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Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on time period 06/30/23-06/30/24. 2. Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors (2025). Source: Forbes.com (Awarded Feb 2025). Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on time period 09/30/23-09/30/24. 3. *Forbes Best-in-State Wealth Advisors (2025), Pennsylvania - East PA (High Net Worth). Source: Forbes.com (Awarded Apr 2025). Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on time period 06/30/23-06/30/24. 4. Forbes Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State (2025), Pennsylvania - East. Source: Forbes.com (Awarded Feb 2025). Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on time period 09/30/23-09/30/24. Methodology: Forbes' Top Wealth and Best-In-State Advisor rankings developed by SHOOK Research, are based on a qualitative and quantitative algorithm evaluating interviews, revenue trends, assets under management, service models, compliance records, and industry experience. All considered advisors have a minimum of seven years' experience; portfolio performance is not a factor, and neither Forbes nor SHOOK receive a fee for inclusion. 5. The Ernst and Young Entrepreneur Of The Year (2023). Source: EY.com (Awarded Jun 2023). Data compiled by Ernst and Young based on time period 01/01/2023-12/31/2023. Methodology: Nominees must be founders or executives leading a for-profit business for at least two years; co-leaders and past regional winners may reapply. Judging is based on individual merit, story, and achievements using a standardized scorecard across industries. 6. Barron's Hall of Fame (2019). Source: Barron's.com (Awarded Oct 2019). Data compiled by Barron's based on advisors appearing in Barron's annual Top 100 Advisor rankings for 10+ years (2006-2018). Methodology: Barron's Hall of Fame honorees are selected from advisors who first pass a prequalification process, then submit a detailed survey; rankings are based on a proprietary formula that evaluates assets, revenue, and quality of practice—including client retention, growth, experience, credentials, team structure, and compliance records—verified by firms and regulatory databases. 7. ThinkAdvisor Luminary Award - Thought Leadership & Education: Patti Brennan of Key Financial, Inc. was awarded the ThinkAdvisor Luminary Award 2025 in the Thought Leadership & Education category for RIAs Less Than \$10 Billion AUM/AUA. This award honors firms that have gone above and beyond in leading a firm that has introduced a new approach or framework to their segment of financial services, which address clients (or the broader market for advice) in a novel way via insights that can, ideally, be shown to have both a qualitative and quantitative impact - and can serve as a model of industry excellence and achievement. Examples include - but are not limited to - podcasts, webcasts, social media campaigns, and white papers. For more information regarding this award, please visit <https://event.thinkadvisor.com/luminaries-awards/>. Criteria: When evaluating nominations, they considered the nominee's impact on the firm, advisors, and the broader professional community and industry, including both quantitative and qualitative results such as the number of advisors affected and a clear description of the innovative ways the nominee had contributed to their program, firm, community, and industry. They also assessed the nominee's demonstrated ability to achieve goals and display ingenuity in creative thinking and problem solving, as well as their dedication to furthering the development of advisors and the industry, particularly their ability to serve the best interests of clients. Additionally, they evaluated the nominee's personal commitment to the highest ethical standards, service, and excellence. 8. Barron's Top 100 Women Financial Advisors (2015-2025) Source: Barron's.com (Awarded Jun 2025) Data compiled by Barron's based on time period 03/31/2024 - 03/31/2025. Methodology: Barron's Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors: Barron's Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors (2020-2025) Source: Barron's.com (Awarded Oct 2025) Data compiled by Barron's based on time period 06/30/2024 - 06/30/2025. Methodology: <https://www.barrons.com/articles/barrons-methodology-for-ranking-financial-advisors-4851b04>. 9. Barron's Top 100 Women: The rankings are based on qualitative criteria: professionals with a minimum of seven years financial service experience, acceptable compliance records, client retention reports and customer satisfaction reports. Advisors are quantitatively ranked based on varying types of revenues and asset advised by the financial professional, with weightings associated for each. Additional qualitative measures include: in-depth interviews and discussions with senior management, peers and customers. Because individual client portfolio performance varies and is typically unedited, this ranking focused on customer satisfaction and quality of advice. Please see <http://online.barrons.com/report/top-financial-advisors> for more information. 10. Barron's "Top 1,200 Financial Advisors" list, (2025). The ranking considered advisors with a minimum of seven years financial services experience and have been employed at their current firm for at least one year. This is a list of the top advisors in each state, with the number of ranking spots determined by each state's population and wealth. Other quantitative and qualitative measures include assets under management, revenues generated by advisors for their firms, and the quality of the advisors' practices, regulatory records, internal company documents, and 100-plus points of data provided by the advisors themselves. Barron's is a trademark of Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All rights reserved. Rankings and recognition from Barron's are no guarantee of future investment success and do not ensure that a current or prospective client will experience a higher level of performance results and such rankings should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor. Best in State Wealth Advisors Forbes Best in State Wealth Advisors (2025) Pennsylvania - East PA (High Net Worth) Source: Forbes.com (Awarded Apr 2025). Data compiled by SHOOK Research LLC based on time period 06/30/23 - 06/30/24.

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NEW LISTING



Serpentine Mansion with Unparalleled Architectural Detail

Surrounded by conservation easements & set in prestigious Birmingham Township, Fernbank Farm is a 6 acre verdant paradise offering privacy & a country club lifestyle. The 6 BR, 4.1 BA antique serpentine mansion features a wrap a around porch, original floors, antique marble fireplaces imported from Paris, chef's kitchen, large primary suite, a “to-die-for” wine cellar, secluded pool with jacuzzi and long protected views. Unionville Schools.

\$3,250,000



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



Wait Until You See the Primary Bath & Kitchen

This stunning Chadds Ford residence is set on 1.9 Acres with beautiful landscaping & significant privacy. This exceptional 4BR, 3.2BA home offers a spacious first floor primary suite and a fully updated gourmet custom kitchen that could grace the pages of a designer magazine. The primary bathroom also has a well deserved “Wow Factor”. The home is thoughtfully designed to combine comfort, elegance, and everyday functionality.

\$1,339,000

NEW PRICE



Newer Home With a Long List Of Upgrades

This exceptional 5BR, 3.1BA home offers nine foot ceilings on both floors; a true Chef designed Kitchen with great space & high-end appliances; a main level Guest Suite; a fabulous Primary Bathroom & large Walk-in Closet plus a dramatic Family Room with lots of glass & an 18’ ceiling. Set in a newer community, this home is a short walk to the 200 acre West Bradford Township park! Sought-after Downingtown Schools.

\$1,263,000

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. Enjoy the views from the elevated Deck overlooking the Koi pond, Party Barn, Play House & Stable.

\$2,975,00

UNDER CONTRACT



c.1731 Treasure with Tasteful Updates & Additions

Set on 14.2 private acres well off the road, sits this 5BR, 4.1BA home with loads of antique charm plus a fabulous Primary Suite, stellar Kitchen, and spacious Sun Room which overlooks the large pool. The antique touches includes original floors, deep window sills and numerous fireplaces. Both the Living Room and Dining Rooms are particularly charming. Amenities include a 4 stall stable, a 3 bedroom Cottage and a large storage building. All this plus low taxes!

\$2,489,000

UNDER CONTRACT



Charming Home on the Delaware River

This gracious home is beautifully set with a clear view of the Delaware River that laps against your shore River views can be enjoyed from numerous rooms as well as the large covered rear deck. The spacious 5 bedroom, 3.1 bath home offers large rooms, update Kitchen, luxurious primary bathroom, large bedrooms and a large third level. River front homes rarely come on the market so if owning a river home has been your long held dream, do not hesitate as this property is expected to sell quickly.

\$1,189,000

UNDER CONTRACT



Great Horse Farm in Unionville Schools

This delightful property features a charming 3BR, 3.1 BA home with a lower level apartment and a well designed six stall barn. The home has beautiful post & beam construction and a nice floor plan. Equestrians will love the 10 acre setting with ample pastures and the Unionville equestrian area location. The farm is set in Unionville-Chadds Ford Schools and enjoys low taxes!

\$1,130,000

UNDER CONTRACT



Exceedingly Private Location Abutting ChesLen Preserve

Set on 23+ acres in a sought-after locations, 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

NEW PRICE



Fabulous Home in Private Location

Set on 12 private acres in Warwick Township and surrounded by protected open space along the French Creek stream, this 4BR, 3.2BA English Manor residence with Tudor elements blends timeless style with superior craftsmanship. Boasting over 5,000 square feet of living space, the home features handcrafted woodwork, fine millwork and elegant architectural details throughout. You will love the floor-pan which has large spaces, great views & main level Primary Suite.

\$1,395,000

NEW PRICE



Fabulous Antique Home in Historic Area of Glen Mills

Antique home enthusiasts will love this original c.1729 Penn Land Grand farm featuring a 5 BR, 3.1 BA stone home. The farm sits on two parcels totaling 3.29 acres. The home features original flooring, several fireplaces and deep window sills. All of the bathrooms have been updated and the Kitchen allows for a spacious eat-in area off the Library/Family Room. You will love the in-ground pool and pool house, perfect for a guest or in-law suite. There is also a barn and several outbuildings.

\$950,000

NEW LISTING



Home to Lawyer Who Changed History!

Steeped in history and rich with potential, this remarkable property was once the family residence of renowned civil rights attorney, Louis L. Redding. Mr. Redding was a legal team member in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case. Set on 9.13 picturesque acres, the historic residence enjoys serene views of a tranquil pond and charming spring house, offering a private and scenic setting. The home is in need of restoration.

\$788,000



from the
EDITOR

August is here, with the peak of America 250 celebrations behind us — though some events, like summer nights, linger. We have kids and pets, gardens and barbecue, plus a visit to Media and more.

Ever wonder how kids lived during Revolutionary times? Work, family, faith, learning, chores and a looming war. Might sound like a grind, but in “Revolutionary Kids,” Kim Andrews tells us kids will find fun. For 21st-century kids, we check in with local doctors in “Kids Health Update” to learn the latest on autism and ADHD, increasing nearsightedness, and when to take their stomachaches seriously.

From our cover, you can see our focus on pets, as Shannon Montgomery examines how we capture our furry friends in photos and paint in “Paws and Portraits.” August is also when we hold our annual Cutest Pet contest. Check out the finalists and vote on Facebook.

Our garden feature from Natural Lands Kit Werner tells us that “Stoneleigh Is Growing,” as 10 new acres reunite Villanova’s Stoneleigh and the adjacent Oakwell property. Learn when you can visit.

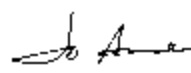
Brandywine Table’s Liz Tarditi declares that August is “Peak Grilling Window for Barbecue.” There’s plenty of warm weather perfect for a “full-immersion sensory experience of taste and smell plus fire and smoke and a little magic.” With recipes from Hood’s BBQ.

Shannon Montgomery explains “Why We Love Media.” She’s got eight reasons to visit “Everybody’s Hometown”: dine under the stars, catch a show at the Media Theatre and six more.

Area seniors share with Carol Metzker what makes their dream community in “Our House Is a Very, Very, Very Fine House.” Our “Guide To 55+ and Retirement Communities and Services” has more information about local care options.

In “Family Fun” and “Best Local Events,” Marci Tomassone compiles many ways to have fun in August, and in “Mark Your Calendar,” she does the same for September and beyond.

Thank you for reading.


Jo Anne Durako
Editor

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August 2026

Volume XLIX Number 12

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NEW LISTING

CHADDS FORD | 4.7 ACRES

Beautiful custom-built home with panoramic views located in the Unionville Chadds Ford School District.



NEW LISTING

KENNETT SQUARE | .75 ACRES

Experience luxury living in this Newlin Greene estate featuring exceptional craftsmanship and fabulous views.



MALVERN | 6.3 ACRES

Contemporary estate in Radnor Hunt Country with stunning architecture offers panoramic views and resort-style living.



KENNETT SQUARE | 84 ACRES

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



SOLD

COATESVILLE | 10 ACRES

Stunning custom-built home in a scenic hilltop setting offers timeless elegance, luxury living and breathtaking views.



WEST CHESTER | 26+ ACRES

Magnificent estate with guest house, pool with pool house, guest suite and art studio.

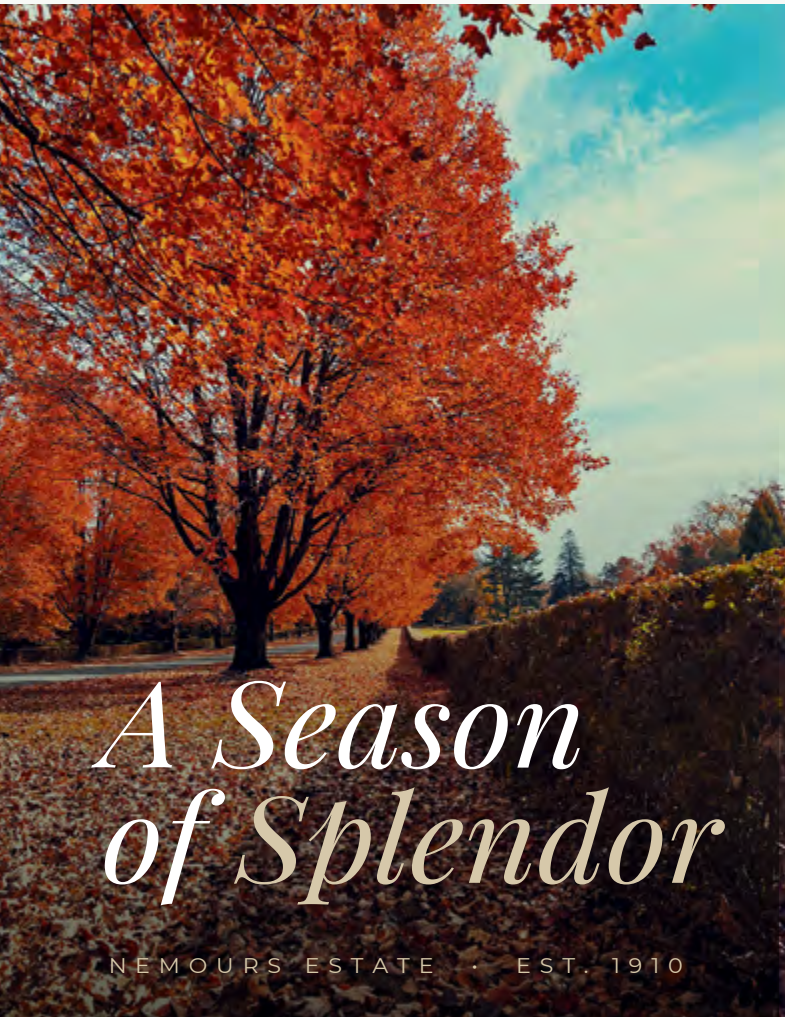


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GOURMET KITCHEN



COVERED PORCH OVERLOOKING POND



REAR AERIAL VIEW

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- 7,144 Square Feet
- 4 Bedrooms | 3.5 Baths
- 35 Private Acres (25 Wooded)
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DETAILS

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[Good to Know]

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



Butterfly Effect. Kennett Square is a little more colorful this summer thanks to Kennett Collaborative's **butterfly-inspired public art project**. Discover six vibrant butterfly benches — water jet-cut by Stone Masters Inc. and painted by local artists — at locations including the KSQ Farmers Market, Anson B. Nixon Park, the Kennett Library, Braeloch Brewing and Caff  Pura. Plus, the Kennett Library MakerSpace has stocked borough lending libraries with 3D-printed butterfly sticker boxes. KennettCollaborative.com

One for the History Books. Cecil County's Bohemia Manor Farm took a shot at the **Guinness World Record** for the most people simultaneously sabering bottles of wine. The winery and resort invited adults 21 and older to join the record attempt — the current record is 487 — while raising funds for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The attempt happened after we went to press, but we're rooting for them! *237 Bohemia Manor Farm Ln., Chesapeake City, MD. BohemiaManorFarm.com*

Century of Craft. The **Wharton Esherick Museum** is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the famed artist, designer and craftsman's iconic studio, which broke ground in 1926 and anchors the museum's 12-acre campus today. Centennial festivities continue throughout the year, including "Breaking Ground," on view through September 20. The museum's 32nd annual juried woodworking exhibition explores what it means to be groundbreaking while honoring Esherick's enduring artistic legacy. *1520 Horseshoe Trail, Malvern. WhartonEsherickMuseum.org*



Giddy Up! Thanks to a grant from the Foxwynd Foundation, **Thorncroft Equestrian Center** has welcomed two specially trained adaptive lesson horses, expanding access to its renowned Adaptive/Therapeutic Horsemanship Program. Bentley is a calm, beginner-friendly horse, while Flash's smooth gait and specialized training make him uniquely suited for riders with neurological and mobility challenges. Their arrival means more riders can experience the confidence, independence and joy of therapeutic horsemanship. *190 Line Rd., Malvern. Thorncroft.org*

Play On. Welcome back, **Ash Park!** Coatesville recently celebrated the completion of the first two phases of a \$4 million-plus restoration, transforming the longtime neighborhood favorite into a modern hub for recreation and community gatherings. New amenities include expanded play areas, renovated and new basketball courts, a colorful splash pad, and a pavilion with seating and restrooms. Future phases will upgrade the soccer field, playground and add another picnic pavilion. *300 Kersey St. Coatesville.org*



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1574 Camp Linden Rd, West Chester, PA 19382

This home is a lifestyle!

Set on the banks of the West Branch Brandywine Creek, **1574 Camp Linden Rd** is a custom-built, all-glass contemporary home. Inspired by the Frank Lloyd Wright vision of creating harmony between people and the environment, this home blurs the lines between indoors and out with panoramic views and multiple access points into the yard. An incredibly private homesite, this is your natural playground with a boat dock, bocce court, gardens, an outdoor wet bar, an outdoor shower, and an in-ground lap pool with retractable cover. You'll have no trouble finding a quiet place (indoors or out) to read, paint, or do some nature journaling, bird watching or creek-side yoga. The yard is primarily flat, and culminates in a slope to the creek where you can watch wildlife pause for a drink. A true nature lover's paradise. Inside, the floorplan is as open as possible to maintain the experience of harmonic living, and each space is styled with natural elements including stone and wood accents in every direction. Rainfall showerheads, built-in cabinetry, a glass locking gate at the top of the stairs, multiple fireplaces, a unique kitchen design and butler's pantry, and tons of parking are just a few of the distinctive details this home offers. There are 3 luxe bedroom suites, one with an immense walk-in closet/dressing room and a back deck that offers a convenient "peak-through" view of the driveway so you can easily check for the arrival of guests or deliveries. If all 3 bedrooms aren't needed, this floorplan also offers the option to create a stylish home office as well as a workout space, den, or more - and each room offers a spectacular view.

A truly inspired home and location, **1574 Camp Linden Rd** is a very special place. Situated in bucolic West Bradford Township near the center of Marshallton, you'll have convenient access to Northbrook Rd and Rte 162.

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best Local Events

August Picks

by Marci Tomassone

America 250 Celebration and Drone Show

August 2

America250 Celebration!

Sunday, August 2 from 4 - 8 P.M.
Free Entry!

9 P.M. - Drone Show

Scan the QR Code for \$10 Tickets to the Rooftop Viewing Party!

Downtown West Chester
Gay St - Matlack St

Experience a large street festival-style event to commemorate the nation's birthday. Watch 30 reenactment groups, military and EMS vehicles, and historical figures line up on Gay St. in West Chester, 4 to 8 p.m. The event kicks off with a reading of the Declaration of Independence, wishing wall and historic flag raising at the Courthouse. There's a Kids Fun Zone on High St., then at

9:30 p.m., the 150-unit drone show takes place in the skies. Two parking garage rooftop viewing parties ensure excellent viewing, \$10. Starting at 1 p.m., on-street and sidewalk dining end. West-Chester.com; WCACOG.org/250th-Celebration

Summer Pop-Up Biergarten at Historic Sugartown

August 20

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 p.m. to 8 p.m. \$10-\$15. HistoricSugartown.org

Unity in Our Community Block Party

August 22

Join the fun filled with food and refreshments, kids and teens activities, arts and crafts, music and dance, and inflatable hoop zone. And remember to help with school bookbags by visiting BagsInBulk.com to purchase bookbags and bring to the event. Rain date Aug. 23. *Highland Ave., Wayne. Noon to 4 p.m. Free. RadnorRecreation.com*

2nd Annual Delco Chalk Fest

August 22-23

See one of Delco's most colorful celebrations. Watch professional chalk artists create 2D and 3D pavement masterpieces, far beyond simple sidewalk drawings. These works showcase remarkable skill, creativity and imagination. *Union Yards, 12 Reaney St., Chester (outside Subaru Park). Sat., noon to 6 p.m.; Sun., 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. VisitDelcoPA.com*

"The Four Seasons:" A Drones & Strings Spectacular

August 26-27

Watch the interplay of sound, candlelight and sky, and enjoy the live performance of Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons" while choreographed drones create patterns of light that echo the beauty and movement of the music below. *Longwood Gardens, 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. 8:30 p.m. \$60. LongwoodGardens.org*

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FAMILY FUN

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27

Sundays

West Chester Railroad Summer Picnic Special. Enjoy a train ride from West Chester to Glen Mills and return on a summer afternoon. Pack a lunch to have during your stop at the Glen Mills train station picnic grove. 230 E. Market St., West Chester. Noon. \$25. WCRailroad.com



THROUGH 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

AUGUST 3 & 17

Catch a Flick at Eagleview Town Center.

Bring your blankets, lawn chairs and loved ones for an evening of outdoor cinema. *Aug. 3*, “Zootopia,” *Aug. 17*, “10 Things I Hate About You.” 565 Wellington Sq., Exton. 7 pm. Free. EagleviewTownCenter.com



AUGUST 4

National Night Out Against Crime/Touch A Truck Day. Join the West Chester and West Goshen Police Departments for special events including fun vehicles, food trucks, moon bounces, rides and more. *Henderson High School, 400 Montgomery Ave., West Chester. 6 to 9 pm. Free. West-Chester.com*

AUGUST 7 & 14

PlayIn Time Music Circle at Stoneleigh: A Natural Garden. Bring your shakers, sticks or other percussive instruments to this interactive musical program geared toward children up to age 5 and their parents or caregivers. 1829 County Line Rd., Villanova. 10:15 am. \$25. NatLands.org



AUGUST 7–9

Pirates and Wenches Weekend in Rock Hall, MD. Drive or sail your boat and anchor out on the Chesapeake Bay. There's plenty of live entertainment and pirate performers, costume contests, treasure hunts, kids activities, pirate ghost tours, rum tastings, the Buccaneer's Ball and more on Main Street. *Rock Hall, MD. Visit RockHallPirates.com.*

AUGUST 8

Linvilla Orchards Peach and Sunflower Festival. A pick-your-own ticket includes a hayride to and from the field and an empty container to fill. Limited-time specials at the Harvest Grill include a vanilla and peach cider slushie, Peach Frozen Lemonade, Peach Cider Slushie and more. 137 W. Knowlton Rd., Media. 8 am to 6 pm. Linvilla.com



AUGUST 13

Splish Splash! at Stroud Preserve. Come out and splash in Brandywine Creek. Kids and adults are invited to play in the stream, relax and enjoy the last days of summer. 454 N. Creek Rd., West Chester. 10 am. \$5. NatLands.org

AUGUST 13

Helicopter Open House. A pay-what-you-

wish evening to explore the museum after hours. Tour the historic helicopter restoration department, write a letter to the stars, build your own glider and more. This family-friendly evening will include refreshments and activities. 1220 American Blvd., West Chester. 5:30 to 7:30 pm. HelicopterMuseum.org



AUGUST 14–23

Media Theatre Youth Ensemble Series: “Mean Girls.” Enjoy this pop-culture staple perfect for a birthday or a watch party. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

AUGUST 16

16th Annual Community Day. Join the fun with a day full of basketball championship games, vendors, food trucks and more. *West Chester Community Center, 501 E. Miner St., West Chester. 11 to 4. DowntownWestChester.com*

AUGUST 15

The Lights Festival at Hershey. Ignite your sky lantern and let it take flight as you share in a celebration of unity and belonging. Enjoy food, live music, dancing and the breathtaking sight of lighting the sky with thousands of lanterns. *BAPS Motor Speedway, 690 York Rd., York Haven. \$43–\$68, includes lantern kit. Ages 4–12 receive a Fun Kit (no lantern). \$30 parking. TheLightsFest.com*

AUGUST 19

Family Bingo in Oakbourne Park. Bring the family out for this fun night of bingo in Oakbourne Park Pavilion—moves into the Oakbourne Mansion in the event of rain. Recommended for ages 6 and up. Reg. required. 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 6 pm. Free. WesttownPA.org

AUGUST 21

Movies in the Park. Pack a picnic, blanket, chairs and the family, and enjoy a movie, TBD. Food trucks on site. *Hoopes Park, 700 Hoopes Park Ln., West Chester. Starts at dusk. West-Chester.com*

ART, CRAFTS & ANTQUES

AUGUST 21

Craft & Mercantile in Chester Springs. A good time is guaranteed at this curated evening of local artisans, food and entertainment under the stars and twinkle lights. Weatherstone Town Center, 240 Windgate Dr., Chester Springs. 5 to 8:30 pm. GrowingRootsPartners.com



SEPTEMBER 4–6

48th Annual Long's Park Art Festival. Browse the outdoor gallery filled with 200+ juried artisans offering clothing, jewelry, pottery, handcrafted furniture, functional art and more. Enjoy local culinary treats as well as wine and craft beer. 1441 Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. Fri–Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$15. LongsPark.org

BOOKS.....

AUGUST 5–25

Reads & Company Book Groups. Big

Reads: Aug. 5, “Whistler” by Ann Patchett. *Saturday Morning Storytime: Aug. 8, 15, 22*, hosted by Miss Bailey. *Then & Now: Aug. 25*, “The Fish Can Sing” by Halldór Laxness. Check website for more. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. ReadsAndCompany.com

AUGUST 5–SEPTEMBER 2

Wellington Square Bookshop Book Clubs. *NonFiction: Aug. 6*, “Revenge of the Tipping Point: Overstories, Superspreaders, and the Rise of Social Engineering” by Malcolm Gladwell. *Fiction: Aug. 13, 19, 20*, “The Homemade God” a novel by Rachel Joyce. *Classics: Sept. 2*, “Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde” by Robert Louis Stevenson. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com

AUGUST 18 & 27

Main Point Books. *Horror: Fiction: Aug. 18*, “The Antidote” by Karen Russell. *NonFiction: Aug. 27* “Is a River Alive?” by Robert Macfarlane. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com

CAR SHOWS

SEPTEMBER 4

12th Annual Car Show in Oxford. One of downtown Oxford's biggest events, with the capacity for over 200 cars, trucks and bikes on the streets. 13 S. 3rd St., Oxford. 4 to 8 pm. OxfordMainstreet.com

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

THROUGH 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, 3 pm. Tickets, \$15 online or \$20 at the gate. For weather updates, call polo hotline, 833-BPC-POLO. BrandywinePolo.com

SEPTEMBER 5–7

83rd Annual Ludwig's Corner Horse Show & Country Fair. A Chester County tradition featuring lots of activities, including pony rides, Mounted Parade of Hounds, pet parade, live music, country fair midway and, of course, the Horse Show, beginning at 8 am daily. Ludwig's Corner Horse Show Grounds, 1326 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore. Midway is open 11 to 4. \$10/carload. LudwigsHorseShow.com



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FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....

See sidebar.

FOOD & BREWS.....

THROUGH AUGUST 26

Wednesdays

Summer Nights at Hagley. Bring the whole family and a picnic for summer fun in a beautiful outdoor setting. Or sample local food trucks. Dogfish Head craft beer and Woodside Farm Creamery ice cream are available for purchase. 200 Hagley Creek Rd., Wilmington. 5 to 8 pm. \$5. Hagley.org

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 10

Thursdays

Sculpture Garden Happy Hour at Delaware Art Museum. Relax and enjoy this summer series featuring music, brews, lawn games, wine, cocktails and food vendors. N. Terrace, Copeland Sculpture Garden, 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. 5 to 7:30 pm. Free. DelArt.org

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 17

Third Thursdays at Nemours Estate. Head to Nemours Estate to enjoy the gardens while sipping a beer, relaxing to live music and savoring

Local Farm Markets



Artisan Exchange, 208 Carter Dr. West Chester. Sat, 10 to 1. ArtisanExchange.net

Berwyn Farmers Market, 511 Old Lancaster Rd. Sun, 9 to noon. BerwynFarmersMarket.com

Bryn Mawr Farmers Market, Lancaster Ave. Bryn Mawr train station lot. Sat, 9 to 1. LMFarmersMarkets.org/BrynMawr

Market at Coverdale Farm Preserve, 543 Way Rd., Greenville, DE. Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 11 to 3. DelNature.org

Downingtown Farmers Market, Kerr Park, Log House Field, 28 E. Pennsylvania Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. GrowingRootsPartners.com

Eagleview Farmers Mkt., Eagleview Town Ctr., 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. Thurs, 3 to 6. GrowingRootsPartners.com

Kennett Square Farmers Mkt., 600 S. Broad St. Fri, 3 to 6. KSQFarmersMarket.com

Lancaster County Farmers Mkt., 389 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne. Wed, Fri & Sat, 6 to 4. LancasterCountyFarmersMarket.com

Malvern Farmers Market, Burke Park, 26 S. Warren Ave. Sat, 9 to 1. GrowingRootsPartners.com

Media Farmers Market, Edgemont St. between Front & State Sts. Sun, 10 to 1. MediaFarmersMarket.com

New Roots by Ramsey's Farm, 4336 S. Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Daily 9 to 6. NewRootsByRamseys.com

Newtown Square Farmers Mkt., at Garrett Williamson, 395 Bishop Hollow Rd. Every other Fri, start June 12, 4 to 7. On Facebook

Oxford Village Market, 193 Limestone Rd. Thurs, 8 to 6; Fri, 8 to 7; Sat, 8 to 5. OxfordFarmMarketPA.com

Phoenixville Farmers Market, 200 Mill St. Sat, 9 to noon. PhoenixvilleFarmersMarket.org

Pottstown Farmers Mkt., 138 E. High St. Every other Sat from May 16, 9 to 1. PottstownFarm.org

Thornbury Farmers Mkt. & CSA, 1256 Thornbury Rd., West Chester. Thurs–Fri, noon to 6; Sat, 9 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. ThornburyFarmCSA.com

West Chester Growers Mkt., Chestnut & Church Sts. Sat, 9 to 1. WestChesterGrowersMarket.com

Westtown Amish Market, 1165 Wilmington Pk., West Chester. Thur, 9 to 6; Fri, 9 to 7; Sat, 8 to 4. WestChesterAmishMarket.com

Visit the Chester County Farm Guide online, ChesCoPlanning.org/Agriculture/FarmGuide.cfm

bites from local food trucks or pack your own picnic. 1600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. 5 to 8. \$12. NemoursEstate.org

THROUGH 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

AUGUST 20, SEPTEMBER 18

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



AUGUST 22

Taste of the Terroir at Winterthur: Explore the Craft of Hard Cider. Trace the journey from apple to glass, unraveling the mysteries of the cider-making process while exploring the beverage's history and regional styles. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 3 and 6 pm. \$45. Winterthur.org

AUGUST 22

Lancaster Craft Beerfest. Choose from dozens of options with some of the best breweries within the community, the greater eastern region and all across the country. Live music and good vibes in the City of Lancaster. Binns Park, 120 N. Queen St., Lancaster. Noon to 3 and 4 to 7. \$55. LancasterCraftBeerFest.com



AUGUST 29

Annual Delaware Burger Battle. Get your taste buds ready as Delaware's top chefs offer their best burgers. Benefits Food Bank of Delaware and Delaware Restaurant Foundation. Rockford Tower, Rockford Park, 2000 Lookout Dr., Wilmington. Noon to 3:30. FDEBurgerBattle.com

SEPTEMBER 3

Happy Hour at Newlin Grist Mill. Stop by to sip some drinks that are for sale, enjoy the music, play games and relax by the creek with friends. A great way to unwind after work or a walk in the park. 219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. 5 to 8 pm. NewlinGristMill.org

GARDENS.....

THROUGH AUGUST 25

Tuesdays

Nature at Night at Tyler Arboretum. Experience Tyler Arboretum after hours through a series of family-friendly summer evenings, from fireflies and bats to owls and reptiles and movie nights. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Check website for hours. \$10–\$15. TylerArboretum.org



THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27

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

MUSEUMS.....

THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027

Brandywine Museum of Art. Through Nov. 8, Treasures from the Family: The Gift of Betsy James Wyeth. **Through November,** N.C. Wyeth Mural Experience, N.C. Wyeth Studio and Point Lookout Farm. **Through Jan. 10, 2027,** “By Design: The Worlds of Betsy James Wyeth.” 1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Wed–Mon, 9:30 to 4:30. \$8–\$20. Brandywine.org

Come Out to the Fair



It's festival time in County Lines country.

Through August 1
76th Annual Goshen Country Fair.

An old-fashioned fair with agricultural exhibits, amusement rides, a dog show and goat show and delicious food. *Fair Grounds, 1320 Park Ave., West Chester. Gates open 6 pm, Mon to Fri; Sat at 5. GoshenCountryFair.org*

August 1
Uwchlan Township Community Day.

Enjoy live performances, food trucks, face painting, bounce houses, games, escape rooms and more. *Lionville Park, 45 Devon Dr., Exton. 4 to 9 pm. Fireworks at 9. Free. Uwchlan.com*

August 7 & 8
57th Annual Goschenhoppen Folk Festival.

The festival showcases the daily life of the Pennsylvania Germans in the 18th and 19th centuries. *Henry Antes Plantation, 318 Colonial Rd., Perkiomenville. Fri, noon to 8; Sat, 10 to 6. \$4–\$15. Goschenhoppen.org*

August 8
Malvern Community Day.

Mark your calendars for Malvern's massive birthday bash (est. Aug. 13, 1889). Bring family and neighbors for a day packed with live music, incredible food and nonstop activities. *Burke Park, Malvern. 3 to 6. Free. Malvern.org*

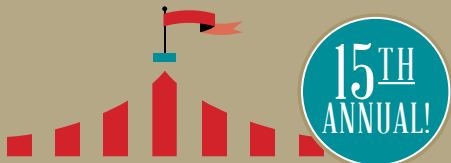
August 23–30
The August Quarterly Festival Celebration.

The nation's oldest African American festival celebrating freedom of religion and speech. *Tubman-Garrett Riverfront Park, Rosa Park Dr. & Market St., Wilmington. 1 to 7 pm. AugustQuarterly.org*

September 12
18th Annual Caln Community Day.

Fun for all featuring a roaming magician, inflatables, bingo, face painting, art show and fireworks. *Caln Municipal Park, 200 Municipal Dr., Thorndale. 3 to 8 pm. Free. CalnTownship.org*

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THROUGH DECEMBER

Delaware Art Museum. *Through Aug. 23*, “Living Indigenous,” showcasing the creative contributions of Indigenous artists. *Through Dec. 2027*, “Jamey Grimes: Aster” installation transforms DelArt’s Fusco Hall with swirling, synthetic forms inspired by nature. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed–Sun, 10 to 4. \$14–\$25. DelArt.org

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

THROUGH AUGUST 16

Delaware County Summer Festival. Bring your dancing shoes as this popular Delco tradition offers everything from classical to Cajun, Motown to Broadway, doo-wop to rock & pop. Visit website for concerts. Rose Tree Park, Rt. 252 & Providence Rd., Upper Providence. Free. Schedule at DelcoPA.gov/Parks/Summer-Festival.

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 4

1st Friday Summer Concert Series. Come out to West Chester and enjoy bands performing at locations across in the borough from 5:30 to 7:30 pm. Chester County Historic Courthouse, 21 W. Market St., and Jack Loew Plaza, 44 W. Gay St. DowntownWestChester.com

THROUGH OCTOBER

**Friday–Sunday
Penns Woods Winery Live Music on the**

Lawn. Kick back and enjoy the music at 124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford. Visit website for a complete lineup. PennsWoodsWinery.com

AUGUST 1–28

Upper Merion Concerts Under the Stars.

Aug. 1, Steel Pulse + Karl Denson’s Tiny Universe play Jimmy Cliff + Original Wailers ft. Al Anderson at Heuser Park; *Aug. 2*, Dinner Party: Kamasi Washington, Robert Glasper, Terrace Martin at Heuser Park; *Aug. 7*, Joan Osborne Sings the songs of Bob Dylan; *Aug. 8*, Watchhouse; *Aug. 14*, Neal Francis; *Aug. 15*, The Dave Matthews Tribute Band; *Aug. 16*, Christone “Kingfish” Ingram; *Aug. 22*, Start Making Sense: Talking Heads Tribute; *Aug. 28*, Spafford with Morel. Concerts through Sept. 4. Township Bldg. Park, 175 W. Valley Forge Rd., King of Prussia. 7 pm. Tickets, UMTownship.org.

AUGUST 1–28

The Keswick Theatre. *Aug. 1*, Amy Grant; *Aug. 2*, Buddy Guy 90; *Aug. 4*, The Concert: A Tribute to ABBA; *Aug. 11*, NMB; *Aug. 20*, Long Live Ozzy: Sabbath; *Aug. 21*, Yellow Brick Joel; *Aug. 27*, So Good: The Neil Diamond Experience; *Aug. 28*, Tributes to Def Leppard & Heart: Adrenalize & Bad Animals. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

AUGUST 2

Long’s Park Summer Music Series. *Aug. 2*, J & The Causeways; *Aug. 9*, Low Cut Connie. Long’s Park Amphitheater, Rt. 30 & Harrisburg Pk., Lancaster. 7:30 pm. LongsPark.org

AUGUST 4–22

Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Aug. 4*, Social Sessions Open Jam; *Aug. 7*, bluegrass with Becky Buller; *Aug. 12*, Dueling Pianos; *Aug. 14*, 80’s Revolution; *Aug. 6*, Back Home Again: A Tribute To John Denver; *Aug. 21 & 22*, Tell Me Lies: The Fleetwood Mac Experience. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.



AUGUST 4–25

Concerts on the Square at Eagleview Town Center. *Aug. 4*, Dylan Zangwill Band; *Aug. 11*, Fruition with special guest Max Davey;

Aug. 18, Rhett Miller with special guest the Moks; *Aug. 25*, An American Classic: Bruce vs. Petty featuring Born To Run Down The Dream. 565 Wellington Sq., Exton. 7 to 9. Free. EagleviewTownCenter.com

AUGUST 5–28

The Colonial Theatre. *Aug. 5*, AJ Croce Presents Croce Plays Croce; *Aug. 8*, The Garcia Project: Live at The Colonial; *Aug. 28*, Larry & Joe. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.



AUGUST 7

Concert in the Courtyard. Wicked Sycamore performs. Brandywine Museum of Art, 1 Hoffman’s Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. 7 pm. \$25–\$35. Brandywine.org

AUGUST 8

97th Annual Old Fiddler’s Picnic. Enjoy the stage show or stroll through Fiddler’s Cove to listen as musicians play tunes using a variety of instruments performing bluegrass, old-time and gospel. Vendors include crafts, foods and novelties. Hibernia County Park, 1 Park Rd., Coatesville. 10 to 4. Free. ChesCo.org



AUGUST 8–SEPTEMBER 11

Bryn Mawr Twilight Concerts. *Aug. 8*, Steve Forbert; *Aug. 22*, A Night with Nashville Legend Jim Hurst, free show; *Aug. 28*, Jonatha Brooke and Liz Longley; *Sept. 6*, David Wilcox and Lucy Kaplansky; *Sept. 11*, Mdou Moctar (Solo). The Gazebo, 9 S. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. 7 pm. Times and tickets, BrynMawrTwilightConcerts.com.

AUGUST 9

East Bradford Summer Concert Series.

Come out to listen to Achilles Heart. East Bradford Park, 835 Kenmara Dr., West Chester. 7 pm. EastBradford.org

AUGUST 9

West Goshen Summer Concert Series. Wilson Lambert’s Blue Philly Magic performs. Bring dry goods for West Chester Food Cupboard. West Goshen Community Park, N. Five Points & Fern Hill Rds., West Chester. 6:30. Free. WestGoshen.org

AUGUST 9 & 23

Miller Park Summer Concert Series. *Aug. 9*, Local Honey; *Aug. 23*, Chico’s Vibe. Albert C. Miller Memorial Park, 220 Miller Way, Exton. 6 pm. Free. WestWhiteland.org

AUGUST 14

The Grand in Wilmington. Bar None Entertainment presents Best Kept Soul Live Band and Comedy. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

AUGUST 15

Twilight Music Series in Media. Bring a picnic dinner and relax on the lawn as Red Means Run plays Americana tunes. Concerts through Oct. 17. Community Center, Monroe St. between 3rd and 4th Sts., Media. 6 to 8 pm. MediaArtsCouncil.org

AUGUST 20

Music at Marshall Square Park. Picnic concert with food trucks opening at 5 pm. Music at 6:30. Check website for weather updates and bands. 200 E. Marshall St. Free. MarshallSquarePark.org

AUGUST 20

Concert in the Park. Enjoy a concert in Everhart Park with bands, food and activities for the whole family. 100 S. Brandywine St., West Chester. 6:30 pm. Free. DowntownWestChester.com

AUGUST 21

Summer Pop-Up Beer Garden Series at Uptown. Featuring live music, food trucks, art and lawn games. 226 N. High St., West Chester. 5 pm. Free. UptownWestChester.org



SEPTEMBER 3

Summer in the Park Concert at Wilson Farm Park. Chronicles of Rock & Roll perform. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Chester-

America250 Events



Through October 15, Town Tours and Village Walks. The 2026 Town Tours and Village Walks program welcomes you to celebrate with an expanded season. The program, 13 Tours for the 13 Colonies, focuses on places, people and events in Chester County that molded and defined the complex tapestry of history that shaped our nation. ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours

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

Aug. 13 & 20, Get Inspired! Join in each week for a new activity centered on American history, featuring hands-on art projects, creative learning and activities designed especially for teens. Katherine B. Alexander Community Room, 48 S. 2nd St., Oxford. 1 to 2 pm. CCCF250.org

Aug. 31–Oct. 1, “Forged In Freedom” Chester County America250 Exhibit at Warwick County Park. The exhibit highlights the county’s rich Revolutionary-era history through historical artifacts, stories and educational displays, offering visitors an engaging look at the people and events that shaped our nation’s founding. Warwick County Park, 191 County Park Rd., Pottstown. 9 to 5. CCCF250.org

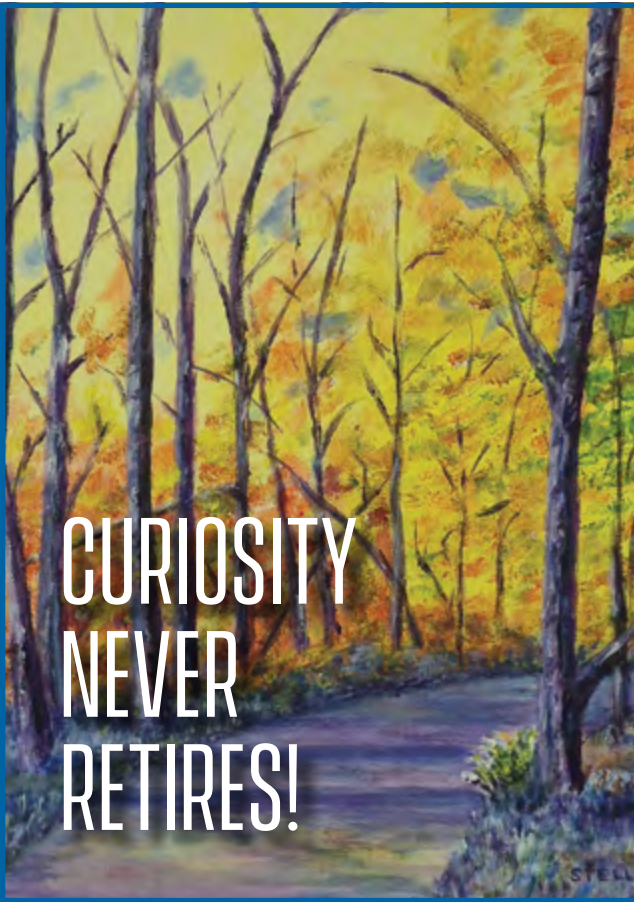
Sept. 12, Franklin Township’s America’s 250th Anniversary Celebration. Enjoy a day of patriotic festivities, local history, family-friendly activities, entertainment and opportunities to commemorate the nation’s semiquincentennial together. CCCF250.org

Sept. 19, Warwick 250: Forging Independence. Discover the history in your own backyard by following in the footsteps of George Washington, Alexander Hamilton and other influential figures through living history demonstrations, exhibits, reenactments, family activities and educational programs. 10 to 6. CCCF250.org

Sept. 20, West Bradford Township Third Thursday Concert Series: Special America250 Edition: Lenni Brass Ensemble. Enjoy an evening of live music, community spirit, and patriotic celebration at Broad Run Park, 1495 Broad Run Rd., Downingtown. CCCF250.org

Sept. 26, Paoli Battlefield Tour. Explore the site, learn about the Battle of Paoli and gain an understanding of Chester County’s role in the American Revolution. Paoli Battlefield, Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. 10 to noon. CCCF250.org

Regional Meetings
Monthly Zooms provide an open forum for the community to share ideas. Visit CCCF250.org/Planning for details.



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Sylvan Solitude by Stella Fass, OLLI member

brook. 7 pm. Free. Tredyffrin.org/Departments/
Parks-Recreation

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES
THROUGH AUGUST 16
Weekday Bird Walk at Tyler Arboretum.
Explore Tyler's forests and meadows with bird-
ers, hear the calls, spot the birds and experience
this Audubon-recognized Important Bird Area
firsthand. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Gates open at
7:15 am. \$15-\$18. TylerArboretum.org



SEPTEMBER 3
9th Annual 5K Trail Run and One-Mile
Move-As-You-Please for Thorncroft.
Experience a community health and wellness
celebration perfect for the beginner to experi-
enced mover. After-party includes live music,
food trucks, Beer Garden and Pony Meet and
Greetings in the barn. Benefits the farm and the

care of horses. 190 Line Rd., Malvern. 6 pm.
\$25-\$45. Thorncroft.org/5K-Run



THEATER
THROUGH AUGUST 16
"Ain't Misbehavin'" at People's Light. Step
into the vibrant and swinging world of the
Harlem Renaissance in this raucous and joyful
musical revue, celebrating the music and spirit
of the legendary Fats Waller. 39 Conestoga Rd.,
Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

AUGUST 1
Voices of the Brandywine. The playwrights
of Brandywine Battlefield Park and actors from
Delaware Theatre Company present a dramatic
look at the people and events of 1777. Bran-

dywine Battlefield Park, 1491 Baltimore Pk.,
Chadds Ford. Shows throughout the day, 10
am to 3:15. America250PADelco.org

AUGUST 1 & 2
Media Theatre Special Event: "No Lon-
ger Bound" The Musical. A groundbreak-
ing musical that celebrates the journey from
enslavement to liberation on Juneteenth through
music, dance, and storytelling. 104 E. State St.,
Media. Sat, 2 & 7 pm; Sun, 3 pm. For tickets,
MediaTheatre.org



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS.....
THROUGH AUGUST 26
Wednesdays
West Chester TAPS. Unwind with friends
every Wednesday, 4 to 7 pm. Participating loca-
tions offer select \$5 beers, \$6 wines and \$7

cocktails plus half-price appetizers. Downtown-
WestChester.com

THROUGH SEPTEMBER 27
Open-Air Market in West Chester. Gay
Street is closed to vehicles Friday morning through
Monday morning. Restaurants and shops line the
street for strolling, eating, exploring. Downtown-
WestChester.com
THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30
Wednesdays
Dining Under the Stars in Media. Discover
the unique mix of local shops and restaurants
that make "Everybody's Hometown" special.
State Street is closed from Jackson to Orange for
this summer-long outdoor dining event. 5:30 to
10:30 pm. VisitMediaPA.com

THROUGH 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

THROUGH OCTOBER 8
Town Tours and Village Walks. *Aug. 6,*
Primitive Hall, Ancestral Home of the Pen-
nock Family; *Aug. 20,* Historic Yellow Springs;
Sept. 17, Oxford Area Historical Association;
Sept. 24, The Mill at Anselma; *Oct. 1,* Ken-
nett Square: A Hotbed of Social Reform; *Oct.*
8, Adaptive Reuse: Where the Past Meets the
Future in the Heart of Chester County. Tours



begin at 5:30 pm; last tour at 7 pm. ChesCo-
Planning.org/Historic/TownTours

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nett Square. Enjoy outdoor dining, extended
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Stoneleigh *Is Growing*

Kit Werner, Natural Lands

1

IT'S RARE THAT A BOTANIC garden has the opportunity to expand by nearly 25%. It's even more rare to reunite properties that were subdivided nearly 100 years ago. But that's exactly what has just happened at Stoneleigh: a natural garden.

Stoneleigh's 42-acre footprint has grown to 52, marking the reunification of two historic landscapes. The 10-acre addition represents the majority of an adjacent property known as Oakwell, which was subdivided from the Stoneleigh estate in the 1920s and '30s. The view into Oakwell from Stoneleigh's northernmost garden path is remarkable in its similarity — towering trees, stately architecture and remnants of significant garden designs.

What had once been a cohesive landscape had been divided by a property line and a tall fence for more than a century. Until now.

THE HISTORY

The reunion story began in an unusual way and involved an unanticipated partner. In 2018, the Lower Merion School District purchased the 13-acre Oakwell property from three private homeowners to create athletic fields for a planned middle school nearby.

Five years after they acquired Oakwell, the school district's plans changed as they faced public concern about the loss of the historic landscape and buildings. The district began conversations with Natural

Lands — the region's oldest and largest land conservation nonprofit — focusing on alternatives for the property.

Nearly two years later, the school district sold 10 acres of the Oakwell property to Natural Lands to be added to Stoneleigh and the remaining three acres to the Wyncote Foundation, which will restore and preserve the Oakwell mansion.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to preserve Oakwell as part of Stoneleigh. We are immensely grateful to the current leadership of the Lower Merion School District and to the community for its support," said Oliver Bass, president of Natural Lands. "It is not an exaggeration to say that this is the culmination of years of work by our staff, our supporters and

members of the Lower Merion community. The township commissioners dedicated countless hours to public engagement and decision making to help protect this historic landscape and ensure it would be available for public use."

THE FUTURE

While it will be a few years before this new addition to Stoneleigh is open to the public, this expansion will further Stoneleigh's mission: to celebrate the beauty and importance of the natural world and inspire the cultivation of native plants for the benefit of all. A new Master Plan for Stoneleigh offers a blueprint for weaving the two properties into one, adding capacity for expanded educational programs, enhancing guest amenities, and honoring the history of the landscape.

Highlights of the Master Plan for the expanded Stoneleigh include:

- Limiting disturbance in areas with healthy, mature trees. A detailed study of significant trees informed this approach.
- Construction of a new Welcome Center to greet and orient garden guests.
- Creation of new garden spaces to inspire guests, offer new learning opportunities, and support local wildlife.
- Removal of physical barriers between Stoneleigh and Oakwell, truly reunifying the two properties.
- Adding capacity for educational programming by creating both indoor and outdoor classrooms.
- Developing opportunities for community connections through new gathering spaces and innovative partnerships.
- Honoring the history of the landscape, which has been shaped by some of the most influential landscape architects of the 19th and 20th centuries.

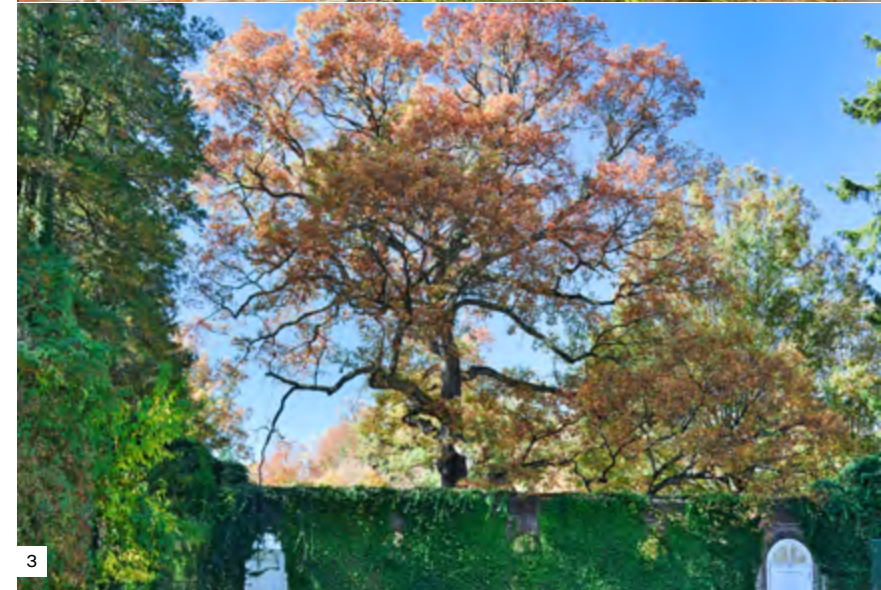
"None of this would be possible without the exceptionally generous support of the Wyncote Foundation with additional leadership support provided by the William Penn Foundation," said Bass. "Stoneleigh is growing in so many ways. We look forward to the day we will welcome everyone to experience all the joys of Natural Lands' now 52-acre public garden."

Learn more and sign up for the opportunity to get a "sneak peek" of Oakwell at NatLands.org/growing. ♦

Natural Lands is dedicated to preserving and nurturing nature's wonders while creating opportunities for joy and discovery in the outdoors. As the region's oldest and largest land conservation organization, Natural Lands, which is member supported, has preserved more than 137,000 acres, including 40+ nature preserves and one public garden totaling more than 23,000 acres. About five million people live within five miles of land under the organization's protection. Land for life, nature for all. NatLands.org



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1. A view toward the Tea House at Oakwell
PHOTO CREDIT: SHAWN NAGL
2. Acorn Cottage
PHOTO CREDIT: SAMANTHA NESTORY

3. An oak at Oakwell
PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID KORBONITS
4. Wrought-iron gate at Oakwell
PHOTO CREDIT: BWYNN WEINBERG

Revolutionary Kids

HOW CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN LIVED, WORKED AND LEARNED

Kim Andrews

TO MODERN CHILDREN, THE REVOLUTION-ary era can be experienced through dress-up bonnets, breeches and wooden toys. Yet for children growing up in Chester County around 1776, childhood was not a costume drama. It was work, family, faith, chores, learning and play amid a looming war.

Most Chester County children were involved in household labor. In a rural community, home and work were often the same place. A child might wake up surrounded by the day's tasks, with animals to feed, water to carry, weeds to pull, seeds to plant, butter to churn, younger children to watch, fires to tend and food to help prepare. On farms, in mills, in shops and in village households, children were an integral part of adult work.

GET A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

At Historic Sugartown, children visiting today are often drawn first to the hands-on activities they see there, including leather crafting, quill writing, visiting the general store and investigating the tools of everyday village life. And they're surprised to learn how much responsibility colonial children once carried. A 10- or

11-year-old might have slept near the kitchen hearth in winter to keep the fire going overnight. Startling to consider now, this duty was part of learning how a household survived.

Schooling also looked very different. Public schools as we know them did not yet exist. Some children learned at home, others through churches or subscription schools, and still others through Quaker schools, where literacy was closely tied to religious life.

For most, reading the Bible was central to learning. Girls might also learn through creating samplers, practicing letters, stitches and moral lessons at the same time. In general, education was practical, religious and unevenly available.

Children's educational opportunities depended on their race, status, gender and wealth. White children in prosperous families had more access to books, schooling and commercially made toys. Poor children made do with what was available.

Enslaved and free Black children faced far more limits. In Pennsylvania, slavery was present even if it looked different from plantation slavery farther south. Black children, whether enslaved or free, often had limited access to education and were expected to work from a young age. Still, like all children, they found ways to play, create and learn within the constraints around them.

And yes, children played.

COLONIAL TOYS AND GAMES

Rebecca Roberts and her 17-year-old daughter Alessandra Johnson, who run Living History Craft & Play, bring colonial games and crafts to public events, schools and community programs while dressed in colonial garb. They find that children are drawn first to objects they're allowed to touch, in contrast to historic homes where children were often told not to handle anything. At a Living History game table, children are invited to pick something up, toss it, roll it, balance it or figure out how it works.

Alessandra observed that a big difference from today is that colonial children had to be inventive with whatever was nearby. "You couldn't just go to a toy store and buy a toy," she said, adding that many Revolutionary-era toys were simple, portable and made from available materials.

Children played with Jacob's ladders, cup-and-ball toys, hoops and sticks, wooden tops, dolls, pickup sticks ("jack straws") and games like graces, where two players used sticks to toss and catch ribboned hoops. Some toys were purchased, most often by residents in towns or by wealthier families. Most others were home-made — for example, a doll could be made from fabric scraps, corn husks or burlap. Or a child could turn acorns into a tiny tea

set, sticks into a game, or scraps of wood into something to roll, toss or carve.

Play often reflected skills children were learning for adult life. Girls who learned sewing could stitch a doll's dress or embroider a face, while boys learning woodworking or trade skills might carve a pin, hoop or game piece. And as always, children also improvised.

Barry Rauhauser, Executive Director at Historic Sugartown, noted that historians tend to know more about the toys that left physical evidence behind, but children surely invented many more games that no one wrote down, such as creek boats, hand games, chasing games, stick swords, snow play, sledding, hiding and pretending.

Colonial childhood was harder, more physical and more tied to family duty than childhood today. Children had less free time, fewer belongings and far more chores to do. And yet, they were still children. They ran, pretended, made toys, bent the rules and begged someone to watch when they finally got a game right.

That's what makes Revolutionary-era childhood feel much less distant. Families can still see pieces of it at Chester County History Center, Historic Sugartown, Colonial Pennsylvania Plantation and public

5 Things Chester County Kids Would Have Done in 1776

- **Help with household and farm chores.** Children planted seeds, pulled weeds, fed animals, milked cows and carried water.
- **Read the Bible.** For many families, especially Quakers and other religious communities, reading was tied closely to faith, with the Bible being a key book.
- **Make simple toys.** Tops, sticks, hoops and dolls made of corn husks and fabric scraps could all become playthings.
- **Play quick games.** Tag, catch, cup-and-ball, graces and hoop-and-stick games fit into short breaks in children's schedules of chores.
- **Learn adult skills.** Girls might sew or churn butter, while boys might help with tools, animals or trades. Childhood was preparation for work.



Ball and cup game from Chester County History Center collection

PHOTO CREDIT: CHESTER COUNTY HISTORY CENTER

programs with living history interpreters. The tools and chores have changed, the world around children has changed even more, but childhood desires to help, imitate, explore, invent and play remain. ♦

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 visit America250ChesCo.org or CCCF250.org.



1. Alessandra Johnson of Living History Craft & Play carding wool
2. Students on a field trip churn butter at Historic Sugartown
PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID CAMPLI/CAMPLI PHOTOGRAPHY
3. Rebecca Roberts of Living History Craft and Play
4. Handmade cornhusk dolls and wooden tops

PHOTOS CREDIT: LIVING HISTORY CRAFT & PLAY



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Mark Your Fall Calendar

Edited by Marci Tomassone

IT'S TIME TO HIT THE ROAD AND TRAVEL ACROSS *County Lines* country to enjoy some of these great events — or maybe all of them! Be sure to check our monthly Best Local Events listings in the magazine, on our website and twice-monthly Events Newsletter for many more fabulous things to do in the coming months.



September

5–7, 83rd Annual Ludwig's Corner Horse Show & Country Fair. A Chester County tradition over Labor Day. Horse Show Grounds, 1326 Pottstown Pk., Glenmoore. LudwigsHorseShow.com

10–13, Devon Fall Classic. Join the crowds at Devon's historic show grounds for the Devon Fall Classic, reintroducing and reimagining a beloved tradition. Devon Horse Show Grounds, 23 Dorset Rd., Devon. DevonHorseShow.net

11–13, Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance. Nationally recognized motor car exhibition and other car events. Radnor Hunt, 826 Providence Rd., Malvern. RadnorConcours.org



12, Up On The Roof in West Chester. Great food, beer, wine and signature martini on the rooftop of the Chestnut Street Garage. Supports cleaning, flower beautification and marketing of Downtown West Chester. 14 E. Chestnut St. DowntownWest-Chester.com

12–13, 41st Annual Mushroom Festival. The festival celebrates mushrooms, mushroom farms and Kennett Square — the Mushroom Capital of the World. State St. in Kennett Square Borough. MushroomFestival.org

19, Chester County Art Walk. Over 100 artists line the trails at East Goshen Park. Enjoy the food trucks and musical acts as you view the artwork on display. 1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. EastGoshen.org

19, Media Borough Porchfest 2026. Enjoy performances from local bands and artists on porches, in yards and driveways throughout the borough. VisitMediaPA.com

20, 34th Annual Radnor Fall Festival. Fun for the whole family with local vendors, live entertainment, kids activities, Top Dog contest and more. N. Wayne & West Aves., Wayne. RadnorFallFestival.com

20, 45th Annual Chester County Restaurant Festival. This major foodie event is full of entertainment, information booths, local artisans and tons of delicious food from around Chester County. Gay St., West Chester. West-Chester.com

20–26, Plantation Field International Horse Trials & Fair. Top riders compete in dressage, cross country and show jumping. 387 Green Valley Rd., Unionville. PlantationFieldHorseTrials.com



26, Paoli Battlefield Heritage Day. The whole family will enjoy a visit with Benjamin Franklin, demonstrations and food trucks, craftspeople and vendors. Monument Ave., Malvern. PBPFInc.org

26, Canine Partners for Life's Fall Festival. Family fun at

this festival with a kennel tour, demos, vendors, food trucks and Cow Bingo. 334 Faggs Manor Rd., Cochranville. K94Life.org



October

2, Fall Gallery Walk. Explore the vibrant art scene in downtown West Chester. Free, on-street parking starting at 4 p.m. DowntownWestChester.com

3, Oktoberfest in West Chester. Participating locations have a select list of \$6 fall beers or ciders and fall-themed appetizers. Live music around town. DowntownWestChester.com



3, 85th Chester County Day Tour. Begin the day at the foxhunt, then tour the beautiful homes of Chester County, this year featuring the northwest quadrant. Benefits Chester County Hospital. ChesterCountyDay.com

4, State Street Fall Festival in Media. State Street in downtown Media will be alive with a mix of food, music, artists, crafters, nonprofits and family fun. VisitMediaPA.com

4, Westtown Day 2026. Live music, food trucks, petting zoo, historical reenactors, inflatable axe throwing, emergency vehicle touch-a-truck and more. Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. WesttownPA.org



10, Kennett Square Brewfest. Enjoy 90 regional micro-brewers offering samples, plus food from local restaurants. Benefits Kennett Collaborative. 600 S. Broad St. KennettBrewfest.com

10, East Goshen Township Food Truck and Music Festival. Featuring a massive lineup of local food trucks, live musical performances, and beer and wine. 1661 Paoli Pk., West Chester. FriendsofEastGoshen.org

11, Annual Chili Cook-Off in West Chester. Fiorenza's Food For Friends organizes the event, featuring great chili samples, live music and a vendor village. Rain date, Oct. 19. W. Gay St. West-ChesterChiliCookOff.com

11, 5th Annual Historic Yellow Springs Fall Festival. Enjoy live music, a pumpkin race, a history haunted house, pumpkin painting, tours and more. 1685 Art School Rd., Chester Springs. YellowSprings.org

15, West Chester Preservation Awards. West Chester Downtown Foundation recognizes projects that highlight the borough's historic character. Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St. WCDF.org

15–17, The Great Pumpkin Event. Over 70 giant pumpkins are carved by local artists, then lit to light up the night. Chadds Ford Historical Society, Rt. 100 N., Chadds Ford. ChaddsFordHistory.org

18, 2nd Annual Nemours Children's Health Run & Walk, Delaware Valley. A family-friendly 5K and Fun Run benefits Nemours Children's Compassionate Care Fund. Nemours Estate, 1600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. Nemours.org/DVRun

November

1, 91st Running of PA Hunt Cup. Timber racing, tailgating, carriages. Benefits Chester County Food Bank. Rt. 926 & Newark Rd., Unionville. PAHuntCup.org

1, Good Food Fest. Enjoy music, food trucks, a pouring room, kids activities and farm animals. Kimberton Fair Grounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. GoodFarmsGoodFood.com

5, Harvest—Unite for HER Chef and Wine Tasting. A farm-to-table tasting event. Benefits Unite for HER, serving women affected by breast cancer. Phoenixville Foundry, 2 N. Main St., Phoenixville. UniteForHER.org/Harvest

14–15, Kennel Club of Philadelphia National Dog Show. Top breed dogs contend for Best in Show. Broadcast from the Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Aired on Thanksgiving Day. NDS.NationalDogShow.com

18–Jan. 3, Peoples Light Presents “Cinderella: A Musical Panto.” The wildly popular holiday confection is back with a brand-new staging. Cinderella is chock-full of villains and heroes, shenanigans and unfettered joy. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. PeoplesLight.org

27–Jan. 2, Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester. Christmas parade, tree

lighting, music and many special events throughout the borough. GreaterWestChester.com



27–Jan. 3, Media Theatre Presents “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.” Based on the beloved novel by Roald Dahl, this musical is your golden ticket to a sweet adventure the whole family can enjoy. 104 E. State St., Media. MediaTheatre.org

December

5, 15th Annual Holiday Home Tour in West Chester. Tour decorated homes in the borough. All proceeds benefit West Chester Public Library and the community it serves. WCPublic-Library.org ♦



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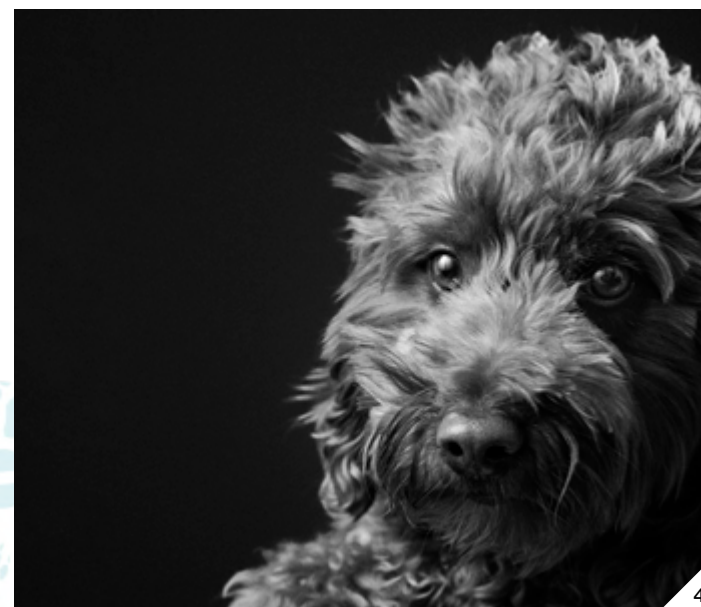
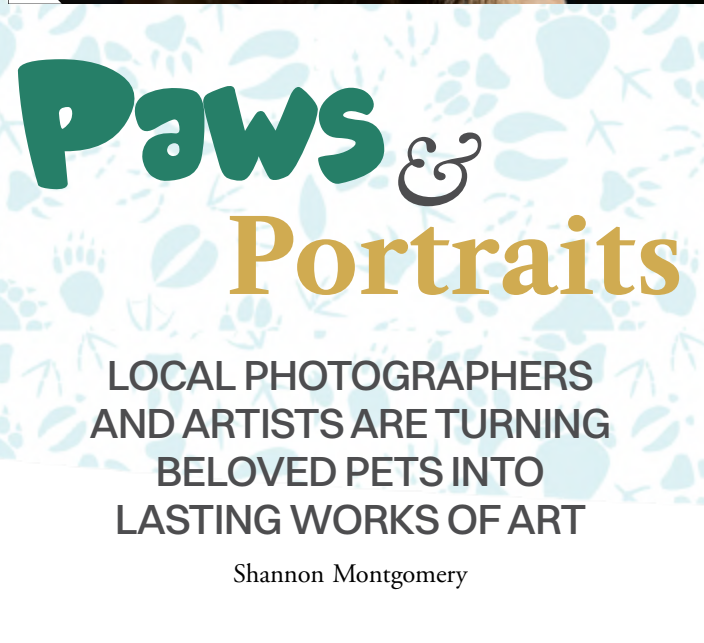


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- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. "Bailey" by Roman Coia | 4. "Buster" by Roman Coia |
| 2. "Troy" by Janelle Morrison | 5. "Topsy Turvy" by Linda Harris Reynolds |
| 3. "Man's Best Friend" by Linda Harris Reynolds | 6. "Shake" by Janelle Morrison |

offers studio sessions, on-location shoots and pop-up portrait events throughout the area (follow @DubC.Dogs on Instagram to see where he's headed next). Horse portraits may be coming soon — stay tuned.

Professional pet portraits capture something that even the best smartphone camera often misses: personality. Whether photographed in the studio, at home, along a favorite trail or in a neighborhood park, the strongest portraits reveal what makes each animal unique. Coia recalls photographing a 17-year-old Chihuahua with wild fur that "looked like he stuck his paw in an electrical socket" and an old Irish setter named Koala in the backyard, his favorite ball clenched in his mouth.

Before every session, Coia schedules a call to learn about each dog's personality, energy level and temperament. Studio sessions typically last 60 to 90 minutes, but the first 15 to 20 minutes are simply for settling in. The dog is free to explore the studio, sniff around and get comfortable with the unfamiliar surroundings and flashing lights before the camera ever comes out.

No two sessions are alike. Some dogs are perfectly happy to sit and pose, while others have their own agenda. "People often tell me, 'My dog would never sit for a portrait,'" Coia said. "You just have to be patient — we work on their time, not ours."

something more elevated — a statement piece they'll see every day in their house."

Coia has photographed dogs throughout his career — artistic shots of pups that catch his eye. But it was his own dogs that inspired him to begin offering professional pet portraits in addition to the human portraits that are part of his photography business. After spending four years fostering rescue dogs — and happily "foster failing" twice — he wanted to find another way to support the rescue community.

Earlier this year, he launched DubC Dog Portraits, creating fine-art photos of four-legged friends while donating a portion of every session to local rescue and foster programs. Clients can designate a favorite rescue, support Philly Bully Team — where Coia adopted his own dogs — or choose another deserving organization. He

Paws & Portraits

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHERS AND ARTISTS ARE TURNING BELOVED PETS INTO LASTING WORKS OF ART

Shannon Montgomery

FROM DAILY WALKS AND weekend adventures to lazy afternoons on the couch, our pets are woven into the fabric of our lives. And, as this year's adorable entries in *County Lines'* Cutest Pet photo contest prove, we want to capture every moment with them. Just take a look at the contest finalists all lined up in this issue, if you don't believe us.

It's no surprise, then, that pet portraits are having a moment.

As pets have become essentially members of the family, more owners are looking beyond smartphone snapshots and com-

missioning professional photographs and custom paintings that capture not only a pet's likeness but its unique personality and spirit. We talked with local photographers and painters about the growing popularity of pet portraiture, what makes this field so special, and how they create lasting works of art that capture the soul behind every wag, purr and loving gaze.

CAPTURING CHARACTER

For many of us, our phones are overflowing with photos of our pets. I'll admit mine has almost 2,000 of my cat and dog.

As charming as those candid snapshots are, they don't always reflect the full personality of the animals we love. A professional portrait captures something different: a lasting work of art that celebrates a beloved companion, preserves a moment in time, and embodies the spirit and quirks that make each pet one of a kind.

"I've found there are a few reasons people want a professional portrait of their pet," said West Chester photographer Roman Coia. "Sometimes it's a senior dog, and they want to capture their buddy while they can. Other people want



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To help ensure a successful session, Coia recommends getting pets comfortable with a camera before their appointment. “If you have a camera at home, let your dog get used to having it in their face,” he said. “If it has a shutter sound or flash, even better.” Practicing basic commands like sit and stay can help, too, but patience and a calm demeanor are just as important. “If you’re stressed, they’re going to be stressed,” Coia added.

For many pet owners, a professional portrait becomes both a work of art and a lasting reminder of a well-loved companion. “Our pets are family,” Coia said. “They deserve to be up on the wall with grandma.”

PAINTING PERSONALITY

While a photograph captures a moment in time, a painted portrait offers something different — an artist’s interpretation of a pet’s personality. People have been painting animals for thousands of years, from the cave walls of southern France to the prized hunting dogs and horses of Renaissance nobility. Today, you don’t have to be royalty to commission a portrait of your special companion.

“Recently there’s been a renewed interest in getting dogs painted,” said Linda Harris Reynolds, a fine-art portraitist based in Wilmington. “Suddenly, everyone is getting their dogs painted instead of their children!”

Reynolds has painted portraits of people and pets for more than 35 years. “Someone once said they like painting anything with eyes,” she said. “I love color and personality — and pets are usually full of personality.”

That personality is what Devon artist Janelle Morrison strives to capture, too. “I believe most of an animal’s personality lives in their eyes, nose, and the texture and color of their fur,” she said. “Those are the areas I focus most on.”



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What makes a painted portrait so special? For Reynolds, it’s the human touch. “It’s something that somebody does by hand from start to finish,” she said. “It’s more personal, and perhaps a little more expressive — you can infuse the image with some of your own personality.”

The process begins with planning. Morrison typically works from photographs provided by the owner, while Reynolds often prefers taking her own reference photos. Together with the artist, clients decide on the size, pose, background and whether they envision a close-up or full-body portrait.

Many painters share preliminary sketches or progress photos along the way. “I don’t like to surprise people,” Reynolds said. “I want my clients to have a very clear understanding of what the portrait is going to look like.”

For Reynolds, a successful commission is first and foremost a work of art. “It has to look just like the pet, but I also want it to convey a depth of mood and feeling,” she said. “Art is very personal. You can’t just paint anything — you have to connect with what you’re working on.”

That connection is reflected in both artists’ work. One of Reynolds’ most meaningful portraits is “Topsy Turvy,” which depicts her own kitten, curled upside-down on a cushion. Sadly the pet passed away from feline coronavirus just two months after adoption. “It’s just me trying to capture how much we loved that cat,” she said. “I called it ‘Topsy Turvy’ because the cat’s life was so difficult.”

Morrison’s work also carries personal meaning. Her paintings are featured throughout the White Dog Cafe in Chester Springs, where each portrait supported Alpha Bravo Canine, a nonprofit that trains and donates service dogs to veterans. Having her work displayed at a White Dog Cafe was a full-circle moment for her —

it was a visit to the restaurant’s Wayne location while in art school that first inspired her to paint dogs.

Today, a cherished painting hangs in the Chester Springs restaurant’s drawing room: a portrait of Morrison’s own dog, Zizou, who passed away last year. “He was the best dog and my first baby before I had my human ones,” she said.

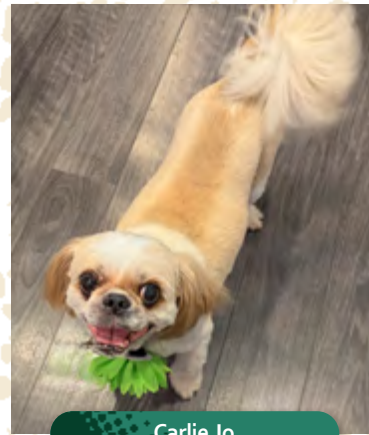
Every pet has a story, a personality and a few unforgettable quirks. Whether captured through the lens of a camera or the strokes of a paintbrush, a thoughtfully crafted portrait celebrates those one-of-a-kind qualities — creating a memento that’s as unique as the companion who inspired it. ♦

7. “Nero, King of the Backyard” by Linda Harris Reynolds
8. “Millie” by Roman Coia
9. “Zizou” by Janelle Morrison
10. “The Guardian” by Linda Harris Reynolds
11. “Chip” by Janelle Morrison
12. “Remi” by Roman Coia

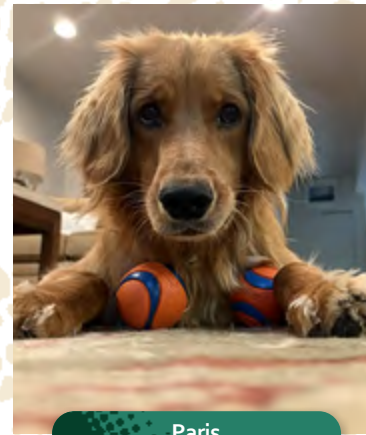
CUTEST PET Contest

Who's the cutest pet in *County Lines* country? We asked, and our readers sent us more than we could handle! During August, we'll showcase each finalist's adorable photo on Facebook. To vote, just like us on Facebook, then like your favorite! The pet with the most likes* wins a \$100 gift certificate for Concord Pet Foods & Supplies.

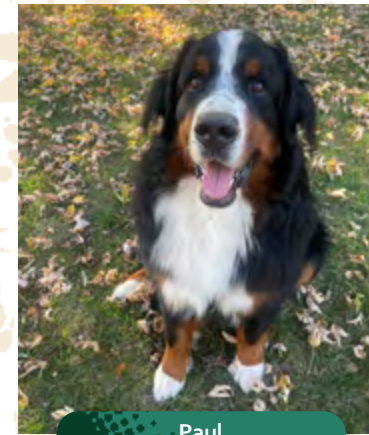
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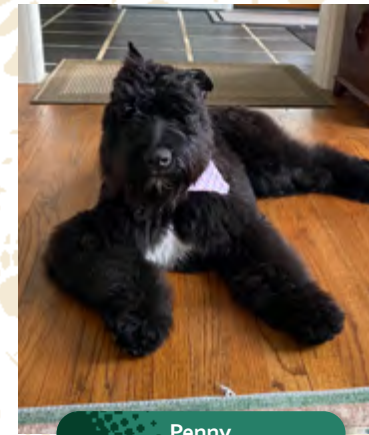
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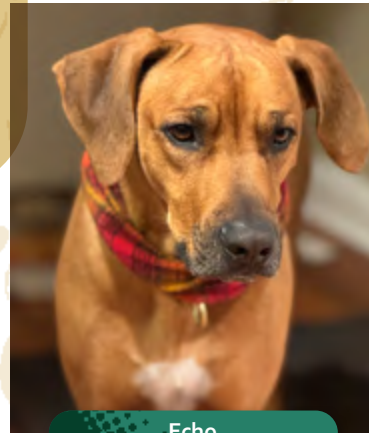
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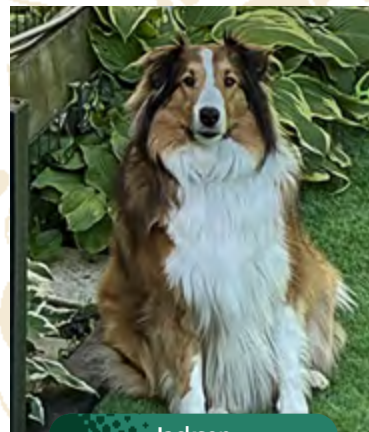
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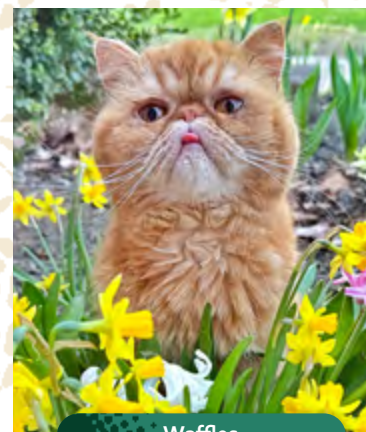
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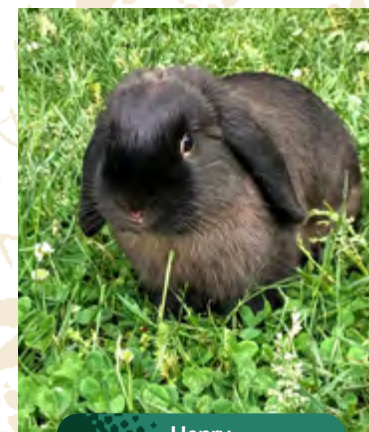
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Mikey



Waffles



Henry

Want a cuddly kitty or perky puppy of your very own? At local rescues like the Brandywine Valley SPCA and Main Line Animal Rescue, pets want loving, lifelong homes just as much as you want to give them one. Your new best friend is waiting for you! Visit BVSPCA.org and MLAR.org and ADOPT today.

Why We Media

EIGHT REASONS TO VISIT EVERYBODY'S HOMETOWN,
PLUS MORE TO LOVE IN DELCO

Shannon Montgomery

PHOTO CREDIT: VISIT DELCO

THERE'S A REASON MEDIA IS known as Everybody's Hometown. As the Delaware County seat, this walkable borough packs an impressive mix of acclaimed restaurants, independent shops, arts, parks and community spirit into less than a square mile. And it just keeps getting better.

This summer, borough leaders approved "Media 2035," a new comprehensive plan that charts the next decade of growth while preserving the historic charm, vibrant downtown and welcoming character that make Media so special.

Here are eight reasons we can't get enough of Media — plus a few more reasons to explore the rest of Delco.

1. **Dining Under the Stars.** We love Media's dining scene all year round, but there's something magical about those summer nights when our favorite eateries spill out onto State Street for al fresco dining. Now in its 19th season — Media was *waaaaay* out in front of West Chester and Kennett Square with this idea — Dining Under the Stars has become a much-anticipated tradition, with over two dozen restaurants participating every Wednesday from May to September.

There's something for all tastes — wood-fired pizzas from Ariano, mouth-watering tacos from Dos Gringos, savory soup dumplings from Dim Sum Mania, seafood specials from newcomer Maris and much, much more. Add in live music and dancing, balloon art for the kiddos, and classic Corvettes in Veterans Square for a season of unforgettable evenings.

2. **Shopping local.** As America's first Fair Trade Town, Media has long been known for locally owned stores and ethically sourced goods. But alongside mainstays like KUTA and Earth & State, several new shops have popped up around State Street in recent years. Three Potato Four is your one-stop shop for quirky gifts — along with Media and Delco-branded swag — while sister store Greatest Hits is a treasure trove of vintage books and records, including rare finds and

1. Dining Under the Stars
PHOTO CREDIT: HOI MICHAEL CHEUNG
2. Three Potato Four
3. Bookish Notions





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Japanese imports. Search [Bookish Notions](#)' shelves for your next beach read, then pick out something special for your home at [Chosen Tweed](#). Fashionistas will love browsing the latest finds at [Sonny's Vintage Clothing](#), while crafters can stock up for their next project at the newly expanded [Homesewn](#) — now in the former Ten Thousand Villages space on the corner of State and Olive Streets.

♥ **3. Catching a show at the Media Theatre.** For nearly a century, the Media Theatre has been a State Street landmark. Originally a vaudeville house and cinema, it showed its first film in August 1927. Today, the Media Theatre is a thriving performing arts center, hosting professional productions, youth performances and special events — though movies made a comeback this summer on Mondays and Wednesdays in July.

This month, see a special performance of “No Longer Bound: The Musical,” August 1 and 2, and the Youth Ensemble’s rendition of “Mean Girls,” August 14 to 23. And for the 2026–27 Broadway Series, which kicks off in October, there’s “Murder for Two.” For more live theater, the storied [Hedgerow Theatre Company](#), whose alumni include Keanu

Reeves and Austin Pendleton, is right outside town.

♥ **4. Getting a drink with friends.** Whatever you’re sipping, Media’s lively bar scene has a drink for every vibe. Order a caramel macchiato martini at [Departure](#), sip a whiskey sour at [Brick & Brew](#), or try the viral soft-serve margarita at [The Towne House](#)’s Idlewild patio. More of a beer person? Pour over craft brews made onsite at [Sterling Pig](#), share a bucket of domestics during the big game at [State Street Pub](#), or pair a pint of Guinness with live Irish music at [Sligo](#).

You can take in State Street from above at one of Media’s rooftops with a drink in hand — sake at [Azle](#), a Surfside at [Off the Rail](#) or, for the NA fans among us, an iced latte at [Cafesphere](#). Wherever you raise your glass, toast to a night well spent in Everybody’s Hometown.

♥ **5. Jamming out.** Media’s bars and restaurants are rockin’ with live music all year long — from tribute bands and open jazz jams at [Shere-E-Punjab](#) to local acts and karaoke at the new speakeasy [Martinique Deux](#). But in warm weather, Everybody’s Hometown takes the tunes al fresco. From May to October, the Media Arts Council presents its

annual [Twilight Music Series](#): free concerts on the community center lawn, paired with [Sterling Pig](#) beer. On August 15, check out Americana and roots-rock band [Red Means Run](#).

Plus, mark your calendar for the return of [Media Porchfest](#), September 19, bringing live music and good vibes to the borough’s yards and porches. And of course, the [Rose Tree Summer Festival](#) has been a Delco tradition for over 50 years — this month’s concerts at Rose Tree Park’s amphitheater include reggae, disco, a barbershop quartet, luau show and the U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers Chorus for something completely different.

♥ **6. Basking in the great outdoors.**

If you’re looking to get in touch with nature, Media Borough has several beautiful parks to choose from. Cool down in the shade in wooded [Houtman Park](#), take the kids to the playground at [Barrall Community Park](#) (next to Media Elementary School) or explore the 33-acre [Glen Providence Park](#) — Delco’s first and oldest park.

Outside town, Natural Lands’ [Hildacy Preserve](#) offers scenic hiking through meadows, woodlands and along Crum Creek. And, abutting [Ridley Creek State Park](#), the 650-acre [Tyler Arboretum](#) is one of the oldest public gardens in the United States — home to historic trees (including four state champions — the largest of their species), seasonal gardens and 17 miles of hiking trails.

♥ **7. Learning something new.**

Strolling through downtown Media, look for three hidden-gem museums. On the lower level of the historic Media Armory — now home to [Trader Joe’s](#) — find the [Pennsylvania Veterans Museum](#). This small-but-mighty museum aims to tell the story of America through the eyes of those who served. Exhibits include a life-size diorama of D-Day, a miniature movie theater and an interactive paratroopers kiosk, where you can try on a parachute backpack.

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- 4. The Media Theatre
PHOTO CREDIT: VISIT DELCO
 - 5. The Towne House
 - 6. Cafesphere
 - 7. Media Porchfest
PHOTO CREDIT: HOI MICHAEL CHEUNG
 - 8. Glen Providence Park
 - 9. Tyler Arboretum



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More to Love in Delco

- Media may be the county seat, but Delaware County has its own drawin g power. Here are just a few things we’re excited about lately.
- **Upper Darby Summer Stage.** Since 1976, *Upper Darby Summer Stage* has helped young performers discover the magic of theater — and developed the talents of a few celebs along the way (Tina Fey, Monica Horan, “Superman’s” David Corenswet). Now in its 51st season, over 800 young people from across the region come together to create eight high-caliber productions each summer. New this year: the “Senior Stage” program for actors over 55 and a new location. Due to construction at Upper Darby High School, Summer Stage is being held at Haverford High School for the 2026 season.
 - **A thriving arts scene.** Delaware County is a hub for visual arts as well as performing arts, boasting two top-notch art centers and a renowned museum. In Wallingford, the *Community Art Center* hosts classes and workshops for all ages, plus special exhibitions — look forward to the Philadelphia International Tea Bowl Exhibition, coming in February. And the *Wayne Art Center*, home to the acclaimed Wayne Plein Air Festival, is exhibiting adult student works through August 14. Of course, the *Brandywine Museum of Art* in Chadds Ford showcases works by the Wyeth family and other Brandywine School artists.
 - **Sports stars.** Delco has been making sports headlines lately! At Subaru Park in Chester, see the Philadelphia Union’s homegrown phenom *Cavan Sullivan* — the youngest player to debut for a major American sports league. Speaking of soccer, two Delco natives graced our screens during the FIFA World Cup this summer: Media’s *Auston Trusty* and Wayne’s *Matt Freese*. And, if you caught the MLB All-Star Game, hosted in Philly last month, you may have spotted Bonner grad *Kevin McGonigle* — the first Detroit Tigers rookie to make the team since 1976.
 - **Visit Delco’s Ice Cream Trail.** This summer, get rewarded for treating yourself! Download Visit Delco’s Ice Cream Trail Pass and earn points at participating scoop shops, including *The Salty Cow* in Glen Mills, *Sweet Spot Gelato* in Newtown Square and *Vera’s Water Ice* in Springfield. Redeem your points for swag — a bucket hat, metal ice cream scoop, baseball helmet-shaped ice cream bowl. What’s sweeter? Visit Delco.com/Passes/Ice-Cream-Trail
 - **A Delco TV crossover.** Seeing stars lately? *Mark Ruffalo* and *Mahershala Ali* have been spotted around the area, including in Drexel Hill, filming the second season of Brad Inglesby’s Delco-centric crime drama “Task.” And last month, we heard that actress *Julianne Nicholson*, who played Lori Ross on “Mare of Easttown,” will be reprising her role in the upcoming season of “Task.” Sounds like a “Mare” crossover is in the works!



10. Bevan’s Own Make Candy 11. Delaware County Institute of Science

In a historic building on the corner of Jackson Street and Veterans Square, the *Delaware County Institute of Science*, founded in 1833, houses a natural history museum and scientific library. Highlights include mounted birds and animals, an herbarium of local flora, Native American tools and pottery, and science equipment from the late 1800s. And on Lincoln Street, the *Philip Jaisohn Memorial House* honors the first Korean to become a naturalized citizen of the United States.

8. **Treating ourselves.** What better way to end a day in Everybody’s Hometown than with a sweet treat? If you scream for ice cream, look no further than *Scooped* for a rotating selection of home-made flavors — including the popular Cookie Monster, a bright-blue combo of cookie dough and cookies and cream — plus vintage vinyls. More of a cookie fan? *Cookie Plug* promises the thickest, “phattest” cookies around, from O.G. chocolate chip and Snooperdoodle to stuffed Dubai chocolate and Purple Haze (think red velvet, but electric purple). Candy lovers have two mouthwatering options: 350 varieties of nostalgic faves at *Game on State* (stay for the classic arcade games) or homemade chocolates and confections at *Bevan’s Own Make Candy* — family owned and operated for over 65 years. ♦



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Autism, ADHD and Learning Disabilities:

What's going on?

Kate E. Wallis, MD, MPH, FAAP
Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

“WHY DO SO MANY CHILDREN HAVE autism these days?” a family friend asked me at a barbecue. “What’s going on?”

As a developmental and behavioral pediatrician who cares for many children with conditions such as autism spectrum disorder and attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), I’m frequently asked these types of questions. It often feels like autism and ADHD are everywhere — in news headlines, parent discussion groups and social media posts. So, what is going on?

WHAT IS NEURODIVERSITY?

Neurodiversity is an inclusive term that recognizes we all vary in how our brains work. Neurodivergence recognizes that autism, ADHD and learning differences are forms of neurodiversity that represent variations of brain development.

Many families and self-advocates prefer the term neurodiversity, rather than terms such as developmental disabilities. But these words refer to the same things.

HOW MANY CHILDREN ARE AFFECTED?

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), about 1 in 6 children ages 3 to 17 across the U.S. have a developmental disability. This includes about 3.2% of children who have autism and 11.4% who have ADHD.

On a population level, this means we all have friends, family, classmates and coworkers who are neurodivergent.

WHAT IS AUTISM?

Autism is a neurodevelopmental condition that consists of differences in how individuals communicate and interact socially and have preferences for repetition, routine and sameness. It affects individuals uniquely, with varying levels of support required throughout their lives.

Unfortunately, there’s no single known cause of autism — research shows that genetic and environmental influences play a role — and no single treatment or therapy that can meet the myriad needs of autistic people. Note: Some individuals in the autism community prefer the term “autistic” and others prefer “person with autism;” to respect both preferences, I use both descriptors.

Continued on page 45

Dr. Wallis is a developmental-behavioral pediatrician (DBP) at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and an Assistant Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine. Dr. Wallis helps care for children with neurodiversity and also conducts research to improve the early identification of and care for children with developmental disorders and autism. CHOP.org; PennMed.org



Nearsightedness in Children

How parents can be advocates for their children

Tejal Magan, MD
Nemours Children's Health

AS A PHYSICIAN IN THIS DIGITAL ERA AND SOON to be first-time mother myself, I’ve found a constant flood of information for parents on their child’s vision health across the internet and social media. And as parents, it’s important to be able to distinguish between evidence-based medicine and myths. If you’ve been following the topic, you know that nearsightedness (also known as myopia) is widely discussed in pediatrics, as we’re seeing an increase in diagnoses across the board.

WHAT IS NEARSIGHTEDNESS AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

Nearsightedness or myopia means that a person can’t see clearly far away, but things up close are relatively clear. If there’s high myopia, then both distance and close-up vision can be blurry.

Most of the time myopia is not dangerous — it simply requires prescription eyeglasses. But if the myopia number is high (above -6.00 diopters), then there’s a risk of complications to vision.

With myopia, the eye is longer in length than a normal eye, measured as the axial length of the eyeball (front to back, from cornea to retina). This means the retina “camera film” of the eye is more stretched and thinner. This condition could result in vision complications later in life, such as a retinal tear or detachment (break and fluid in the retina), macular degeneration (central vision issues), cataract (cloudy lens) or glaucoma (damage to the optic nerve/cable connecting the eye to the brain).

The World Health Organization has classified myopia and its complications as a public health concern, as these conditions can lead to severe vision problems. If severe enough, this could impact children and adolescents in terms of their education or future employment.

WHY IS MYOPIA INCREASING IN THE WORLD?

It’s estimated that by 2050, half of the global population will be nearsighted, with the average age of diagnosis at 8 years old. Risk factors for myopia can include genetics, preterm birth and lifestyle factors including screen use. Children who have parents with myopia have a higher risk of developing the condition themselves. It’s important to note that while the number of genetic cases has been consistent, there’s been a significant rise due to lifestyle issues.

Continued on page 46

Dr. Magan is a pediatric ophthalmologist at Nemour's Children's Health in Wilmington and Philadelphia, and Assistant Professor of Ophthalmology at Thomas Jefferson University. She specializes in the medical and surgical management of strabismus, refractive errors, cataract, glaucoma and oculoplastic conditions. She's passionate about preserving vision at an early age and encouraging parents to become advocates in their child's vision health. Nemours.org





Beyond the Bellyache

Gut health in kids is more than stomachaches

Diana Kudes, MD, FAAP
Suburban Family Medicine

AS SUMMER WINDS DOWN AND FAMILIES prepare for a new school year, many parents notice a familiar pattern — more complaints of “my stomach hurts.”

Sometimes these bellyaches are brief and harmless. Other times, they keep a child from school, sports or sleep. What can be confusing for parents is that gut health in kids is about much more than an occasional stomachache.

The way a child’s gut works affects their energy, mood, appetite, growth and even how they handle stress. Understanding what’s typical and what’s not can help parents know when to watch, when to adjust daily habits and when to call the doctor.

COMMON BELLY COMPLAINTS

One of the most common reasons children see a doctor for tummy trouble is constipation. Constipation is not just “not going every day.” For some children, it means hard, dry stools, straining or feeling like they can’t fully empty. Others start having small smears of stool in their underwear because stool is backed up.

School routines can make this worse. Children may feel rushed in the morning and skip the bathroom. They may be shy about using school restrooms, so they “hold it” all day. Over time, the stool gets larger and harder, and going to the bathroom becomes painful. That pain makes them hold it even more and a cycle begins.

Belly pain from constipation often comes and goes. The pain may be around the belly button or across the lower belly. Kids may feel fine one moment, then doubled over the next, especially before they finally pass a large stool.

Dr. Kudes is a board-certified pediatrician who’s practiced at Suburban Family Medicine at Norristown for the last 15 years. She trained at Chestnut Hill College and Temple University School of Medicine and completed her pediatric residency at Golisano Children’s Hospital. She’s a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics and part of the teaching faculty at the Suburban Family Medicine Residency Program.



Continued on page 46

WHAT IS ADHD?

ADHD is a neurodevelopmental disability that impacts an individual’s attention and ability to regulate their activity level. Some individuals have more problems with attention or distractibility (inattentive-type ADHD), some have more signs of hyperactivity or impulsivity (inattentive or impulsive type) and others have both inattention and hyperactivity (combined type).

These symptoms must be present in multiple settings (such as home, school and work) and must cause some level of difficulty or impairment. Individuals with ADHD can be treated with forms of behavioral therapy and medications.

WHAT ARE LEARNING DISABILITIES?

Learning disabilities refer to differences in how people learn or process information. These differences may impact how they read, write or do math. Some people have differences in more than one area.

Learning disabilities don’t reflect intelligence. People can be highly intelligent but also need help with specific things like learning to read or do math calculations.

HOW ARE ADHD OR LEARNING DISABILITIES DIAGNOSED?

Children (or adults who weren’t diagnosed earlier) may first be recognized by their doctor, a teacher or another person who identifies difficulties with their learning or behavior. They can then complete testing, usually done by a psychologist, to evaluate their ability to complete certain tasks (a neuropsychology or psychoeducational evaluation).

WHAT ARE SIGNS OF AUTISM?

Early signs of autism include differences in development, including differences in how a child plays, interacts with other people and learns to speak or communicate. These children may prefer to play on their own, rather than with other people. They

may do some things in a repetitive manner, such as play the same way each time or move their bodies in repetitive ways. They may have differences in how they respond to their senses and may be sensitive to certain sensory experiences (such as by covering their ears at loud noises) or less sensitive (by spinning or crashing their bodies to get sensory input).

Older children and adults may struggle more with conversation, making friends or understanding social cues. Each individual on the autism spectrum is unique, and their combination of characteristics will be distinct.

HOW IS AUTISM DIAGNOSED?

Children with early signs of autism may be recognized by their caregivers, doctors or teachers. At a child’s regular 18- and 24-month check-up, caregivers of all children may complete a screening questionnaire about their child’s behavior. This questionnaire may help identify early signs of autism.

If someone has a concern about autism or if a child screens positive, the child should be referred for an autism evaluation completed by a developmental and behavioral pediatrician, psychologist, child psychiatrist, neurologist or a pediatrician or speech/language pathologist who’s been trained to assess for autism.

Autism is a clinical diagnosis, meaning there’s no clear test for autism. Instead, someone evaluates whether the child has the characteristics consistent with the diagnosis. After diagnosis, a child can receive therapies such as speech/language therapy, occupational therapy and behavioral therapy, based on their particular needs.

WHY IS THE NUMBER OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN INCREASING?

The number has increased over the last two decades. The strongest studies show most of this rise is due to increased recognition of the condition, substituting autism for other possible diagnoses and expanding the range of presentations that qualify for

the diagnosis. There’s no evidence that an environmental toxin or factor has caused the increase, and autism is certainly not caused by how parents care for their children.

WHAT ABOUT VACCINES?

The myth that vaccines cause autism originated in a very poorly conducted, unethical study on 12 children that has since been retracted. Since that study’s publication in 1998, people have suggested increases in autism prevalence have occurred as more vaccines have been developed and adopted. But just because two things occur at the same time does not mean that one causes the other. A classic example is that both ice cream purchases and drownings increase in the summer, but no one believes ice cream causes drowning!

There have been numerous, well done studies that have not found a link between vaccines and autism. Vaccines save lives, and the evidence in favor of vaccine safety with respect to autism is overwhelming. I encourage all my patients’ families to vaccinate their children to protect them from preventable infections. And I have proudly vaccinated my own children following recommended vaccine schedules.

WHAT RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

The CDC has resources to help families track their child’s development to help recognize early signs of developmental differences. These resources include pamphlets that describe age-specific developmental milestones, as well as an app to help parents track their child’s learning and development. The American Academy of Pediatrics and *HealthyChildren.org* also have evidence-based resources about child development, autism, ADHD and learning disabilities.

If a caregiver is concerned about how a child’s development or learning, they can start by speaking with their child’s doctor and reaching out to their local Early Intervention team to discuss whether an evaluation for developmental services is appropriate.

There's good information online about child development, but there's also false information. The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia Pediatric Health Chat website has resources to help families understand whether what they're reading online is accurate and safe.

Children with neurodivergence such as autism, ADHD or learning disabilities are our friends, family and neighbors. We can work together to make sure they're identified early and receive appropriate supports to help them learn and thrive. ♦

Nearsightedness in Children

Continued from page 43

We live in a digital world in which kids spend more time indoors on screens — on laptops, iPads, phones and the like. This increased screen time has consequences. A study has found that after one hour of daily screen time, every additional hour spent on screens (up to four hours) has been associated with a 21% higher chance of myopia. Add to this increasing educational pressures that require doing more close-up work such as reading and writing. These conditions lead to children spending less time outdoors.

HOW CAN I TELL IF MY CHILD HAS MYOPIA?

Tell-tale signs that your child may be having difficulty with their vision depend on their age. For children who don't yet talk, you may notice that they go up close to the television screen or an object before they're able to recognize its details. This behavior may be identified during their routine pediatrician visit, when a vision screen test with an electronic device is performed and can help determine if your child may need glasses.

A warning sign for school-aged children is that they may have difficulty seeing materials in the classroom. This could cause them to fall behind in their education if it's not diagnosed and treated promptly.

If you notice these or other warning signs, book an appointment with a pediatric ophthalmologist immediately.

WHAT TREATMENTS CAN SLOW MYOPIA'S PROGRESSION?

In my clinic, when I diagnose a child with myopia, parents often ask what they can do to reduce the risk of their child's myopia progressing, and what can protect their other children from getting the condition.

A comprehensive treatment approach involves prevention, risk assessment, early detection, correction, monitoring and interventions to reduce myopia's progression. Here are some evidence-based recommended treatments.

Lifestyle and environmental changes:

- **Limit screen time.** The American Academy of Pediatrics in 2026 recommends no screen time for children before 18 months, and just one hour of high-quality screen content a day for children 2 to 5. The key is to ensure screens don't replace important activities that otherwise support a child's development.
- **Limit continuous prolonged near tasks** such as reading. Taking regular visual breaks by using techniques like the "20-20-20 rule." This involves looking at something 20 feet away for 20 seconds after every 20 minutes of near activity.
- **Spend time outdoors.** Studies have shown two hours a day exposure to natural light has been effective in slowing axial growth of the eye and reducing the risk of myopia.

Pharmacological intervention: The use of *low-dose atropine eye drops*, a compounded medication available in different concentrations (specially prepared in a pharmacy), has been shown to slow axial length elongation associated with myopia. Although major clinical trials have been done mainly with East Asian populations, tailored approaches can be considered based on individual risk

profile, ethnicity and progression rate. Consult your healthcare provider about this approach.

Optical options: *Specialized contact lenses* — which slow axial length elongation, reducing myopia progression — include rigid gas permeable contact lenses worn overnight (orthokeratology or ortho-K) or soft contact lenses that gently reshape the cornea. *Specialized prescription spectacle lenses*, with specialized physical and optical design lens features, can also reduce the rate of axial length elongation. Essilor Stellest eyeglasses lenses are currently FDA-approved as an option. Again, consult your healthcare provider for guidance.

Although much progress has been made in managing myopia, we're still learning more about the best treatments. Currently, there are no universal protocols about when to start treatment, how to combine some of the different options and when to stop treatment.

The best advice is to consult your pediatric ophthalmologist to determine if your child is eligible for available treatments based on your child's age, severity of their myopia and the most up-to-date clinical evidence. ♦

Beyond the Bellyache

Continued from page 44

HEALTHY EVERYDAY HABITS

The good news is that small changes at home can make a big difference. Here are a few.

Offer water regularly. Kids are often so busy at school and in activities that they forget to drink. Sending a refillable water bottle and reminding them to sip through the day can help keep stools soft.

Make fiber part of every meal. Fruits with skins (apples and pears), berries, beans, whole-grain bread, oatmeal and vegetables all help stool move more easily through the gut.

Build in bathroom time. Encourage your child to sit on the toilet for a few

relaxed minutes after meals, especially breakfast and dinner to take advantage of the body's natural urge to go after eating and help create a routine.

Keep kids moving. Physical activity, whether playing outside or dancing in the living room, helps the gut stay active. Long stretches of sitting or screen time can slow things down.

These steps may sound simple, but over weeks they can reset a child's bathroom habits and reduce many day-to-day gut complaints.

FOOD TROUBLE: INTOLERANCE OR ALLERGY

When a child's belly seems to act up after eating certain foods, parents often wonder what to do.

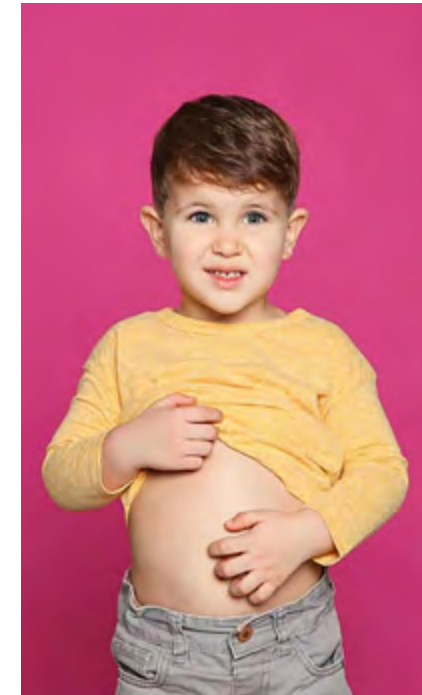
A *food intolerance* means the gut has a hard time handling a certain ingredient. A common example is trouble digesting lactose, the sugar in milk. Kids with this issue may have gas, bloating, cramps or loose stools after eating ice cream or drinking milk, but the reaction is limited to the gut.

A *food allergy* involves the whole body. The immune system reacts to a food as if it's a threat. This can cause hives, swelling of the lips or face, coughing, vomiting or trouble breathing. In severe cases, it can be life-threatening and require emergency care.

Because the treatments are different, it's important not to guess. Don't remove large groups of foods without guidance, as this can affect growth. If you notice a pattern — such as symptoms every time your child eats a certain food — keep a food diary and share it with your child's doctor. Together, you can decide whether testing or a visit to an allergy or digestive specialist is needed.

GUT-EMOTION CONNECTION

Many parents are surprised to learn how closely the gut and brain are linked. Most adults know the feeling of "butterflies" before a big event. Children feel this, too, and often much more strongly. Worries about school, sports, friendships



or changes at home can show up as real stomach pain, nausea or urgent trips to the bathroom.

When a child is stressed, the brain sends signals that can speed up or slow down the gut. This can lead to pain, diarrhea or constipation. The child is not faking it, even if the pain comes at times that seem suspicious, like right before school or practice.

Parents can help by doing things like listening carefully when their child says their stomach hurts and gently asking what else might be bothering them. Also avoid phrases like "It's just nerves" or "You're fine," which can make a child feel dismissed. This is a good time to teach simple calming tools like slow, deep breathing, stretching or having a quiet, predictable bedtime routine.

If stomachaches are frequent on school days but rare on weekends or vacations, it may be helpful to check in with teachers, school counselors or coaches about possible stressors.

WHEN TO CALL THE DOCTOR

Most stomachaches in children are mild and pass within a day or two. But,

some warning signs suggest a need for a closer look. Call your child's doctor if you notice:

- Belly pain that keeps coming back and interferes with school, sleep or play.
- Trouble gaining weight or a sudden drop in weight.
- Regular vomiting or vomit that's green, yellow or has blood in it.
- Blood in the stool, which may look bright red or very dark and sticky.
- Pain that wakes up your child at night.
- Ongoing fever along with belly pain.
- Pain that's severe and appears on the lower right side, especially with fever or vomiting.

These signs don't always mean something serious, but they should be checked promptly. Your pediatrician can decide if your child needs tests, medicine or a visit with a digestive specialist.

HELPING YOUR CHILD

Talking openly about bathroom habits may feel awkward, but it can remove shame and help kids speak up early. Let your child know that everyone poops and that talking about it with a parent or doctor is normal. You might ask: "Is it hard or painful when you go?" or "Do you ever try not to go at school?"

Explain that telling the truth helps their doctor take better care of them and that they won't be in trouble for accidents. The more comfortable a child is sharing these details, the easier it is to spot small problems before they become big ones.

Healthy gut habits start at home but are supported by a team. Parents, caregivers, teachers and pediatricians all play a role. By paying attention to daily routines, watching for patterns and keeping an eye on warning signs, families can help children feel better now and protect their health in the future.

When in doubt, reach out to your child's doctor with questions. There's no such thing as a silly concern when it comes to a child's health and comfort. ♦

Our House *Is a Very, Very, Very Fine House*

LOCAL SENIORS ARE ALIGNING 55+ COMMUNITIES' OFFERINGS WITH THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS

Carol Metzker

SPARKLES WERE UBIQUITOUS. Musicians were grand as the piano. The house was packed. Music from movies filled the aisles, and quizzes for the audience kept the crowd on their toes. (How many “Pink Panther” movies were made? Would you recognize James Bond’s theme?) “Moon River” had folks crooning in their seats, and the emcee left everyone laughing.

Not in New York City. Not in Philly. Residents of White Horse Village dreamed up, produced and performed a rollicking show that ended in applause heard throughout the building.

Before you think life as a senior is short on hopes and dreams, talk to a few members of 55+ communities ... if you can reach them with their busy schedules.

SWEET DREAMS ARE MADE OF THIS ...

Tom, a resident of White Horse Village, proposed that people enter the vibrant

senior continuing care retirement community (CCRC) in Newtown Square and play out their dreams three ways. Some continue what they love and realize their dreams at the campus surrounded by a hundred tranquil acres. Others encounter and experience new worlds and passions. Still others discover that their lifelong skills and knowledge are the missing piece in collective dreams — they use them to bring about the community’s dreams.

Barbara, a White Horse resident for 35 years, has succeeded at all three. At 62, she entered the community with her mother — a healthy, active nonagenarian — and her beloved dog. She asked if, after her Westie died, she could get another dog. White Horse said yes. Her dream was fulfilled when Sonsie joined her. After Sonsie died, Barbara pupsat other dogs in the “Village.” She’s also volunteered for the Brandywine Conservancy.

“I saw White Horse as a place for us to grow and be happy,” she said.

WHEN I'M 64

What song characterizes your dreams for the future and the home and community you choose? The Beatles’ “When I’m 64,” Beethoven’s “Ode to Joy,” anything by Enya, Jimmy Buffett’s “Margaritaville,” Pink Floyd’s “Great Gig in the Sky” or something else? I asked several people 55+ to name that song and describe how the lyrics characterized the lifestyle they sought in their senior community.

Answers ranged from lyrics addressing the basic reasons for their move to hopes and dreams for new pursuits to try.

“You’ll Never Walk Alone” from the musical “Carousel.” “You’re giving your kids the gift that they won’t have to worry about you,” Tom said about moving into a community for aging in place. When he and his wife were moving to White Horse, it struck them that the song was about having people to help them. “We wanted our family walking alongside us, but not having to carry us.”

“Our House” by Crosby, Stills, Nash and Young. Linda, who cherishes her farm with animals and flowers, is on Kendal at Longwood’s waiting list. Her mother hadn’t planned for her final years, and Linda wanted a better situation for her children. She looked for a place with plenty of nature and where she could “place the flowers in the vase.” The CCRC — surrounded by acres of land and adjacent to Longwood Gardens where there are more than “two cats in the yard” — fit the bill. The lyrics also reflected the amazing care she had witnessed there, including skilled nursing: “Life used to be so hard. Now everything is easy ’cause of you.”

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow.” Laurie said she’s “living in the land of the unknowns now” as she waits for a spot at Crosslands. So, she looks forward to the time and place “where troubles melt like lemon drops” — dreams of stability and positive possibilities for the next chapter in her life. “And maybe there’s a pot of gold at the end,” she added.

ALMOST HEAVEN

When the weather’s nice, listen for the band. Then look for Pat and Jim at Hershey’s Mill’s new Village Green. They’ve dropped their covered dish and favorite bottled beverages at the new shelter and picnic tables before settling into lawn chairs in time for a concert. They love music, whether listening to the Elderberries at a summer event, or singing along to covers of Billy Joel, the Beach Boys and others. They also love the camaraderie of the gatherings with their neighbors — one of their hopes when they moved to the 55+ community.

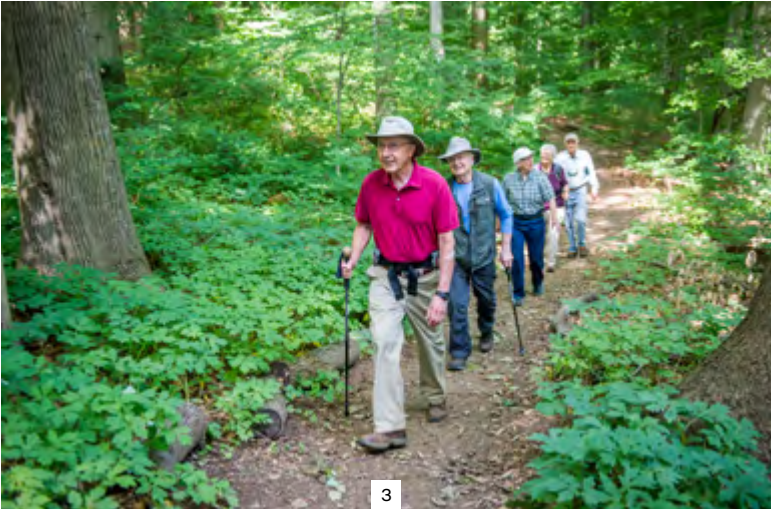
“We wanted a place where we felt comfortable, we belonged and there were lots of options for activities,” said Pat. They found that in that West Chester community for independent seniors.

In their previous longtime home, as their neighbors’ children and theirs embarked on lives of their own, and as families with younger children moved into the neighborhood, they had less in common with neighbors, added Jim. They found commonalities with Hershey’s Mill residents while attending happy hours, volunteering at the library and enjoying nature trails. They also found people to count on when they needed help.

I KNOW I'LL OFTEN STOP AND THINK ABOUT THEM ... IN MY LIFE

According to Devon Higbee, sales manager at Granite Farms Estates, seniors look for a place that can nurture mind, body and soul without worrying about home tasks and responsibilities, and where friends and neighbors will help them live their best life. Not surprisingly, seniors’ families and loved ones want that for them, too.

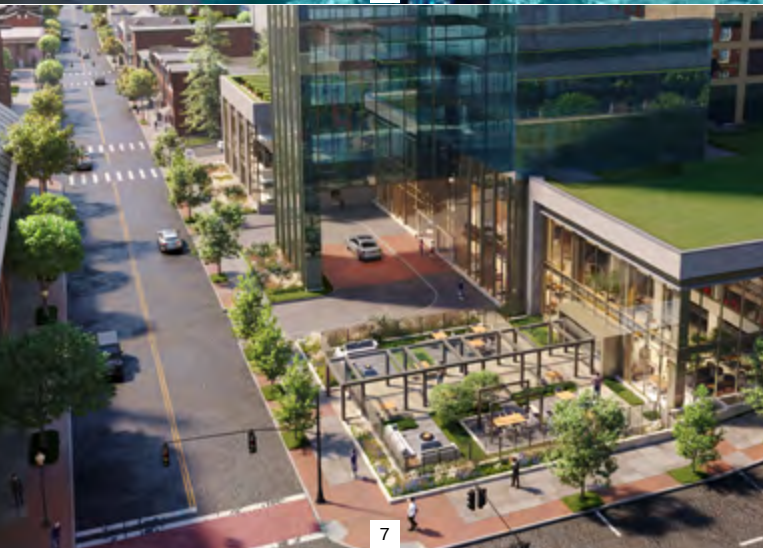
Higbee works at the same CCRC where her grandmother lived. “It helps to know your loved one is taken care of, pursuing new passions they didn’t even know existed, in a new chapter of life,” Higbee said. Formerly a crafter, her grandmother discovered card-making. “Every holiday I got a handmade card,” she recalled fondly.



1. Granite Farms Estates
2. White Horse Village's in-house community chorus, the Village Singers
3. Kendal at Longwood residents are close to nature
4. Crosslands residents brush up on their painting skills

At Granite Farms, resident-greeters invite newcomers to activities. Open house events show and share options. An activities calendar displays details, and residents can access meeting information through an app. Residents can try whatever appeals, including polishing stones and making jewelry at the lapidary studio.





5. Luther Acres offers a variety of eating venues
PHOTO CREDIT: JENNIFER FOSTER
6. Water aerobics are popular at Hershey's Mill
7. Mosaic is coming to Lancaster City in 2029

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Laurie said she calculated the number of dinners she'd prepared throughout her life. 17,000! Like many seniors, one of the dreams for community living is entering a dining room where food is already prepared and someone else cleans up.

If Shoo-fly Pie and Apple Pan Dowdy make your stomach say "Howdy," as the folk song goes, neighboring Lancaster County might be your place.

In Lititz, Luther Acres meets seniors' physical, emotional and spiritual needs as well as dreams as they change over time. It offers choices in eating venues — casual restaurant-style, café and pub, and others. Look for healthy meals with locally sourced ingredients and regional favorites.

Opening in 2029, Mosaic in the heart of Lancaster City is offering 20 stories of sunny windows and 146 distinctive apartments with resort-style amenities, restaurants and retail for active 55+ adults. For a menu of activities within quick walking distance, check the view from just one of those sunny windows. Pop down to Lancaster's Central Market, known for crazy-good stropwafels and crowd-watching. There's also easy access to cultural events, banking and medical appointments, in addition to vast options for happenings within the building. Mosaic is a life plan community with solutions as needs for more assistance and care arise.

CHANGES

Seniors note that changes are perpetual. Lifestyle, dreams and priorities differ with corresponding physical abilities, memory capacity and energy. "After being at Hershey's Mill for 10 years, we're not on the pickleball court like we were once," said Jim. "We still play bocce, but we're not competing." Others talked about retaining their love of books, but switching to larger print and audio versions.

"There are a million little things that become really big things when you can't do them yourself," said Tom. "The people who are happiest see that and accept it." They concurred: community matters more as time goes on.

Yet for Barbara, one fundamental thing doesn't waver. "The desire to serve sticks as you get older. How people do that might change, but there is still the desire to give back."

Laurie said she deeply considers what lies ahead. "It's comfortable and natural to think about the full circle of life. I think of adventure and community. Or as I age maybe I'll cocoon and quiet down."

She continued, "As I look at the future, it's like a chapter in the book. In that chapter is adventure and good things. I won't have responsibility. There will be a shift in what brings me joy. Rather than feeling overly sad about it, that next chapter could be fabulous. I believe it will be."

Open the door. Your dreams await in a very, very, very fine house. ♦



Welcome to the New Neighborhood

Our Founder's Advantage move-in incentive locks in today's monthly service fees for the next five years!

The new neighborhood at Luther Acres in Lititz, Lancaster County, is ideal for active adults looking for maintenance-free living in a vibrant, charming town — with the added confidence of Luthercare's trusted continuum of care.

Voted "America's Coolest Small Town," Lititz is just moments away from quaint cafés, boutique shops, peaceful walking trails, and year-round events that make small-town life feel big with possibility.

For a limited time, founding residents enjoy an exclusive move-in incentive — our way of welcoming the very first neighbors in this new community.



www.Luthercare.org • 223.258.2012

600 E. Main St., Lititz, PA 17543

Independent Living • Personal Care • Skilled Nursing Care
Memory Support • Rehab to Home • Home Care



Limited Availability.
Contact us at
223.258.2012
to tour our model units.
Scan to learn more.



Natalie, resident artist

Live
VIVIDLY

PASSION + PURPOSE + COMMUNITY



Guide to 55+ and Retirement Communities & Services

55+ COMMUNITIES FOR THE FIT, ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT

There are a variety of communities in our area built and managed for active seniors living an active and healthy lifestyle with amenities geared toward that group. Whether you're looking for a townhouse, condo, apartment or single home, these communities cater to older adults and offer settings that generally feel like resorts. They're designed to make retirement healthier and more enjoyable.

PENNSYLVANIA

Exton

Meridian at Eagleview
484-873-8110; MeridianEagleview.com

Glen Mills

Ivy Creek
610-981-2740; SeniorLivingInStyle.com

King of Prussia

Canvas Valley Forge
844-400-6435; CanvasValleyForge.com

West Chester

Harrison Hill Apartments
610-430-6900; HarrisonHillApts.com

Hershey's Mill
610-436-8900; HersheysMill55Plus.com
see the ad on page 58

Hershey's Mill, a gated 55+ community, is situated around an 18-hole championship private golf club featuring casual and formal dining. The community also offers Tiger Turf-coated tennis courts, pickleball, 8 bocce courts, winter paddleball, shuffleboard and horseshoes, as well as walking trails, 24/7 coverage and protected interior paved roads for biking. Visit during their Community Open House on Oct. 11th from 1 to 3 p.m. Home sites from \$300K to \$800K.

INDEPENDENT LIVING COMMUNITIES, WITH CONTINUING CARE AND LIFE CARE COMMUNITIES

Many seniors are currently independent but want or need, for themselves or their spouse, to live with support—moving from independent living to assisted living, followed by skilled nursing and several kinds of specialized facilities. When the sequence is combined on a single campus, it's called a continuing care community or life care community. Those listed have strong independent living programs.

PENNSYLVANIA

Cornwall

Cornwall Manor
717-274-8092; CornwallManor.org

Glen Mills

Glen Mills Senior Living
610-358-4900; GlenMillsSeniorLiving.com

Live the life you love.

Find out how at AboutActs.com/CountyLinesMag or call (888) 521-3651.



Brittany Pointe Estates | Cokesbury Village | Country House
Fort Washington Estates | Granite Farms Estates | Gwynedd Estates | Lima Estates
Normandy Farms Estates | Southampton Estates | Spring House Estates



Kennett Square
Friends Home in Kennett
610-444-2577; FriendsHomeInKennett.org
Kendal-Crosslands Communities
844-907-1800; Kendal-Crosslands.org
see the ad on page 59

Adjacent to Longwood Gardens on a 500+-acre accredited arboretum campus, the community provides two life plan communities and two 50+ neighborhoods with customizable cottages and apartments. Amenities include pools, art studios, gardens, hiking trails, dog park, tennis and pickleball courts, fitness, libraries and putting greens, plus highly rated healthcare. Member of Leading Age, FSA and accredited by CARF-CCAC.

King of Prussia
Revelle King of Prussia
484-939-9830; LegendSeniorLiving.com
see the ad on page 67
Revelle King of Prussia redefines senior living with sophisticated residences, exceptional hospitality and personalized care tailored to each individual. offering independent living, personal care and memory

care, the community features elevated dining, enriching experiences and thoughtfully designed spaces for connection and wellness. Just minutes from King of Prussia Mall and major medical centers, Revelle blends comfort, convenience and peace of mind.

Malvern
Echo Lake
484-568-4777; LivingAtEchoLake.com

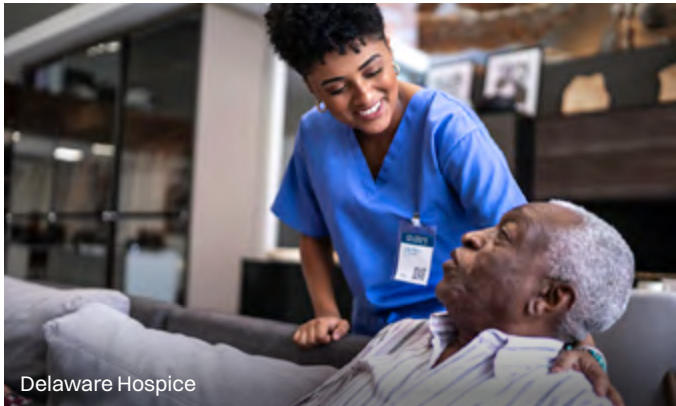
Media
Riddle Village
610-891-3700; RiddleVillage.org
see the ad on page 55
Riddle Village is a life care community that offers amenities including a fitness center, putting green, indoor parking, personal trainer, four unique restaurants, a flexible dining program and much more. Riddle Village has 10 spacious apartment styles ranging from studios to three-bedroom apartments.

Multiple Locations
Acts Retirement-Life Communities
888-521-3651
AboutActs.com/CountyLinesMag
see the ad on page 52

For more than 50 years, Acts Retirement-Life Communities have provided residents an elevated lifestyle and the freedom to pursue passion, purpose and well-being. Celebrate the good life in a community full of great new friends and rich with possibility.
Luthercare
*Luther Acres, 600 E. Main St., Lititz
St. John's Herr Estate, 200 Luther Ln.,
Columbia. 717-626-1171; Luthercare.org
*see the ad on page 51**

Luthercare offers two exceptional senior living communities in Lancaster County. Discover the new neighborhood at Luther Acres in Lititz, ideal for active adults looking for maintenance-free living in a charming town, with the added confidence of long-term peace of mind. In Columbia, St. John's Herr Estate provides a welcoming community with independent living and personal care options, all centered on vibrant living, connection and confidence for the future.

Newtown Square
Dunwoody Village
610-359-4400; Dunwoody.org
see the ad on page 29



Delaware Hospice



The Highlands at Wyomissing



Riddle Village



Freedom Village at Brandywine

Take a Swing at the LIFESTYLE You Have Waited For!

Riddle Village offers a comprehensive Lifecare contract, so our residents can embrace retirement living with confidence. With predictable costs for future long-term care, our community provides a plan for your future, allowing you to focus on living life to the fullest every day.

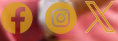
Enjoy luxury amenities and services, such as, weekly housekeeping, indoor garage parking, flexible dining plan with access to four unique restaurants and full-service bar, nine-hole putting green, 24/7 fitness center, indoor swimming pool and so much more.

Life at Riddle Village is a hole in one!



Riddle Village

RiddleVillage.org | (610) 891-3700 | 1048 West Baltimore Pike, Media, PA 19063



Freedom.

It's more than just our name. It's a lifestyle.



Freedom Village at Brandywine

We offer carefree living at its best, with a wide variety of beautifully appointed residential options, a wealth of exceptional services and amenities, and a full calendar of fun, engaging activities—all just minutes from the many attractions, charming villages, and historic destinations of Chester County's lush Brandywine Valley.

Every Level of Care, Delivered One Way. With Excellence.

Call 610-813-6047 and find out.

Managed by
 Life Care Services®

FVBrandywine.com | 15 Freedom Blvd., | West Brandywine, PA







Discover why we're voted best senior community

With stylish residences surrounded by trails and open spaces, senior living here is as refreshing as the scenic views.

Schedule a tour—we're just down the road.
(610) 546-2852



WhiteHorseVillage.org | Newtown Square, PA

Independent Living | Personal Care | Skilled Nursing | Memory Support







The Enhanced Future Residents Club

Our enhanced **Future Residents Club** is more than a waitlist, it gives you customized access to The Highlands at Wyomissing lifestyle long before move-in day.

Two Ways to Plan What's Next

1. Reserve Club | \$15,000 Deposit

For those ready to move within the next 18 months. Enjoy the full Highlands experience: dining, events, amenities, upgrade allowances, downsizing support, and more.

2. Explorer Club | \$3,000 Deposit

\$3,000 Deposit for those planning for the future. Stay connected, stay engaged, and secure your future with meals, events, financial screening, and planning support.

Don't wait to start feeling at home.
Learn more at thehighlands.org/future-residents or call 484-220-8237



Located in a suburban setting on 83 picturesque acres, Dunwoody Village is a five-star rated CCRC with a host of amenities. Dunwoody offers residents independent living, personal care, skilled nursing and memory support, as well as rehabilitation and home care to both residents and the outside community. Plan for tomorrow by getting on the waiting list today.

White Horse Village
610-558-5000; WhiteHorseVillage.org
see the ad on page 56

Discover White Horse Village, an active senior living community set on 109 scenic acres. Residents enjoy exceptional wellness programs, outstanding amenities, engaging activities, spacious homes and chef-prepared dining. From fitness classes and nature hikes to arts, lifelong learning and more, there's something for every interest. Known for its welcoming atmosphere and strong sense of community, White Horse Village offers a vibrant lifestyle where friendships flourish and new adventures begin.

Rosemont

The Mansion at Rosemont
610-632-5835
TheMansionAtRosemont.org

Wallingford

Plush Mills
610-859-4445; PlushMills.com

West Brandywine

Freedom Village at Brandywine
484-288-2601; FVBrandywine.com
see the ad on page 55

Life is good here ... The best retirement is when you have more time to do what you want, with an abundance of choices for dining, socializing, fitness and fun. At Freedom Village at Brandywine, you can enjoy a carefree, maintenance-free lifestyle where you're welcomed like family. Their life care plan gives you access to a full continuum of care if you ever need it. Independent living, personal care, memory care, skilled nursing and rehab. Visit them today.

West Chester

Bardley Friends
610-696-5211; BFKendal.org
see the ad on page 60

Luthercare

Dunwoody Village

Acts Retirement-Life Communities

Hershey's Mill

56 County Lines | August 2026 | CountyLinesMagazine.com

CountyLinesMagazine.com | August 2026 | County Lines 57



Kendal-Crosslands Communities

HersheysMill55Plus.com



Chester County's Premier 55+ Active Lifestyle Community

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- ♦ Exterior Maintenance-Free Living
- ♦ Convenient to Local Shopping
- ♦ Beautiful Community Center
- ♦ Homes from 350K to 800K+
- ♦ Verizon Triple Play Included
- ♦ Gated 24/7 Security
- ♦ Single Floor Living
- ♦ Walking Trails
- ♦ Heated Pool



Community Open House
Oct 11th
1-3 pm

Call us at 484-639-9900

1500 Greenhill Road, West Chester, PA 19380

Located in a quiet neighborhood, Barclay Friends offers a welcoming environment to engage in meaningful connections and lifelong interests. Residents may do everything from creative arts and gardening to mindfulness and community gatherings. The campus features spaces designed to invite conversation, reflection and personal growth. A continuum of health and wellness services is available.

The Hickman Friends
Senior Community of West Chester
484-760-6300; TheHickman.org

Wellington at Hershey's Mill
484-653-1200
SeniorLifestyle.com/Property/Pennsylvania/Wellington-At-Hersheys-Mill

Wyomissing
The Highlands at Wyomissing
610-775-2300; TheHighlands.org
see the ad on page 56

With over 113 acres of gently rolling hills, lush walkways and towering hardwoods, The Highlands at Wyomissing has offered stun-



Barclay Friends

ning amenities, engaging activities and endless opportunities for 35 years. They're proud to be the only nonprofit life care community in Berks County, where residents are free to live their active, independent lifestyles with a continuum of care available right at home if they were to ever need it.

DELAWARE
Wilmington

Harmony at Hockessin
302-504-8007; HarmonyAtHockessin.com

IN-HOME CARE & SPECIAL SERVICES

For those seeking comfort or support during treatment for a serious illness.

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Surrey Services for Seniors
Broomall, Bryn Mawr, Devon and Media
SurreyServices.org
see our ad on page 60

Join the celebration at Surrey's 45th anniversary and usher in this milestone with a focus on the future: a fresh, new look and focus on cognitive health; essential services like transportation; and meaning and purpose through volunteerism. Surrey is a community-powered nonprofit that serves 5,000 older adults in Chester, Delaware and Montgomery Counties. Find out how they are changing the way we all age.

DELAWARE
WILMINGTON

Delaware Hospice
800-838-9800; DelawareHospice.org
see the ad on page 29

Plan Today for a Peaceful Tomorrow



DISCOVER KENDAL-CROSSLANDS COMMUNITIES

Are you thinking about the next chapter of your life? Whether you are ready to move soon or simply planning ahead, now is the perfect time to explore a lifestyle that offers comfort, connection, and peace of mind. At Kendal-Crosslands Communities, we understand that moving is a big decision. That's why we are here to help you plan thoughtfully and transition smoothly.

Residents enjoy: Cozy and spacious maintenance-free living, engaging activities and wellness programs, a vibrant community of friends and neighbors engaged in their community, social happenings, and a continuum of care with compassionate staff—should you need it someday

It's never too early to join the Wait List. Contact us to start planning for your future living needs.



info.kendal-crosslands.org/countylinesmarch
844.907.1800

KENDAL CROSSLANDS
COMMUNITIES®

Adjacent to Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

Not-for-Profit Life Plan Communities Serving Older Adults in the Quaker Tradition





White Horse Village



Osher Lifelong Learning Institute

You're not alone in facing serious illness. Delaware Hospice embraces you and your loved one with a community-focused continuum of support, providing more than in-home hospice care. Whether you need community resources, palliative care or grief support, they provide comprehensive care to children and adults for every stage of serious illness. Call or visit their website for local, expert care.

**SENIOR SERVICES &
CONTINUING EDUCATION**
DELAWARE
WILMINGTON

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware

302-573-4417; OLLI.UDel.edu

see the ad on page 18

Curiosity never retires! Join more than 3,500 lifelong learners at the University of Delaware's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) who have already discovered fun classes and enrichment opportunities. A volunteer-driven educational cooperative for adults age 50+, UD OLLI offers classes and activities at locations throughout Delaware, as well as online. Meet friends, share your expertise and take advantage of exceptional benefits. OLLI.UDEL.edu/Benefits ♦



We put the auto in autonomy.

Staying independent means staying mobile.

Surrey's rides make sure appointments, errands, and social plans aren't a hassle-- they're just part of your day.



610-993-9493

SurreyServices.org

Barclay Friends
A KENDAL AFFILIATE



**The care that matters most in the moments
when memory loss becomes part of life.**

At Barclay Friends, we are deeply honored to hold the NCCDP Memory Care Seal of Excellence, a meaningful mark of distinction in care for those with dementia. This recognition reflects our shared, lasting commitment to a person-centered approach that compassionately honors each individual's unique story.



**Discover how Barclay Friends
is reimagining dementia care.**

Call 800-401-0179 to schedule a tour



bf.kendal.org
700 N. Franklin Street
West Chester, PA 18901

[Food News]

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

Distilling & Dough. That's **Bluebird Distilling & Dough House's** new combo of grain-to-glass spirits and a neo-Neapolitan pizzeria — an Americanized version of the classic — plus small plates from Chef Devon Migeot (Zahav, Rosalie). Adding the dough spurred a renovation and transformation that answered the trend of including food with your drinks. And yes, you can still get the Phoenixville Old Fashioned, along with some new options: the Huntsman and Rum Ham. *100 Bridge St., Phoenixville. BluebirdDistilling.com*



Do the Doughnuts. Layered, mini, GF, keto or dog doughnuts — the many choices at **Parlor Doughnuts**, the first Philly-area location in Berwyn. The restored historic property and patio have become a neighborhood gathering place for sweets plus hot and iced specialty coffees, energizer and refresher drinks, breakfast sandwiches, açai bowls and more. Try the signature layered doughnuts — flaky, buttery, croissant-like pastries — in flavors like maple bacon and raspberry pistachio. *602 Lancaster Ave. ParlorDoughnuts.com*



More, Please. Exton's **Urban Scoop** added a West Chester location in July, bringing their premium, handcrafted, small-batch, icy goodness to the borough. Try a bubble cone filled with flavors like guava cheese-cake, raspberry donut and kulfi (an Indian dessert), plus luscious drizzles. Creamy textures, artisanal ingredients and treats that make you feel amazing inside and out! Thirsty? A 5 O'Clock is mango + passion fruit + carbonated lemonade. Yum! *503 E. Gay St. Urban-Scoop.com*



BYOC. The C is for bring your chair to the summer socials in the garden at **Collier's of Centreville**. On August 18, 6 to 8 p.m., enjoy crackers, cheese and eight picnic wines, perfect for romantic, beach, traditional or theme picnic sipping. Email or stop by the shop to reserve your space (\$40/person). Visit on Saturdays for free wine tastings. *5810 Kennett Pk. ColliersWine.com*

GF+. Search no more if you have food sensitivities. **Laine's Gluten Free Bakery** is 100% gluten and dairy free, 100% of the time. You'll also find vegan and nut-free products in the mix of their cupcakes, cakes, cookies, brownies, bars, breads, sticky buns and more. No one should miss out on cake just because of food allergies! Delivery (\$10), catering, custom orders available. Fri., Sat., Sun. or until sell out. *1018 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn. LainesGFBakery.com*



Peak Grilling Window for Barbecue

EXTEND THIS TASTY SEASON

Liz Tarditi

AS BRANDYWINE TABLE goes to press, the world has just spent the past month visiting North America for the FIFA World Cup. Social media has been filled with soccer fans (or football fans) sharing their favorite discoveries. From yellow school buses to free refills, our humidity to our hospitality — there was one food visitors couldn't stop talking about: American barbecue.

Grown men wept as meat melted in their mouths. Bottles of ranch dressing and barbecue sauce were confiscated as liquid contraband at airports so often the TSA had to issue a statement about packing them in checked luggage. But who can blame these would-be smugglers — it really is that good.

Throughout the summer for residents here, one grill gets fired up in the neighborhood on a Saturday and the next day every family in smelling distance is cooking out themselves. Barbecue is a full-immersion sensory experience of taste and smell plus fire and smoke and a little magic.

And lucky us, the barbecue season

is far from over. Given our soggy springs, August isn't the end of grilling — it's the halfway point. The cooler days of late summer and early fall are perfect for lingering over the grill, and the deeper flavors of smoked paprika, apple cider vinegar, garlic, brown sugar and slow-cooked meats feel even more at home when the leaves start to turn than they did when the daffodils were blooming.

To help us celebrate this peak grilling window, our friends over at **Hood's BBQ** — the legendary local pitmasters holding down the smoke in Unionville — graciously shared recipes for their iconic baked beans, cheese potatoes and Brunswick stew. As Larry Hood puts it, "Barbecue is more than just good food and taste. It's a state of mind. It's summer, family and good times."

Because great barbecue is a community effort, these soulful side dishes from the Hood family kitchen simply require a good main dish to gather

around. Since their secret smokehouse entrees remain a well-guarded local treasure, we share, instead, a few reliable ideas for firing up your own backyard adventures.

In our sidebar, you'll find a simple homemade barbecue sauce recipe made from pantry staples to get you started. From there, explore two straightforward techniques to test your own pitmaster skills. First, try Brandywine Table Spatchcock Barbecue Chicken, a whole bird that's brine-injected and then cold-air dried for two days before hitting the hot grill grate. Alongside it, you can tackle our Hybrid-Cooked Barbecue Baby Back Ribs, which are dry-rubbed and cooked the foolproof way by starting low in the kitchen oven before moving over a live flame to catch that final kiss of smoke and char.

Fire up the grill!



Hood's BBQ, Unionville

Hood's BBQ Baked Beans

Three varieties of beans along with bacon, brown sugar and molasses come together in this sweet-and-smoky side dish that has become a Hood's favorite.



Serves 6

- 1, 15-oz. can butter beans, drained and rinsed
- 1, 28-oz. can B&M Original Baked Beans
- 1, 15-oz. can pinto beans, drained and rinsed
- ½ C. chopped cooked bacon
- 1 T. onion powder
- 1 tsp. liquid smoke (see note)
- 1 C. packed dark brown sugar
- ½ C. yellow mustard
- ¼ C. molasses
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce

Combine all ingredients in a Dutch oven or slow cooker and stir until well combined.

Cook over low heat for 2 to 3 hours, stirring occasionally, until hot and slightly thickened. For the richest flavor, cook the full 3 hours.

Cook's Tip: Liquid smoke is highly concentrated. Start with a light hand and adjust to taste.

Hood's BBQ Cheesy Potatoes

This rich, creamy potato casserole has long been a favorite alongside Hood's smoked barbecue.

Serves 6

- 1, 30-oz. bag frozen shredded hash browns, thawed
- 1, 10.5-oz. can cream of potato soup
- ½ C. sour cream
- 1 C. shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 2 tsp. onion powder
- 2 tsp. dried parsley flakes
- ¼ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper

The Science of Browning

If you've ever wondered why grilled food tastes so much better than boiled food, the answer is chemistry. Great barbecue depends on two different browning reactions that work together to build the color, aroma and flavor we crave.

The *Maillard reaction* occurs when proteins and natural sugars are exposed to high, dry heat, creating the savory browned crust on meats. That's why the spatchcock chicken is air-dried before grilling — the drier the skin, the better it browns before it's brushed with barbecue sauce.

Caramelization is different. It occurs when sugars brown under heat, producing the rich sweetness in barbecue sauce. As that sauce cooks over the fire, it forms a glossy glaze with lightly charred edges. A little char adds smoky, bittersweet complexity, while too much quickly turns bitter.



Serves 6

Preheat the oven to 300°. Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl and stir until evenly mixed. Spread into the prepared baking dish.

Bake for 1½ hours, or until the potatoes are tender and the casserole is lightly browned around the edges.

Hood's BBQ Brunswick Stew

Originally made with wild game like squirrel and opossum, Brunswick stew has become a Southern barbecue classic. Claimed by both Brunswick County, Virginia and Brunswick, Georgia, today's versions typically feature smoked pork or chicken simmered with vegetables in a rich tomato-barbecue broth.

Serves 6

- ½ stick butter
- 1 T. minced garlic



- 1 small onion, diced
- 1, 16-oz. bag frozen black beans, roasted corn and pepper blend
- 1 C. frozen lima beans or shelled edamame
- 1, 32-oz. can fire-roasted diced tomatoes
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. cayenne pepper
- ½ tsp. salt
- 1 tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 C. Hood's BBQ Sauce
- 6 C. chicken or vegetable stock
- ¾ to 1 lb. pulled pork, finely chopped

Melt the butter in a Dutch oven or large stockpot over medium-low heat. Add the garlic and onion and cook until the onion is softened, lightly golden and fragrant, about 6 to 8 minutes.

Stir in the black bean blend, lima beans, tomatoes, Worcestershire sauce, cayenne, salt and black pepper. Add the Hood's BBQ Sauce and stock, stirring until well combined.

Increase the heat to medium-high and bring to a boil. Reduce the heat to low and stir in the pulled pork. Simmer for at least 30 minutes, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender and the flavors have melded.

Serve hot with warm cornbread.

The Brandywine Table Spatchcock Barbecue Chicken

This recipe starts with a fresh whole young chicken for more even cooking after spatchcocking, for which good kitchen shears are essential. A savory injection keeps the meat juicy while an overnight uncovered rest in the

Homemade BBQ Sauce

Those of us foodies who love to tinker might decide to skip the bottled aisle and make our own barbecue sauce with pantry staples. Here's a small-batch recipe that after cooking will cover about 2 racks of baby back ribs — double it if you want extra for passing and dipping.

Tangy and smoky, this balanced, all-purpose recipe lets you see the magic deconstructed and then build it out in any direction you want to go. You might be thinking: everything there is shelf-stable, do I really need to cook it? Absolutely. Taste it before and after — simmering brings the flavors together. It's good for about 2 weeks in the fridge — if it lasts that long.

Makes just under 2 cups

- 1 C. ketchup
- ⅓ C. apple cider vinegar
- ¼ C. packed dark brown sugar
- 2 T. molasses
- 2 T. honey
- 1 T. Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tsp. Dijon mustard
- 1 tsp. smoked paprika
- ½ tsp. garlic powder
- ¼ tsp. onion powder
- ½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp. salt
- up to ½ tsp. liquid smoke (optional)
- 1 tsp. bourbon (optional)

Whisk all ingredients together in a medium saucepan over medium heat until smooth. Bring to a gentle simmer, then reduce the heat to low and cook for 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool completely before serving.

refrigerator dries the skin, creating an exceptionally crisp finish that holds up even after being brushed with barbecue sauce.

Serves 4-6

For the chicken:

- 1 fresh whole chicken, clean, patted dry, giblets discarded,
- 4-5 pound size is preferred over an "oven-stuffer"

For the garlic butter brine injection:

- ½ C. low-sodium chicken broth
- ¼ C. unsalted butter
- 1 tsp. garlic powder
- 1 tsp. onion powder
- 1 tsp. kosher salt
- ½ tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- ¼ tsp. finely ground white pepper

For the grill:

- 1 C. barbecue sauce, chef's choice

Using kitchen shears, remove the backbone from the chicken by cutting on either side of the spine, neck to tail. Discard trim or save it



for other purposes. Turn the chicken breast-side up and press firmly on the breastbone until it lies flat — listen to hear a crack. The chicken is now spatchcock cut.

Combine the chicken broth, butter, garlic powder, onion powder, salt, Worcestershire sauce and white pepper in a small saucepan over low heat, stirring, until the butter melts and the salt dissolves. Remove from heat and allow to cool to lukewarm, then strain if needed so no spice clumps clog your brining needle.

Inject the lukewarm mixture evenly into the breasts, thighs and drumsticks without breaking skin. Wipe the skin a final time with paper towels, dabbing away any drops of the butter brine or bits from spatchcocking that might keep the skin from drying evenly. Place skin-side up on a baking sheet fitted with a rack or crumpled aluminum foil to elevate the bird and allow air flow. Refrigerate uncovered for 24 to 48 hours to dry the skin.

Prepare a two-zone grill with one side at 375° to 400° and the other side unlit. Oil the grill grates, but not the bird, which is already seasoned from the inside. Place the chicken skin-side up over indirect heat, cover and cook 40 to 45 minutes, or until the thickest part of the breast reaches 155° to 160°.

Move the chicken skin-side down over direct heat and grill 3 to 5 minutes, watching carefully, until the skin is crisp and deeply browned. Flip skin-side up, brush generously with barbecue sauce and grill about 1 minute more, just until the sauce bubbles and caramelizes.

Rest 5 to 10 minutes before carving.

Hybrid-Cooked Barbecue Baby Back Ribs

A classic braise combines wet and dry heat. This hybrid method begins with a sealed oven braise before finishing over live fire, creating baby back ribs so tender they practically fall off the bone with their smoky, caramelized barbecue glaze.

Serves 4-6

- 2 racks baby back ribs
- ¼ C. packed dark brown sugar
- 2 T. smoked paprika
- 1 T. kosher salt
- ½ T. freshly ground black pepper
- 1 T. garlic powder

- 1 T. onion powder
- 1 tsp. chili powder
- ½ tsp. cayenne pepper, optional
- 6 T. water, divided
- 1 C. barbecue sauce, chef's choice



Remove the thin membrane from the bone side of the ribs, and pat dry with paper towels.

Whisk together the brown sugar, smoked paprika, salt, black pepper, garlic powder, onion powder, chili powder and cayenne, if using. Coat both sides of the ribs generously, pressing the seasoning into the meat. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour or overnight.

Preheat the oven to 250°.

Place each rack of ribs on two layers of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Add 3 T. water beneath the rack. Cover with two additional layers of heavy-duty aluminum foil, then fold and crimp the edges all the way around to create a sealed packet with room for steam to circulate. Place on a rimmed baking sheet and bake for 2½ to 3 hours, or until the meat is tender and has begun to pull back from the ends of the bones.

Prepare a two-zone grill with one side at medium-high heat and the other side unlit. Carefully remove the ribs from the foil. Using two long grill spatulas, transfer the racks to the indirect side of the grill. Pour all the juices from the aluminum over the ribs for added smoke and flavor.

Cover and grill for 10 to 15 minutes to develop a light smoky flavor.

Brush both sides of the ribs generously with barbecue sauce and move the ribs over direct heat. Grill 2 to 3 minutes per side, watching carefully, until the sauce caramelizes. Using the spatulas, carefully transfer the ribs to a cutting board.

Rest 5 to 10 minutes before slicing between the bones and serving. ♦

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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