

A Season of New Finds in West Chester

MORE PLACES TO SHOP SMALL AND FIND MEANINGFUL GIFTS FOR EVERYONE ON YOUR LIST

Shannon Montgomery

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THE HOLIDAY SEASON IN West Chester is always magical. Twinkling lights glow along brick-lined streets, shop windows sparkle with festive displays, and the scent of evergreens drifts through the winter air. It's the perfect time to stroll downtown and discover gifts that feel personal — chosen by local hands, not algorithms.

This season, West Chester's retail scene shines especially bright, with new shops joining longtime favorites. From vintage finds to contemporary style and hand-made treasures, these welcoming spots make it easy to find something special for everyone on your list. So bundle up, sip something warm, and let us guide you to new places to shop small and spread big holiday cheer.

FOR THE TREASURE HUNTER

After picking out late-season produce and artisan goods at the West Chester Growers Market, cross the street and climb the front steps of 14 West Chestnut Street to find **Tiger Snake Vintage's** new digs. Quickly outgrowing their space at the Gay Street Commons, this vintage boutique found a new home this summer in a bright, refurbished historic home, showcasing unique finds around every corner — vintage jewelry, accessories, trinkets, home goods, art, books, even upcycled clothing.

"Virtually everything in my shop is completely one-of-a-kind — you won't find anything else like it!" said owner Lisa Karen. "Each piece is lovingly hand-picked by me and meticulously curated so you feel that same sense of wonderment and discovery I did."

For a truly distinctive gift, Karen recommends a custom vintage charm bracelet or necklace kit. "You can choose your chain and charms, and get all the tools and instructions needed for assembly. This makes it not only a super unique, personalized gift, but also a fun experience for the recipient."

Or, for Philly sports fans in your life, pick out a "Jawn" — a "perfectly worn-in vintage sweatshirt, embroidered with cheeky Philly-centric phrases," as Karen puts it.

Check Out: Holiday happenings at Tiger Snake, including a pop-up with West Chester-based vintage brand Hazy Daze Thrift during Small Business Weekend, November 29 and 30, and a Custom Pet Portrait Ornament Workshop with local artist Heather Carey on December 12. Follow @TigerSnakeVintage on Instagram for more.

FOR THE FASHIONISTA

Next head to 125 North Church Street and peer into windows adorned with **DAM Fashions'** black-and-yellow logo. Inside this fashion house, opened in August 2024, admire chic clothing and elegant gowns by local designer Deborah Ann Mack, a finalist in Elton John's Style Icons competition this year.

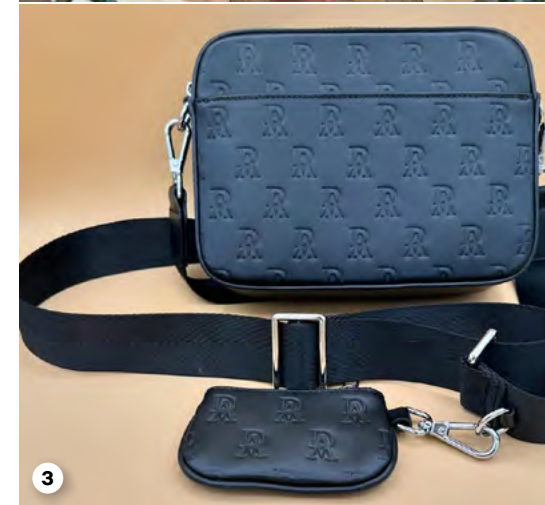
What makes DAM special is that every garment is custom-made by Mack and tailored to fit you. "My designs are timeless, sophisticated and have a luxury, sustainable fabric that's breathable, leaving the body warm in the winter and cool in the summer," Mack said. The boutique also offers custom-made crossbody bags, new "stress-styled" knit hats, socks, jewelry and a selection of coats.

For holiday giving, Mack recommends a gift certificate for exclusive, made-to-order clothing. With your input, she'll create your perfect garment — coats, dresses, pantsuits and more — with delivery straight to your door. Getting ready to walk down the aisle? This past summer, DAM unveiled a new bridal collection, offering original designs as well as restoration and redesign services for heirloom gowns.

Check Out: A special Christmas display created by Mack at the Chester County History Center on November 22, and DAM Fashions' pop-up tent at the Christ-kindlmarkt on December 13.

FOR THE GREEN THUMB

Continue down North Church Street — stopping for a steamy peppermint mocha from Turks Head Cafe or Twin Valley Coffee along the way — to find a plant lover's mecca on the corner of Gay Street. After a successful first year, **The Green House**



1. Tiger Snake Vintage's vintage charm kit
2. "Make Your Own Succulent Christmas Tree" workshop at The Green House
3. DAM Fashions' crossbody bag

moved to this larger storefront, 43 West Gay Street, in the summer of 2024.

Today, the former Fairman's Skate Shop is a warm, inviting nursery chockfull of leafy plants in house-made pots set atop wooden tables, on shelves lining the walls and filling

Old Favorites

While West Chester’s retail scene keeps growing with exciting new-comers, longtime shoppers know the holidays wouldn’t be complete without a stop at these beloved mainstays. Here are just a few of our tried-and-true local faves.

Blink. A longtime Gay Street boutique known for chic, modern women’s fashion and accessories. 136 W. Gay St. On Instagram @BlinkWestChester

Creep Records. Indie spirit shines at this shop offering vinyl, music merch and unique pop-culture gifts. 133 W. Gay St. ShopCreep.com

Green Eyed Lady. A treasure trove of eclectic jewelry, distinctive women’s clothing and vintage finds. 132 W. Gay St. GreenEyedLady.online

Kaly. A West Chester staple for stylish clothing, jewelry and fair-trade gifts with artisan flair. 37 W. Gay St. KalyClothing.com

Malena’s Vintage Boutique. A destination for vintage-loving fashion fans, filled with curated clothing, accessories and designer gems from decades past. 101 W. Gay St. MalenasBoutique.com

Phineas Gage. Stylish men’s shop specializing in modern classics, refined accessories and thoughtful gifts for the well-dressed. 29 S. High St. Phineas-Gage.com

Pine + Quill. A unique home-and-lifestyle boutique offering décor, art-work and locally made goods with warm, modern style. 23 N. Walnut St. PineAndQuillShop.com

Sunset Hill Jewelers. A trusted family jeweler offering fine jewelry, custom designs and heirloom-worthy holiday sparkle. 23 N. High St. SunsetHillJewelers.com

Tish Boutique. Trend-driven women’s clothing and accessories, perfect for fashionable gifting and festive seasonal style. 138 E. Gay St. TishStyle.com



- 4. Ree Gallagher Studio + Gallery
- 5. DRK MTTR
- 6. Sissy the cat at Jojo & Co.

the large corner window space. Plus, a cozy workshop space hosts pottery and terrarium-making classes as well as private events.

“Our shop is special due to our wide variety of products,” said owner Peter Giuffre. “We’re primarily a houseplant store, but we also carry organic baby products, skincare and nontoxic, sustainable home products.” For your favorite plant parent, Giuffre suggests their line of PLANTS merchandise — tees, hoodies and totes designed in house.

Check Out: Holiday-themed workshops, including “Make Your Own Succulent Christmas Tree.” Check their website and @TheGreenHouseWC_ on Instagram.

FOR THE MODERN GOTH

Continue east along Gay Street until you spot the simple black sign for DRK MTTR, hanging above a storefront with black-trimmed windows, displaying mannequins dressed ... all in black. (Sense a theme here?) Opened in March 2024, this one-of-a-kind boutique at 128 East Gay Street is home to a hand-picked collection of new and vintage clothing — exclusively in black.

“What makes DRK MTTR unique is the shop’s commitment to the combination of elegance and edginess,” said owner Courtney McGee. “Each item is multidimensional and versatile — you can wear it in more elevated or relaxed settings, depending on how you style

it. As our shop’s motto says, ‘half vintage, half contemporary, all black!’”

For holiday gift-giving, McGee suggests choosing something personal. “A gift should express something about the giver and the receiver and what makes their relationship special,” she said. “And when all else fails, a gift card can be nearly as good, especially when shopping vintage or in a curated shop like DRK MTTR.”

Check Out: DRK MTTR’s annual Color Day Sale during Black Friday weekend, November 28 to 30. “This is the only weekend of the year when we offer our incredible, mostly vintage, color pieces in addition to our normal stock of black items,” McGee said. Plus giveaways and homemade DRK MTTR sugar cookies, which are, of course, black.

FOR EVERYONE ELSE ON YOUR LIST

Still hunting for those last few perfect presents? These new local shops will help you wrap up your list in style.

Opening its doors in July, Jojo & Co. (235 E. Market St.) offers vintage jewelry, hand-crafted stationary, custom paintings, artisan candles and other treasures hand-picked by local collector Jojo Zhou. Look for Sissy, the adorable shop cat!

Or head to newly opened Ree Gallagher Studio + Gallery (127 E. Chestnut St.). After years of traveling to juried art shows, local jewelry artist and maker Ree Gallagher decided to settle down, opening her new shop in September. In addition to her hand-crafted jewelry, Gallagher features works by other local artists and curated vintage.

For the artist in your life, stop by Nightingale Materials (118 N. High St.) for high-quality supplies, local art and thoughtful gifts for creatives of every kind. Open since April 2024, this family-run shop also offers classes and workshops — the perfect present for sparking inspiration.

And for your favorite book lover, you can’t go wrong with a gift from Bookmarks (100 E. Gay St.), opened in August 2024. Inside this charming historic house, you’ll find top new releases and titles from local authors — children’s books downstairs, adults



- 7. Bookmarks
- 8. Nightingale Materials
- 9. West Chester Christkindlmarkt

West Chester Christmas Parade



The parade kicks off a month of free holiday festivities during Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester.

It all begins with the Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony on the steps of the Historic Courthouse at 6:30 p.m. Enjoy dance and musical performances and the lighting of the new 28-foot-tall Christmas tree, the second artificial tree in the parade’s history, adorned with 150 individual branches and 16,000 white LED lights. The tree will light up an entire block of downtown West Chester through January.

Then find your spot along the parade route to enjoy all the fun starting at 7 p.m. under the lights of professionally decorated blocks sponsored by local businesses. This year there will be more marching bands, as well as award-winning floats, sparkling performances and, of course, Santa’s much-anticipated appearance.

The 2025 West Chester Christmas Parade will also hold a competition for “Best Commercial Parade Float” and “Best Nonprofit Parade Entry,” with winners in both categories receiving a trophy and bragging rights. Be sure to dress for the weather for this rain or shine event.

The ceremony will feature returning parade emcees GABC meteorologist Adam Joseph and Kathy Romano of B101.

The spirit of Christmas continues with Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester and a lineup of musical performances, Santa sightings and opportunities for photos with the popular guy, toy drives and more. See West Chester Events in this issue for details.

Visit GreaterWestChester.com for street closures and parade night parking and a map.

upstairs — plus a selection of bibliophile-approved gifts.

Still searching for that just-right gift? Mark your calendar for the 6th annual **Christkindlmarkt** on Saturday, December 13. Over 100 vendors line Gay Street, offering handcrafted and locally designed products, such as art, ceramics, jewelry, homewares and more. Plus, enjoy photos with Santa, carolers and more live music — and keep an eye out for the Grinch!

FOR A SHOPPING WEEKEND

Turn your holiday shopping into a week-end of festive fun with a stay at the **Hotel Indigo**. This six-story boutique hotel at 39 East Gay Street is decked out for the holidays, ready to welcome you with open arms and luxurious amenities.

“You’ll be delighted to wander West Chester during this beautiful time of year and not have to rush home, because you can easily go up to your room,” said Abigail Lewis, regional director of sales. Drop off your shopping bags, then head downstairs



to the onsite restaurant, West Chester Seafood Kitchen. Later, unwind with a drink at Room 109, a moody speakeasy tucked into the hotel’s basement, before turning in for the night.

Got a hectic house overflowing with holiday guests? Put up out-of-town family members at the hotel, and make their stay even more memorable with a special package. “Packages include Pet Getaway, Daily Parking, Romantic Escape — which includes \$75 to West Chester Seafood Kitchen and a box of chocolates — and lastly, Longwood Gardens Experience,

which includes two tickets to the breathtaking Longwood Gardens,” Lewis said.

Before checking out, don’t forget to pick up a gift card to West Chester Seafood Kitchen — or any of the borough’s other fine restaurants — for the foodie on your list!

As you wrap up your list, enjoy knowing your gifts came from right here — chosen with care by people who call this place home. Happy shopping, and happy holidays. ♦

Research assistance by Caitlin Du Bois.

Holiday Shopping Guide

1. Tish Kids

2. Old Soul Design Studio

3. Bobbles & Lace

4. Mayday Coffee & Shop

5. Artistic Eyewear

6. CCHC Museum Shop

7. Visual Expansion Gallery

8. Sabrina Ann Couture

9. Nightingale Materials

10. Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry

11. KALY

12. The Green House

13. Clara Mae Company

14. Le Berger

15. Deborah Ann Mack Designs

16. Tiger Snake Vintage

17. Turks Head Wines

18. Malena’s Vintage Boutique

19. Precision Eye Care

20. Tiger Snake Vintage

21. Vape & Beyond

22. May 23 Clothing & Accessories

23. Creep Records

24. Pomp West Chester

25. Bookstore Bakery

26. H. Rose Boutique

27. Blink

28. Green Eyed Lady

29. Taylor’s Music Store

30. Thistle Be Perfect

31. e.b.c. Brown Studio
32. True By Kristy

33. On The Go Mobile

34. Mainline Custom Clothiers

35. Kaplan’s Fine Jewelry

36. Hop Fidelity

37. Kilwins West Chester

38. La Chic Boutique

39. Coins of Chester County

40. Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts Gallery

41. Bookmarks

42. DRK MTTR

43. Tish Boutique

44. Pine + Quill

45. Graham Painting Studio

46. Prince of Puff

47. Ever After Bridal

48. The Painted Plate

49. Woman’s Exchange

50. Church Street Gallery

51. All the Dogs

52. Art Trust Gallery at Meridian Bank

53. Éclat Chocolate

54. Bryn Mawr Running Co.

55. A Taste of Olive

56. Mimi’s Tea Cottage

57. Kati Mac Floral Design

58. Jawn Supply

59. Ginkgo Arts

60. Phineas Gage

61. G-Spot Modern Retro Thrift Boutique



West Chester Events



THROUGH DECEMBER 13
Holiday Window Decorating Contest. Dozens of businesses in Downtown West Chester will create special holiday displays in their storefront windows, and you get a chance to decide who wins! Professional judging done by the Public Arts Commission (PAC), plus there’s a People’s Choice Award. *DowntownWestChester.com*

THROUGH DECEMBER 21
West Chester Railroad. Santa Express: *Weekends, Dec. 6–21*, join Santa for a journey through the Chester Creek Valley. **Christmas Tree Train:** *Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14*, take the train to Wiggins Tree Farm to cut your own tree. *Trains depart at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. \$10–\$40. Times and tickets, WCRailroad.com*

THROUGH DECEMBER 24
Sunset Hill Fine Arts Gallery Annual Miniature Art Show. The show features paintings by a variety of artists in many mediums, subjects and artistic styles, perfect for the beginning collector and those with small spaces. *23 N. High St. SunsetHillJewelers.com*

THROUGH JANUARY 2
Holiday Weekends in West Chester. *Through Dec. 20, Fri & Sat*, West Chester Borough Balladeer Carolers roam around downtown, Fri, 5



to 7; Sat, noon to 2. *Nov. 29, Dec. 6, 20*, catch Santa cruising through the borough on a classic fire truck, 3 pm. *Dec. 5*, Hometown Christmas Parade, tree lighting at 6:30 pm on the lawn of the courthouse, and the parade at 7. *Dec. 10*, Toy Drive Breakfast, 7:30 to 9 am, free to everyone who brings a new, unwrapped toy to St. Agnes School, *211 W. Gay St. Dec. 13*, photos with Santa and holiday concert at M&T Bank, *10 N. High St.* Free hot chocolate and coffee. *2 to 4 pm. For details, GreaterWestChester.com*

THROUGH JANUARY 2
“Gifted”—the Annual Holiday Exhibit at The Art Trust. Give the gift of original art. 25 talented artists’ work is for sale — paintings, ceramics, fiber art and more. Net proceeds of art sales go towards art scholarships. *Dec. 11*, Bourbon & Bubbles, *5 to 8 pm. 16 W. Market St. Gallery hours, Mon–Fri, 9 to 4:30 pm. TheArtTrust.org*

NOVEMBER 30–JANUARY 3
Chester County History Center—Season of Lights. A display of the rich culture of Chester County’s diverse population. Twinkling lights, festive displays, decorated trees, international cuisine and multicultural activities for all — a multi-sensory experience that transcends cultural boundaries. *Nov. 30*, opening night offers culinary delights, family programs and entertainment, 3:30 to 7:30. *225 N. High St. MyCCHC.org/SeasonOfLights*

DECEMBER 5–30
Holiday Events at Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Dec. 5*, The Holiday Cheer Show; *Dec. 6–28*, “Cinderella;” *Dec. 9*, Elementrio: Three Tenors; *Dec. 11*, Top of the World: A Carpenters Christmas Show; *Dec. 17*, Dueling Pianos; *Dec. 23*, Nefesh Mountain. **Films:** *Dec. 8*, “White

Christmas;” *Dec. 15*, “Holiday Inn;” *Dec. 22*, “The Man Who Invented Christmas;” *Dec. 29*, “Cool Runnings.” *226 N. High St. Times and tickets, 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org*

DECEMBER 6
Holiday Concert with BVS Brass Quintet. Surrounded by over 300 years of history at the Chester County History Center, you’ll enjoy arrangements by Brandywine Valley Symphony’s brass quintet, celebrating the holidays with the joyful sounds of carols and festive classics. *225 N. High St. 6:30 pm. \$10–\$30. BVSymphony.org*

DECEMBER 6
Santa at the Square at Marshall Square Park. Santa will be on hand in the gazebo for pictures with the entire family. Food trucks, holiday crafts and live music on hand for all to enjoy. *200 E. Marshall St. 4:30 to 6:30. West-Chester.com*

DECEMBER 6
Breakfast with Santa. Come to the Chester County History Center to meet Santa and enjoy breakfast. *9 to 11 am. 225 N. High St. \$15. Pre-registration req. West-Chester.com*

DECEMBER 6
37th Annual West Chester Charity Ball. Friends Association celebrates over 200 years of serving families in our community, and the Charity Ball has helped in their mission to end homelessness in Chester County. Enjoy dinner, music, dancing, auctions and more. The theme this year is “Holiday in the Tropics.” *West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St. 6:30 pm. \$200. FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball*

DECEMBER 6
West Chester Public Library Holiday Home Tour. *See Holiday House Tours in this issue. WCPublicLibrary.org*

DECEMBER 6
American Helicopter Museum Presents SantaFest 2025. Santa arrives at 11 am, ready to hear children’s wish lists. Bring your cameras to take pictures and enjoy hands-on activities such as holiday crafts and STEM activities. They are again proud to be a drop-off site for Toys for Tots. *1220 American Blvd. 10 to 2. \$15, members and children under 2 free. HelicopterMuseum.org*

DECEMBER 13
6th Annual Christkindlmarkt. The holiday market features over 90 vendors offering handcrafted and locally designed products, such as art, ceramics, jewelry, homewares, food and more. Hosted by Chester County Art Assoc. and Downtown West Chester. *Gay St. (between Darlington & Matlack Sts.). 11 to 6. Free. DowntownWestChester.com/Christkindlmarkt*



Many events are part of Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester, presented by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce. Visit GreaterWestChester.com