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NEW PRICE



### 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. 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.  
\$3,175,000



### Historic Fairville Inn in Chadds Ford

This historic property features 10 tasteful guest rooms, eight of which have gas fireplaces. The Main House features the guest reception area, living room, after-hours sitting room, dining room, kitchen and the possibility for 5+ additional rooms. Contact us for full details about what else is possible with this gorgeous property.  
\$3,150,000

NEW PRICE



### Exceedingly Private Location Abutting ChesLen Preserve

Set on 23+ acres in a sought-after location, this remarkable property combines a picturesque country setting with a custom home designed for comfort, elegance, and recreation. Privately sited & surrounded by open space that abuts the 1,263-acre ChesLen Preserve, the residence offers 5 BR, 4.2 BA, & exceptional equestrian facilities. The home's highlight is the indoor pool with sauna, entertainment area, bar & kitchen. Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools!  
\$2,290,000

SOLD



### 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 someone seeking a superior family compound! It is a short walk from the Brandywine Creek. This 3+ acre property boasts supper amenities. Mechanical systems have been updated. Unionville Schools. Low Taxes!  
\$1,698,000

SOLD



### Overlooks French Creek Golf Club's 14th Hole

Set in Olde Bulltown Village is this charming 3BR, 2.2 BR home which combines the old with the new like cathedral ceilings, stunning main level primary suite, antique hardware, finished lower level and beautiful quarter sawn oak floors! The Great Room has a handsome fireplace, access to a covered porch & a wet bar. The kitchen has high-end appliances & handsome cabinetry. This wonderful property must be seen to fully appreciate its value, quality and location!  
\$1,585,000



### Great Property in Kennett Square

This updated 3BR, 2BA home is a "Must See"! The open floor plan features a generous living area that flows into an eat-in kitchen, complete with granite counters, white cabinets, and stainless steel appliances. The main level includes 2 BRs with hardwood flooring, updated hall BA, and a laundry/mudroom. Upstairs, the primary BR has an ensuite BA and walk-in closet. The finished attic offers flexibility for an office or storage. Unionville Schools!  
\$585,000

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NEW PRICE

WEST CHESTER | 44 ACRES

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KENNETT SQUARE | 84 ACRES

Extraordinary estate in West Marlborough Township featuring a stone farmhouse, six stall barn, paddocks and office/in-law suite.



SOLD

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Beautifully renovated ranch on a private lane offering the perfect blend of modern elegance and open-concept living.



NEW PRICE

WEST CHESTER | 26+ ACRES

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**Easttown Township**  
 Estate property on a very desirable street. 4BR stone and frame home with large rooms and a guest apartment above the 3-car detached garage. Indoor pool, outdoor sport court/tennis court, and beautiful views of 6 acres of grounds. Presented by Rob Van Alen  
*Price Upon Request*



**New London Township**  
 Well-maintained, one-floor, three-bedroom home on almost 50 acres, with a country porch overlooking open fields & meadows. Detached garage & convenient location to shopping, schools, and major routes. Protected by agricultural easement and Act 319 for exceptionally low taxes. Presented by Amy McKenna  
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from the **EDITOR**

What's your pleasure this May? Equestrian excitement, local art, garden tours or a perfect picnic? We've got them all covered.

May means steeplechase season, so don your hat and brightest outfit then head to the races. In "And We're Off!" Cara Corridoni takes us to Willowdale Steeplechase, Radnor Hunt Races and the Fair Hill Turf Showcase. As the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair marks its 130th year, Laurel Anderson previews family fun and equestrian entertainment. Check out the colorful photos and the full schedule of events, May 20-31. And in "Horsepower of the Revolution," Kim Andrews considers the role of horses during that war: transporting officers, hauling wagons, pulling artillery and more.

Learn about local agricultural history in "What Kind of Barn is It?" Jane E. Dorchester provides a primer to help identify the types of barn that dot the countryside. For something more contemporary, there's a photospread of "Dream Barns" by local architects and builders.

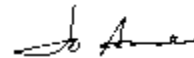
May also brings our annual "Spring Art Gallery Roundup," as Beth Buxbaum highlights art shows, gallery exhibits and tours of works by local artists along with the latest at area museums. For public art, Shannon Montgomery tours "Murals of the Main Line," featuring sights brightening Lancaster Avenue and beyond.

In "Home & Garden," Marci Tomassone compiles tours, festivals and plant sales throughout the season, while Willistown Conservation Trust's Adam Wolf updates the progress of the bluebird boxes project in "Build It and They Will Nest."

For picnics, pack yours and join in as Winterthur celebrates 75 years with a Field and Fête event on May 16. Enjoy the gardens and a parade, compliments of Henry du Pont. Brandywine Table's Liz Tarditi has delish picnic suggestions for small bites, salads and more in "Gourmet Al Fresco." Plus local bartenders share recipes for seasonal sparklers to sip in "Shake Up Your Spritz."

More fun awaits in our Best Local Events section.

Thank you for reading.

  
Jo Anne Durako  
Editor

**COUNTY LINES**  
MAGAZINE

**May 2026**

Volume XLIX Number 9

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**SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2026**



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# Join us at the Radnor Hunt Races!

## Saturday, May 16, 2026



Celebrate 95 years of horseracing on the Main Line. With everything from amazing tailgates and fancy hats, to the parade of antique carriages and thoroughbreds racing for the finish, Radnor Hunt Races is a day filled with excitement and fun. It's also about Racing for Open Space as all proceeds benefit the clean water and open space programs of the Brandywine Conservancy. **Reserve your tickets now!**

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

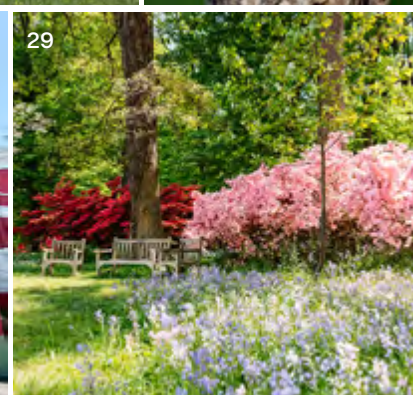
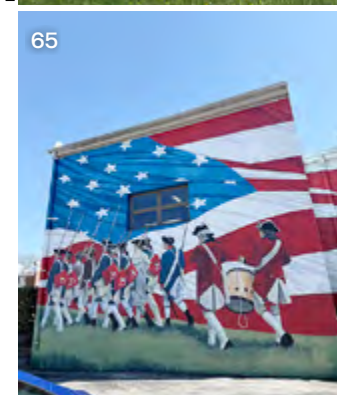
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Cover and top photo by Brenda Carpenter

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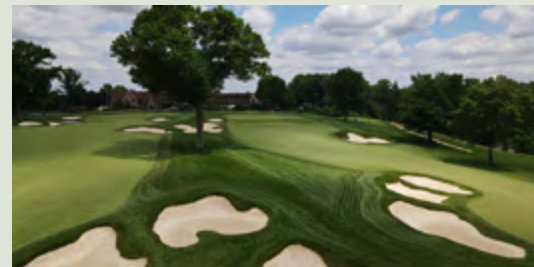
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## Good to Know *Just a few things we'd thought you'd like to know this month*

**Game On.** Tune in to the 2026 **PGA Championship**, May 11 to 17 at Newtown Square's Aronimink Golf Club. Watch 156 of the world's greatest golfers — including returning champ Scottie Scheffler, Rory McIlroy and Bryson DeChambeau — vie for the Wanamaker Trophy. Aronimink is the first course to host all three of the PGA of America's



rotating major championships — part of the America250 celebrations also bringing the FIFA World Cup and MLB All-Star Game to Philadelphia. [PGAChampionship.com](http://PGAChampionship.com)

**Lukens Legacy.** Congratulations to Chester County Community Foundation CEO and President Karen Simmons, winner of the 20th annual **Rebecca Lukens Award**. The National Iron & Steel Heritage Museum presents the award each year to an individual who exemplifies the qualities



of pioneering woman iron-master Rebecca Lukens: resilience, leadership, courage and strategic outlook. Celebrate Simmons on May 14, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Lukens Historic District. [SteelMuseum.org](http://SteelMuseum.org)

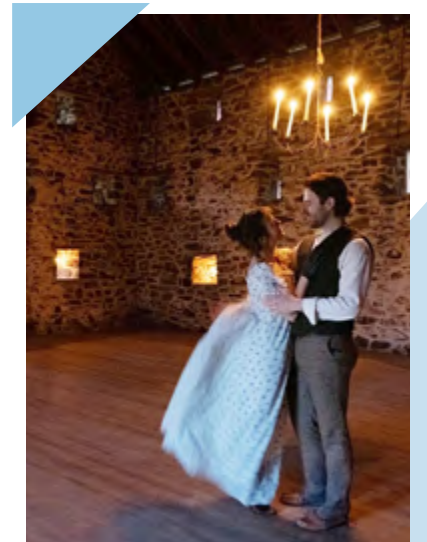
### It's in the Cards.

Looking for a little guidance? Longtime West Chester resident Beth Tucker has launched **Tucker Tarot**, offering intuitive, empowering readings aiming to bring clarity, confidence and connection. Book private sessions in person or via Zoom, phone or email — or add a memorable touch to corporate events, team-building sessions and pop-up events at shops, restaurants, cafes and parties. [TuckerTarot.com](http://TuckerTarot.com)



### Local Legends.

Calling all sports fans! Catch a special **Chester County Sports Hall of Fame exhibit** at the Chester County Welcome Center in the Historic Courthouse. See memorabilia, autographs and stories from local legends, including former Eagles coach Dick Vermeil, Olympic figure skater Johnny Weir and the Immaculata University "Mighty Macs." On view through the end of the month. *21 W. Market St., Ste. 111, West Chester. [BrandywineValley.com](http://BrandywineValley.com)*



**Springtime Soiree.** Live out your "Bridgerton" fantasies at Warwick Furnace Farm's **Maypole & Country Dance**, May 9 from 5 to 7 p.m. Beneath a soft glow with live harp and cello, learn 18th- and 19th-century English and American dances — Regency-era outfits encouraged! The evening centers on the traditional maypole, a nod to early colonial celebrations, plus historically inspired refreshments. Tickets, \$50–\$75. Registration required. *810 Warwick Furnace Rd., Glenmoore. [WarwickFurnaceFarm.com](http://WarwickFurnaceFarm.com)*



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# best Local Events

## May Picks

by Marci Tomassone

### Town Tours and Village Walks 13 Tours for 13 Colonies

Through October 15



This series of free, guided summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets and villages welcomes you to join in celebrating America 250 with an expanded season. Tours focus on places, people and events in Chester County that defined the tapestry of history that shaped our nation. Starting with **May 14**, Spring-Ford;

**May 21**, A Textile Collection at Hibernia Mansion; **June 4**, Women & Minorities in Malvern. Tickets, more tours and details at [ChesCo-Planning.org/HistoricTownTours](http://ChesCo-Planning.org/HistoricTownTours).

### Spring on King Jazz Fest May 2

King Street will be alive with pop-up vendors, a beverage garden, food trucks, family fun and the smooth sounds of jazz around every corner, from noon to 4 p.m.



From 4 to 6 p.m., head over to Burke Park, 26 S. Warren Ave., for a free community jazz concert featuring Mike Casey. Bring a blanket, grab some local food and drinks, and enjoy the community spirit. [Malvern.org/Events](http://Malvern.org/Events)

### Delco Gives May 6 & 7

Hosted by The Foundation for Delaware County, a community-wide celebration supports local nonprofits with events across the county, from performances and open houses to walks, art shows and community gatherings. [DelcoGives.org](http://DelcoGives.org)



### Phoenixville Dogwood Festival & Parade May 13-16



The Phoenixville Jaycees Foundation continues the tradition with a midway filled with games, rides, vendors, live music nightly at the bandshell and a parade. Benefits local nonprofits.

Reeves Park, 148 3rd Ave., Phoenixville. Wed-Fri, 6 to 10 p.m.; Sat, 1 to 10 p.m., parade at 1 p.m. [PhoenixvilleDogwoodFestival.org](http://PhoenixvilleDogwoodFestival.org)

### Derby at The Vineyard May 16 & 17

Join a hunter derby horse show in Penns Woods' vineyard with wine, local beer and cider, live music, food trucks, artisan vendors, a meet-and-greet with horses and more. 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. \$15. [PennsWoodsWinery.com/Derby](http://PennsWoodsWinery.com/Derby)



### Tough Mudder May 23



Watch as competitors tackle the 15K with 20+ obstacles or the 5K with 12+, and navigate technical woods and horse trails designed to test their dignity. Survivors get to nab a fresh T-shirt, a shiny medal

and that iconic headband to prove they actually did it. Grab a spectator pass, \$25, to watch your friends while you enjoy the festival vibes. Plantation Field, 322 Apple Grove Rd., Coatesville. 7:45 a.m. [ToughMudder.com/Events/Philly](http://ToughMudder.com/Events/Philly)

# FAMILY FUN

**THROUGH SEPTEMBER 7**  
**Universal Theme Parks: The Exhibition at The Franklin Institute.** Step inside the creative and innovative world of theme parks through the lens of Universal's attractions, including *Jaws*, *Minions*, *Sing*, *Super Nintendo World* and more. You'll experience the creativity, artistry and innovation behind Universal's most epic attractions. 222 N. 20th St., Philadelphia. Times and tickets, FI.edu.



**MAY 1-3**  
**"Willy Wonka Jr." at Uptown.** Roald Dahl's classic tale comes to life in a whimsical, family-friendly musical packed with magic, mischief and music — a treat for audiences of all ages. *Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center*, 226 N. High St., West Chester. Fri & Sat, 7 pm; Sat & Sun, 2 pm. \$21-\$27. UptownWestChester.org

**MAY 2**  
**Sheep & Wool Day at Springton Manor Farm.** The sheep are losing their winter wool and everyone is invited to come celebrate. Enjoy shearing and spinning demonstrations, farm animals and tractors, kids inflatables, face painters, craft vendors, wagon rides, food trucks and more. 860 Springton Rd., Glenmoore. 11 to 3. Free. ChesCo.org



**MAY 7-OCTOBER 29**  
**Thursdays**  
**Winterthur—Story Time in the Enchanted Woods.** Ages 3-6 sit among the Story Stones to hear nature-based sto-

ries. Afterwards, they'll enjoy a sensory station with objects and activities to match the day's story. *Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library*, 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur. 11 am. \$8-\$25. Winterthur.org



**MAY 9-24**  
**"The Lion King Jr." at Media Theatre.** Travel with Simba, Rafiki and an unforgettable cast of characters as they journey from Pride Rock to the jungle and back again in this inspiring tale. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

**MAY 17**  
**Coventry Woods Festival.** Bring family and friends for a day of entertainment and activities for everyone with treats from food vendors, live music and goat races. *Coventry Woods Park*, 1954 St. Peters Rd., Pottstown. 1 to 5 pm. Free. NorthCoventryTownship.com



**MAY 24**  
**West Chester Railroad Memorial Day Special.** Take a relaxing trip to Glen Mills and back on a Sunday afternoon. All veterans and active military passengers ride



for a reduced fare. *Trains depart Market Street Station, West Chester. Noon and 2 pm. \$5-\$30. WCRailroad.com*

**MAY 30**  
**Great American Backyard Campout.** Bring your camping gear and supplies and enjoy a night outside with your family. Activities include camp cooking and fire making demos, fishing, orienteering, s'mores, movie and more. Rain date, June 13. *The Willows Park*, 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. 4 pm. To register visit Radnor.com/Campout.

**JUNE 5 & 6**  
**Strawberry Festival in Downtown Coatesville.** A new take on the traditional Strawberry Festival, featuring midway rides for younger children, performing arts area with live entertainment, vendors, crafts and more. Benefits the greater Coatesville community. 1st & 3rd Aves., Coatesville. 5 to 9. Free with some pay-as-you-go attractions. DowntownCoatesvillePA.com



**JUNE 7-NOVEMBER 1**  
**First Sundays**  
**Steamin' Days at Auburn Heights.** Climb into an antique automobile or board one of the trains and experience what it was like to travel at the turn of the 20th century. Tour the 1897 mansion that was home to three generations of the Marshall family. 3000 Creek Rd., Hockessin, DE. 12:30 to 4:30. \$10-\$15. AuburnHeights.org



**ART, CRAFTS & ANTIQUES** .....  
*See Art Gallery Roundup in this issue for more.*

**MAY 17, JUNE 7**  
**Clover Markets in Bryn Mawr & Kennett Square.** Featuring 100 curated vendors with a wide variety of handmade and vintage goods along with food trucks, live music, beer and wine, free kids crafts and many additional shopping and dining options in town. *May 17*, 7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. *June 7*, 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 10 to 4. TheCloverMarket.com



**BOOKS**.....  
**MAY 6-26**  
**Reads & Company Book Groups. Big Reads:** *May 6*, "Paradiso 17" by Hannah Lillith Assadi. **International Voices:** *May 13*, "We Will Be Jaguars" by Nemonte Nenquimo. **Then & Now:** *May 26*, "Wild Dark Shore"

by Charlotte McConaghy. Check website for more. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. ReadsAndCompany.com

**MAY 6-JUNE 4**  
**Wellington Square Bookshop Book Clubs. Classics:** *May 6*, "House of Splendid Isolation" a novel by Edna O'Brien. **NonFiction:** *May 7*, "Reframe Your Brain" by Scott Adams; *June 4*, "Chasing My Cure" by David Fajgenbaum. **Author Event:** *May 14*, Stephanie Dray and Laura Kamoie celebrate the release of their new book "A Founding Mother." 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com

**MAY 19, 28**  
**Main Point Books. Fiction:** *May 19*, "Dream State" by Eric Puchner. **NonFiction:** *May 28*, "Dark Renaissance" by Stephen Greenblatt. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com

**CAR SHOWS**.....  
**MAY 2**  
**Chester County Antique Car Club 41st Annual Spring Show.** All makes and models on view—antiques, classics, street rods, motorcycles, trucks, imports and more. Enjoy music, food and refreshments. Caln Village Shopping Center, 3947 Lancaster Ave., Downingtown. Rain date, May 3. 9 to 2. CCACC.Club

## West Chester University Graduation Weekend



**May 8-10**  
 Commencement ceremonies bring family and friends to our area. Plan for traffic near campus and crowded restaurants. Commencement will be held at sites around campus. For a complete schedule, visit [WCUPA.edu/Commencement/CommencementSchedule.aspx](http://WCUPA.edu/Commencement/CommencementSchedule.aspx)

**MAY 24**  
**Valley Forge Mustang Club Presents 45th Annual All-Ford Show.** Hosted by the Valley Forge Mustang Club, this long-running show features awards, auctions, food, music and more. Rain date, May 25. Kimberton Fire Co. & Fairgrounds, 61 Firehouse Ln., Phoenixville. 9 to 3. TheVFMC.org.

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28 W Market St, West Chester, PA 19382  
[ccc250.org/daretodeclare](http://ccc250.org/daretodeclare)  
[ccc250@chescof.org](mailto:ccc250@chescof.org)  
 610.696.8211



## Local Farm Markets

**Artisan Exchange**, 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. A community of specialty food businesses offering authentic foods. Sat, 10 to 1. [ArtisanExchange.net](http://ArtisanExchange.net)

**Berwyn Farmers Market**, 511 Old Lancaster Rd. Local farmers, producers, artisans, nonprofit organizations on hand. Sun, 9 to noon. [BerwynFarmersMarket.com](http://BerwynFarmersMarket.com)

**Bryn Mawr Farmers Market**, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. A producer-only farmers market uniting farmers with communities. Sat, 9 to 1. [LMFarmersMarkets.org/BrynMawr](http://LMFarmersMarkets.org/BrynMawr)

**Market at Coverdale Farm Preserve**, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fresh produce and eggs grown onsite. Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 3. [DelNature.org](http://DelNature.org)

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

**Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Farmers Mkt.**, Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. See *Downingtown Farmers Market*. Thurs, 3 to 6. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com)

**Kennett Square Farmers Mkt.**, 600 S. Broad St. A variety of locally grown products offered to the community. Updates in the weekly What's Fresh newsletter. Fri, 3 to 6. [KSQFarmersMarket.com](http://KSQFarmersMarket.com)

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

**Malvern Farmers Market**, Burke Park, 26 S. Warren Ave. A marketplace for local farmers, food producers and artisans offering locally sourced and crafted goods. Sat, 9 to 1. [GrowingRootsPartners.com](http://GrowingRootsPartners.com)

**Media Farmers Market**, Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. A producer-only farmers market uniting farmers with communities. Sun, 10 to 1. [MediaFarmersMarket.com](http://MediaFarmersMarket.com)

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

**New Roots by Ramsey's Farm**, 4336 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Fresh, local fruits and vegetables grown by local farmers as well as premium Ramsey's Wagyu Beef. Daily 9 to 6. [NewRootsByRamseys.com](http://NewRootsByRamseys.com)

**Oxford Village Market**, 193 Limestone Rd. Locally sourced produce, handmade crafts and antiques. Thurs, 8 to 6; Fri, 8 to 7; Sat, 8 to 5. [OxfordFarmMarketPA.com](http://OxfordFarmMarketPA.com)

**Phoenixville Farmers Market**, 200 Mill St. A wide variety from produce to cheese, meats, fish, flowers and artisan food products. Sat, 9 to noon. [PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org](http://PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org)

**Pottstown Farmers Mkt.**, 138 E. High St. Offering fresh produce, specialty foods and unique crafts. Every other Sat starting May 16, 9 to 1. [PottstownFarm.org](http://PottstownFarm.org)

**Royersford Farmers Mkt.**, 2nd Ave. across from Victory Park. Locally sourced and crafted goods by farmers and artisans. Sat, 10 to 1. [RoyersfordFarmersMarket.com](http://RoyersfordFarmersMarket.com)

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

**Thornton Farmers Mkt.**, 330 Glen Mills Rd. Produce, products and creations from local farmers, crafters and food artisans. Starting May 9, Sat, 10 to 1. On Facebook

**West Chester Growers Mkt.**, Chestnut & Church Sts. Celebrating over 30 years with a weekly roster of 28 producers offering seasonal fruits & vegetables as well as meats, cheese, local wines and more. Sat, 9 to 1. [WestChesterGrowersMarket.com](http://WestChesterGrowersMarket.com)

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

For more visit the *Chester County Farm Guide* online, [ChesCoPlanning.org/Agriculture/FarmGuide.cfm](http://ChesCoPlanning.org/Agriculture/FarmGuide.cfm)

## JUNE 6

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



## JUNE 7

**State Street Car Show in Media.** Hosted by Media Business Authority and managed by the Historical Car Club of PA, the show is free and open to the public from noon to 3 pm on State St., Media. Free parking in Media borough public lots. Visit [MediaPA.com](http://MediaPA.com)

## DANCE.....

### MAY 16 & 17

**Brandywine Ballet Presents "The Wonderful Wizard of Oz."** Follow Dorothy as she travels in the company of enlightening characters on a journey through the Land of Oz and on a path of self-discovery. Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Sat, 4 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$40–\$50. [BrandywineBallet.org](http://BrandywineBallet.org)

## EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

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

### MAY 23 & 24

**Therapeutic Riders Division of the Devon Horse Show.** *May 23*, riders of all abilities compete in equitation, dressage and trail classes at Thorncroft Equestrian Center, 190 Line Rd., Malvern. *May 24*, presentation of trophies and championship class at the Devon Horse Show Grounds, Rt. 30, Devon. Benefits Thorncroft. 190 Line Rd., Malvern. [Thorncroft.org](http://Thorncroft.org)



## MAY 24–SEPTEMBER 27

### Fridays & Sundays

**Brandywine Polo.** Pack a picnic and bring your friends. Everyone is welcome to watch polo Fridays at 5:30 pm, Sundays, 3pm. Tickets, \$15 online or \$20 at the gate. For weather updates, call polo hotline. 833-BPC-POLO. [BrandywinePolo.com](http://BrandywinePolo.com)



## FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....

### MAY 9 & 10

**Mother's Day Market at the Vineyard.** Enjoy wine, live music, food trucks and an artisan market with local vendors. Penns Woods Winery, 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. [PennsWoodsWinery.com](http://PennsWoodsWinery.com)



### MAY 16

**The 64th Fair Hill Scottish Games.** Enjoy a day of traditional athletics, music, dancing, food and arts celebrating Scottish and Celtic culture. Rain or shine. Fair Hill Grounds, 4600 Telegraph Rd., Elkton, MD. Gates open 7:30 am. \$10–\$25. [FairHillScottishGames.org](http://FairHillScottishGames.org)

### MAY 25

**Radnor Township Memorial Day Parade & Ceremony.** Come for the annual Memorial Day celebration. A brief Memorial Ceremony

## America250 Events



**Through December, Trek-A-Thon 250.** Walk, stroll, hike or run 250 miles at any of Natural Lands' properties to commemorate our country's 250 years. Register: [RunSignUp.com/Race/PA/AnyTrail/NaturalLand250](http://RunSignUp.com/Race/PA/AnyTrail/NaturalLand250)

**May 1–30, Forged in Freedom: The Land, the People and the Promise that Shaped a Nation.** The Chester County Archives' traveling exhibit showcasing key people and events that shaped the region's history. [ChesCo.org/5383/Events](http://ChesCo.org/5383/Events)

**May 7, Town Tours and Village Walks Arm Chair Tour: Pennsylvania Ironmasters and the Revolution.** Focusing on the people and key manufacturing sites that contributed to the success of the American Revolution. Schuylkill River Heritage Center, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. [ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours](http://ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours)

**May 16, Battle for Independence: Amazing Race to Brandywine.** Learn about the Brandywine community of 1777 and the significance of the Battle of the Brandywine in this untimed road rally featuring themed stops and activities. Brandywine Battlefield Park, 1491 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. [Eventbrite.com/E/Battle-For-Independence-Amazing-Race-To-Brandywine-Tickets-1549800518069](http://Eventbrite.com/E/Battle-For-Independence-Amazing-Race-To-Brandywine-Tickets-1549800518069)

**May 23, Anselma 250 Lectures: Chester County History.** Explore Chester County's early communities, agricultural heritage, reform movements and industrial development. The Mill at Anselma, 1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs. [ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours](http://ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours)

**May 29, 30th Anniversary of The Fund for Women and Girls.** A special breakfast and community performance commemorating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 8:30 to 10:30 am. [CCCF250.org](http://CCCF250.org)

**May 30, East & West Goshen Celebrate America's 250th.** A patriotic performance by the Chester County Concert Band and family-friendly activities. East Goshen Park, 1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 3 to 9. Free. Rain date: May 31. [WestGoshen.org/382/America-250-At-Goshen](http://WestGoshen.org/382/America-250-At-Goshen)

**Keep Chester County Beautiful** Volunteer groups participate in beautification activities throughout the county. [ChesCoPlanning.org/Environmental/KCCB/A250.cfm](http://ChesCoPlanning.org/Environmental/KCCB/A250.cfm)

**Regional Meetings** Monthly Zooms provide an open forum for the community to share ideas. Visit [CCCF250.org/Planning](http://CCCF250.org/Planning) for details.

- **Greater Phoenixville:** 4th Tues. monthly at 3.
- **Greater West Chester:** 4th Mon. monthly at 2.
- **Southern Ches Co:** 4th Wed. monthly at 2.
- **Main Line:** 2nd Mon. monthly at noon.
- **Coatesville:** TBD.

# CHESTER COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM'S SUMMER READING PROGRAM

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will immediately follow the parade at the corner of Runnymede and S. Wayne Aves. Parade starts at 9:45 am. RadnorMemorialDay.org

**MAY 25**  
**Memorial Day Parade in Kennett Square.** A great hometown parade featuring bands, veterans, reenactors, dancers, antique cars, bagpipers, fife and drum corps, fire trucks and more. Starts at Kennett High School, 100 E. South St., and ends at Union Hill Cemetery. 10 am. KennettCollaborative.org



**MAY 25**  
**Memorial Day Parade in Media.** The Veterans Legacy Project and Media Borough host the annual parade, which starts at Barrall Field, at the intersection of State and Edgmont Sts., Media. Ceremony at the Delaware County Courthouse immediately following. 10:30 am. VisitMediaPA.com

**MAY 29 & 30**  
**Annapolis, MD Irish Festival.** Enjoy great live music, food and drinks, and Irish-themed vendors and activities. Anne Arundel County Farigrounds, 1450 Generals Hwy., Crownsville, MD. Fri, 5 to 9 pm with live bands; Sat, 11 am to 9 pm. \$20-\$50. ABCEventsInc.com

**MAY 30**  
**Brandywine Pride Picnic.** Bring your family, your neighbors, your whole self to this inaugural event and enjoy food, activities, live music and community. Anson B. Nixon Park, 405 N. Walnut St., Kennett Square. 11 to 2. Free. KennettCollaborative.org



**MAY 31**  
**Malvern's 158th Memorial Parade.** The Upper Main Line Memorial Assoc. sponsors this event that begins on King St. at the fire station and ends at Memorial Park on Monument Ave. The Paoli-Berwyn-Malvern Lions Club will be collecting used eye glasses. 1:30 pm. MalvernMemorialParade.com

**JUNE 6**  
**Delco Pride Parade & Pride on State.** The annual Pride celebration features a colorful procession of participants, community groups, nonprofits and performers showcasing a wide range of identities and sexualities. Parade begins at noon on State Street, festivities throughout town until 9. VisitMediaPA.com

**FOOD & BREWS** .....  
**MAY 6-SEPTEMBER 30**  
**Wednesdays**  
**Dining Under the Stars in Media.** Stroll. Shop. Dine. Restaurants set up tables on State Street, which is closed from Jackson to Orange, for this summer-long outdoor dining event. VisitMediaPA.com



**MAY 8**  
**Community Supper Series Picnic at Wil-listown Conservation Trust.** Enjoy the first

picnic of the year at Rushton Farm. While the sun sets, listen to feel-good tunes from WCT's own The Hetzel Brothers and savor tasty tacos from Calavaras Street Tacos. Rushton Farm, 911 Delchester Rd., Newtown Square. 5:30 to 8. \$10. WCTrust.org

**MAY 8**  
**Bourbon & Bluegrass at Winterthur.** Enjoy bourbon tastings, a bourbon-inspired cocktail, live bluegrass, the garden and more as Winterthur brings some Kentucky Derby style to Delaware. Rain date, May 11. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 5 to 8 p.m. \$58; \$29 for designated driver and student; under 12, free. Reservations required. Winterthur.org



**MAY 9-NOVEMBER 14**  
**Second Saturdays**  
**Pints on the Preserve.** East Branch Brewing

Company will be pouring the suds at ChesLen Preserve's Lenfest Center pavilion. Purchase food truck fare, enjoy hiking and fun for the whole family. 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 3 to 7 pm. Free. NatLands.org

**MAY 16**  
**Northbrook Canoe—Canoe & Dine.** An evening canoe trip departing from Corcoran's Bridge, 1722 Embreeville Rd., Coatesville, followed by a catered dinner served in the picnic grove accompanied by live music and a bonfire to finish the evening. Northbrook Canoe Company, 1810 Beagle Rd., West Chester. \$80. NorthbrookCanoe.com

**MAY 19**  
**Wine & Wander at Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden.** Enjoy an exclusive, after-hours tour featuring plants and wine. Take an evening stroll through the garden and enjoy a specially curated sampling of four different natural wines. 1829 E. County Line Rd., Villanova. 5:30 pm. \$75. NatLands.org

**MAY 21, JUNE 25, AUGUST 20**  
**Summer Pop-Up Biergartens at Historic Sugartown.** BYO chairs and picnic blankets to enjoy live music, drinks from Locust Lane Craft Brewery and great food. Enjoy live music, local craft vendors and explore Sugartown's historic

buildings. 260 Spring Valley Rd., Malvern. 5 to 8 pm. \$10-\$15. HistoricSugartown.org



**MAY 23 & 24**  
**FlavorFest at Mount Hope.** Enjoy samplings from over 25 wineries and distilleries and shop with unique merchants of all types, then grab a bite at one of the onsite kitchens. 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. 11 to 5. \$24.95; ages 12-20, \$6.95; under 12, free. PAREnFaire.com



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**FUNDRAISERS**.....

See also: *Food & Brews and Outdoor Activities.*

**MAY 1**  
**ACTnow—Concert in the Cupboard.** Wear your favorite concert tee to a night of classic rock and great food. Your ticket includes a light dinner, dessert and silent auction. BYO beer and wine. ACTnow helps connect those in need with existing support services. 10 W. Barnard St., West Chester. 6:30 to 9 pm. \$50. AssistingNow.org

**MAY 2**  
**Walk a Mile in Her Shoes.** Step into her shoes, spark conversation and stand for a safer community at Mental Health Fun Day at the Phoenixville Recreation Center, 501 Franklin Ave., Phoenixville. Walks are 10 am and noon. Registration, free. Donations, DVCCCPA.org.

**MAY 7**  
**Showcase of Homes—Hershey's Mill.** Enjoy a tour of renovated and decorated homes, a luncheon at Hershey's Mill Golf Club, vendor boutique and raffle. Proceeds help maintain state-of-the-art equipment at Paoli Hospital. 1500 Greenhill Rd., West Chester. PaoliAuxiliary.org

**MAY 7**  
**Brandywine Zoo Guest Bartending Event.** Join guest bartenders for an evening of drinks and fun in supporting the Zoo. BBC Tavern and Grill, 4019 Kennett Pk., Greenville, DE. 6 to 9. BrandywineZoo.org

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



**MAY 8**  
**Bridge of Hope Spring Gala.** Celebrate

the mission to end family homelessness with live entertainment, a silent auction and luncheon. Doubletree, 2400 Willow Street Pk., Lancaster. 10 am to 1 pm. Tickets at BridgeOfHopeInc.org/Gala.

**MAY 9**  
**Uptown on Broadway.** A red-carpet Broadway celebration of music, community and the future of the arts at Uptown with appetizers, open beer and wine bar (and a signature Broadway-inspired cocktail), silent auction and live performance. Uptown's biggest annual fundraising event. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 5:30 pm. \$125. UptownWestChester.org



**MAY 14**  
**"All That's Purple Affair."** The Domestic Violence Center of Chester County's annual gala

with hors d'oeuvres and dinner, open bar, entertainment plus silent and live auction. Penn Oaks Golf Club, 150 Penn Oaks Dr., West Chester. 6 to 10 pm. \$200. DVCCCPA.org

**MAY 30**  
**Willistown Conservation Trust Barns & BBQ.** Enjoy the Morning Barn Tour, 10 am to 1 pm, or the Barns & BBQ, 2 to 8 pm, both featuring the tour and access to barns and farms. Barns & BBQ attendees end the evening with a cocktail hour, dinner and live music. Benefits the Trust's conservation works. 925 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. Tickets, WCTrust.org.

**GARDENS** .....  
 See Home & Garden article in this issue.

**MUSEUMS**.....  
 See Spring Art Gallery Roundup article in this issue.

**MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT**.....  
**MAY 1-29**  
**The Keswick Theatre.** *May 1*, Jim Breuer; *May 2 & 3*, The Price is Right Live On Stage; *May 9*, The AC/DC Experience: Dirty Deeds, *May 14*, KISS Alive: the Tribute; *May 19*, A Night With David Lee Roth; *May 29*, Jim Jefferies. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

**MAY 1-31**  
**The Grand in Wilmington.** *May 1*, Aries Spears; *May 2*, One Love, One Heart: Feelings in Color & Sound at Baby Grand; *May 2*, EagleMania: Eagles tribute band at Copeland Hall; *May 17*, One Night of Queen; *May 27*, Little Feat: farewell tour; *May 30*, The Rock Orchestra: tribute to Jimmy Buffett. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

**MAY 2-30**  
**The Colonial Theatre.** *May 2*, Van Halen Nation; *May 8*, Al Di Meola The Guitarchitect Featuring Electric Band; *May 16*, The Led-betters & Superunknown: Tributes to Pearl Jam & Chris Cornell; and Dann Pell: Songs to Ground and Uplift; *May 19*, Vocal Fusion Spring Concert; *May 20*, Buckethead; *May 22*, Are You Ready For It? A Taylor Experience; *May 30*, Total Mass Retain: YES Tribute Band. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.



**MAY 7-31**  
**Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center.** *May 7*, Dan Tyminski; *May 14*, Chelsea Reed; *May 21*, One Alternative; *May 29*, Ball in the House; *May 30*, High Noon: Tribute to Lynard Skynard & Southern Rock; *May 31*, Purple Piano One Man Tribute to Prince. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

**MAY 16**  
**West Chester Porchfest 2026.** Organized by the West Chester Green Team, this family-

friendly event invites you to stroll from porch to porch and relax on front lawns and sidewalks as you enjoy live music from over 70 bands, plus food trucks, kids activities and more. 1 to 7 pm. WestChesterPorchfest.com

**MAY 28, JUNE 18, AUGUST 21**  
**West Chester's Concerts in the Parks.** Bring a chair or blanket and kick back to enjoy live music. Bands TBD. Food trucks on site. *May 28*, Hoopes Park, 700 Hoopes Park Ln.; *June 18*, John O. Green Park, S. Matlack and E. Miner St.; *Aug. 21*, Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine St. West-Chester.com

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MAY 30

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

JUNE 7

**Historic Yellow Springs Jazz at the Springs.** Bring lawn chairs, your family and enjoy an afternoon of jazz at this annual

outdoor music festival, held in the field behind the Chester Springs Studio. Food and beverages available for purchase. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 3 to 6 pm. Free. YellowSprings.org

JUNE 7

**43rd Annual Turk's Head Music Festival.** Bands, 50+ crafters and booths, food vendors, rides, games and more in Everhart Park, 100 S. Brandywine, West Chester. St. Noon to 7 pm. Free. TurksHeadFestival.com

**OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES .....**

MAY 2

**Humane Pennsylvania's 49th Annual Walk for the Animals.** Animal lovers are invited to participate in a themed walk with their dogs. Enjoy a full day of activities, including live music, vendors, games, dog contests and food trucks. Berks County Fairgrounds, 1216 Hilltop Rd., Leesport. Registration at 10 am, walk is 11 to 2. \$15-\$25. HumanePA.org

MAY 3

**Cinco de Mayo Benefit Bike Ride & Walk.** Cyclists with and without disabilities support the PA Center for Adapted Sports. Pick your distance from 1 mile to 23 miles on the Chester Valley Trail or 25- and 50-mile road routes. Chester Valley Trail Parking Area, 140 Church Farm Ln., Exton. Reg., 7:30. \$50. Post-ride fiesta at noon. CincoDeMayoRide.org

MAY 3

**Blue Cross Broad St. Run.** Line up for a 10-mile, point-to-point course starting at Central High School Athletic Field, Broad & Fisher Sts. in Philadelphia, and finishing inside the Navy Yard. Benefits the American Cancer Society. 7 am. \$65. BroadStreetRun.com

MAY 9

**15th Annual Main Line Animal Rescue Tails & Trails 5K Run/2K Walk.** Rescue. Run. Repeat. Make a difference in the lives of animals in need while having fun with friends, family and furry companions. 1149 Pike Springs Rd., Chester Springs. 7:30 to noon. \$10-\$40. PSPCA.org



MAY 16

**Kennett Run. Small Town—Big Race—Strong Community.** Events for everyone with 5K, 10K, one-mile or Power Run 5K and 10K races through Kennett Square. Benefits area nonprofits. 405 N. Walnut Rd., Kennett Square. 9 am. \$50-\$55. KennettRun.net

MAY 16

**3rd Annual Hope Travels 5K.** A certified 5K race and 1-mile run/walk. Benefits Help Hope Live, raising funds for medical expenses insurance doesn't cover. Radnor Corporate Center, 100 Matsonford Rd., Radnor. Check-in, 9:30 am, 5K 10:30, 1-mile fun walk 10:35. Registration, \$45. HelpHopeLive.org

**THEATER .....**

THROUGH MAY 3

**"The Chequerboard Watch" at Delaware Theatre Company.** A musical that tells the tale of a crew of sailors on a voyage aboard a 19th-century clipper ship. What begins as a smooth voyage to South Australia becomes dangerous. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, DelawareTheatre.org.

THROUGH MAY 24

**"9 to 5" at Media Theatre.** Dolly Parton's smash hit comes to town. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, 610-891-0100; MediaTheatre.org.

MAY 6-24

**"The Woman Question" at People's Light.** A new play looks at the stories of medical pioneers who led the charge for women's health and reproductive freedom 150 years ago, following the 1894 class of the Woman's Medical College of Pennsylvania, whose struggles and joys reverberate across centuries. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

MAY 8-10

**"Kinky Boots" at The Playhouse.** Celebrated with six Tony Awards, this big-hearted musical hit will have you strutting out of the theater. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

MAY 15-17

**Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center presents "The Prom."** This story of four Broadway stars, desperate for a comeback, is packed with musical numbers, laugh-out-loud moments and uplifting messages. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, 610-356-2787; UptownWestChester.org.

MAY 29 & 30

**The Savoy Company Presents "The Gondoliers."** Gilbert and Sullivan's classic set in Venice and the fictional kingdom of Barataria. Longwood's Open Air Theatre, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 7:30 pm. \$35-\$45, includes all-day gardens admission. LongwoodGardens.org



**TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....**

MAY 1

Oxford Mainstreet's Cinco de Mayo Block

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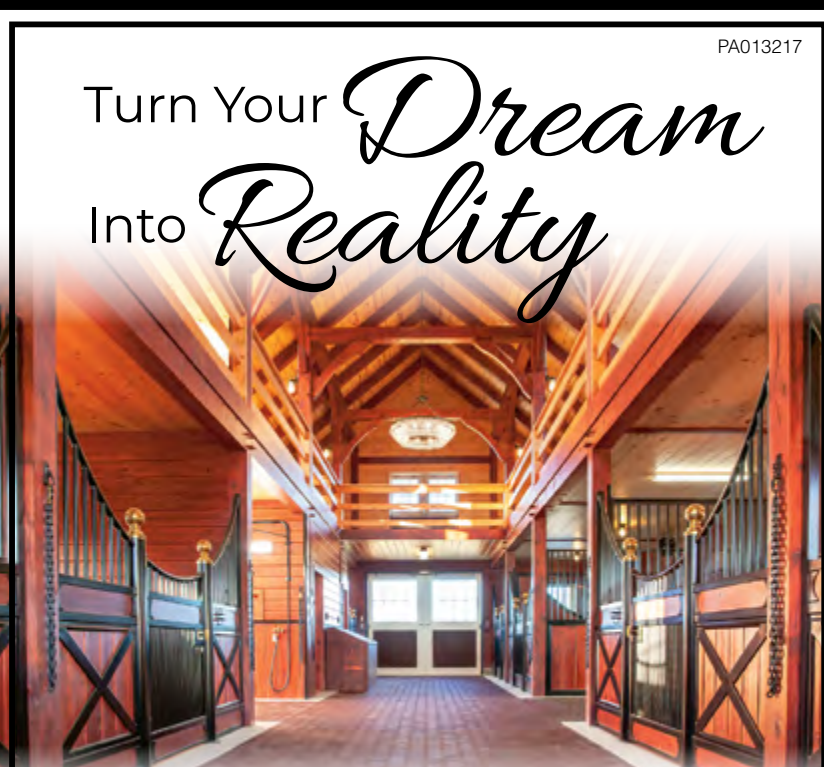
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**MAY 1-SEPTEMBER 27**

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

**MAY 11**

**Main Line School Night Celebrates 10th**

**Annual Visionary Voices.** Phillies managing partner and owner John Middleton joins sportswriter Jayson Stark in a program titled "Inside the Game with Phillies Owner John Middleton." Mullen Center, Villanova University, 800 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova. 7:30. \$95. MainLineSchoolNight.org

**MAY 16-JUNE 3**

**Wednesday and Saturday**

**Revolutionary West Chester Walking Tour.** Explore life in Chester County on the edge of battle, in an age of revolution and the lives of heroes and everyday people as they nego-

tiated the treacherous path to independence. \$16. Times and tickets, MyCCHC.org.

**MAY 21-OCTOBER 15**

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

**MAY 22-OCTOBER 4**

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

**MAY 27-AUGUST 26**

**Wednesdays**

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

**JUNE 6**

**Beekeeping: Historical Origins and Present Day Buzzing.** Learn about beekeeping's historic origins, how beekeeping works today and how bees make honey. Historic Waynesborough, 2049 Waynesborough Rd., Paoli. 2 pm. \$15. PhilaLandmarks.org ♦



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

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

For more events visit:

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

# Field & Fête at Winterthur

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS!

WINTERTHUR MARKS its 75th anniversary by celebrating its past, present and future. Among the festivities planned for this milestone event is a quintessential country-estate garden party — Field & Fête — inspired by H.F. du Pont's tradition of grand outdoor entertaining. Join in on May 16 for elegant picnicking, a parade, live music, vintage automobiles, plus guided garden experiences, museum tours and more.

This May garden party will be set in the scenic open fields alongside Azalea Woods on the Winterthur grounds. Pack your own perfectly appointed picnic as practice for tailgating at local steeplechase races. (Note: Winterthur's annual point-to-point race will not be held in 2026.)

Or purchase your lunch from Winterthur's onsite caterer. Another option: reserve a 10x10-foot tent on the Azalea Lawn, with dedicated butler service and selections from Winterthur's seasonal food and drink menu. Selections include lobster bao buns, salmon rillettes, French-inspired charcuterie boxes, wagyu beef sliders, plus sweet signature desserts, a sparkling station and Winterthur-label beer.

The Chapters of Winterthur Parade, along Garden Lane from 1 to 1:30 p.m., is the celebration's centerpiece, featuring marching bands, vintage Rolls-Royces, 1950s cars, and tractors from Winterthur's farm, showcasing its history as a dairy farm and working estate. See unique vehicles — a 1926 Model T Pickup, 1931 Buick station wagon, 1959 Ford Thunderbird convertible and more.

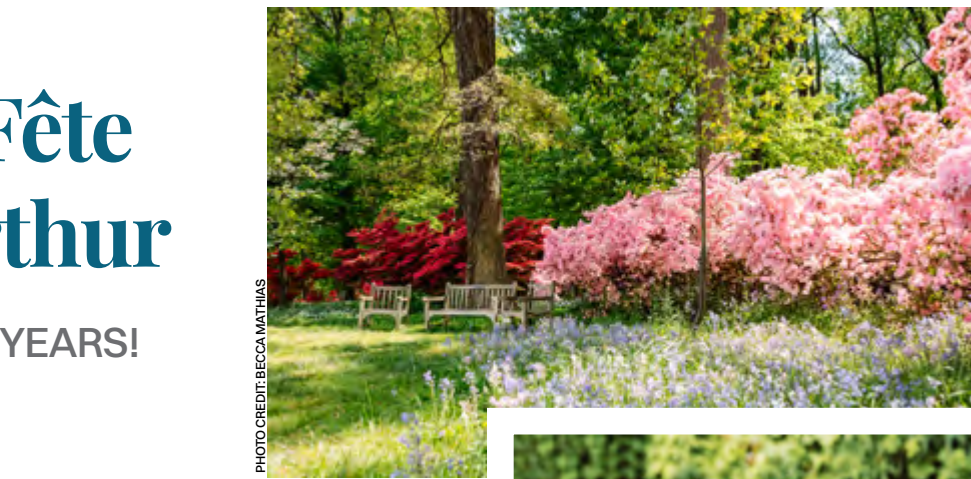


PHOTO CREDIT: BECCA MATHIAS



PHOTO CREDIT: EILEEN TERCHA

For most of the day, swing, jazz, pop and dance music will be performed by the 20-piece Unforgettable Big Band, featuring works spanning the decades — a spirited nod to the garden parties of the 1950s.

Winterthur's staff will lead garden tours throughout the day. A guided garden walk begins at 11 a.m., highlighting the best of what's in bloom. Walk among azaleas, rhododendrons, peonies, primroses and much more. At 4 p.m., a special ticketed event, "Secret Spaces Tour," offers a behind-the-scenes glimpse into hidden spaces in the museum. Additional ticketed events are planned for the day. Check the website for more.

Enjoy a day of beauty and toast to Winterthur's 75th! ♦

## IF YOU GO

**When:** May 16, 2026. 10 to 4.

Rain date, May 17.

**Where:** 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE

**What:** Picnicking, garden and museum tours, plus additional paid events, including live sketches and bouquet making

**Tickets & Info:** \$29; members, \$15.

\$600 per tent (for 6).

[Winterthur.org/Field-and-Fete](http://Winterthur.org/Field-and-Fete)



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# Horsepower of the Revolution

## FROM WAR MOUNTS TO SHOW RINGS

Kim Andrews

**O**N A QUIET MORNING IN Chester County, a rider settles into the saddle, adjusts the reins and asks her horse to move forward. The exchange is subtle, almost invisible, a shift of weight, a quiet cue, a shared breath. Yet 250 years ago, that same exchange might have carried life-or-death consequences.

In the fall of 1777, Chester County's rolling fields and wooded creeks became a corridor of war. As British General William Howe advanced toward Philadelphia, thousands of redcoats and Hessian troops marched through the county, clashing with Continental forces at the Battle of Brandywine and maneuvering along roads we still drive today. Horses were everywhere: transporting officers, hauling wagons, pulling

artillery, carrying messages between scattered units.

The scale was staggering. When Howe's army sailed from New York down the Chesapeake in a flanking maneuver, roughly 2,000 horses were packed aboard transport ships for weeks. Many were weakened by confinement, heat and limited water. Fewer than 300 survived to march north through Kennett Square, Westtown and Tredyffrin.

After the battle, British encampments stretched across the county, and farms were stripped of livestock and fodder. The 1782 Chester County Register of Revolutionary War Damages recorded the losses in stark detail. Joel Bailey of West Bradford Township reported that five horses were taken along with sheep and tools. Others

listed mares, riding saddles and young colts among their losses. Horses, saddles and bridles appear again and again in these claims.

The plunder was not incidental. Forage was as critical as gunpowder. As historian Paul Mullin recounted in "The Plunder of Chester County During and After the Battle of Brandywine," British troops camped for days in Birmingham and Tredyffrin, commandeering livestock, crops and supplies. A thousand-pound horse can consume roughly 25 pounds of hay a day. Multiply that by hundreds, or thousands, and the agricultural strain becomes clear. Feeding the army meant emptying local barns along the troops' travel route.

Today, the stakes are different, but the partnership between horse and rider



remains central. Miranda Wade, a Chester County horse trainer, sees echoes of that wartime bond every day. "It's a very mutual trust," she said. "The horses have to trust that you're never going to put them in danger ... and you really have to trust them."

Wade, who also served in the Marine Corps, noted that horses are acutely sensitive to human emotion. In moments of stress, riders must project calm leadership. "As a rider, when your horse is stressed, you really need to be that strong, confident leader and say, 'Nope, we're here. I'm here. You're okay.'"

In 1777, that steadiness could calm a mount amid cannon fire. Officers trained their horses to withstand chaos, just as modern riders condition them for the chaos of the competition ring. Exposure, repetition and consistency built confidence then as now.

Military riding techniques also left their imprint on sport. Classical dressage, with its precise movements and collected balance, evolved in part from cavalry training, where responsiveness and agility were essential. The ability to shift weight, turn sharply or move laterally had tactical value on a battlefield.

Chester County's landscape helped shape its equestrian sport tradition. Its hills and open fields fostered fox hunting, carriage driving and competitive showing. When the Devon Horse Show began in the late 19th century, it reflected agricultural pride and regional identity. Though disciplines and

breeding trends have evolved, the county remains closely identified with horses.

The 1782 register makes clear that horses were not merely property — they were central to both war and rural survival. But then, as now, equestrian culture extended far beyond utility. Wade described what she calls the "mutual calming effect" between horse and human. "You can see when someone kind of nuzzles next to a horse and the horse breathes on them," she said. "People just sigh."

During this 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, fields once crossed by mounted scouts now host riders training at dawn. Carriages still circle the ring at Devon. Fox hunters still move across open country. The work is different, but the skills of balance, timing and steadiness are familiar.

Horsepower carried armies through smoke and mud. Today, it carries riders through a show ring. The function has shifted, yet the horse remains woven into Chester County's identity. ♦

*Kim Andrews is part of the Chester County Community Foundation's America 250 initiative and a nonprofit governance consultant. She wrote this article to raise awareness of Chester County's role in our nation's fight for freedom and build engagement for 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For more information and to get involved: [America250Chesco.org](http://America250Chesco.org) or [CCCF250.org](http://CCCF250.org).*



1. "Washington and Lafayette at the Battle of Brandywine" by John Vanderlyn, 1800
- 2-3 Reenactments of the Battle of Brandywine, 2022

PHOTO CREDIT: RLYEH IMAGING

### What Happened to the British Army's Horses?

When British troops marched out of Chester County in 1778, not every horse left with them. Campaign animals that survived the Atlantic crossing, long marches and months of encampment faced uncertain futures. Some were taken north with the army to New York. Others, weakened or no longer fit for service, were likely sold, traded or left behind.

Because armies constantly replaced exhausted mounts with animals seized from local farms, horses could change hands repeatedly. A mare taken from a Chester County barn might carry a British officer one season and return to farm work elsewhere the next. Even in wartime, these animals moved between sides more easily than the men who rode them.

# Build It and They Will Nest

## BLUEBIRD HOUSES IN THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Adam Wolf  
Willistown Conservation Trust

IT WAS ONLY 20 DEGREES OUTSIDE, BUT a small, detached garage along Providence Road in Newtown Square had its bay doors open. This garage, a part of the Willistown Conservation Trust's office space, had slowly been taken over by birdhouses and drill bits piled high and spilling over workshop tables.

The Trust, a local nonprofit devoted to protecting wildlife habitat, was gearing up for its annual spring Bluebird Project. Cold air blasted around the corner, but the staff didn't seem to notice. In March, they delivered hand-built birdhouses to local landowners to help improve local bluebird populations. And now, in May, the bluebirds are laying their first clutch of eggs for the year.

### THE BLUEBIRD BOX

The idea of building bluebird houses or boxes is nothing new. During the '60s and '70s, the eastern bluebird was a species in great decline. With over 90% of the population gone due to DDT usage, invasive species and habitat loss, bluebirds had mostly disappeared from the landscape altogether.

The saving grace for these birds was the Peterson bluebird box, designed by Dick and Vi Peterson of the Minnesota Bluebird Recovery Program. Their new design for birdhouses provided important habitat for the dwindling species. Specially created to protect bluebirds, the nest box featured a wide roof and a hole sized to let the intended inhabitants in but keep predatory birds out. With new homes available, the bluebird population began making a comeback.



### LOCAL BLUEBIRD PROJECT

Throughout the years, bluebird societies, groups and clubs have popped up across the country, all aimed at continuing to care for this charismatic species. But it's not always as easy as plopping a birdhouse in your yard and calling it a day.

The Willistown Conservation Trust began its own program, now known as the Bluebird Project, in 2013. The program helps get premade bluebird boxes into the hands of local landowners while providing advice on where to place them — generally, along the edge of open space along a tree line.

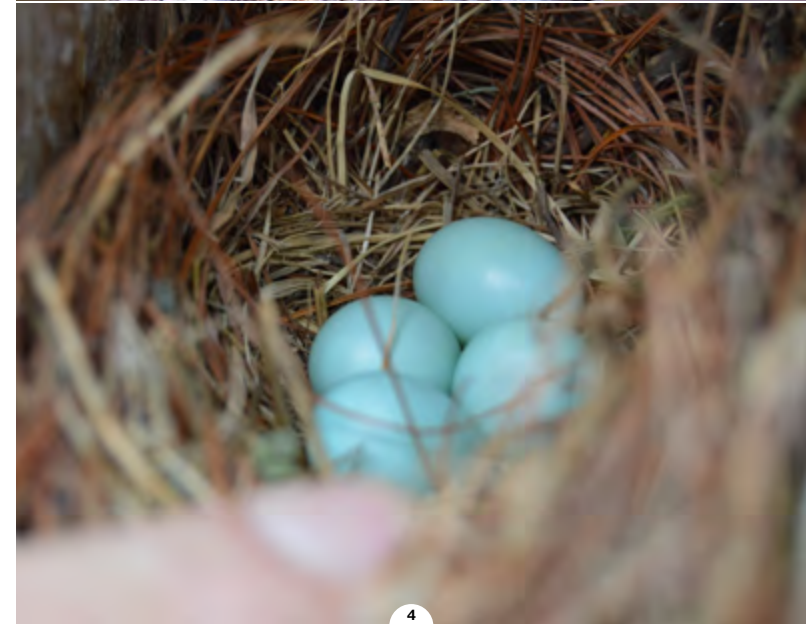
But the project has evolved into something much greater than just putting up birdhouses. At its core, it's about building relationships — helping people find spaces on their properties for wildlife, getting them the resources they need to be successful, and spreading a love of nature across the landscape. It can be hard to care about something you don't understand or haven't experienced. By helping hundreds of people connect with and witness the life cycle of a bluebird in their own backyard, their desire to protect and advocate for the environment blossoms.

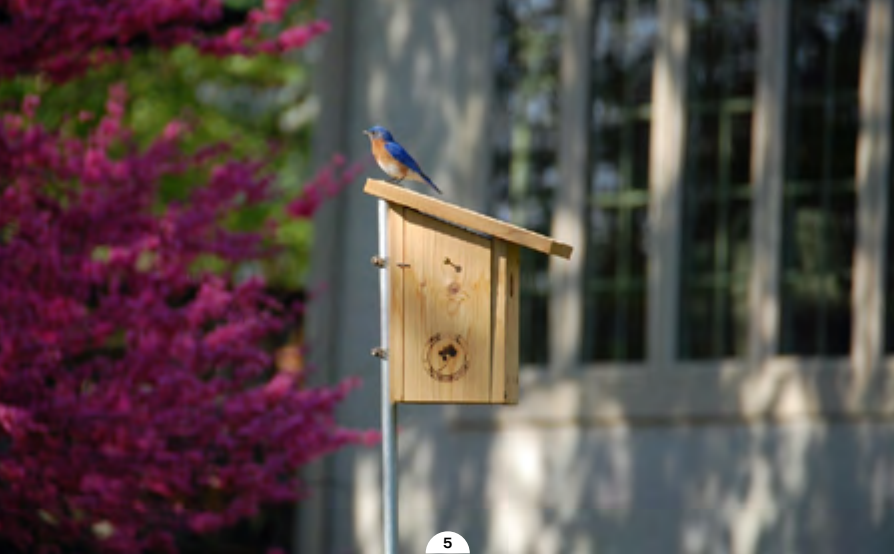
### THE BLUEBIRD KEEPER

The program has also been greatly aided over the years by bluebird guardian angel Ken Leister, who has built over a thousand boxes for different businesses, community members and nonprofits. His inspiration for the work ignited over 20 years ago, when he saw a bluebird for the very first time using a bird box he had set out.

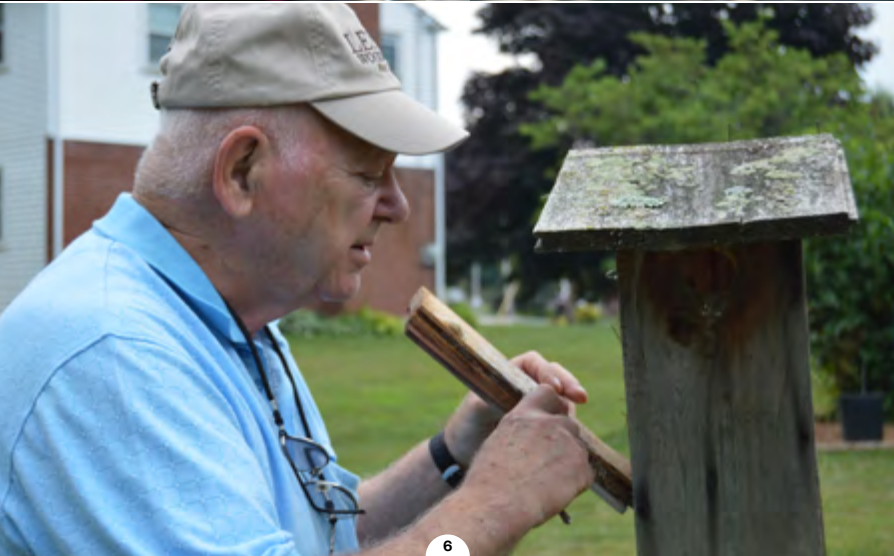
After learning more about the species, Leister found his new calling. He became the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania's State

1. Bluebird boxes pile up
2. Willistown Conservation Trust staff assemble bluebird boxes
3. Singing bluebird
4. Bluebird eggs





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- 5. A Willistown Conservation Trust bluebird box
- 6. Ken Leister opens bluebird box
- 7. A pair of bluebirds

County Coordinator, developed the Bluebird Chat program at local hardware stores to help people have more success with their boxes, and much more. Yet despite his countless hours of community service, he never asks for anything in return, other than an occasional jar of honey from the Trust's Rushton Farm. At 90, Leister still hasn't retired from his love for bluebirds and now advises Willistown Conservation Trust staff on how to build their own boxes.

**BACKYARD BLUEBIRDS**

After 13 years of the Bluebird Project, the Trust has installed over 400 bluebird boxes on more than 200 different properties, helping raise over 10,000 birds, half of which were bluebirds. To see the project's success, check out the Trust's website with an interactive map where you can see bluebird icons pop up for each participating landowner. Click again to see a tally of how many boxes and approximate birds have been raised on each property. The map paints a picture of a local community with a shared vision: to make their backyards homes for wildlife. While no personal details are shown for privacy reasons, it's inspiring to see just how many people have participated in the project.

At the time of a 2018 *County Lines Magazine* article, "The Bluebird Keeper," focusing on Leister's work, the Bluebird Project had spread 150 bluebird boxes and raised an estimated 2,000 bluebirds. In the past several years, it has increased by over 260 boxes and 3,000 bluebirds. The best part about this project is that once the bird boxes are up, they last for 5 to 25 years, with only occasional cleaning.

If you still aren't sold on the idea of joining the effort, there are many more reasons to get involved with the Bluebird Project. Cavity-nesting birds, such as bluebirds that can't create their own homes, continue to be threatened because there are too few places where dead trees are allowed to stand. And bluebirds provide countless hours of entertainment — no Netflix subscription required.

The Trust's Bluebird Project, and similar ones across the country, show that when individuals band together, change can be made. We hope you'll join in. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILLISTOWN CONSERVATION TRUST AND ADAM WOLF  
*The Willistown Conservation Trust, a nonprofit land trust, has protected over 2,980 acres of wildlife habitat, scenic views and agricultural lands in the Willistown area. Its mission is to protect land and inspire a lifelong love of the land through education. More at WCTrust.org.*

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# Spring Art Gallery Roundup

## GET INSPIRED BY ART

Beth Buxbaum

IMMERSE YOURSELF IN ALL THE beauty that spring has to offer in the Brandywine Valley. Enjoy the warmer days, the bursts of vibrant colors and the eclectic art scene on display throughout our area.

*County Lines* is sharing an exciting lineup of art shows, gallery exhibits and tours for enjoying the inspired works of our local artists. Visit some of our favorite art galleries and museums, then stroll through West Chester for its annual Spring Gallery Walk and take a drive to join Chester County's Studio Tour. Your soul will be glad you did.

### 53RD ANNUAL YELLOW SPRINGS ART SHOW

Join the celebration of art at the 53rd Annual Yellow Springs Art Show through

May 10, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. For more than five decades, this exhibition has featured an exciting display of works from more than 200 regional and national artists. Showcased in the historic Lincoln Building galleries, the artworks fill the space with creative energy.

Treat yourself to a relaxed evening at a Happy Hour on Friday, May 1, from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Sip refreshing drinks and nibble light bites from Cedar Hollow Inn while feasting your eyes on beautiful art.

With something for everyone, the creative atmosphere will inspire you. Perhaps you'll even add a new piece to your collection. Gather with friends and art fans to take in the art and the camaraderie! *1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. YellowSprings.org*

### DOWNTOWN WEST CHESTER GALLERY WALK

Discover the vibrant and evolving art scene in Downtown West Chester during the Spring Gallery Walk on Friday, May 1, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Browse the many exciting pieces during your self-guided walking tour. Wander through the charming borough streets as you visit the galleries and "one-night-only" venues that highlight talented local artists. All this while enjoying the downtown vibe on the First Friday of the month, when shops and restaurants offer specials.

Hosted by Downtown West Chester, this evening is free and open to the public, along with free on-street parking starting at 4 p.m. Refreshments are available at many stops along your route, so be sure to



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1. Wayne Plein Air Festival  
PHOTO CREDIT: BRENDA CARPENTER
2. Artists Nicole Wandersee, Diane Lemonides and Linda Braceland at the Chester County Studio Tour
3. Yellow Springs Art Show
4. Downtown West Chester Gallery Walk

get a map in the brochure available online and at participating locations. Extend your walk to include the borough's public murals on your stroll — then look forward to the Fall Gallery Walk on Friday, October 2. *DowntownWestChester.com*

### 18TH ANNUAL WAYNE ART CENTER PLEIN AIR FESTIVAL

Enjoy the art of 32 juried artists at the 18th annual Wayne Art Center Plein Air Festival, May 3 to 9. For six days, these talented artists will capture the beauty of the Delaware Valley in a range of styles and media. These stunning works will fill the art center's galleries through June 20.

A full schedule of events will be available during the festival and exhibition,

including community paint-outs, artist demos and lectures. Stop by on May 9 for the Collectors' Preview & Sale and Awards Presentation, or on May 10 for an eye-opening Juror's Lecture and Demo with Mark Boedges. *413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. WaynePleinAir.org*

### CHESTER COUNTY STUDIO TOUR

Experience an extraordinary weekend of art, inspiration and discovery at the 16th annual Chester County Studio Tour on May 16 and 17. This unique opportunity lets you get closer to the creative world of local artists and meet them face to face, many where they work. Featuring 172 artists across multiple studios, this interactive

self-driving tour invites you into the creative spaces where art comes to life.

Visitors can meet the artists and hear the stories that influenced their paintings, sculptures and mixed-media pieces as they delve into the creative process. Bring along friends and family to share this experience in Chester County's thriving art scene. *CountyStudioTour.com*

### MUSEUMS

Explore a diverse collection of exhibits this spring at the **Brandywine Museum of Art**. On display through May 31, "Cropsey, Wyeth, and the American Landscape Tradition" includes a collection of masterworks by Jasper Francis Cropsey, the leading artist of the Hudson River School.



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Also on view is “John Sloan’s Street Theater,” a unique display representing the Ashcan School, an early-20th-century movement depicting the realities of modern life in New York City. And enjoy the works of 10 contemporary still life artists in “Abundance/Excess: A Contemporary Eye on Still Life,” on display through June 7.

A new exhibit, on display May 22 through November 8, “Treasures from the Family: The Gift of Betsy James Wyeth,” will feature the art and archival material from a major bequest from the late wife of deceased Andrew Wyeth. Finally, “By Design: The Worlds of Betsy James Wyeth” opens June 27 and explores her legacy in visual art for the first time. *1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Brandywine.org*

At the **Delaware Art Museum**, visit “Living Indigenous,” on display through August 23, showcasing the creative contributions of Indigenous artists living in and connected to Delaware.

For something different, experience Jamey Grimes’ “Aster” installation, through December 2027, to explore space and movement through sculptural experimentation, and “Photovoice,” through September 6, a multimedia display using storytelling and photography (with cyanotypes) to explore identity, loss, resilience and belonging.

- 5. Chester County Art Association’s Art in the Woods
- 6. “Future Forward” at the Art Trust at Meridian Bank
- 7. “Last Year’s Leaves are Smoke” by Kate Abercrombie at the Brandywine Museum of Art  
PHOTO CREDIT: CLAIRE ILLTIS, COURTESY OF THE ARTIST AND FLEISHER/OLLMAN GALLERY, PHILADELPHIA
- 8. “March Whispers in Bloom” by Sue Barrasi at Square Pear Art Gallery
- 9. Craft & Mercantile

“ Visitors are treated to a rare look at what inspires the artists in this up-close-and-personal view of the artistic process and how they bring their art to life.

Stop by for a relaxing evening at the Sculpture Garden Happy Hours, Thursdays, 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., during the museum’s free Thursday evening hours. Enjoy live music, seasonal beverages, games, rotating local food trucks and treats from the Kaffeina, the museum’s café. *2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. DelArt.org*

**LOCAL ART GALLERIES**

Enjoy an outdoor art experience, hosted by the **Chester County Art Association**, on Saturday, May 30, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. “Art Sprouts: The First Spring Art in the Woods,” behind the Art Association building, features 80 talented artists’ original paintings, sculptures, jewelry and more in the fresh spring air. Put this free, family-friendly event on your calendar. *100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. ChesterCountyArts.org*

Imagine the future through artists’ unique perspectives at “Future Forward,” hosted by the **Art Trust at Meridian Bank**,

through May 8. An invitation to wonder and explore what the future holds, this curated exhibit features works from 23 contemporary artists. It’s also part of West Chester’s Gallery Walk on May 1. The Art Trust also presents “Surroundings,” May 13 to June 26, featuring art that highlights our human experiences and emotions. Feel the power of art and how it elicits a shared sense of connection and understanding. Special artists’ reception on May 22 and an artists’ talk on June 11. *16 W. Market St., West Chester. TheArtTrust.org*

Stop by **Square Pear Fine Art Gallery** to view “Behind the Work” before the exhibit ends on Sunday, May 3. Visitors are treated to a rare look at what inspires the artists in this up-close-and-personal view of the artistic process and how they bring their art to life. “In Bloom,” on display through July 12, features the work of artists inspired by the spring and summer seasons, filled with bursts of color and growth. *200 E. State St., Kennett Square. SquarePearGallery.com*

See award-winning work from some of the region’s most exciting young artists and designers at the **West Chester University 2026 Senior BFA Exhibition**, through May 4 at the John H. Baker Gallery in the E.O. Bull Center for the Arts. This interdisciplinary exhibition is curated by WCU students and faculty, showcasing sculpture, painting, ceramics, drawing, design, printmaking and more from the graduating class of 2026. *2 E. Rosedale Ave., West Chester. WCUPA.edu/Arts-Humanities*

If you’re making plans for this summer, consider an evening of art at **Craft & Mercantile**, a curated night market celebrating local makers and artisans. The markets bring local artists and the community together for art, refreshments and entertainment under the stars (and twinkle lights). Upcoming night markets are on Friday, August 21 at the Weatherstone Town Center in Chester Springs and Friday, September 18 at Burke Park in Malvern. *GrowingRootsPartners.com* ♦



# CHESTER COUNTY

## *in Bloom*

PHOTO CONTEST

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1. Like and follow us on Facebook @CountyLinesMagazine.
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3. Tell us when and where it was taken.



Check website for rules

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2.

3.



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# The 130th Devon Horse Show & Country Fair

MAY 20 TO MAY 31, 2026

Story by Laurel Anderson | Photos by Brenda Carpenter

**A**DD ANOTHER ANNIVERSARY TO 2026, as the Devon Horse Show & Country Fair — the largest and oldest outdoor multibreed horse show in North America and a Main Line tradition — marks its 130th year and its continuing role as the largest donor to Bryn Mawr Hospital, with over \$25 million donated.

With 12 days of equestrian excellence in the ring and family fun throughout the grounds, this year's festivities bring something old (traditions of all sorts), something new (carriage eventing for one) and something blue (actually red, white and blue for a patriotic celebration of America's 250th).

Mark your calendar for Monday, May 25, for a special patriotic Tribute to Heroes ceremony honoring those who served our country, complete with music, song, a special flag unveiling and, for the 250th, a George Washington reenactor.

## HAVE FUN AT THE COUNTRY FAIR

More than 2,000 volunteers create festivities for all to enjoy — providing food, drinks, shopping, souvenirs, rides and games on the midway plus other activities — for 12 fun-filled days and nights that attract 125,000 visitors.

Come for First Night at Devon, Wednesday, May 20, for an elegant ticketed cocktail party and first look at the work of over 70 artists for sale, including this year's poster artist, Radhika Srinivas, in the Art Gallery at Devon.

And since Devon and family fun go together, let us help you plan find your favorites from the many choices.

- **Come on Family Days:** Thursday, May 21, Tuesday, May 26 and Sunday, May 31 feature special prices on souvenirs, food and rides.
- **Visit the Midway:** The towering Ferris wheel, antique carousel and other rides add to the midway fun, where little ones can let off steam and everyone can stretch their legs.
- **Enter the 8th Annual Dog Show:** On May 21 at 7:15 p.m., show off your best furry friend as canines compete in several classes.
- **Say Awww at the Lead Line:** Pigtailed, proud parents and future stars shine as kiddos ages 5 and under are led around the Dixon Oval, 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 23.
- **Cheer Pony Hunt Teams:** Colorful costumed teams of three youngsters compete in the Wheeler Ring on Saturday, May 23.
- **Reserve a Spot at the Itty Bitty Tea Party:** Fun, food and tea party treats for youngsters on Sunday, May 24, at three ticketed seatings.
- **Make Kids Crafts & Itty Bitty Hats for the Parade:** On the final Sunday, May 31, see a pint-sized hat parade, as kiddos show off their work with glitter and smiles.
- **Get a Selfie with the Philly Phanatic:** Among the many photo ops, be on the lookout for this big furry figure.

Eating, drinking and shopping offer more options for fun with choices galore. Walk the paths beneath the sycamores and sniff aromas of brewing coffee, sizzling burgers, baking pizzas. Then browse the shops in the white clapboard cottages hosting boutiques and special souvenirs for Devon's 130th and America's 250th.

For traditional fare, opt for tea and tiny sandwiches at the Tea Cart, or lemon sticks, Devon fudge and ice cream plus good old burgers and fries. Sample more options from Sips & Bits, the Garden Café, 1896 Grille and the Wine Gazebo. Clydesdale Corner offers more options for food, drink, music and good cheer.



## IN THE DIXON OVAL AND WHEELER RING

Equestrian excellence and American tradition meet at the Devon Horse Show, which draws over 1,500 competitors to this US Equestrian Heritage Competition — from Olympians to munchkins in their first Lead Line event. Started in 1896 at the Devon Racetrack and Polo Grounds, the horse show now offers \$1 million in prize money.

Check the schedule in this article for events, dates, times and details to help choose your preferred equestrian excitement. Some suggestions:

- **NEW Carriage Eventing:** A new tradition debuts on Memorial Day at 7 p.m. Carriage eventing combines the thrill of racing on an obstacle course set in the Dixon Oval and Wheeler Ring with the added difficulty of carriage driving. A test of skill, precision and speed with \$10,000 in prize money.
- **Arena Eventing:** A popular recent addition, this race of horse and rider is a breathtaking 30-jump competition of precision and stamina spanning two rings for \$50,000 in prize money, Sunday, May 24.
- **Show Jumping:** The thrill of jumping events is woven throughout the schedule — from Junior Jumpers, Pony Jumpers and Amateur Jumpers to events with big prizes, including the Idle Dice Open Jumper Stake on May 30 (\$182,100 in prizes) as well as the Grand Prix.
- **Sapphire Grand Prix:** The highlight event with \$210,000 in prizes features world class riders and their equine partners performing under the lights, Thursday, May 28. This event, where horse and rider clear a series of 5-foot-plus jumps, sells out, so reserve tickets early.
- **Hackneys, Saddlebreds, Sidesaddle:** Marvel at the elegant high-stepping hackneys as they pull carriages and the American-bred saddlebreds topped with riders wearing long-tailed coats, as well as gravity-defying side-saddle riders.
- **Pleasure Drive:** For a change of pace, watch antique carriages parade through local neighborhoods, starting in St. David's Church grounds and ending in the Dixon Oval, Sunday, May 24. From simple one-horse carts to grand four-in-hand teams, decked out in period dress. ♦

### IF YOU GO

**Where:** Dorset Rd. & Lancaster Ave.,  
Devon  
**When:** May 20–31. Open 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.  
**Info & Tickets:** [DevonHorseShow.net](http://DevonHorseShow.net);  
610-688-2554  
**Beneficiary:** Bryn Mawr Hospital  
**Livestream:** USEF Network and ESPN3



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

# Start planning your hat for next year!

## Wednesday–May 20

**DAYTIME (8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.)**  
**Welcome Back!**

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

- Dixon Oval**
- Small Jr. Hunter 3'3"
  - Large Jr. Hunter 3'3"
- Wheeler Ring, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
- Hunter Pony Breeding
  - Best Young Pony
  - PHBHA Trophy

## Thursday–May 21

### Junior Weekend – Family Day

The Country Fair open till 9 p.m.

- DAYTIME (8:00 a.m. – 7:15 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- WIHS Equitation Jumper
  - USEF Talent Search

- Wheeler Ring, 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m.**
- USEF Hunter Seat Medal

- Dixon Oval, 7:15 p.m.**
- The Dog Show at Devon – The 8th annual Dog Contest. Enter from 6:00 to 6:45 p.m. on the grounds.

## Friday–May 22

Check out the over 60 vendors and new souvenirs. Tonight's Junior Jumper Class is always a highlight.

- DAYTIME (7:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- ASPCA Maclay
  - R.W. Mutch Equitation Champ.
  - Small/Large Jr. Hunters

- Wheeler Ring**
- Pony Hunters

- Dixon Oval, 7:30 p.m.**
- Exhibition: Junior Jumpers

## Saturday–May 23

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

- DAYTIME (7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Junior Hunters
  - Pony Jumpers
  - Lead Line, not before 12:30 p.m.

- Wheeler Ring**
- Pony Hunters

- Wheeler Ring, 5:15 p.m.**
- Costume Pony Hunt Teams – a Devon favorite

- Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.**
- Junior Jumper Classic

- Exhibition: Parade of the Radnor Hunt Hounds
- Horse Hunt Teams

## Sunday–May 24

Experience the elegance of days gone by watching the conclusion of the annual Carriage Pleasure Drive.

- DAYTIME (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**
- Wheeler Ring**
- Pony Jumpers
  - Adult Amateur Jumpers

- Dixon Oval, noon**
- Children's Jumper Classic
  - Exhibition: Pleasure Drive – Antique carriages parade through local neighborhoods, with awards in the Dixon Oval.

- Exhibition: Shetland Pony Steeplechase
- Dixon Oval & Wheeler Ring, 7 p.m.**
- FEI \$50,000 Devon Arena Eventing

## Memorial Day Monday–May 25

A special ceremony honors local military and emergency responders.

- DAYTIME (8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Hunters
  - Scurry Driving
  - Exhibition: Shetland Pony races
  - Carriage Driving

- Wheeler Ring, 10 a.m.**
- Adult Jumpers

- Dixon Oval, 6:15 p.m.**
- Tribute to Heroes, 6:30 p.m.
  - NAL Adult Jumper Classic
  - Pony Races
  - Coaching – Appointments
  - Single/Pair Pony Champ.

## Tuesday–May 26 Family Day

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

- DAYTIME (8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Hunters
  - Green Hunters
  - Regular Conformation Hunters
  - High Performance Working Hunter

- Wheeler Ring, 9 a.m.**
- 5, 6 & 7-Year-Old Jumpers

- Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.**
- Open Jumpers – FEI \$38,700
  - Jet Run Devon Welcome Stake
  - Single Horse Driving

## Wednesday–May 27

### Ladies' Day

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

- DAYTIME (8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Hunters
  - Ladies Side Saddle
  - Hackneys
  - Saddlebreds
  - Coaching

- Wheeler Ring, 10 a.m.**
- 5, 6 & 7-Year-Old Jumpers

- Dixon Oval, 1:45 p.m.**
- Harness Pony
  - Saddlebred Pleasure Driving
  - Coaching

- Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.**
- Main Line Challenge
  - Open Jumpers – FEI \$38,700
  - Hackneys
  - Saddlebreds

## Thursday–May 28

- \$226,000 Sapphire Grand Prix.
- DAYTIME (8:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- USHJA \$25,000 Internat'l Hunter Derby
  - Hackneys
  - Saddlebreds
  - Coaching

- Wheeler Ring, noon**
- Amateur Jumper

- Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.**
- Open Jumpers – FEI \$226,000

## Sapphire Grand Prix of Devon

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

- Friday–May 29**
- Something for everyone today – from the elegance of the Hackneys and Saddlebreds to the thrill of the Devon Speed Challenge and Coaching.

- DAYTIME (7:30 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Amateur Owner Jumpers & Hunters

- Hackneys
- Saddlebreds
- Coaching Championship and Coach Horn

## Wheeler Ring, 7:30 a.m.

- Amateur Owner 3'3" Hunters
- Local Hunters

## Dixon Oval, 7 p.m.

- Exhibition: Devon Speed Derby
- Open Jumpers – \$38,700
- Carriage Racing
- Hackneys and Saddlebreds

## Saturday–May 30

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

- DAYTIME (7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Amateur/Owner Hunters
  - Saddlebreds
  - Hackneys
  - Amateur Owner Jumper SJHOF Classic

- Wheeler Ring**
- Amateur/Owner 3'3" Hunters
  - Local Hunters

- Dixon Oval, 6:30 p.m.**
- Devon Derby Drawing
  - Exhibition: Open Jumper FEI \$145,100 Idle Dice Open Jumper Stake
  - Carriage Racing
  - Saddlebreds
  - Hackneys
  - Roadsters

## Sunday–May 31

Family Day and the famous Devon Plant Sale.

- DAYTIME (8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.)**
- Dixon Oval**
- Thoroughbred Breeding Division
  - Non-Thoroughbred Breeding Division
  - Best Yearling
  - Best Young Horse
  - Plant Sale ♦



**Ladies Hat Day, Wednesday, May 27.** Dating back to the 1900s, this signature event attracts fans in fanciful hats, judged by a panel sure to include surprise celebs. Enjoy Champagne, goodie bags and good times at the Art Gallery Pavilion, while participants display hats in the theme, "Retro Runway, Turn Back the Clock." A ticketed lunch follows at Terrain Gardens at Devon Yard. Reserve tickets early!



# And We're Off!

## STEEPLECHASE SEASON IS HERE

Cara Corridoni

PHOTO CREDIT: BOB PLANT

Radnor Hunt Races

WITH ALL MEMORIES OF WINTER BANISHED and the landscape evolving from early spring's trudging brown to a lush, bright emerald green, it can only mean one thing. Steeplechase season has arrived! So grab your hats and florals, your best loafers or Wellies, and a jaunty pocket square. It's time to go to the races.

Over the course of a century, the Brandywine Valley has become the embodiment of its English ancestors' equestrian traditions, reenacted on the gently rolling hills of the mid-Atlantic. The season kicks off with the Willowdale Steeplechase on May 9, followed by the Radnor Hunt Races on May 16, and the return of the Fair Hill Turf Showcase to Elkton, Maryland, on May 24 and 25. (Note: Winterthur is pausing its annual Point-to-Point race this year — usually the first local race in May — as they celebrate their 75th anniversary. Read about Winterthur's anniversary events in this issue.)

If this is your first encounter with the splendor and spectacle of these elite equestrian events, prepare for top-tier tailgates, fun fashion and impressive athletic feats by both horses and riders. Be ready to cheer until you're hoarse, mingle while the competition resets, and raise a toast to the winners, all while standing in awe of your surroundings, the history and the horses. Just be prepared to dust off a little mud or grass here and there.

### THE BOLD AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Unlike the smooth-sailing ovals of the flat tracks at the Kentucky Derby and the Preakness Stakes, a steeplechase is a race intermittently interrupted by fences, hills and other obstacles. These thrilling long-distance races feature experienced jockeys guiding thoroughbred horses through obstacle-laden courses typically between 2 and 4.5 miles long, with fences at least 4.5 feet high. While today the obstacles are staged, the race name comes from its origin in Ireland, where eager young riders would race from church steeple to church steeple — gullies, puddles and private fences be damned.

Steeplechase's British Isles origins were brought stateside more than a century ago by the fashionable families of the day, including



Willowdale Steeplechase  
PHOTO CREDIT: TISA DELLA-VOLPE



**Radnor Hunt Races**

PHOTO CREDIT: BOB PLANT

Race-day fashion can vary with the weather, but tweeds, vibrant colors and floral prints are always in vogue, as are any and all nods to the beasts of the day — horse-print everything. But, remember no race-day outfit is complete without a show-stopping topper. Straw or silk, wide-brimmed or tiny fascinator, delicate or bold, feather or flower-adorned — no option is out of style. In short, the idea “more is more” is embraced.

This style guide also applies to the elaborate tailgating displays, with their dainty tea sandwiches, signature drinks, sterling silver and often a full bar service.

You’re now ready to plan your race card for the season.

**33RD WILLOWDALE STEEPLECHASE**

This season starts on the Saturday before Mother’s Day with the 33rd annual Willowdale Steeplechase. Located on a former dairy farm just outside Kennett Square, the Willowdale track provides exceptional viewing opportunities, with 80% to 95% of the action visible from any vantage point.

the du Ponts, who are credited with starting the Fair Hill Races. Along with using fence-studded racetracks, the American founders also sought to recreate the splendor of the events themselves, complete with elaborate tailgates and signature fashions. It’s typical to see prizes also awarded for best dressed and best tailgate, along with the trophies to race winners.

The day features six thrilling National Steeplechase Association-sanctioned races over two courses. The hurdle race uses a series of natural hedges, while the timber course requires jockeys to guide their steeds over a combination of post-and-rail fences, open ditches and an iconic water jump — the signature Willowdale Water Jump.

The day begins with the popular Jack Russell Terrier Races at 10:30 a.m., followed by the Pony Races at 11:30 a.m. Horse races don’t begin until the afternoon, leaving guests plenty of time to set up their tailgates, shop the Vendor Village, peruse the classic car show, or simply grab a drink and soak in the fashions and the countryside.

In addition to race medals, Willowdale offers prizes for best dressed, best hat and best tailgate. This year, the tailgate theme is “Groovy at the Gallops — Boho at Willowdale.” Not feeling the urge to shop and plan an elaborate tailgate? Don’t worry, plenty of local food and drink vendors will be on site.

Want it even easier? Willowdale is bringing back its Turf Club, a VIP experience introduced last year. With Turf Club access, you’ll get a premier view of the track plus be treated to a fully catered tailgate experience. Tailgating at its finest — no setup or cleanup required. Details on the website.

Despite the pomp and pageantry, at its heart, Willowdale Steeplechase is about the community. Funds raised by the races go to support the Stroud Water Research Center and the University of Pennsylvania’s School of Veterinary Medicine – The New Bolton Center.

**IF YOU GO:** Saturday, May 9. 101 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Rain or shine. 610-444-1582; Willowdale.org

**TIP:** Can’t wait for the fun to start? Experience Willowdale in White on Thursday, May 7, 7 to 10 p.m. Willowdale.org for details.

**95TH RADNOR HUNT RACES**

It is green as far as the eye can see, as steeplechase season continues with the historic Radnor Hunt Races. Dating back nearly a century, the Radnor Hunt Races are one of the oldest steeplechase races in the area.



**Fair Hill Turf Showcase**

PHOTO CREDIT: MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The first races were held in 1928 at Chesterbrook, the former estate of railroad magnate A.J. Cassatt.

Today, the event is held at the idyllic W. Burling Cocks Memorial Racecourse at Radnor Hunt in Malvern. Things kick off in the morning with pony races at 11 a.m., followed by opening ceremonies at 12:30 p.m. and the Katherine W. Illoyay Invitational Sidesaddle Race at 1 p.m.

The Radnor Races feature four sanctioned events, which vary by length, track type and number of jumps. The brush course uses jumps made with synthetic “brush” to resemble hedges, while on the timber course, horses clear a wooden fence. The first sanctioned race is the Milfern Cup, a two-mile gallop over natural fences. The National Hunt Cup, the day’s most prestigious race, takes place at 2:30 p.m.

In addition to the horse and pony races, come for a lively picnic tailgate competition — the theme is “Party Like It’s 1776” — that lasts until 2 p.m., a carriage parade and the crowd favorite, the running of the foxhounds. Fashion at the Radnor Races tends to vary by location, with those closest to the clubhouse taking a more formal approach than those farther away in the fields.

The most traditional way to take in the day’s action is to reserve room in the box

seats on the hillside. Another option is Skip’s Fox’s Den, Radnor’s VIP experience, which elevates the experience with a catered spread, open bar and private restrooms. But, if you prefer the action up close and personal, the East Infield Rail offers a great view of the races, or get closer to the finish line at the Upper North Infield Rail spots.

For the past 45 years, the Brandywine Conservancy has served as the sole operator and beneficiary of the races. They announced they’re vacating that role after this season. While this may be the last year of the partnership, the legacy of “Racing for Open Space” is sure to be remembered.

**IF YOU GO:** Saturday, May 16. 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. Rain or shine. Purchase tickets by May 6 (not available race day). 610-388-8383; RadnorHuntRaces.org

**TIP:** To avoid parking or naming a designated driver, rideshare is available through Gates 1 or 5. Purchase rideshare pass through the website or at 610-388-8383.

**FAIR HILL TURF SHOWCASE**

Horse racing returns to the historic and scenic Fair Hill racetrack in Elkton, Maryland. Last fall marked the first races after a five-year break that began with the 2020 pandemic closures and continued to modernize its infrastructure, including

improved irrigation, a new Kentucky bluegrass turf course and a state-of-the-art eventing center.

After allowing plenty of time for the grass to grow in properly, the track is now open for the Fair Hill Turf Showcase on Sunday, May 24 and Monday, May 25 during Memorial Day weekend. Flat racing on the turf course is planned for Sunday followed by steeplechase racing and events on Memorial Day.

Fair Hill held its first racing event in 1934 with the Foxcatcher National Cup over fences. For nearly 90 years, Fair Hill hosted live steeplechase racing on Memorial Day weekend. And it's back!

So, pack up your bottle of Pimm's, secure your fascinator and get ready for the pounding hooves on that fresh turf as you share the thrill of the jumps and an experience like no other.

This marks a perfect finale with a mixture of hurdle, timber and flat races to close out the spring racing season on Memorial Day weekend.

**IF YOU GO:** Ticketing, hospitality information and schedule will be announced soon. [LaurelPark.com/flhrs](http://LaurelPark.com/flhrs)

**TIP:** Parimutuel wagering will be available onsite and nationwide through Advance-Deposit Wagering (ADW) accounts under the "Laurel at Fair Hill" name. ♦

**Radnor Hunt Races**  
PHOTO CREDIT: BOB PLANT



**STEEPLECHASE SCHEDULES\***  
33RD RUNNING OF THE WILLOWDALE STEEPLECHASE  
SATURDAY, MAY 9

- 10:00 am – Gates open
- 10:30 am – Jack Russell Terrier Races
- 11:30 am – Pony Races
- 12:00 pm – Judging begins for Tailgate, Hat and Best-Dressed Contest. Theme: Groovy at the Gallop
- 12:30 pm – National Anthem
- 1:00 pm – 1st Race: Apprentice Rider Hurdle: Liam Magee Apprentice Rider Race
- 1:30 pm – 2nd Race: Maiden Claiming Hurdle: The Folly
- 2:00 pm – 3rd Race: Ratings Handicap Hurdle: The Rose Tree Cup
- 2:15 pm – The Inaugural Willowdale Stick Pony Stakes  
*Open to children 12 and under*
- 2:30 pm – 4th Race: The Willowdale Steeplechase Stakes Amateur Timber Stakes
- 3:00 pm – 5th Race: Maiden Timber: The Landhope Cup
- 3:30 pm – 6th Race: Amateur Apprentice Timber: The Willard Speakman Memorial Foxhunter's Chase
- 5:30 pm – Gates close

**95TH RADNOR HUNT RACES**  
SATURDAY, MAY 16

- 9:00 am – Gates open
- 11:00 am – Pony Races
- 12:00 pm – Picnic Tailgate Competition: Theme: Party Like It's 1776!
- 12:30 pm – Presentation of the Color Guard and the National Anthem
- 1:00 pm – The Katherine W. Illoway Invitational Sidesaddle Race
- 1:30 pm – 1st Race: The Milfern Cup
- 1:45 pm – Parade of the Radnor Hunt Foxhounds
- 2:10 pm – 2nd Race: The Radnor Hunt Cup
- 2:25 pm – Carriage Parade
- 2:50 pm – 3rd Race: The National Hunt Cup
- 3:05 pm – Presentation of the Charles Wayne (Skip) Achuff Jr. Annual Memorial Stalwart of Steeplechase Award
- 3:30 pm – 4th Race: The Henry Collins Steeplechase
- 4:30 pm – Gates close

\*Schedules are subject to change

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# What Kind of Barn Is It?

CHESTER COUNTY HAS SOME BEAUTIES!

Jane E. Dorchester

IF SOMEONE SAYS “CHESTER County landscape,” what image comes to mind? Many will think of an old stone or frame barn nestled in the slope of a hill. It’s no wonder, since we’re blessed with scores of old barns dotting our land and providing current tribute to our agricultural heritage.

Have you then wondered what kind of barn you’re thinking of or passing as you travel backcountry roads? Well, that’s a challenging question. While there are only three common types of barns located in Chester County, one of those types has quite a few variations. To further complicate the issue, there’s no agreement on names for the different types of barns and their variations.

To try to help understand the history of local barns, I’ll use the same names of barn styles used in Robert F. Ensminger’s “The Pennsylvania Barn: Its Origin, Evolution, and Distribution in North America.” Ensminger is considered an authority on Penn-

sylvania barns. And I’ll limit this review to only the most common types and variations.

## SOME BACKGROUND

A few things you need to know to start. The south or west façade is generally considered the front of the barn. If a barn has or had a forebay — a frame extension overhanging the upper level of the front façade of the barn — it was located on one of those sides. This makes it easy to distinguish the front and rear façades of barns.

The size of the barn doesn’t affect its architectural style — all types of barns discussed here can be found in any size, large or small. With one exception, all the barns in this overview are two-level bank barns — meaning barns built into a bank of a hill, with ramps used on the rear side to access the second level of the barn.

Also noteworthy, as the function of farms changed, so did the types of barns themselves, with modifications made to suit their changing uses. In addition, most barns in

this article were originally built of stone with frame forebays (if they had them).

Today, many barns now have frame upper levels that originally would have been made of stone — though this doesn’t change the type of barn. In the photos, you’ll see how some barns have been changed over the years, including adding cow sheds, milk houses and chicken houses, which were attached to the front façades of the barns. And some barns had their side-gable roofs replaced with gambrel roofs — symmetrical two-sided roofs with two slopes on each side — to create more space under the roof.

Here’s a short guide to a few of the most common styles of barns that you’re likely to see on your drives through the Chester County countryside.

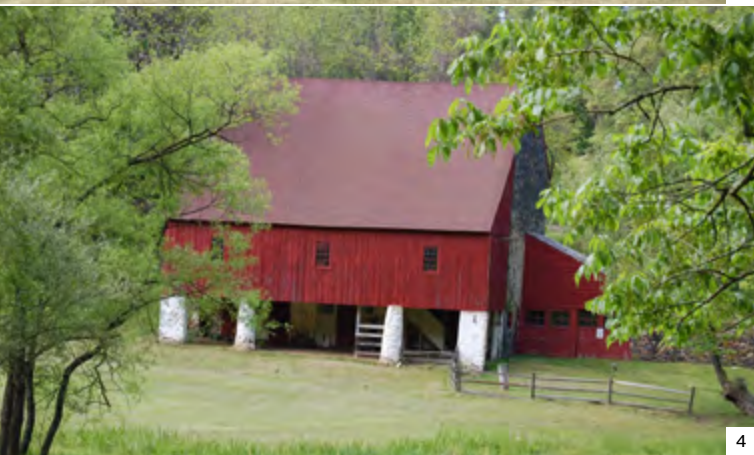
### 1. CLASSIC SWEITZER BARN

(1750-1850)

These barns were one of the first types of barns constructed in Chester County. Originally built of logs with a stone lower level,

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later Sweitzer barns were constructed of stone with a frame forebay, seen in *Photo #1*.

This type can be identified by the following characteristics:

- **Shallow frame forebay**
- **Cantilevered forebay**, meaning the forebay has no posts or pillars to support it. Instead, its roof beams are extensions of the second level floor joists — the signature characteristic
- **Side-gable roof** with the front roof being longer than the rear roof (asymmetrical)

## 2. LAKE DISTRICT BANK BARN (C. 1790–C. 1840)

This type of barn is the least common type found in our area, but it's easily identified because it has no forebay. And yet many Lake District barns had forebays added to them as their function changed. So, you have to look hard to find a classic example like the barn in *Photo #2*.

Other characteristics of these barns are:

- **Stone construction**
- **Steeply pitched side-gable roof**
- **May have a pent roof** across the front façade between the lower and upper levels — the signature characteristic. A pent roof is a shallow, sloping roof located between the lower and upper levels of the barn, supported by extensions of the second-floor joists.

## PENNSYLVANIA BARN (1790–1890)

This is the most common type of barn you'll see in the Brandywine Valley. Its origins are unclear, but it seems to combine aspects of the classic Sweitzer and Lake District bank barns. There are many variations of this type of barn resulting from changes in construction techniques and the functions of the barn. Here are the three most common types: standard, Chester County and double-decker.

1. Classic Sweitzer barn
2. Lake District bank barn
3. Standard Pennsylvania barn
4. Chester County barn
5. Double-decker barn





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### 3. STANDARD PENNSYLVANIA BARN (1790-1890)

This variation, also known as a closed-forebay barn, is probably the earliest version of this style and has lasted the longest in popularity.

This style can be identified by the following characteristics, seen in *Photo #3*:

- Shallow frame forebay
- Gable walls extended to support the forebay — the signature characteristic
- Relatively shallow pitched side-gable roof, both sides being of equal length

### 4. CHESTER COUNTY BARN (1800-1870)

This style of barn is believed to have originated in Chester County, hence its name. Quaker farmers are credited with creating this variation, which was fairly common here. Sadly, these barns are disappearing from the landscape because of land development and replacement of its signature forebay supports with wood columns or posts.

This style can be identified by the following characteristics, seen in *Photo #4*:

- Deeper frame forebay than the standard Pennsylvania barn
- Relatively steeply pitched side-gable roof with the front roof being longer than the rear roof
- Conical shaped stone piers that support the forebay — the signature characteristic

### 5. DOUBLE-DECKER BARN (1800-1880)

This style evolved with the changing functions of Chester County farms as well as their increasing productivity. While Quaker farmers are credited with creating this variation, it's notable that examples can also be found in Western Europe.

This style can be identified by the following characteristics, seen in *Photo #5*:

- Three-level bank barn — the signature characteristic
- Third level accessed on the rear side by a bridge, sometimes enclosed in a frame structure
- Second level accessed on the rear by a double door under the bridge

- Deeper frame forebay than the standard Pennsylvania barn
- Relatively steeply pitched side-gable roof with the front roof being longer than the rear roof

Feel free to use your newfound knowledge of the architectural styles and distinguishing characteristics of barns to astonish your friends during your next backroad drive. ♦

PHOTOS COURTESY: JANE E. DORCHESTER, RANDOLPH HARRIS AND NANJI SARCINELLO

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



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# Dream BARNs



Along the winding roads of the Brandywine Valley, barns dot the landscape — joined by barn-style buildings that carry their rustic charm into modern living. Some are still hard at work on active farms, while others house horses, host celebrations or have been reimaged as distinctive homes. With the help of local architects and builders, you can create your ideal barn. Find inspiration on these pages — and start dreaming.



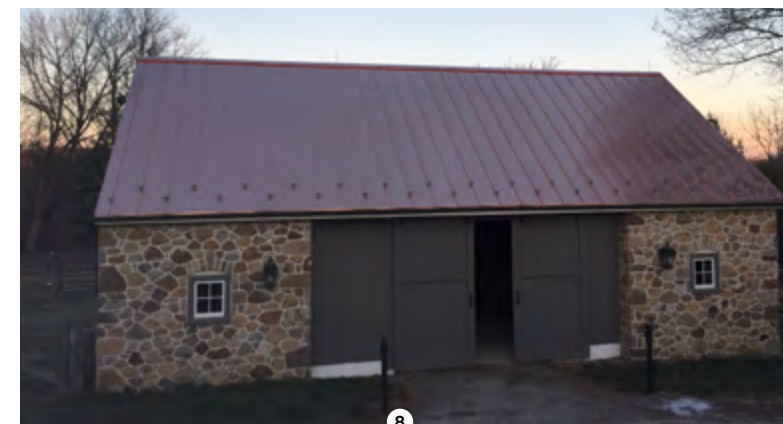
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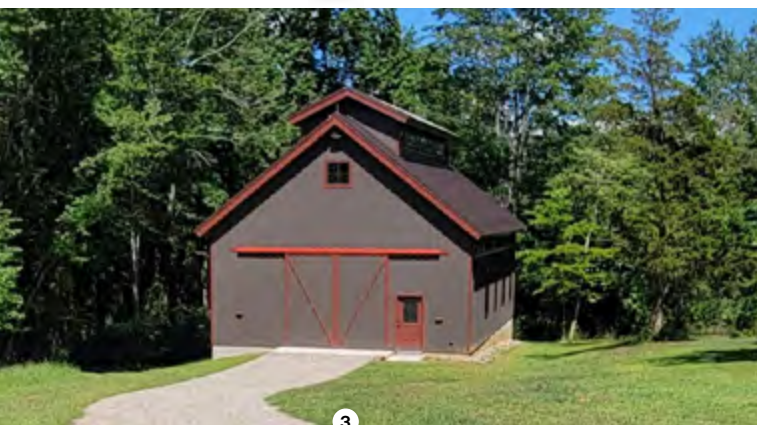
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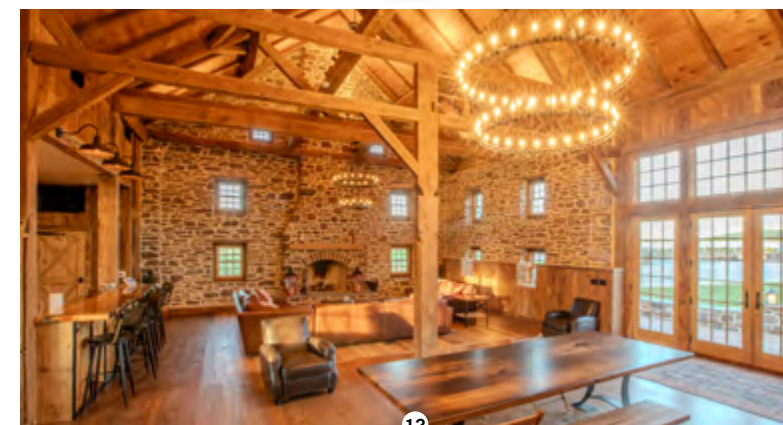
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**1. Archer & Buchanan Architecture**  
West Chester  
[ArcherBuchanan.com](http://ArcherBuchanan.com)

**2. Beiler Brothers Roofing and Exteriors**  
New Holland  
[BeilerBrothersRoofing.com](http://BeilerBrothersRoofing.com)

**3. Dewson Construction**  
Wilmington  
[DewsonConstruction.com](http://DewsonConstruction.com)

**4. E.C. Trethewey Building Contractors**  
Downingtown  
[ECTBuilders.com](http://ECTBuilders.com)

**5. King Construction Co.**  
New Holland  
[KingBarns.com](http://KingBarns.com)

**6. Level Edge Construction**  
Strasburg  
[LevelEdgeConstruction.com](http://LevelEdgeConstruction.com)

**7. McComsey Builders**  
Parkesburg  
[McComseyBuilders.com](http://McComseyBuilders.com)

**8. Mounatintop Construction**  
New Holland  
[MountaintopBuild.com](http://MountaintopBuild.com)

**9. Precise Buildings**  
Bird-in-Hand  
[PreciseBuildings.com](http://PreciseBuildings.com)

**10. Rittenhouse Builders**  
Coatesville  
[RittenhouseBuilders.com](http://RittenhouseBuilders.com)

**11. Stable Hollow Construction**  
Manheim  
[StableHollowConstruction.com](http://StableHollowConstruction.com)

**12. White Horse Construction**  
Parkesburg  
[WHCHorseBarns.com](http://WHCHorseBarns.com)

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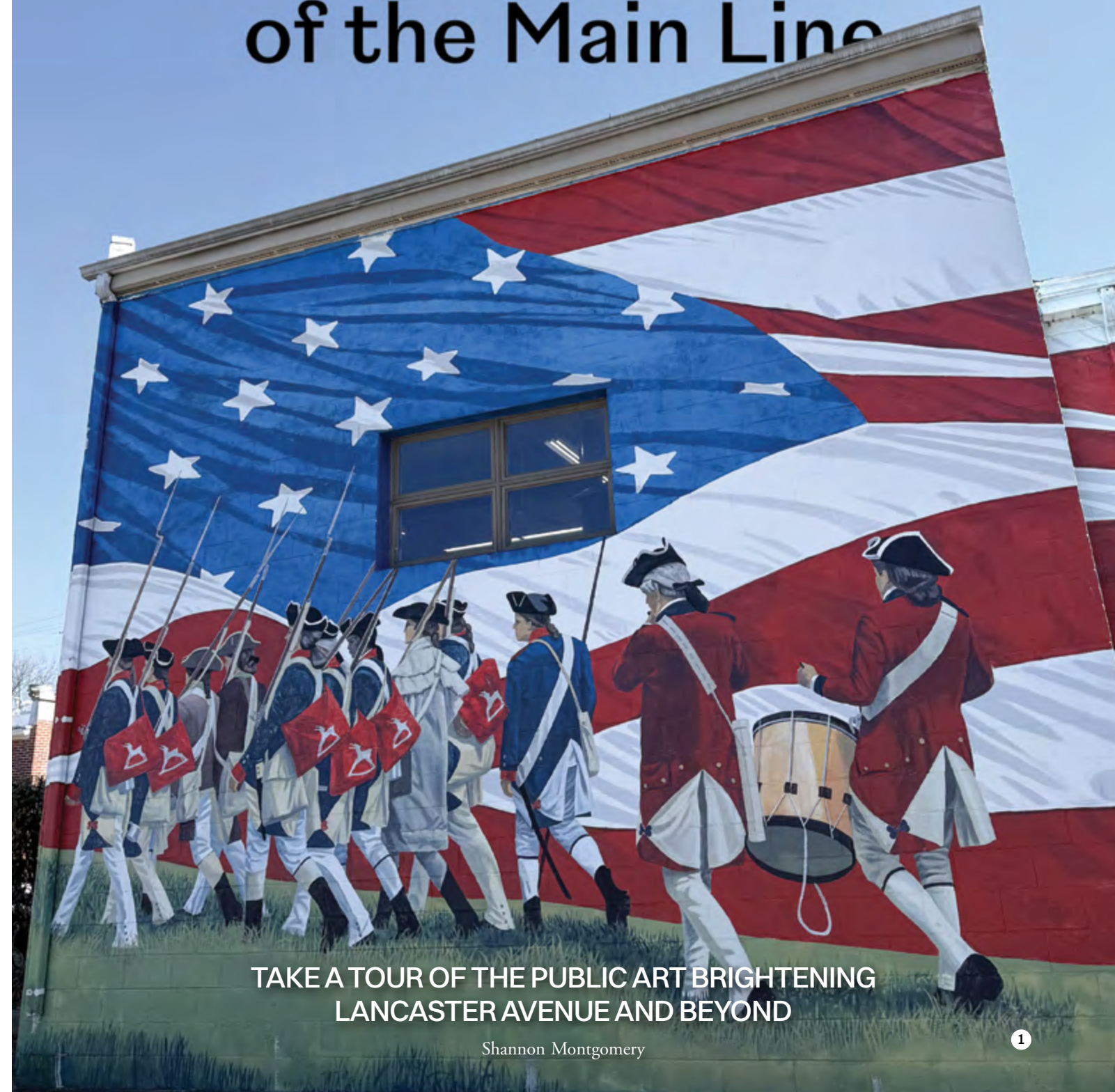
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# MURALS of the Main Line



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SPRING IS A SPECIAL TIME ON THE Main Line. From elegant equestrian events to lively outdoor festivals and public gardens in bloom, this area beckons us to step outside and savor the season. Luckily enough, it's also the perfect time to explore the Main Line's flourishing art scene.

Beyond the galleries and exhibitions (see "Spring Art Gallery Roundup" in this issue), a growing collection of vibrant murals is transforming streets and public spaces into open-air exhibits. So, head out into the sunshine and make a day of it. We've mapped out a mural tour to guide you — from Malvern to Berwyn and Devon, ending in Ardmore — plus a preview of what's coming next for your return trip.

### MALVERN

Let's start our mural tour in Malvern. Thanks to the Malvern Community Arts Project, the borough is home to six public art displays, including several murals around King Street.

- Find the Art Project's first mural on the side of Malvern Pizza & Beer (19 E. King St.). Painted by **Carrie Kingsbury (2)** of Promiseland Murals in 2013, the vivid mural depicts Victorian-era Malvern, featuring local landmarks like the First Baptist Church of Malvern and the Malvern train station, complete with a bright-red steam locomotive. 📷
- Head next to the train station to see the second mural, painted by local artist **Dennis Goldsborough (1)** in 2013. Located on the back of Gallagher's Auto Service (31 W. King St.), facing Warren Avenue, this massive mural juxtaposes Revolutionary soldiers marching into battle at Paoli with patriotic paradegoers at the Malvern Memorial Parade, plus the star-spangled banner as a backdrop. 📷
- The final mural is on the Warren Avenue side of Malvern Saddlery (1 E. King St.). This 2015 mural was also created by **Carrie Kingsbury (3)**. This sepia-toned mural recreates a historic photo from the Malvern Historical Commission archives, featuring a horse and buggy traveling through the Warren Avenue tunnel. At the top of the mural, catch a glimpse of President Lincoln's funeral train passing through — an imaginative addition to the original scene. 📷
- Explore town for even more public art installations. On the side of the Bridge Street bridge, near the Flying Pig Saloon (121 E. King St.), look for "Malvern Today," a series of vignettes depicting the iconic Burke Park gazebo throughout the seasons, painted by **Great Valley High School students** in 2014.



1. Mural by Dennis Goldsborough in Malvern
- 2-3 Murals by Carrie Kingsbury at Malvern Pizza & Beer and Malvern Saddlery
4. Mural by Carrie Kingsbury on Lancaster Ave. in Berwyn

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- Head to Malvern's Borough Hall and the Public Library (1 E. 1st Ave.) for your last two stops. In the lobby, find a series of paintings celebrating Malvern's 125th anniversary by local artist **Randall Graham**, anchored by two large scenes of King Street in 1889 and 2014.
- Then step inside the library's kids' room for a whimsical woodland mural. Painted by **Terri Flint** in 2013, this enchanted forest spans 360 degrees, inhabited by birds, owls, rabbits, squirrels and even a dragon with his nose — or, rather, *snout* — stuck in a book.

## BERWYN & DEVON

Next, head east to Berwyn and Devon, where a budding mural scene burst into full bloom last year — and continues to grow.

Berwyn's history of public art dates back to 2005, when Ernest and Leslie Eadeh, founders of property management company Eadeh Enterprises, commissioned a mural across from Clay's Creative Corner Bakery. Painted by Philadelphia artist Carl Yoder, "Berwyn: A Historic Crossroad, Then and Now" depicted a turn-of-the-century parade scene, featuring both notable residents and historic Berwyn buildings.

By 2020, time had taken its toll on Yoder's mural, so the Eadeh family chose **Carrie Kingsbury (4)** to create a new mural at the site (682 Lancaster Ave.). Kingsbury's mural captures much of the same spirit as the original: 35 Berwyn residents watch a parade, a large American flag draped behind them, while Ernest Eadeh, who passed in 2010, looks on from above.

A year later, **Carrie Kingsbury** painted another mural in Berwyn, a sprawling scene featuring local businesses like Casey's Pour House, KSM Architects and Jim Miller Inc. Located on the back of the Bronze Building (511 Old Lancaster Rd.), this massive mural runs alongside the Paoli-Thorndale line — and you'll have to book a train ticket to see it in its entirety.

Inspired to do more, the Eadeh Enterprises team spearheaded Main Line Mural Arts (MLMA) and put out a call for art in April 2025. In the year since, MLMA has brought seven murals to life in Berwyn and Devon.

- Heading east along Lancaster Avenue in Berwyn, the first mural you'll see is a whimsical scene on the western wall of the Medi-Weightloss building (901 Lancaster Ave. #100). Painted by Phoenixville artist **Laura Stockdale (5)**, the mural is inspired by the 1993 film "The Secret Garden."
- At the corner of Lancaster and Bridge Avenues, mixed-media artist **Matina Shakir (6)** is revamping the Town of Berwyn sign (742 Lancaster Ave.). Finishing this spring, Shakir is currently adorning the sign with a mosaic mural created with found objects from Berwyn.
- On the side of Lift Strength & Wellness (704 Lancaster Ave.), look for a striking mural by Berwyn's own **Casey Saccomanno (7)**. The mural transports you to a nighttime botanical garden, where jasmine, spotted orchids and ranunculus bloom under a starry sky.



- Then make your way to the parking garage next to Handel's Ice Cream (573 E. Lancaster Ave.). **David Gerbstadt**, another Berwyn native, has brightened the garage with fun, vibrantly colored characters and a message of love.
- Continue down the road to Smart Cents Cleaners (521 Lancaster Ave.). Inspired by a famous mural in Key West, **Dan Scott Forreal's (8)** larger-than-life postcard is filled with Berwyn imagery and figurative Easter eggs — see if you can spot them all!
- Last on Lancaster Avenue, head to Devon for your final stop. Across from the Devon Horse Show (105 Lancaster Ave.) is an equestrian mural by Philadelphia artist **Alloyus Mcilwaine (9)**. The mural features a colorful, stained glass-like horse set on a background reminiscent of Devon blue. Look for hidden local imagery, positive messages and Mcilwaine's signature "kudoglyphs" — abstract symbols representing promise and hope.
- For more, keep your eyes peeled for painted electrical boxes by Girl Scout and Conestoga student **Sarah Bernholdt (10)**. Find her painting of Pennsylvania artist Mary Cassatt at the Berwyn Shopping Center (564 Lancaster Ave.) and an American flag next to the Berwyn Veterans Monument (654 E. Lancaster Ave.).

Plus, stay tuned for more exciting projects from MLMA. A surrealist mural at Sage Catering (1000 Lancaster Ave.) by Philadelphia artist Ali M. Williams is being installed this spring. And artists are being selected for four new murals: a speakeasy-inspired mural on the side of Midtown Social (660 Lancaster Ave.), an interactive mural on the front of the Bronze Building (511 Old Lancaster Rd.), a mural honoring America's 250th anniversary and veterans near the Devon Horse Show (105 Lancaster Ave.) and a mural on the side of New Republic Realty (1024 Lancaster Ave.).

Plans are also underway for MLMA's biggest mural yet. MLMA is teaming up with the Tredyffrin-Easttown School District to bring a mural to the south-facing wall of 19 Waterloo Ave. The mural will tell the story of the Berwyn School Fight, a 1930s fight against school segregation, 20 years before *Brown v. Board of Education* banned segregation nationwide. Follow @MainLineMurals on Instagram for updates.

## ARDMORE

The last leg of our tour is in Ardmore, where a walk through downtown reveals a public art scene on the rise — with more on the horizon.

- Start with a quick stop at Wawa (195 W. Lancaster Ave.). From the front, it looks like any other Wawa store. But check around the corner, along the wall facing Woodside Road, to find two murals depicting the Ardmore Train

5. Mural by Laura Stockdale in Berwyn
6. Mural in progress by Matina Shakir in Berwyn
7. Mural by Casey Saccomanno in Berwyn
8. Mural by Dan Scott Forreal in Berwyn
9. Mural by Alloyus Mcilwaine in Devon
10. Electrical box painted by Sarah Bernholdt in Berwyn



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- 11. Mural by Alice Dustin in Ardmore
- 12. Mural by Erica Harney in Ardmore
- 13. Mural by Jessica Gorlin Liddell in Ardmore

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Station. Painted by local artist [Alice Dustin \(11\)](#), they were first installed at the old Ardmore Hobby Shop in 2001, then carefully preserved and reinstalled in 2017 as part of Wawa's expansion. 

- Next, drop by Schaufele Plaza on the corner of Lancaster and Cricket Avenues. Then look down to find your next mural. "Birdsong" by Lehigh University professor [Deirdre Murphy](#) is a colorful sidewalk mural covering the entire plaza. Painted last fall as part of a revitalization project by the Friends of Schaufele Plaza, the mural illustrates the migration patterns of songbirds traversing the Atlantic Flyway.
- Just down the street (39 E. Lancaster Ave.), find "Day-dream Garden," a colorful floral mural painted by local artist [Erica Harney \(12\)](#) in 2024. 
- On the other side of the parking lot, check out large mural panels installed last year by [DayDream Kreative Studios](#).
- Our final stop is Matus Windows (49 Lancaster Ave.). On the side of the building, across from Penny Wise Thrift Shop, find a mosaic mural by artist [Jessica Gorlin Liddell \(13\)](#). Completed in 2012, this whimsical depiction of Ardmore, with homes and businesses separated by the train line, is made of handmade tile pieces fired at Liddell's Mt. Airy studio. 

And more murals are in the works! The Downtown Ardmore District has teamed up with Sherry Tillman, owner of Past\*Present\*Future gift shop, to bring more public art to Ardmore. The Ardmore Mural Project will transform the alleyway connecting the SEPTA station to the historic commercial district, decorating the walls with 11 10'x10' murals. A panel of judges is in the process of selecting artists for the first five murals from over 50 applicants from around the world. Stay tuned for updates.

In nearby Haverford, the Main Line Art Center is planning a mural for the front of their building to celebrate America's Semiquincentennial. The theme is "A Celebration of Pennsylvania Artists: Past, Present and Future." Expect to see inspiration from both historical and contemporary artists — and maybe even Pennsylvania Dutch and Lenape influences. The Art Center is currently selecting the artist, and the mural should be completed by this fall. Check their website and socials for updates.

The Main Line's murals offer a fresh way to see familiar places, each one reflecting the people, history and stories that shape these communities. As new works appear and older ones are thoughtfully preserved, they're a vibrant reminder that public art brings us together and thrives with our support. This spring, make time to seek them out — and keep an eye out for even more on the way. ♦



# Home & Garden

It's time to get into the garden and plan your landscape. You'll find inspiration by visiting the gardens and nurseries, museums and homes, arboretums and preserves so abundant in our area. We've put together a list of these for you to start the season. Enjoy!

Photo: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library



Dahlia Society Tuber Sale



Wilmington Flower Market



Phila. Herb Society of America Herb Sale

**THROUGH DECEMBER**

**America's Garden Capital Passport.** This free passport is an exclusive map and guide to exploring the region's public gardens. Download your garden map, [AmericasGardenCapital.org](http://AmericasGardenCapital.org).

**MAY 1 & 2**

**Arasapha Garden Club's 82nd Anniversary May Market in Historic New Castle.** Garden experts help you choose from annuals, herbs, perennials, houseplants and native plants. Market Square, 201 Delaware St., New Castle, DE. Fri, 10 to 5; Sat, 9 to 1. [Arasapha.org](http://Arasapha.org)

**MAY 1 & 2**

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

**MAY 2 & 3**

**Tyler Arboetum Plant Sale.** Shop a wide selection of trees, shrubs, perennials and native plants with knowledgeable staff and plant experts on site to help you plan a landscape that brings year-round beauty and supports pollinators and wildlife. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Daily 8 to 2. [TylerArboretum.org](http://TylerArboretum.org)

**MAY 2 & 3**

**Kennett Blooms Plant Sale.** The Kennett Beautification Committee invites you to their annual plant sale at Pratt's Greenhouse, 634 Hillendale Rd., Avondale. Sat, 8 to 4; Sun, 10 to 3. [KennettCollaborative.org](http://KennettCollaborative.org)

**MAY 3**

**Chestnut Hill Home & Garden Festival.** More than 300 regional artisans, landscapers and specialty vendors offer heirloom plants, garden art, pottery and jewelry. Enjoy live music, kid-friendly activities and a "Makers Village" featuring live demonstrations. Germantown Ave. from Rex to Willow Grove Aves., Chestnut Hill. 11 to 5. [ChestnutHillPA.com](http://ChestnutHillPA.com)

**MAY 7**

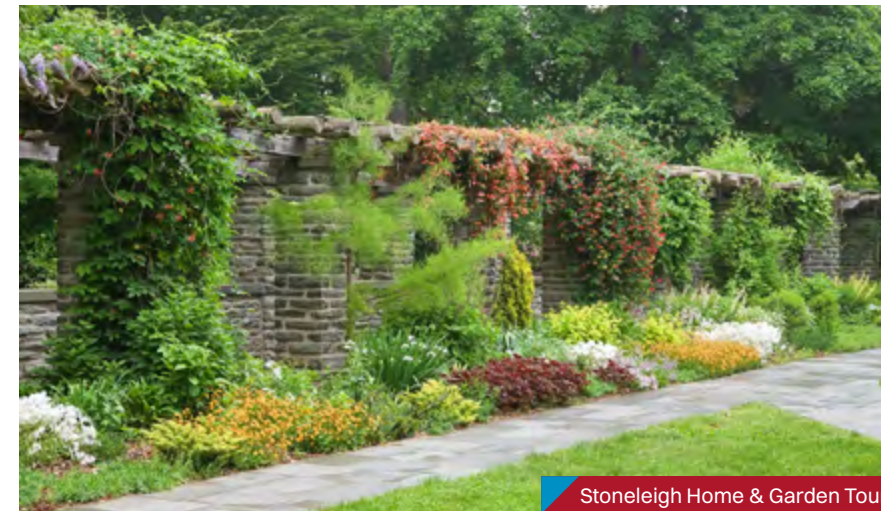
**87th Annual Phila. Herb Society of America Herb Sale.** Culinary and fragrant herbs and rare and unusual scented geraniums and salvias are featured. Box lunch catered by Dixie Picnic. Cash or check only. Historic Yellow Springs, 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. 10 to 1 pm, rain or shine. [HSAPhiladelphia.org](http://HSAPhiladelphia.org)

**MAY 7**

**Showcase of Homes at Hershey's Mill.** The Paoli Hospital Auxiliary presents this tour, which includes six renovated and decorated homes, a luncheon at Hershey's Mill Golf Club, vendor boutique and raffle. Benefits Paoli Hospital. 1500 Greenhill Rd., West Chester. 10 to 4. Tour, \$40; with lunch, \$80. For info or tickets, visit [Events.org/ES/PHASOH2026](http://Events.org/ES/PHASOH2026).

**MAY 7-9**

**Wilmington Flower Market.** Carnival rides, art, gifts, beer, entertainment, flowers and plants of all kinds are available. Benefits dozens of nonprofit Delaware chil-



Stoneleigh Home &amp; Garden Tour

dren's agencies. Rockford Park, Lookout Dr., Wilmington. Thurs-Fri, 10 to 8; Sat, 10 to 7. [WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org](http://WilmingtonFlowerMarket.org)

**MAY 8-SEPTEMBER 27**

**Festival of Fountains at Longwood.** Revisit nature and revel in brilliant blooms to stunning vistas from the Conservatory Overlook as you watch dancing fountains. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. Thurs-Sat, 9:15 pm. \$20-\$35. [LongwoodGardens.org](http://LongwoodGardens.org)

**MAY 8 & 9**

**Landis Valley Museum Herb & Garden Faire.** Plants from the museum's Heirloom Seed Project plus natives and other hard-to-find varieties along with handmade garden decor. Bring a wagon or cart to carry your purchases. 2451 Kissel Hill Rd., Lancaster. 9 to 5. \$10-\$14. [LandisValleyMuseum.org](http://LandisValleyMuseum.org)

**MAY 9**

**Dahlia Society Tuber Sale.** All tubers are \$7 at this sale held in front of Longwood Gardens Visitor Center, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 10 to 3. Free. [Philadahlia.org](http://Philadahlia.org)

**MAY 9**

**Uwchlan Garden Club Plant Sale.** Find a selection of vegetable and herb plants, crafts, perennials, shrubs, trees, a plant doctor, kids korner and gifts. Benefits the 1756 Uwchlan Meeting House. 5 N. Village Ave., Lionville. 8 to 2. [UwchlanGardenClub.org](http://UwchlanGardenClub.org)

**MAY 9 & 10**

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

**MAY 9, 23, JUNE 13, 27**

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

**MAY 10**

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

**MAY 13**

**ShIPLEY School's 52nd Annual Secret Gardens Tours.** A one-day, self-guided tour through breathtaking private gardens. This year's Secret Gardens' lunch stop will be at Appleford Estate and will feature a selection of vendors, including blooms and crafts for sale. 9 to 3. For info and tickets, [ShIPLEYSchool.org/SecretGardens](http://ShIPLEYSchool.org/SecretGardens).

**MAY 20**

**Scott Arboretum Rose Celebration.** Appreciate the beauty of the Dean Bond Rose Garden, learn about roses and enjoy live music. 500 College Ave., Swarthmore. 4 to 7 pm. [ScottArboretum.org](http://ScottArboretum.org)

**MAY 16**

**Jenkins Arboretum Spring Blooms 50th Anniversary Celebration.** Enjoy a roving dinner, garden games, music and floral festivities at this annual fundraiser. Jenkins Arboretum, 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. 6 to 9 pm. \$150. [JenkinsArboretum.org](http://JenkinsArboretum.org)

**MAY 16**

**A Day in Old New Castle.** Take a look into the private homes and gardens plus historic land-

**Pennsylvania's Garden Party, June 20 & 27**

*Fifteen clubs from the Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania have organized lovely gardens that will be in bloom across the state.*

In our area:

**June 20**, the Garden Clubs of Bala Cynwyd, Villanova and Springfield conduct tours of gardens on the Main Line in Montgomery County as well as in Delaware County.

**June 27**, in Chester County, The Spade & Trowel Club hosts tours of gardens in Chadds Ford, Kennett Square, Honeybrook and West Chester. The Uwchlan Garden Club hosts tours in Coatesville, Downingtown, Parkesburg, Exton and West Chester.

Tickets are \$25-\$30 and include a tour book with map and garden descriptions. To order, visit [PAGardenClubs.org](http://PAGardenClubs.org).

marks and museums. Enjoy historical reenactments, entertainment, artisans, children's games and more. 50 Market St., New Castle, DE. 10 to 5. \$10-\$25. [HistoricNewCastle.com](http://HistoricNewCastle.com)

**MAY 20**

**Winterthur's Garden & Estate Insider: A Spring Garden Walk.** Enjoy a walk in the spring garden, hear about the plants that are in bloom and get spring garden care tips. Reg. req. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 10:30 to noon. \$27. [Winterthur.org](http://Winterthur.org)

**MAY 23 & 24**

**Spring Native Plant Sale at Brandywine Zoo.** Featuring plants native to this area and great for pollinators, including a type of sedge attracting small butterflies. 1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington. 10 to 2. [BrandywineZoo.org](http://BrandywineZoo.org)

**JUNE 6**

**Phoenixville Garden Tour.** This year's theme is Bird Up! spotlighting local gardens that support birds through native plants. Visit the native plant sale at Saint Peter's Episcopal Church (121 Church St.). Tour map at Phoenixville Senior Center, 153 Church St. 10 to 2. \$20. [PhoenixvilleChamber.org](http://PhoenixvilleChamber.org)

**JUNE 13**

**Garden Day at White Horse Village.** The senior living community showcases the talents of resident gardeners. Self-guided tours, complimentary lunch at noon. Rain date, June 20. Reg. required. 535 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square. 10:30 to 2. [WhiteHorseVillage.org](http://WhiteHorseVillage.org) ♦

*All events are free, unless otherwise noted.*

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# Shake Up Your Spritz

## LOCAL BARS AND RESTAURANTS SHARE FRESH POURS FOR SPRING

**S**PRING SIPPING CALLS FOR something lighter, brighter — and a little more playful than the usual pour. While the classic spritz remains a warm-weather staple, bartenders are pushing beyond Aperol and limoncello with inventive riffs that spotlight seasonal ingredients and garden-fresh

flavors. Think floral elderflower, cooling cucumber, fragrant thyme and vibrant citrus — all designed for easy sipping on sunlit patios.

Here, local bars and restaurants share their fresh takes, including one standout nonalcoholic spritz. So grab a glass, add some bubbles, and toast to spring!



### GIN & TONIC SPRITZ

*From Triple Crown in Radnor*

- 1.5 oz. Askur gin
- 1 oz. tonic syrup\*
- 4 oz. club soda
- Grapefruit wedge, lemon wheel, lime wheel, mint, rosemary and peppercorns, for garnish

Add gin and tonic syrup to a glass. Add ice and garnishes, then top with club soda. For a special presentation, use a soda siphon to add club soda tableside.

*\*Store-bought tonic syrup is fine, or make your own — find recipes online.*



### GARDEN PARTY SPRITZ

*From LaScala's Fire in West Chester, Newtown Square and more locations*

- 0.75 oz. Hendrick's gin
- 0.75 oz. St-Germain elderflower liqueur
- 0.5 oz. lemon juice
- Prosecco
- Club soda
- Peeled cucumber and bouquet of mint, for garnish

Place cucumber peel on the inner wall of a wine glass. Add ice. Add gin, elderflower liqueur and lemon juice. Top with Prosecco and a splash of club soda, then finish with fresh mint.



### NONALCOHOLIC ROYAL RUBY SPRITZ

*From Wallace Dry Goods in Ardmore*

- 1.5 oz. Abstinence Blood Orange Aperitif
- 1.5 oz. Abstinence Cape Floral
- 2 oz. Fever-Tree Sparkling Pink Grapefruit
- Fresh or dehydrated grapefruit or orange wheel, for garnish

Shake blood orange aperitif and Cape Floral in shaker filled with ice. Pour Fever-Tree over ice in a spritz or rocks glass. Strain Abstinence from shaker into glass. Top with fruit wheel of choice.



**FRENCH GARDEN SPRITZ**  
From Jolené's in West Chester

- 3 oz. Crémant sparkling wine
- 3 oz. sparkling cucumber water
- ¾ oz. Farigoule thyme liqueur
- Cucumber ribbon and mint, for garnish

Line glass with cucumber ribbon. Combine Crémant, sparkling cucumber water and thyme liqueur over ice. Garnish with mint.

**THE CLASSIC:  
APEROL SPRITZ**

When it comes to springtime spritzes, the iconic Aperol spritz sets the standard. Here's the official recipe from the folks at Aperol — approved by the International Bartenders Association.

- 3 oz. Prosecco
- 2 oz. Aperol
- 1 oz. soda water
- Orange slice, for garnish

Fill a large wine glass with ice. Pour in Prosecco, then add Aperol. Top with soda water, then garnish with orange slice.



**[Food News]**

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



**Historic Wheat.** For the first time since the 1880s, the **Mill at Anselma** has ground wheat flour using its original 19th-century machinery. This feat of industrial preservation overcame past mechanical challenges and returned historic wheat grinding stones to active production. Although the mill has long produced cornmeal, the wheat side of the mill is now fully operational. Purchase wheat flour at their Visitor Center while supplies last. *1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs. AnselmaMill.org*

**Revolutionary Bourbon.** Toast to America's 250th with **Old Glory Red, White & Blue** craft bourbon from local distiller Cutter & Cannon Spirits. This limited-run bourbon, with notes of vanilla, fruit and caramel, is made with red, white and blue American corn. Visit their Revolutionary War-inspired tasting room to sample rums (Double Barrel Gunpowder Strength Rum), gins or high-rye bourbons along with specialty cocktails. *210 Carter Dr., Ste. 5B, West Chester. CutterAndCannon.com*



**Vinyl Listening Bar.** Yep, that's what owner Greg Hoy is planning for Swarthmore — an intimate gathering space in the style of Japanese listening bars — a “slow nightlife” vibe. **Stylus** will be a communal living room, seating about 30, built around music first, then conversation, cocktails, natural wines and small bites in an “intentionally calm” atmosphere. No TVs, dance floor or amplified live music, just high-fidelity vinyl sound. *110 Park Ave. @StylusRoom*

**Farm-to-Freezer.** Imagine a local farm launching a **frozen CSA option**, preserving peak-season produce for winter pickup — a fresh take on supporting local agriculture beyond harvest months. This approach helps solve a big farm-share problem: too much fresh produce, too fast. While there aren't any true farm-to-freezer CSA nearby (except for ice cream shares in Upper Bucks), some farms are experimenting with winter shares, storage crops and other items. Just some CSA feedback to share. *ChesCoPlanning.org/ Agriculture/FarmGuide.cfm*



**Sláinte.** **Dublin Brewing Company** plans to debut in Downingtown, adding another spot to enjoy craft beer. Years in the making, a taproom, brew-house and kitchen from longtime homebrewer and Dublin native Brendan Fitzgerald will showcase his beers, including flagship Irish dry stout, Irish red ale and pale ale. Already open for events, the space needs a few final sign-offs at press time to fully launch the dream. *137 Wallace Ave. @DublinBrewing*

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# Gourmet Al Fresco

## PERFECTLY PREPARED PICNICS

Liz Tarditi

*A book of verses underneath the bough,  
A jug of wine, a loaf of bread—and thou.*

THESE IMMORTAL LINES FROM THE *RUBÁIYÁT* have defined the romantic ideal of the picnic for generations. Yet the soul of these verses is far older, reaching back to 11th-century Persia and the astronomer-poet Omar Khayyám. And still, the message remains timeless: the greatest joy is found in the pleasure of a meal shared out in nature.

In the Brandywine Valley, we're fortunate to live in "America's Garden Capital," boasting the highest concentration of historic,

cultivated landscapes in North America. With an unparalleled selection of 38 public gardens within a 30-mile radius, the splendors of Mother Nature call for something more than a sandwich on a park bench.

To elevate your outing, this month's Brandywine Table features a gourmet-to-go menu designed for both elegance and portability. We've reimaged the classics: a vibrant Salad Niçoise layered in a mason



jar to keep the greens crisp plus an Asian Chicken Pasta Salad. For small bites, Heirloom Caprese Skewers offer a fresh, mess-free burst of flavor. To finish, add "Found My Thrill" Blueberry Hand Pies — perfectly portioned pockets of summer — along with a sophisticated Cold-Infused Rose Hibiscus Iced Tea. This botanical infusion is deep and complex and can be made to sparkle with a splash of something bubbly for a truly grown-up toast.

If you're feeding a crowd — perhaps at a local equestrian tailgate — the ultimate pro move is to minimize utensils. Take a cue from the late Queen Elizabeth, whose Balmoral picnics were so strictly staff-free affairs that she even hand-washed the dishes.

No need to DIY your picnic prep. Use picnic-friendly catering from our many fine local gourmet markets, offering artisan charcuterie boards, gourmet cheeses, finger foods and desserts to make hosting effortless.

Another secret to a perfect afternoon lies in stealing tricks from glamping. Ditch the loose ice and freeze water bottles to keep your hamper chilled and provide hydration as they melt. Prepare your feast a day in advance to let flavors marry. For the "jug of wine," opt for Champagne or a high-quality screw-top bottle to leave the corkscrew at home. Finally, invest in a waterproof-backed picnic blanket and a solar power bank for your phone to play music and real-time weather alerts — essential for our sudden afternoon thunderstorms.

Before heading out, check your destination's rules. Many gardens limit picnicking to designated areas and have pet policies. If bringing your furry friend, remember their safety, hydration and "good citizenship" bags. With a little planning, your picnic can be a masterpiece.

### Picnic-Ready Heirloom Caprese Skewers

*The quality of the ingredients really counts in a recipe this simple. And feel free to get creative! Fresh local peaches or strawberries pair beautifully with balsamic, plus basil comes in striking red and purple varieties as well as green.*



Serves 6

#### For the skewers:

- 36 cherry tomatoes
- 18 mini mozzarella balls
- 36 basil leaves, any color or flavor variety
- 18, 5-inch appetizer skewers

#### For the dressing:

- 5 T. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 T. balsamic reduction
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Thread each skewer with tomato, basil, mozzarella, basil and tomato. If making the day before, pack in a container with a damp paper towel and refrigerate overnight.

Combine the dressing ingredients in a small lidded container. Just before serving, shake the dressing to emulsify and then drizzle lightly over the skewers.

### Mason Jar Salad Niçoise

*A classic French composed salad, this version is reimaged for the picnic basket — layered, portable and just as elegant when shaken and served. A vinaigrette keeps things light and picnic-friendly.*



Serves 6

#### Per jar\*:

- 2-3 baby potatoes, cooked and halved
- 1/3 C. green beans, blanched
- 1/3 C. cherry tomatoes, halved
- 2 T. Kalamata olives
- 3/4 C. mixed salad greens
- 1 egg, hard-cooked and sliced
- 1, 5-oz. can oil-packed tuna, drained
- \*Note: multiply ingredients above by 6, for assembling

#### For the dressing (pack separately):

- 1/3 C. red wine vinegar
- 2/3 C. extra-virgin olive oil
- 2 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 2 T. minced shallot
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Layer jars with potatoes, green beans, tomatoes, olives and tuna. Add egg and finish with greens. Seal and refrigerate.

Combine dressing in a lidded container and refrigerate. Before serving, shake, drizzle, then reseal and shake to coat or pour into a bowl.

### Asian Chicken Pasta Salad

*Savory, satisfying and full of contrast. This make-ahead salad is even better the next day, when the noodles absorb the savory-sweet dressing and the peanuts become tender-crunchy.*

Serves 6

#### For the chicken:

- 3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1/4 C. soy sauce
- 2 T. brown sugar
- 2 T. peanut oil

#### For the dressing:

- 1/2 C. soy sauce
- 1/2 C. brown sugar



## Hey Boo-Boo! A Natural Guide to Bug-Free Bliss

When it comes to a peaceful afternoon, being smarter than the average bear means outsmarting insects without resorting to harsh chemical sprays. To win, you must understand how these uninvited guests find you.

Most biting insects are biological trackers, following the plumes of carbon dioxide we exhale and the heat our bodies radiate. By understanding these scent trails, we can use strategies to mask our presence and keep the pic-a-nic baskets to ourselves.

Start by creating an invisible barrier with aromatic lawn incense sticks. The gentle smoke doesn't just smell lovely — think lemongrass, rosemary, citronella — it also physically masks our chemical signals, making it difficult for insects to lock onto their target. Stagger when you light them, and remember a breeze makes them burn faster.

Or craft small bouquets of fresh rosemary, lavender and clove-studded lemons in mini mason jars. These are beautiful, aromatic and help weigh down blanket corners. The botanicals release volatile oils like limonene and eugenol that confuse the sensory systems of gnats and flies.

For those who love tech, consider a small battery-operated camping fan to create a localized breeze. Because mosquitoes are weak fliers, even a low setting on the fan creates enough turbulence to disrupt their flight. More importantly, the moving air dilutes and scatters those carbon dioxide plumes before bugs can track them to your blanket. By combining botanical deterrents with a steady breeze, your gourmet picnic remains a comfortable, bite-free zone.

*"Mr. Ranger, I've learned two things from stealing pic-a-nic baskets. One, light mayonnaise is not nearly as good as regular mayonnaise. And two, you can't fail if you never stop trying." — Yogi Bear*

- ¼ C. peanut oil
- ¼ C. water

### For the salad:

- 1 lb. angel hair pasta or soba noodles
- ¾ C. shredded red cabbage
- ½ C. shelled edamame
- ½ C. carrots, julienne
- ½ C. red or yellow bell pepper, julienne
- ½ C. unsalted peanuts
- ½ C. chopped green onions (optional for a *romantic* picnic!)
- Crushed red pepper flakes or chili crisp, to taste (optional)

Combine soy sauce, brown sugar and peanut oil and marinate the chicken at least 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375°. Remove chicken from the marinade and discard marinade. Place chicken on a lightly oiled baking sheet and

bake 20–25 minutes, until cooked through. Let rest until cool enough to handle, then shred.

In a separate container, combine the dressing ingredients and stir until the sugar dissolves.

Cook pasta in salted water until al dente. Drain, rinse under cold water and transfer to a large bowl. Toss pasta immediately with about half of the dressing so the noodles absorb the flavor and don't stick.

Add chicken, cabbage, edamame, carrots, bell pepper, peanuts and green onions. Toss with remaining dressing, adding a little water if needed to loosen. Chill until ready to serve, stirring occasionally.

Garnish with crushed red pepper flakes or chili crisp, if desired.

## Cold-Infused Rose-Hibiscus Tea

*A vivid, floral infusion with a tart edge. This tea is refreshing, elegant and perfectly suited for warm-weather entertaining. For a sophisticated picnic cocktail, fill a flute one-third full with the tea and top with chilled bubbly.*



Makes 2 quarts (64 oz.)

- 6 T. culinary-grade dried rose petals
- 4 T. dried hibiscus flowers
- 2 quarts (64 oz.) filtered water
- Honey or simple syrup to taste (optional)

Place the rose petals and hibiscus in the mesh infuser of a 2-quart infuser pitcher. (If you don't have an infuser pitcher, tie the botanicals in cheesecloth to make a large tea bag to use in a pitcher.) Fill with cold filtered water, ensuring all botanicals are submerged. Refrigerate 12–24 hours for full color and flavor. Note: Infusion pitchers seal tightly and can be laid on their side for better extraction and easy transport.

Remove the infuser or strain into a carafe. Sweeten with honey or simple syrup, if desired, then chill.

## Picnic Picks

Pack a basket and settle in — these public gardens and estates welcome picnicking, from relaxed lawns to designated scenic spots. Policies vary, so check posted guidelines, and be sure to pack out what you bring in — leave each spot as beautiful as you found it.

**Chanticleer.** Picnicking is permitted in four designated areas. Blankets and chairs are allowed on Friday evenings, 5–8 p.m., May through September. 786 Church Rd., Wayne. [ChanticleerGarden.org](http://ChanticleerGarden.org)

**Hagley Museum & Library.** Picnic on the grounds or at tables in the Powder Yard, Workers' Hill and near the Visitor Center parking area. 200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. [Hagley.org](http://Hagley.org)

**Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens.** Enjoy your picnic in designated areas on the Tree Canopy Deck and in the picnic grove. 631 Berwyn Baptist Rd., Devon. [JenkinsArboretum.org](http://JenkinsArboretum.org)

**Mt. Cuba Center.** Dine in the shaded picnic area, find a seat within the gardens, or borrow one of their picnic blankets to use on the grounds. Light refreshments are available onsite. 3120 Barley Mill Rd., Hockessin, DE. [MtCubaCenter.org](http://MtCubaCenter.org)

**Nemours Estate.** Bring a blanket for the lawn — picnic tables are limited. 1600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. [NemoursEstate.org](http://NemoursEstate.org)

**Tyler Arboretum.** Picnic tables are available near the Visitor Center, or spread a blanket throughout the arboretum. Snacks and drinks are sold in the Visitor Center. 515 Painter Rd., Media. [TylerArboretum.com](http://TylerArboretum.com)

**Welkinweir.** Picnicking is welcome at the pavilion adjacent to the Visitor Center parking lot. 1368 Prizer Rd., Pottstown. [Welkinweir.org](http://Welkinweir.org)

**Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library.** Picnics are allowed throughout the grounds, provided you remain at least 25 yards from all buildings. Food is available at the Visitor Center Café. 5101 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. [Winterthur.org](http://Winterthur.org)

Serve over ice in clear glasses to showcase the color. Or serve with bubbly.

## Found My Thrill Blueberry Hand Pies

*Here's a nostalgic favorite with a floral twist, featuring bright blueberries wrapped in flaky pastry and finished with lavender sugar. Use your favorite pie dough recipe or a high-quality store-bought with a high butter content.*

Serves 6

### For the lavender sugar:

- ½ C. granulated or coarse sugar



Feel free to try a lattice top for your hand pies

- 1 T. culinary-grade dried lavender

### For the filling:

- 2 C. fresh blueberries
- ⅓ C. sugar
- ¼ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1 T. cornstarch
- 1 tsp. lemon juice
- Pinch of salt

### For the pastry:

- 2 discs chilled pie dough
- 1 egg, beaten with 1 T. water

Pulse the sugar and lavender in a spice grinder or blender until finely ground and fragrant. Set aside.

Combine blueberries, sugar, cinnamon, cornstarch, lemon juice and salt in a small saucepan. Cook over medium heat until berries begin to burst and the mixture thickens slightly, about 5–8 minutes. Remove from heat and cool completely.

Preheat oven to 400°. On a floured surface, roll dough to ⅛-inch thickness and cut 24 circles using a 3-inch cutter, rerolling scraps once if needed.

Place a heaping tablespoon of filling in the center of 12 rounds. Brush edges lightly with water, top with remaining rounds and press to seal. Crimp with a fork and cut a small slit in the top of each pie to vent. Brush tops with egg wash and sprinkle with lavender sugar. Transfer to a parchment-lined baking sheet.

Bake 20–25 minutes, until golden and bubbling. Cool completely on a wire rack before serving. Transport in a box or basket to keep the crust crisp. ♦

*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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