual Phoenixville Bed Races, November 1

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

Wine, Wit & Wisdom, Nov. 6

The event will include a silent auction, wine tasting, dinner, an acclaimed author and more. RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Rivercrest Dr. 6 pm. \$100-\$140. PhoenixvilleLibrary.org

German Christmas Market, November 22

Experience the magic of a German Christmas Market at Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave. Noon to 6. PhoenixvilleChamber.org
Burn Off the Bird 5K, Nov. 29
The 5K Race & 1-mile Fun Run begins and ends at Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Ave. Benefits the Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation to fund community events. 8:30 to 11 am. Phoenixville.org

Feel the Holiday Spirit in Phoenixville, Dec. 5

First Friday Holiday Edition and tree lighting downtown, 6:30 pm, with family-friendly activ-

ities throughout that weekend. PhoenixvilleFirst.org

25th Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour, December 6

The Phoenixville Area Senior Center is hosting the Marketplace (food, drinks, holiday vendors) from 3 to 7. Tour starts at the Center, 4 to 8, with transportation. Benefits the Senior Center. \$30-\$35. 153 Church St. On Facebook

Firebird Festival, Dec. 13

The event fosters a collaboration of local artistic and creative talent to enhance the cultural life of Phoenixville. Burning of the Firebird at Veteran's Field, 192 Mowere Rd. 5 to 10 pm. \$30-\$140. FirebirdFestival.com

A Taste of Phoenixville, January 2026

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

Caring for the People You Care About.

For more than 130 years, Phoenixville Hospital has been here for our community—delivering **expert care** close to home. Our dedicated team combines **compassionate service** with **advanced treatments** and the **latest technologies**, ensuring your loved ones receive the very best.

With a history of prestigious awards and a trusted network of local specialists, we're committed to keeping our community healthy today and for generations to come.

Phoenixville Hospital—proudly caring for the people you care about.



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for available opportunities.

Ana Davitt, MD
Chief Medical Officer

Richard McLaughlin, MD, MBA
President and CEO



Phoenixville Hospital
TOWER HEALTH
Advancing Health. Transforming Lives.

TowerHealth.org

THEATER
SPOTLIGHT

Curtains Up!

THE MEDIA THEATRE
UNVEILS ITS
2025-26 SEASON



THE MEDIA THEATRE, A HISTORIC gem in the heart of Delaware County, has been a cornerstone of the local performing arts scene for 31 years. Known for its strong community focus, the theater is a hub for students, professionals and devoted audiences who all come together to celebrate the art of live theater.

The upcoming 2025-26 season is packed with exciting performances, including four shows in the Broadway Series — meaning Broadway-caliber productions. Audiences can catch evening shows Wednesday through Sunday, plus Saturday matinees.

Kicking off the season is “Young Frankenstein” (Oct. 2-26), a hilarious spin on a classic, adapted by comedic genius Mel Brooks from his legendary film. This campy comedy headed for State Street is the perfect way to usher in the Halloween season!

Next up is the heartwarming classic, “Annie” (Nov. 28-Jan. 4). With songs like “Tomorrow” and “It’s the Hard-Knock Life,” this beloved family favorite is sure to warm up the winter and holiday seasons.

For spring, there’s “Fun Home” (March 25-April 5), a Tony Award-winning musical based on the graphic novel by Alison Bechdel. The refreshingly honest musical explores

identity, family and truth as Alison revisits her unique childhood growing up at a funeral home after her father’s sudden death.

Finally, clock in for some serious feel-good empowerment with “9 to 5” (April 30-May 24). This hit features the musical stylings of Dolly Parton and follows three female coworkers who plan revenge against their sexist boss.

One of the Media Theatre’s goals is to foster a love of live theater in young audiences through their Youth Ensemble Series and Performing Arts Programming. To that end, pcoming shows include “Elephant & Piggie’s We Are in a Play! Jr.” (Sept. 11-26), “Peter Pan Jr.” (Dec. 6-21) and “The Lion King Jr.” (May 9-24).

Art Director Christian Ryan added, “For all of our upcoming offerings, we have really amazing things happening on the stage right in front of you and can’t wait to welcome you back again for another ingenious season!”

Reserve your seats now! ♦
~ Kari Mullan

IF YOU GO: Media Theatre, 104 E. State St., Media. Tickets & more info at MediaTheatre.org



Across County Lines

YOUR GUIDED FALL TOUR OF THE
BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Shannon Montgomery



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LEAVES ARE ABLAZE, TEMPS ARE DROPPING, AND porches glow with pumpkins and spooky décor. Autumn has landed in the Brandywine Valley. It's the perfect season for a pleasure drive.

From scenic country roads to charming towns buzzing with festivals, shopping, dining and family fun, fall brings something for every taste. Buckle up — here's your guide to exploring fall in *County Lines* country.

WEST CHESTER

Start your autumn exploration of the Brandywine Valley in West Chester, where brick sidewalks and lively streets are the perfect backdrop.

Explore downtown on First Friday, October 3, at the **Fall Gallery Walk**. Wend your way through 26 stops on this self-guided tour of local galleries and special “one-night-only” show hosts to celebrate local art and artists. Catch a special collection of Harry Dunn’s work at **Sunset Hill Fine Arts Gallery** and the **Chester County Community Foundation**, marking 70 years of Dunn’s artistry and 35 years of Gallery Walk, which he helped start. A portion of sales from

this collection benefits a Dunn scholarship fund, supporting future generations of local artists.

Worked up an appetite? Pick from over 65 downtown restaurants, including newcomers **West Chester Seafood Kitchen** at the Hotel Indigo or nearby **Jolene’s** for upscale French cuisine.

Or want dinner and a show? **Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center** has a jam-packed schedule of theater, music, comedy and more this month. Dog lovers will enjoy “Puppy Pals Live!” on October 3 — or the preshow pop-up beer garden with lawn games, live music and food from Sabatino’s. Other highlights include Rock & Roll Hall of Famers, The Drifters, on October 12 and a Halloween screening of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show” — costumes and callbacks highly encouraged.

The semester is in full swing in this college town, so mark your calendar for **West Chester University’s** Homecoming & Family Weekend, October 3 to 5, and cheer on the Golden Rams as they face East Stroudsburg. WCU’s theatre and dance department presents “Sideways Stories from Wayside School,” based on Louis Sachar’s beloved children’s series, October 16 to 19. Performances from the Wells School of Music include a combined Wind Ensem-

◆	1. West Chester Fall Gallery Walk	◆	2. West Chester Seafood Kitchen	◆	3. Twin Valley Coffee	◆	4. Historic Yellow Springs Open House & Fall Festival	◆
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ble and Wind Symphony concert (October 5), Fall Choral Festival (October 21) and plenty of appearances by the Incomparable Golden Rams Marching Band, including at football home games, October 4 and 25.

Or come for two fan-favorite events: Fiorenza’s Food for Friends again hosts the **Chili Cook-Off** on October 12, and the **Hometown Christmas Parade** promises even more excitement this year on December 5.

WESTERN CHESTER COUNTY

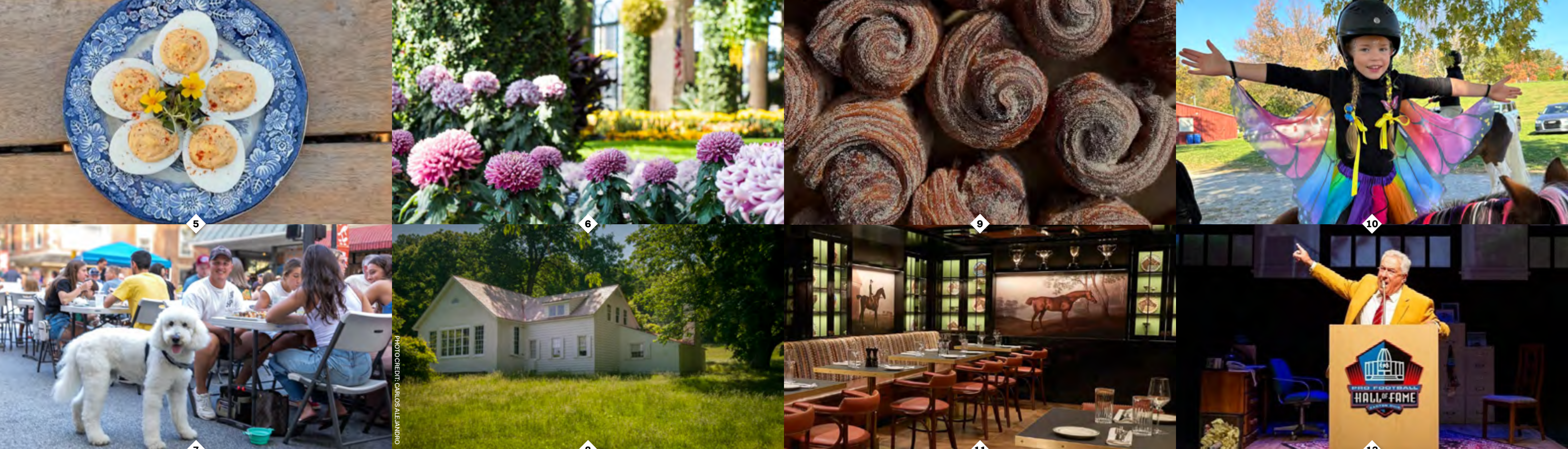
More fun awaits to the west, starting with a trip to Exton’s **Eagleview Town Center**. Get your caffeine fix at **Twin Valley Coffee**, whose scrumptious s’mores cold brew went

viral this summer. Next up, shopping! Pick up a sourdough loaf or ever-popular English muffins from **Good Girls Bakery**, then browse the shelves of **Wellington Square Bookshop** (check social media for reopening info). On Thursday afternoons, grab goodies from local makers and growers at the **Eagleview Farmers Market**.

If it’s time to refuel, enjoy a hearty lunch at any of the eateries on Eagleview’s Restaurant Row, like **Bluefin** or **Al Pastor**, or pop over to **Ron’s Original Bar & Grille** for health-conscious Italian faves. In the mood for Mediterranean? Head to Downingtown for an authentic Greek meal at **Myrtos**, which opened late last year in the former De La Terre spot.

While in Downingtown, quench your thirst at **Dressler Estate’s** new cidery and bar. On Fridays and Saturdays, sip hard cider made onsite (or select beer, wine and spirits) and nosh on kettle corn or a cheese plate featuring local faves like True North Farmstead’s scallion sheep’s cheese. More of a beer fan? On warm-weather days, enjoy brews on the roof at nearby **East Branch Brewing** — check @EastBranchRoof on Instagram for updates.

Round out your trip with a visit to **Historic Yellow Springs**. October 12 marks their fourth annual Open House & Fall Festival, with village tours, artist demos, pumpkin painting, treat bag decorating, scavenger hunt, haunted history house, plus



◆	5. Life's Patina Co. Mercantile & Cafe	◆	6. Longwood Gardens Chrysanthemum Festival	◆	7. Third Thursdays on State Street	◆	8. Andrew Wyeth Studio	◆	9. Malvern Buttery	◆	10. Radnor Hunt Pony Club Spooktacular	◆	11. Triple Crown Restaurant, Bar & Garden	◆	12. "Tommy and Me" at People's Light	◆
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food and drinks from Suburban Brewing Company, Flour & Oats and Life's Patina Mercantile & Cafe. See the Yellow Springs Pumpkin Classic as decorated pumpkins on wheels race downhill in front of Revolutionary War hospital ruins.

Yellow Springs also hosts art workshops and classes for all ages and skill levels. For a fun Friday evening, bring your beau or bestie for Date Nights at Yellow Springs — beginner-friendly classes with complimentary beer, wine and light fare. This month, choose from ceramics (October 3 & 17) or printmaking (October 10 & 24).

And don't forget to stop by the restored Jenny Lind House for a sweet treat and warm drink from **Life's Patina's Mercantile & Cafe**.

SOUTHERN BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Next, head south to rolling hills and pastoral landscapes for peak-season color and harvest happenings.

Plan a visit to the southern Brandywine Valley's crown jewel — **Longwood Gardens**, garnering its latest accolades from *Time*, *USA Today* and even Martha Stewart. Fall is a magical time at Longwood, with autumn colors, its 25th year of the Garden Railway (near the beer garden) and, after a hiatus due to the Longwood Reimagined expansion, the triumphant return of the Chrysanthemum Festival on October 24. Don't miss the new West Conservatory and 1906 restaurant — but book your table in advance!

Next head to nearby downtown Kennett Square for three fun-filled events this month. On October 4, sample over 200 beers from 85 breweries at **Kennett Brewfest** — dedicated hopheads can reserve a private cabana for up to eight people. Drop by on the final **Third Thursday on State Street** of the season, October 16, for outdoor dining, extended shopping hours, live music and family-friendly fun. And dress the kiddos in their Halloween best for the

KSQ Candy Trail, October 26, to follow the route and collect treats from 30-plus local businesses.

In nearby Chadds Ford, the **Brandywine Museum of Art** has an exciting month in store. Opening October 4, "Cropsey, Wyeth, and the American Landscape Tradition" features the first-ever museum display of a massive rediscovered masterwork by leading Hudson River School artist Jasper Francis Cropsey. Feeling inspired? Create your own masterpiece at a plein air workshop on Brandywine's historic campus (October 8), the Andrew Wyeth Studio (October 12, led by local artist Randall Graham), or at Kuerner Farm (October 17 & 19).

Later this year, the museum will offer guided tours of N.C. Wyeth's monumental, 19-by-60-foot-long mural, "Apotheosis of the Family." Commissioned in the early 1930s, it's been painstakingly restored by Wyeth's grandson, Jamie, and will soon be on display in a specially designed round

barn on Wyeth's property in Wilmington. Read about the mural's storied history in the *New York Times*.

Mark your calendar for **The Great Pumpkin Carve**, October 16 to 18. Hosted by the Chadds Ford Historical Society, this fan-favorite event features a Haunted Trail, live music, food, drinks and, of course, over 70 giant pumpkins carved by local artists — like the one on our cover this month!

And don't leave Chadds Ford without grabbing a bite at legendary **Hank's Place**, finally rebuilt after its 2021 destruction by Hurricane Ida.

THE MAIN LINE

Head east to Lancaster Avenue and find grand manors, tree-lined streets and a perfect fall day on the Main Line.

Start off right with a hot drink, scrumptious pastry or decadent sandwich from the **Malvern Buttery**. Choose from their King Street location, outpost at the Malvern train station or, coming soon, the **Buttery Bryn Mawr**, promising all the same beloved baked goods, plus a full-service coffee bar and casual dinner options.

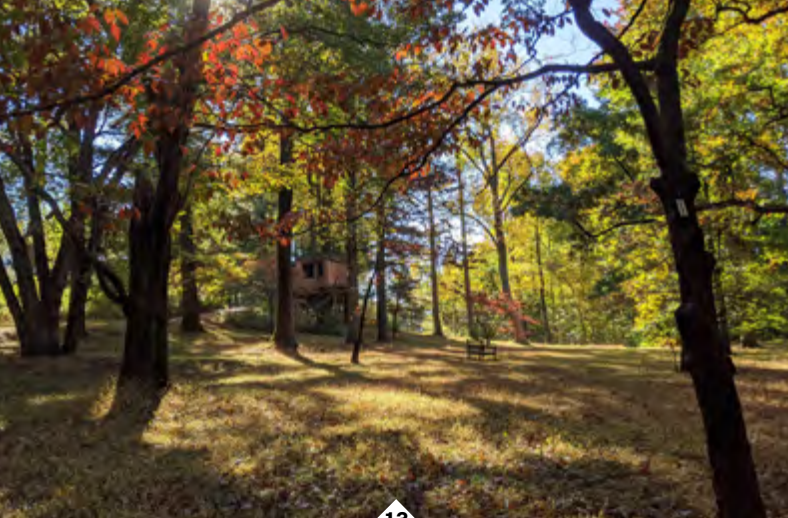
Next, it's off to the races. The **Radnor Hunt Pony Club** hosts their annual Spooktacular on October 4. In addition to traditional competitions like equitation and the jumper derby, there are fun classes open to riders of all skill levels: hobby horse, dollar bareback (the rider who doesn't lose their dollar wins) and the fan-favorite costume class.

Afterwards, enjoy fine dining at one of the Main Line's equestrian-inspired restaurants. At Malvern's **Jockey Tavern**, enjoy comfort food amidst horse country décor and taxidermy over the mantelpiece. Or head to the Radnor Hotel, home of Fearless Restaurants' latest venture: **Triple Crown Restaurant, Bar & Garden**, a luxurious, Ardrossan-inspired restaurant with classic American dishes. A garden with glass conservatory is coming soon.

Need your next good book? Find the latest fall reads at **Main Point Books** in Wayne. This indie bookshop hosts book clubs and book signings for readers of all tastes. On October 29, hear comedian, musician and influencer Elyse Myers discuss her debut book, "That's a Great Question, I'd Love to Tell You," at Radnor Middle School, with a VIP reception at the bookstore.

Theater lovers can see a play at the storied **People's Light** in Malvern. Award-winning theater artist Kathryn Grody's new play, "The Unexpected 3rd," is on stage through October 19. Plus, Philly sports fans will enjoy the return of "Tommy and Me," back October 7 to 19 after a sold-out run last season. Philly sports commentator Ray Didinger's autobiographical play chronicles his journey to get his lifelong hero, Tommy McDonald, into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

End the night with a scoop or two of **Handel's Homemade Ice Cream**, cele-



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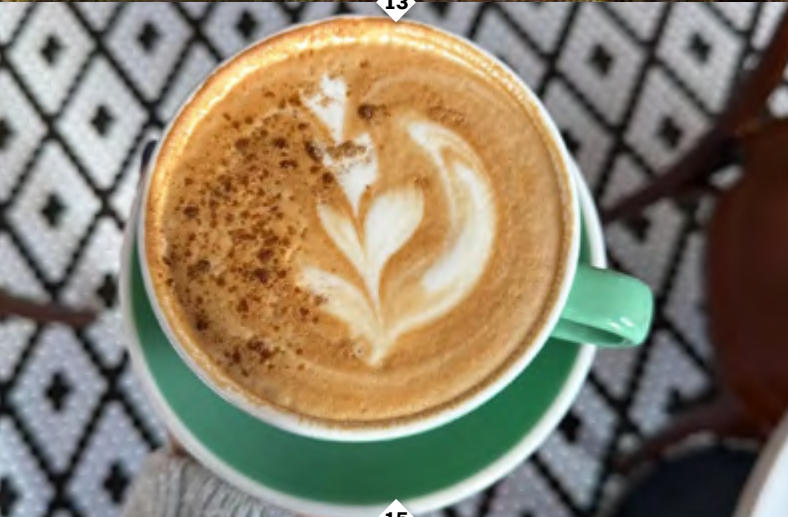
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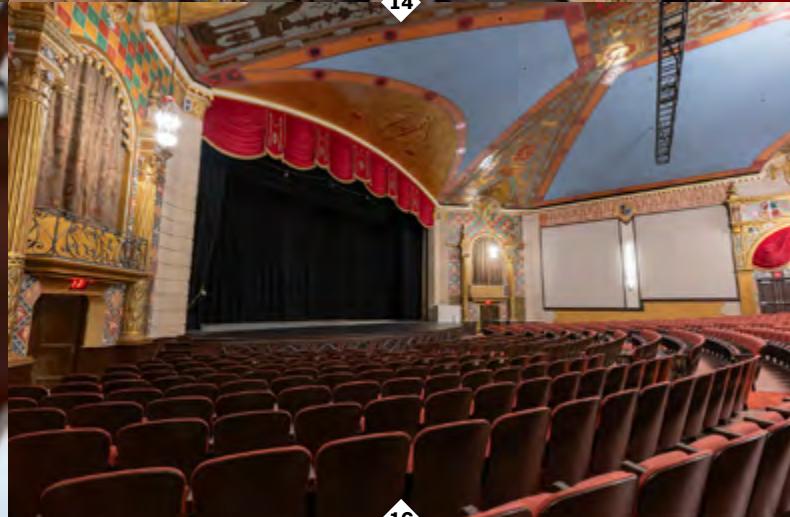
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◆	13. Tyler Arboretum	◆	14. Bookish Notions	◆	15. Cafesphere	◆	16. Lansdowne Theatre	◆
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brating 20 years in Berwyn — because it’s always ice cream season!

DELAWARE COUNTY

After you watch the latest episode of “Task,” HBO’s new miniseries starring Mark Ruffalo, take a drive east for the real Delco experience and discover vibrant towns, inviting shops, a flourishing performing arts scene and authentic accents.

First, take in the fall foliage at **Tyler Arboretum**. Dating back to William Penn’s time, this historic 650-acre property is home to thousands of trees, shrubs and perennials. In autumn, Tyler’s dogwoods, ginkgoes and maples burst into pops of red, yellow and orange, and fields of asters and goldenrods come into bloom. Join guided hikes, weekly bird walks, nature journaling classes and yoga on weekend mornings.

No trip to Delco would be complete without a stop in “Everybody’s Hometown.” Indulge in some retail therapy in downtown Media: the latest reads at **Bookish Notions**, hard-to-find records at **The Greatest Hits** and quirky gifts from **Three Potato Four** — all made better with a steaming hot pumpkin spice latte from **Cafesphere**.

Visit during the State **Street Fall Festival** on October 5, when over 150 vendors offer local and global foods, one-of-a-kind artwork and jewelry, unique home décor and handcrafted gifts, plus live music and a kids’ zone.

Catch a show at the **Media Theatre**. This month’s performances include “Young Frankenstein” and “Elephant & Piggie’s We Are in a Play! Jr.” — see Theater Spotlight in this issue for details. Or take a detour to the newly restored and reopened **Lans-**

downe Theatre. October’s lineup includes The Fab Four tribute band (October 11), jazz/R&B pianist Brian Culbertson (October 19) and Genesis’ Steve Hackett (October 24 & 25).

For more fun, visit during **Delco Arts Week**, October 4 to 12. The Delaware County Arts Consortium hosts over 60 events — live music, dance, film screenings, gallery exhibitions, festivals, workshops and more. See DelcoArts.org for the schedule.

WILMINGTON

Last but certainly not least, take a ride down the Brandywine Valley Scenic Byway, aka Route 52, cross the state line and head to Wilmington. In this small-but-mighty city, autumn adventures abound.

On your way into town, visit **Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library**. Sur-

◆	17. Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library	◆	18. Delaware Art Museum	◆	19. Delaware Museum of Nature & Science	◆	20. Kalmar Nyckel	◆
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rounded by a thousand acres of rolling hills, meadows and woodlands, H. F. du Pont’s former residence is now home to the nation’s premier museum of American decorative arts. On view through January, “Almost Unknown: The Afric-American Picture Gallery” depicts Black life in the United States and across the diaspora through prints, paintings, sculptures, books and other decorative objects. Nature lovers should check out du Pont’s 60-acre garden, 25 miles of paths and trails, and the Enchanted Woods children’s garden.

Make time for more top-notch museums. At the **Delaware Art Museum**, “Imprinted: Illustrating Race” opens October 18, honoring Norman Rockwell’s powerful images supporting the Civil Rights Movement. Plus, “Journey to Freedom,” a

mural by Philly artist Cindy Lozito inspired by the exhibition, is on display in the Orientation Gallery starting October 1.

The **Delaware Museum of Nature & Science** debuts “Creatividad Silvestre/ Wild Creativity,” a bilingual, hands-on exhibition, on October 4. And grown-ups can get in on the fun during Museum of the Macabre, October 25, for a dive into the darker side of science, from fossils to taxidermy to decomposition — spooky attire welcome!

Next, head downtown for a show at **The Grand Wilmington**. On October 3, the Violent Femmes rock out at Copeland Hall, and First State Ballet Theatre gets into the Halloween spirit with “Dracula” on October 25 and 26. At sister venue **The Playhouse on Rodney Square**, experience a cult classic like you’ve never seen it

before at “Hokus Pokus Live!” on October 16, or laugh out loud with TV’s Patton Oswald on October 17.

Finally, if you feel a chill in the air on the Riverwalk, it might just be from the **Kalmar Nyckel**, which returns as the Halloween Ghost Ship on October 18. Tour the replica 17th-century tall ship, take a Halloween Ghost Ship Tour inside the Copeland Maritime Center with spooky fun for all ages on the ¾-scale model ship’s deck, enjoy Halloween-themed crafts and outdoor pumpkin painting, and participate in the costume parade.

From leaf-lined backroads to lively town centers, the Brandywine Valley brims with autumn magic. Pack a sweater, hit the road, and enjoy the colors, flavors and traditions that make fall here unforgettable. ◆



From Tilling the Soil to Traveling Internationally

WHAT EXTRAORDINARY EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES SHOULD YOUR CHILD HAVE?

Edwin Malet

WHAT ARE AREA SCHOOLS offering that's special? We asked and found a surprising variety of options. Several schools emphasize their global outlook. Others feature environmental studies, equestrian activities, mountaineering, music and more.

As parents, you'll find a lot to think about as you design your child's ideal education.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE

"Our science program is designed to cultivate not only critical thinking and scientific knowledge, but a deep reverence for the natural world," said Chris Wills, Assistant Head of School for Program and Community at Westtown School. "We believe students should engage with real-world problems, develop a sense of ethical responsibility in their discoveries, and con-

nect their learning to the broader wellbeing of the world around them."

Westtown students may begin in lower school by growing food, studying soil and taking responsibility for campus-wide composting and recycling. In middle school, they engage in fieldwork and engineering projects — designing hydroponic systems, experimenting in the greenhouse, and building connections between environmental, physical and life sciences.

Then in upper school, students conduct original studies and apply their knowledge in tangible, impactful ways. The curriculum invites students into a relationship — with the land, with one another and with their role as change-makers.

Westtown's campus itself — 600 acres of woodlands, wetlands and working farm — is an essential part of "the classroom."

Whether collecting stream samples, managing compost or harvesting produce from the farm, students are immersed in experiences that challenge, inspire and ground their learning in the real world.

GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

There's a wide variety of international programs at Notre Dame de Namur, a girls' school in Villanova. Nora Moffat, Director of the Center for Global Leadership, said every Notre Dame student should "think critically, lead with purpose and engage confidently in an interconnected world."

The global leadership center coordinates the school's travel programs, sends students to leadership and global education conferences, organizes families to welcome international visitors and runs its pen pal programs. The goal is to improve inter-



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THE VANGUARD SCHOOL & SERVICES

Programs for Neurodiverse Children & Adults

The Vanguard School was the first Pennsylvania-licensed Approved Private School (APS). We serve approximately 240 students who require a high degree of individualized attention, clinical supports and intervention, including those with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, speech-language deficits and students who experience social-emotional, executive functioning and behavioral difficulties.

Vanguard offers a continuum of educational, clinical, recreational, social and employment-related services for neurodiverse children and adults, ages 5 through adulthood. Most of our students and participants receive local, state, federal and waiver funding to cover the cost of our programs.

School affiliation is NOT required to register for retreat and recreational programs.



admissions@vfes.net

610.296.6700 x128

vsspa.org



1



2

personal and intercultural communication and to instill practical skills like managing time zone differences and virtual meeting etiquette.

The center also conducts Notre Dame's international symposia. For instance, in 2023, it brought over 80 students from five countries together for a week of STEM classes, cultural excursions and friendship building.

Much of center's work involves Notre Dame's seven sister schools, located on four continents. Its exchange program, for example, enables a small group of its students to travel to a sister school's city and stay with a host family. Students select a research topic, witness the topic in action, and interview local people and experts. When they return, the students present their findings to the school.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

Sacred Heart Academy, an all-girls school in Bryn Mawr, also offers an exchange program. Usually conducted for two to three weeks around spring break, this program enables students to travel to another school — over 150 school options in 41 countries — to stay with a family and explore the culture and everyday life of students their age. The program is reciprocal, with exchange students doing the same here.

Kim Trinacria, Interim Associate Head of School who runs the program, said the central idea of the exchange is to enrich students' lives and prepare them for a global world, teaching responsibility and the importance of service. (In the upper school,

students are required to perform 25 hours of service each year.)

INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAM

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme (IB) is often considered the highest standard for college preparatory education, according to Edward Gallagher, Assistant Head of School at Wilmington Friends School (WFS). Today, WFS is one of the only schools in our area offering the IB.

This program emphasizes academics, global perspective, informed and engaged citizenship, respect for others and the active application of classroom experience. Students can participate in the IB Diploma Programme in their junior and senior years. They work in six academic areas: a class called Theory of Knowledge; an extended essay project; and participation in community service and activities such as sports, the arts, and civic and school organizations.

About half the WFS students take IB courses without pursuing the IB degree. Many colleges grant credit for IB coursework, including all the Ivies, Stanford, Cal Tech and MIT, among others.

EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCES

Church Farm School, a boys' boarding and day school in Exton for grades 9 to 12, is dedicated to providing "Experiences Outside the Ordinary." Tiffany Scott, Associate Head of School, said about a third of the students currently participate in these



3

1. Westtown's environmental science program starts in the lower school
PHOTO CREDIT: WESTTOWN SCHOOL
2. Notre Dame's Center for Global Leadership offers students unique opportunities
3. Sacred Heart Academy's exchange program enables students to travel to over 150 schools across 41 countries

experiences. By 2030, she's striving for 100% participation.

As examples, some students may spend a semester at the High Mountain Institute in Colorado, developing backpacking and hiking skills, as well as "fostering leadership, intellectual growth and a deep connection to nature." Others may attend the Island School in the Bahamas, where they'll "study ecosystems and engage in interdisciplinary studies, environmental stewardship and community participation."

Students also participate in summer abroad experiences — language learning, community service, cultural exploration

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- Two-Year-Old Program
- Three-Year-Old Program
- Four-and-Five-Year Old Program
- Private Kindergarten

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5

4

4. Church Farm Junior Fuad Ajadi on an summer abroad in Japan
5. Linden Hall's equestrian program gives students a comprehensive foundation in riding and horsemanship

lasting bonds within the riding community and carry forward life skills that reach far beyond the stables and ring.”

MONTESSORI APPROACH

For a Montessori-inspired approach for very young children, the Walden School in Media is an option. Children may enter at 2 years, 7 months and “graduate” in 5th grade. Vital to its curriculum, the school provides instruction and learning opportunities that meet each child’s needs. Classrooms are shared by multiple grades.

By combining grades, teaching critical thinking and effective communication, and by blending individual instruction, group lessons and self-directed activities, the school develops the students’ leadership skills and empathy. Students both teach and learn from one another. They make choices, solve problems and work autonomously, cultivating confidence and a strong sense of responsibility.

According to Erika Siegfried, Director of Communications and Development, the school has recently been accepted to deliver the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme that teaches children through experiential, inquiry-based learning with global citizenship in mind.

So, which school is the best fit for your child? These programs are only examples of what our local private and independent schools offer. If your child is wandering in his or her education or has a definite focus, either way, these schools offer attractive options. ♦

— in countries like Spain, France, Japan, Ecuador and the Galapagos Islands.

At Yale or the University of Pennsylvania, Church Farm students may join those from other high schools to study science, technology, economics and other subjects.

THE MUSIC CONSERVATORY

Music is a core part of the curriculum at Villa Maria Academy, a girls’ school in Malvern. Beginning in 5th grade, students may study at its conservatory under highly accomplished musicians, including Leah Kim-Tomlinson, its director and founder.

As part of the curriculum, Ms. Kim-Tomlinson teaches music theory and ear training. Music theory, she said, “is like the grammar of music. It helps us understand how music works — how notes, chords, rhythms and melodies are put together to make a piece of music.” Ear training is “about training your ears to recognize music by listening. You learn to hear the difference between notes, intervals (the distance between notes), chords, rhythms and more. It helps you play music by ear, sing in tune and become a better overall musician.”

Other instructors in the conservatory include a Steinway Artist — a prestigious title that recognizes the most exceptional music performers in the world — and six others.

EQUESTRIANS

Perhaps your daughter is in love with horses. Then Linden Hall, a girls’ school in Lititz, may be the school for her. It offers a comprehensive foundation in riding and horsemanship.

All Linden Hall riders have access to clinics with outside professionals and quality instruction. In addition to competing in a wide array of horse shows, the school’s varsity and junior varsity equestrian teams have competed at many national competitions, including the U.S. Equestrian Federation, U.S. Eventing Association and the Interscholastic Equestrian Association.

Head of School Dr. Shauna Carter said, “For over 100 years, the Linden Hall equestrian program has shaped girls into confident riders, compassionate leaders and responsible caretakers of themselves, their horses and our school community. Through this tradition, students also form

The WONDER ... of growing a pepper!

At Friends School Haverford, even the smallest things, like growing a pepper in the garden, become pathways to curiosity, creativity, and connection. A simple pepper can spark questions, invite tasting and sharing, and open conversations about community, growth, and gratitude. This is what we do each day at Friends School Haverford. We nurture the natural wonder in young children, guiding them to explore, imagine, and grow with joy.

Come see how the order of a pepper can blossom into the joy and curiosity of learning.

Open House Dates:

Sat., October 18, 10:00am
Thurs., November 6, 9:00am
Fri., December 5, 9:00am

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Fall Open House

October 5 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Dance Company Experience

October 5 from 11:30 a.m to 12:30 p.m.

8th Grade

Entrance-Scholarship Exam

September 27 or October 19
from 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

8th Grade Visit Villa Days

September 23, 29, October 7, 20,
and November 4, 17



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EXPERIENCE ND EVENT

October 15 • 6 pm

ATHLETICS OPEN HOUSE

October 22 • 6:30 pm



SCAN HERE

ndapa.org/visit

ALL-GIRLS • GRADES 6-12



GUIDE TO

Private, Independent Schools & Education Services

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr



The Agnes Irwin School

275 S. Ithan Ave. 610-801-1869; AgnesIrwin.org

Agnes Irwin says, WE KNOW GIRLS. Founded in 1869 by Miss Agnes Irwin, the great-great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin, The Agnes Irwin School is nationally recognized as an all-girls, independent college preparatory school for PreK–grade 12. They provide not only a rigorous academic experience for students, but also competitive athletic teams and robust STEM and visual and performing arts curriculum that allow girls to explore their creativity, think critically and become empowered leaders.

Admissions Open House: Oct. 21, 6 pm

Athletic Open House: Nov. 13, 7 pm



The Baldwin School

701 Montgomery Ave. 610-525-2700; BaldwinSchool.org

Experience the Best in All-Girls Education at The Baldwin School. At Baldwin, they empower students to become leaders. Their supportive community emphasizes social-emotional learning and offers dynamic co-curricular programs, creating numerous opportunities for girls to form lasting connections. Every aspect a student's experience is designed with her needs in mind. Baldwin seamlessly blends exceptional academics, renowned arts and competitive athletics. Visit to discover what sets them apart.

Open Houses: Middle and Upper School: Oct. 8

Lower School: Oct. 9



Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr

480 S. Bryn Mawr Ave. 610-527-3915; SHABrynMawr.org

Sacred Heart Academy, an all-girls Catholic, independent school, inspires young women to grow with courage, confidence and compassion. Serving students in Kindergarten through grade 12, SHA proudly announces—new for 2025–2026—a co-ed preschool for girls and boys. At SHA, “Where Every Girl is Known” is a lived experience that shapes tomorrow's leaders.

Schedule a tour: Admissions@SHABrynMawr.org



St. Aloysius Academy

401 S. Bryn Mawr Ave. 610-525-1670; StAloysiusAcademy.org

Founded in 1895 by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, St. Aloysius Academy is the only private, Catholic, all-boys K–8 school in the Philadelphia area. Boys thrive in an engaging and challenging academic environment designed to recognize their individual needs and nurture their unique gifts and talents. The faith-based approach fosters strong character, leadership and confidence. Experience the difference of an education built on tradition, faith and excellence.

Open House: Oct. 15, Jan. 28, Mar. 11, 9 am

Schedule a private tour, Admissions@StAloysiusAcademy.org





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Delaware Valley Friends School (DVFriends) transforms education for bright students who learn differently. Serving grades 1–12, DVFriends offers a dynamic, student-centered program in a diverse, inclusive Quaker community where every learner is known, valued, and empowered.

Contact Admissions today to start a conversation about how DVFriends could be the change your child needs.
dvfriends.org

DVFriends
GRADES 1–12

Chester Springs

Montgomery School

1141 Kimberton Rd.
610-827-7222; MontgomerySchool.org



Montgomery School nurtures students from preschool through 8th grade, valuing both childhood development and future success. Students engage in bold thinking, creative problem-solving and compassionate leadership, with teachers who model these important skills. As students advance, they build proficiency across subjects, gaining confidence, a strong knowledge base and essential life skills that set them up for future success.

[Schedule your personal tour](#)



Glen Mills

Ivybrook Academy Glen Mills

261 Brinton Lake Rd. 484-301-6080; IvybrookAcademy.com
See website for more locations



Ivybrook Academy is a half-day preschool serving children ages 18 months to 6 years. Their innovative curriculum blends Montessori and

Reggio Emilia philosophies, fostering curiosity, creativity and a love of learning. They offer toddler, preschool and pre-K programs, along with engaging summer camps. Families choose Ivybrook for their individualized approach, nurturing teachers and enriching environment that helps every child thrive.



Gladwyne

Gladwyne Montessori

920 Youngs Ford Rd. 610-649-1761; Gladwyne.org



At Gladwyne Montessori, they serve children from infancy through 6th grade, helping them discover independence, adaptability, focus and empathy—qualities that help them thrive today and grow tomorrow. Since 1962, they've guided families on Philadelphia's Main Line with an approach that blends Montessori's timeless philosophy and modern research, preparing children for academic strength, joyful learning and confident futures.



Haverford

Friends School Haverford

851 Buck Ln. 610-642-2334; FriendsHaverford.org



Since 1885, FSH has nurtured children from ages 2 through 3rd grade through joyful, play-based learning and small class sizes based on the Quaker values of kindness, curiosity and respect. Come see what makes FSH extraordinary, where every child is known, valued and celebrated!

Open Houses: Oct. 18, 10 am; Nov. 6, 9 am
Register: FriendsHaverford.org/Visit





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Malvern

Malvern Preparatory School

418 S. Warren Ave.

484-595-1100; MalvernPrep.org

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

Open House: Oct. 18, 8:30 am

Entrance Exams: Oct. 5, Oct. 26, Nov. 22, Dec. 6, Jan. 11

Register: MalvernPrep.org/Visit



Villa Maria Academy High School

370 Central Ave. 610-644-2551; VMAHS.org

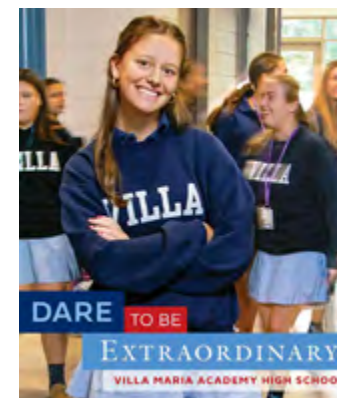
Villa Maria Academy High School is an independent Catholic college preparatory school founded by the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, where motivated young women grow with intention and uplift others in a faith-filled and nurturing community. Located on 45 acres at the west end of the Main Line in Malvern, Villa Maria encourages students to build lives of purpose at a pivotal time in life through process-driven intellectual rigor, excellence in athletics and the arts, spiritual growth, and a commitment to service.

Fall Open House: Oct. 5, 9 am, register online

8th Grade Entrance-Scholarship Exams: Sept. 27, Oct. 19

8th Grade Visit Villa Days: Sept. 29, Oct. 7, 20, Nov. 4, 17

Register at VMAHS.org/events



Villa Maria Academy Lower School

280 IHM Dr. 610-644-4864; VillaMaria.org

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

Open House: (Preschool–8 Gr.): Oct. 16, Nov. 12, Jan. 28, Mar. 11

Private Tours available. Register at VillaMaria.org



Media

The Walden School

901 N. Providence Rd.

610-892-8000; TheWaldenSchool.org



The Walden School welcomes children ages 2½ through 5th grade. Teachers are the heart of their

students' success, cultivating even the youngest learners' intellectual curiosity. Montessori-based learning lets children thrive in a nurturing environment, fostering independence, collaboration, and peaceful and respectful communication. Students explore their interests and excel at their own pace to become self-motivated, empathetic decision-makers prepared for lifelong learning and community engagement.

Fall Open House: Nov. 3, 1 to 3 pm

Winter Open House: Jan. 11, 10 to noon

Spring Open House: Feb. 9, 1 to 3 pm



VILLA MARIA ACADEMY
LOWER SCHOOL
Preschool - 8th Grade



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October 16
November 12
www.villamaria.org



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AND EVERY GIRL IS KNOWN

Guide to Private Schools

Newtown Square

Episcopal Academy
1785 Bishop White Dr.
484-424-1400; EpiscopalAcademy.org
Since 1785, The Episcopal Academy has prepared bold leaders in mind, body and spirit. Students thrive through rigorous academics, character education, championship athletics and award-winning arts on a 123-acre campus. With personalized college counseling and a coeducational model that reflects the real world, EA graduates step confidently into life—joining accomplished alumni who are driven by purpose and curiosity.
Open Houses: Lower School, Pr-K to 5th: *Oct. 18*
Middle & Upper School, 6th–12th: *Oct. 19*
Register at EpiscopalAcademy.org/Events




Villanova

Academy of Notre Dame de Namur
560 Sproul Rd. 610-971-0498; NDAPA.org
Discover an exceptional Catholic, college-preparatory education at the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur. Serving girls in grades 6–12, Notre Dame fosters confident leaders through a dynamic, faith-based program. From STEM innovation and award-winning arts to championship athletics and global travel, students uncover their passions, grow in purpose, and thrive in a supportive community.
Fall Open House: *Oct. 5, 10 am*
Experience ND Event: *Oct. 15, 6 pm*
Athletics Open House: *Oct. 22, 6:30 pm*
Walk-in Wednesdays: *Nov. 5, Dec. 3, 9 am*
Register at NDAPA.org/Visit




Phoenixville

Kimberton Waldorf School
410 W. Seven Stars Rd.
610-933-3635; Kimberton.org
KWS's expansive 430-acre campus serves as the backdrop for preschool through 12th grade students who benefit from a holistic, experiential and academically rich approach to education. The intentional and carefully aligned curriculum integrates the arts and the natural world every day. Waldorf education preserves the most important elements of childhood and allows imagination and confidence to bloom. Register for an Open House today.
Open Houses: Early Childhood: *Oct. 11*
Lower School: *Mar. 5*
High School: *Mar. 17*




DELAWARE

Wilmington

The Tatnall School
1501 Barley Mill Rd.
302-998-2292; Tatnall.org
At Tatnall, students from age 2 through grade 12 experience an exceptional education that unlocks their passion for learning. Every student has opportunities to explore endless possibilities through challenging academic, artistic and athletic programs. The devoted teachers, coaches and community members are the driving force behind the school's success. The strong bonds formed at Tatnall between students and educators foster devotion to learning, enabling students to unleash their full potential and nurture their great minds.
Early Childhood Open House & Autumn Hayride: *Oct. 18, 10 am*
Lower School Open House (Gr. K–5): *Oct. 29, 4 pm*
Middle and Upper School Open House: *Nov. 1, 9 am*




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SCHOOL BUS

CountyLinesMagazine.com



Tower Hill School

2813 W. 17th St.
302-657-8350; TowerHill.org



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Open Houses: Oct. 19, Nov. 11

Register at TowerHill.org/OpenHouse



LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Malvern

The Vanguard School & Services

1777 N. Valley Rd. 610-296-6700; VSSPA.org



For 65 years, The Vanguard School has supported students, ages 5-22, with autism, neurological impairments and related challenges.

Their year-round retreats, Extended School Year and Camp Vanguard allow students to build on academic, social and independent living in a fun, supported environment. Through alumni events, employment services and monthly adult social activities, they provide a full continuum of services for neurodiverse individuals regardless of Vanguard School affiliation.

Schedule a tour today



Guide to Private Schools

Multiple Locations

Devereux Pennsylvania Children's Services



267-418-9623
PAEducationReferrals@Devereux.org

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12 in six PDE-approved Private Schools in Chester and Montgomery Counties. Small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction/support in a safe and therapeutic setting for students with a variety of learning/emotional differences. Full-time mental health clinicians, Wilson reading intervention services and reading specialists in all schools. Devereux nurtures students' potential with school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and offers community-based instruction, school-based mental health and related services. PDE 4010 funding available.

Schedule a tour today



Paoli

Delaware Valley Friends School

19 E. Central Ave. 610-640-4150; DVFriends.org



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School Tours: Sept. 30, Oct. 22, Nov. 20, 9 am

Oct. 14, Dec. 2, 1 pm

Information Sessions: Nov. 2, 1 pm, Dec. 10, 10:30 am





Summer Duck Lane

40 ACRES AND CENTURIES OF HISTORY IN WEST MARLBOROUGH TOWNSHIP

Laurel Anderson

“GOD GRANTED ME THE good fortune to be able to buy this property,” said Jon Ireland as he and his wife, Kay, surveyed the secluded valley that surrounds their home of many years. “I grew up in the area and lived in Unionville, Chester Springs and Ludwig’s Corner. We moved here before we had children, knowing we wanted the Unionville-Chadds Ford School District for our home,” he continued.

Having hundreds of acres of conserved land surrounding their property, along with a buffalo ranch as a neighbor and The Whip Tavern within walking distance are just a few bonus features of this hidden gem in southern Chester County.

FIRST SIGHT

While the c.1638 original home with its 2014 log-cabin style addition may look

picture-perfect on this site, that’s not what the Irelands saw when they found the property. “The place was completely overgrown, with trees growing out of the porch,” said Jon. “It was a total disaster.” An old stone bank barn looked ready to fall down at any moment, and a dilapidated wooden bridge over the former tracks of the Pomeroy & Newark Railroad could too easily injure an inquisitive young explorer.

But with the help of Lindsay Construction in Chadds Ford, local contractors and craftsmen, plus plenty of DIY energy, the couple built a home that looks like it’s been at this site for centuries. Stone from the barn and local fieldstone was used to build fireplaces, chimneys, retaining walls and other features. Wood was reused where possible, including a chestnut support beam that’s now a stunning mantel in the great room. The old barn was demolished

and the wooden bridge rebuilt as part of the transformation.

And so this former Christmas tree farm with towering evergreens mingled with old-growth oaks, tranquil spring-fed pond, picturesque stone springhouse, and open hay fields perfect for grazing horses became a modern country home, while retaining classic Chester County features and charm.

A LITTLE HISTORY

There’s actually a lot of history attached to this home off Springdell Road, part of the hamlet of Springdell. A William Penn land grant in 1638 to Enoc Baker made this the first registered property in West Marlborough Township.

For many years, a nearby station for the Pomeroy Branch of the Pennsylvania Railroad was a cattle offloading facility for the King Ranch, delivering trainloads of cattle



from Texas to the rich grasslands of the Brandwine Valley. Before that, trains of the Pomeroy & Newark Railroad ran on tracks through the property, bringing grain from local grist mills. With the railroads shutting down around 1980, the track beds are now grassy private walking paths.

THE HOME

A long, scenic, paved drive leads up to the original 17th-century Penn stone farmhouse, which had a classic two-over-two layout that’s since been opened up to create larger, modern spaces in this two-bedroom, one-and-a-half-bath home. Older structures were removed — including logs chinked with horsehair and old newspapers — before building the rustic-looking yet modern log-cabin style addition in 2014. The new space created a great room and eat-in kitchen with a new stairway to a spacious second-floor bed-

room. A wrap-around porch completes the front and side of the home, while a patio and fieldstone retaining walls define the back.

Period details are incorporated throughout the home: fieldstone fireplaces, hand-hewn beams, rat-tail hinges and other period hardware. Repurposed harness hooks hold open kitchen shelving that complements the striking black and burnt orange cabinetry crafted by Kendl Monn, along with other built-ins by Joe Maxwell.

Classic period paint colors were selected for the rooms and woodwork to preserve the historic feeling of the home, while amenities like high ceilings, modern bathrooms and second-floor laundry create a comfortable family home. A living room and primary bedroom fill the space in the original structure. Part of the attic became a cedar closet, and a whole-property generator makes country living more secure.



OTHER OPTIONS

Although surrounded by conserved land, this property is free from deed restrictions, making it an ideal haven for an equestrian lifestyle in the heart of Cheshire Hunt country. A new barn and paddocks could once again grace open land.

The property, which enjoys favorable Act 319 tax benefits, is two separate tax parcels, offering flexibility for expansion or development. Options include expanding the existing residence, building a new home, or creating a world-class equestrian facility. This property offers endless possibilities in a setting of unmatched natural beauty.

Why would anyone want to leave this slice of bucolic beauty? “Our daughters are growing up and need more space and proximity to their friends,” said the Irelands. And what will they miss the most? “Everything,” they said in unison. And, of course, watching the sunset from a rocking chair on the wraparound porch. ♦

For more information about this 40-acre West Marlborough property — in two tax parcels, free from deed restrictions — with pond, springhouse, walking trails and expanded historic home with 2 bedrooms and 1.1 baths, contact Karen Nader, Monument Sotheby's International Realty. 484-888-5597; 610-474-6520. Karen.Nader@SothebyRealty.com. Price upon request.

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Shannon Montgomery

IMAGINE SAYING YOUR VOWS BENEATH RUSTIC BEAMS, CELEBRATING with extended family in a cozy dining room, and ending the night just a few steps away from your suite. For couples seeking a romantic, intimate and stress-free wedding, an inn offers the perfect blend of charm, convenience and character.

The Brandywine Valley has several wedding-worthy inns that will make your big day feel less like an exhausting event and more like a warm, memorable getaway.

The Bookhouse at Faunbrook ▶

Bibliophiles can have the wedding of their dreams at the Bookhouse at Faunbrook. This gorgeous 1860s Federal Italianate-style mansion was reopened this spring by the folks behind Kennett Square's Bookhouse Hotel. Surrounded by lush gardens and tall trees, the venue offers a private, magical setting that feels like a hidden gem — even though you're steps away from downtown West Chester. Guests can stay among seven cozy, book-themed rooms, including Austen-inspired Jane's Room, whimsical Alice's Suite and the Shakespearean Dreamer's Quarters. Partnered with John Serock Catering and Catalina Weddings & Events. 699 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester. TheBookhouseAtFaunbrook.com



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◀ Brampton 1860

Say "I do" among 35 acres of landscaped gardens, meadows and forest on Maryland's Eastern Shore. This boutique inn offers three packages for your dream wedding: the All-Inclusive Micro-Wedding for up to 20 guests, Intimate Wedding for up to 32, and Elegant Wedding for up to 125. All include a wedding coordinator, romantic ceremony in the gardens or on the terrace, and reception venue. Accommodations are available for up to 32 guests across seven spacious rooms in the 1860 manor house (on the National Registry of Historic Places) and six luxurious private cottages. Select vendors. 25227 Chestertown Rd., Chestertown, MD. BramptonInn.com



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The General Warren ▶

For a wedding with colonial charm, look no further than the historic General Warren. Say your vows fireside in the dining room, on the terrace near a 250-year-old springhouse, or by the formal garden with fountains. Then choose from four dining rooms, the Warren Tavern or four-season Spring House Terrace for your reception. Weddings with 50 to 130 guests can opt for a formal sit-down meal or stations reception. More intimate gatherings receive a private fine dining experience during dinner hours. The bridal party or out-of-town guests can stay in eight elegant suites in the 1745 inn. Onsite catering. 9 Old Lancaster Rd., Malvern. GeneralWarren.com



◀ The Inn at Grace Winery

Marrying a wine lover? Host your wedding among 50 picture-perfect acres at this estate and vineyard. Get married in the beautifully restored 1740s barn, dining room or wooded amphitheater. While the newlyweds take photos among the vines, guests enjoy cocktail hour in the winery, followed by a reception in the rustic barn. Guests can stay in 19 rooms across the property — upstairs in the historic Quaker farmhouse, in a cozy private cottage, or in the Sweetwater House, an extra-special getaway on the far side of the vineyard. Approved caterers. 140 guests maximum. 50 Sweetwater Rd., Glen Mills. GraceWinery.com



The Inn at Swarthmore ▶

For a hassle-free wedding planning experience, choose the Inn at Swarthmore's complete wedding package. Have your ceremony at Swarthmore College's gorgeous amphitheater, ranked a top 10 most beautiful college campus wedding venue. Host a quaint reception at the inn's Sycamore Room or dance the night away in the Gathering Room. End the evening on a high note with an after-party at the onsite Broad Table Tavern. Reserve a room block of five to 20 rooms for your guests — newlyweds get a complimentary suite on their wedding night. 120 guests maximum. Preferred vendors. 10 S. Chester Rd., Swarthmore. TheInnAtSwat.com



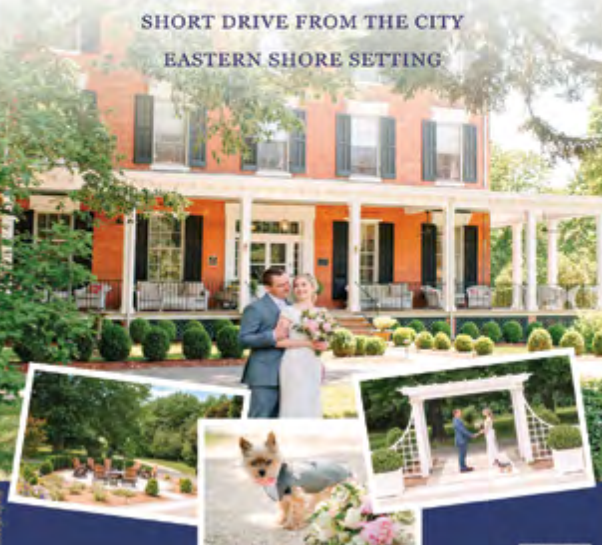
◀ The Mendenhall Inn

For an elegant, enchanted wedding in scenic southern Chester County, marry at the Mendenhall Inn. This property is steeped in history, dating back to a land grant gifted by William Penn to his daughter, Letitia. Say "I do" on the stunning grounds, in the elegant atrium or in a ballroom. Host your reception in one of two uniquely decorated ballrooms, each with space for 300: the Grand Ballroom with a breathtaking spiral staircase or the Gold Ballroom next to the exquisite outdoor patio. Guests can stay in the award-winning 70-room hotel. Onsite catering and preferred vendors. 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall. MendenhallInn.com ♦



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

Get the Scoop. Urban Scoop branched out from New Jersey with its new Exton shop. From small-batch handcrafted ice cream flavors to Urban Refresher drinks, it's the place for something sweet. Embrace the fall chill and grab a signature scoop — Gen Z Cookies, Do It for Gram — served in a bubble waffle with all the toppings or go classic. Either way, it'll still be ice cream season. 309 Lincoln Hwy., Exton. Urban-Scoop.com



Sit. Stay. Sip. Started by two locals — a middle school teacher and a landscaper — Mollie Mae Wines brings California wine country's character to Glen Mills. Napa born and PA poured, the three signature wines (rosé, chardonnay, cabernet franc) are joined by rotating seasonal releases. Plus, in honor of their sweet pup — and winery namesake — a portion of sales supports dog charities. So, every sip makes a difference to our furry friends. Online or at local vendors. MollieMaeWines.com



Nouveau French. Scott Zoccolillo and Alenrry Iniguez add a new Wilmington dining destination with La Fête. Offering seasonally inspired French classics, like steak frites and ravioles du dauphiné, Executive Chef Max Kaklins (of Fiorella) brings bold flavors and refined technique to the menu. With a top-tier cocktail program and a sommelier-curated wine list, the elegant dining room, upscale bar and tranquil patio each offers something special. 2530 Concord Pk., Wilmington. LaFeteDelaware.com



Nothing to Wine About. Tinicum's own John Robert Cellars has landed in Media, bringing bold wines and big flavor to their new urban tasting room. Sip wines handcrafted by lifelong friends and founders John Irving and Robert Goodwin in a cozy and stylish space made for winding down. Alongside their wines, enjoy local brews from Sterling Pig and tasty bites like shrimp tempura, charcuterie boards and flatbreads while you sip. 115-117 W. State St., Media. On Facebook @JohnRobertCellarsPA

Feeling Chili? Fiorenza's Food for Friends (F4) returns, sponsoring the beloved West Chester Chili Cook-Off, formerly organized by the Rotary Club. On October 12, over 50 teams — from restaurants to home cooks — compete for the People's Choice Award. Vote for your fave, enjoy great food and live music, and support F4's efforts to end hunger in America. Admission \$10, noon to 4 p.m. W. Gay St., West Chester. WestChester-ChiliCookoff.com



The Versatile Pumpkin

FAR BEYOND THE PIE

Liz Tarditi

PUMPKIN SEASON ARRIVES WITH QUIET FANFARE. Suddenly local farm stands brim with sugar pie pumpkins, and even the most practical pantry has a can or two of this seasonal ingredient waiting its turn.

A happy, bright and versatile food, pumpkin stands ready to enhance many recipes. It grounds a dish with earthy depth, brings velvety texture to the mix and surprises us with easy shifts from savory to sweet. As a foodie with more of a salty tooth than a sweet one, I enjoy the savory side of pumpkin the most.

As I write my first Brandywine Table column, I'd like to share a bit more of my background. My path to the kitchen wasn't linear, but it was inevitable from the moment I unwrapped my first Easy-Bake Oven and later graduated to slice-and-bake cookies.

I always was and will be a foodie, though I didn't recognize food as my own art until I earned my culinary arts degree at the Art Institute



of Seattle. After graduating, I launched Today's Gourmet, my catering company, where feeding people was both craft and joy. Those experiences taught me the magic of bringing people together at the table and set me firmly on this path.

Years later, back home in Pennsylvania, my work evolved again. I spent two decades in the most important kitchen — in my own home. Feeding my family, learning the rhythms of home cooking, and proving daily that good food doesn't need to be complicated to be meaningful helped me hone my craft. This was all while juggling work and life as a retail wine specialist. Wine may be my day job, but food has always been my compass, where curiosity, creativity and my stars align.

That's why I'm delighted to join Brandywine Table after years of reading this column, admiring how it honors local farms, kitchens and traditions. Here, I'll get to bring together the threads of my experience — food, storytelling and the shared table — right where they belong, in conversation with the people and flavors of our region.

So, when *County Lines'* editor Jo Anne Durako suggested pumpkin as the theme for my first column, it felt like, well, coming home. Pumpkins are familiar yet full of surprises, just waiting for us to look past the expected pie. Roasted in simple cubes, enhancing a tartine, skewered with bacon and onions, or baked into bread for a seasonal tres leches dessert, pumpkin proves again and again that it's more than a holiday cliché. It's the taste of autumn itself — cheerful, nourishing and always ready for the table.

I look forward to celebrating the flavors and traditions of Chester County and our local region at Brandywine Table.

Simple Roasted Pumpkin – Two Ways

Let's start with one sugar pie pumpkin, two easy preparations, many creative options. Roast it in wedges with butter and brown sugar, or peel and cube the pumpkin with olive oil and seasonings. Both ways highlight pumpkin's natural flavor and versatility. A perfect autumn dish!



Serves 6

Small sugar pie pumpkin (about 2 lbs.), washed and stem trimmed
1 tsp. kosher salt
Optional: 1 T. total chopped fresh herbs (rosemary, sage, lavender or thyme) or 1 tsp. total dry spices (cinnamon, clove, nutmeg or ginger)
Optional: use either 6 T. cubed butter or ½ C. olive oil

Preheat oven to 350°. Line a baking sheet with a silicone mat or parchment. Cooking times will vary with the size of the pieces of pumpkin.

For wedges with butter and brown sugar:

Halve the pumpkin, scoop out seeds and pulp. Cut into six wedges ("boats").

Arrange cut-side up on the prepared sheet. Sprinkle with salt, 1 tsp. brown sugar each, and optional spices. Place 1 T. butter in each wedge.

Bake 35–45 minutes, until fork-tender and bubbling.

For cubes with olive oil:

Halve, peel and scoop out the seed and pulp. Cut into 1-inch cubes.

In a large bowl, mix olive oil with salt and optional seasonings. Add pumpkin cubes, toss to coat and spread on the sheet.

Bake 25–35 minutes, stirring once, until tender but still firm.

Serving Notes: Finish either preparation with fresh herbs before serving. Browning — even deep browning — is desirable for that distinctive flavor (the Maillard effect). Trust your senses: when it smells delicious and is fork-tender, it's ready!

Fresh Pumpkin Tartine Canapes

If you've never eaten a bite of a sugar pumpkin, you're in for a treat! Its texture is like a cucumber without seeds, but floral and only slightly sweet, almost like crunching into a hard pear. Tartine, a French dish, is a small open-faced sandwich. Here, we make them even smaller to serve as a canape, but this could be a very nice small plate if you use a wider loaf.



Serves 6

1 long, thin loaf of dense heavy bread, sliced (pumpernickel, multigrain, rosemary, olive)
8 oz. Cambozola or extra-soft gorgonzola blue cheese
¼ sugar pie pumpkin
Choice of hot honey, honey, balsamic glaze or pomegranate syrup for drizzling
Fresh soft baby thyme and baby sage leaves, to taste

Prepare the pumpkin: cut into a large wedge, peel the skin, remove the seeds and pulp. Then, using a vegetable peeler, shave the pumpkin into thin ribbons.

Spread the blue cheese generously on the bread, to the edges. Stack the pumpkin ribbons, about three to five for each bread slice. Then cut the ribbons to the size of the bread.

Lay pumpkin on top of the cheese, drizzle with topping of choice and garnish with fresh baby herbs.

Bacon-Ribboned Pumpkin & Pickled Pearl Onion Skewers

Pumpkin loves smoky, nutty and sweet flavors, so any kind of bacon is a natural pairing. But also consider pairing with cured smoked salmon, Gruyere and Parmesan cheeses for creative twists. The sweet-sour pickled onion gives this dish a tangy pop. A great hors d'oeuvre for cocktails.



Pumpkin Seeds – Tiny Powerhouses

Pumpkin seeds may be small, but they pack a mighty punch. High in protein, magnesium, zinc and omega-3 fatty acids, they're one of fall's most underrated snacks.

Roasted with shells on, they deliver an extra hit of fiber, making them as good for you as they are fun to crunch. Unshelled seeds can be bought year-round, but there's something deeply satisfying about scooping seeds fresh from your own pumpkin and roasting them until they're harvest golden.

I fondly remember making pumpkin soup for a dinner party years ago and sprinkling roasted seeds on top as garnish. A friend, who was a chef with her own busy restaurant, stopped mid-bite and asked, "Wherever did you get the seeds to sprinkle on top?"

I was puzzled, then took a beat and realized: "Of course! They came inside the pumpkin!" It still makes me smile that even seasoned cooks can forget this humble squash hides a second ingredient right inside.

How to roast your pumpkin seeds: rinse and dry the seeds, toss with a drizzle of oil and a sprinkle of salt, then roast at 325° until crisp.

From there, the flavor options multiply: smoky paprika, chili-lime, garlic-Parmesan, even truffle salt and Parmesan — the same indulgent combo Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, once mentioned for her popcorn. Suddenly, pumpkin seeds go from humble garnish to chic nibble.

No matter how you season them, pumpkin seeds prove that nothing from this bright orange squash needs to go to waste. They're flavor, nutrition and joy all in one! More proof that pumpkin is generous from flesh to shell to seed.

Serves 6 (18 pieces total)

½ C. honey
1 tsp. Dijon mustard
1 T. soy sauce
36 pieces of fresh sugar pumpkin, cut into 1-inch cubes
18, 4-inch bamboo cocktail skewers (appetizer size, thin)
9–12 slices of thick-sliced bacon, chilled, cut in half crosswise, extra fat trimmed from ends
18 sweet-pickled red pearl onions (recipe below)
Black pepper to taste

Preheat oven to 350°. Mix the honey, mustard and soy sauce in a small bowl to form a glaze. Set aside.

Microwave the pumpkin cubes in a single layer on a shallow dish for 30 to 45 seconds, just to soften for easier handling.

While the pumpkin cools, gather the other ingredients in an assembly line for skewers: start with bacon and weave it between the pumpkin-onion-pumpkin. (Use kitchen poultry shears to trim excess from ends.)

Once the skewers are assembled, arrange on a baking sheet lined with a silpad or parchment paper. Season with black pepper and brush with honey glaze.

Bake about 40 minutes, turning halfway through for even browning. (They can also be cooked in batches in an air fryer.) Suggested dipping sauces are honey mustard, creamy horseradish or Thai peanut sauce.

Sweet Pickled Red Pearl Onions

¾ C. sugar
¾ C. red wine (or apple cider vinegar, but colors will fade a bit)
½ C. water
20–24 red pearl onions

Prepare the pearl onions: peel, trim roots but don't cut them off. Larger onions can be halved, root to tip, to hold together.

Prepare a clean, heatproof canning jar in the sink. Combine sugar, wine or vinegar, and water in a small saucepan, stirring over medium heat until the sugar dissolves. Then bring contents to a low boil.

Add the onions immediately, stir, allow to heat through (about 1 minute). Then turn off heat.

Pour hot onions and brine into the canning jar. Refrigerate 1 hour or overnight until they're cool enough to handle. (Brine can be reused for other purposes.)

Tres Leches Pumpkin Parfait

Here's a different take on a pumpkin dessert using the combination of pumpkin with coconut, common in southeast Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean. Tres leches cake is a Latin American dessert using sponge cake soaked in three milks and topped with whipped cream. I first made tres leches parfaits when volunteering for my daughter's Taco Tuesday — the teachers loved them as much as the kids!

Serves 6

1, 14-oz. can sweetened condensed milk
1, 12-oz. can evaporated milk
1½ C. unsweetened coconut milk, well stirred before measuring (Thai, if available)
Optional: ¼ cup canned pumpkin, to mix into the milk mixture
½ loaf pumpkin bread (4 slices), cut into ½-inch cubes (recipe below)
¼ C. unsalted pumpkin seeds to layer and as garnish



Optional: ½ cup chopped walnuts, dates, golden raisins or fresh figs
Whipped cream for topping

In a very large bowl, mix the three milks, and optional pumpkin, together until fully smooth. Combined, the standard cans yield more milk mixture than the 2 to 2½ cups needed for making 6 servings. The remaining unused milk mixture can be used in other recipes.

Arrange pumpkin cake cubes in individual glass cups. Sprinkle optional garnishes and pumpkin seeds for color and texture as desired.

Just before serving, pour generous ¼ cup of the milk mixture over each portion. Top with whipped cream and pumpkin seeds.

Easy-Cube Pumpkin Bread

Adapted from the Joy of Cooking Quick Pumpkin Bread recipe, this version omits the chopped nuts, raisins and dates for cleaner cutting into the cubes for making a tres leches pumpkin parfait. Those ingredients add great texture used as garnish in the parfait recipe. Many commercially prepared pumpkin breads are now more pumpkin spice than pumpkin, but this is the classic and works better for this dessert.

Serves 6

1¾ C. all-purpose flour, sifted
¼ tsp. baking powder
1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. salt
½ tsp. cinnamon

¼ tsp. ground cloves
1⅓ C. sugar
⅓ C. butter, softened
2 eggs
1 C. cooked and mashed pumpkin, or canned
⅓ C. water or milk
½ tsp. vanilla

Preheat the oven to 350°. Sift first six dry ingredients together.

In a large bowl, cream the butter, sugar and eggs until light and fluffy. Then add in pumpkin. Fully beat in until smooth.

Add in the dry sifted ingredients in thirds, alternating with liquids (milk/water and vanilla). Do not overbeat between each addition.

Pour into a well-greased 9x5-inch loaf pan and bake for about 1 hour, until bread tests done with a toothpick. Allow to cool for cutting. ♦

Liz Tarditi is a chef and wine specialist with more than 30 years of experience in food, wine and event planning. She holds degrees from Villanova University and from a Seattle culinary arts program founded by a Certified French Master Chef, where she trained in a classic brigade-style kitchen. Liz later ran her own catering company and has worked as a wine specialist in Pennsylvania. She brings her training and lifelong passion for seasonal, approachable cooking to Brandywine Table.



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