

COUNTY LINES

Your guide to unique places, interesting events, fine dining, great shopping
and the special lifestyle of Southeastern Pennsylvania and Northern Delaware



number of nature
preserves/gardens: **43**

acres of open space
to explore: **23,000**

miles of trails: **120**

days open per year: **365**

cost of admission: **\$0**



Willisbrook Preserve
Malvern, PA | 126 acres
Photo by Karen DelRaso



Across County Lines Tour
Why We Phoenixville • Private School Guide
Brandywine Halloween • Unusual Wedding Venues

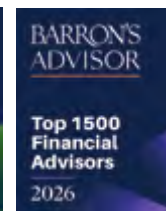


DiSabatino Inc.



Nationally Recognized, But Close to Home

Meet with Forbes-ranked "Best-in-State" Advisor*:
Patti Brennan, CFP®, CFS®, CTST™, CEPA®, CES™ and her team



1045 Andrew Dr., Suite A
West Chester, PA 19380

(610) 429 - 9050
www.keyfinancialinc.com

Securities offered through Osac Wealth, Inc., member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Key Financial, Inc., a federally registered investment advisor with the United States Securities and Exchange Commission. Osac Wealth, Inc. is separately owned, and other entities and/or marketing names, products, or services referenced here are independent of Osac Wealth, Inc. Insurance services offered through Patricia Brennan are independent of Osac Wealth, Inc. Advisory services offered through Key Financial, Inc., a registered investment advisor not affiliated with Osac Wealth, Inc. Patricia Brennan and Osac Wealth, Inc. do not offer tax advice or tax services. Please consult your tax specialist for individual advice. We make no specific comments or recommendations on any tax-related details. Neither rankings and/or recognitions by unaffiliated rating services, publications, media, or other organizations, nor the achievement of any designation, certification, or license should be construed by a client or prospective client as a guarantee that he/she will experience a certain level of results if Key Financial, Inc. is engaged, or continues to be engaged, to provide investment advisory services. Rankings published by magazines and others generally base their selections exclusively on information prepared and/or submitted by the recognized adviser. Neither Barron's, Forbes, nor SHOOK receive a fee in exchange for rankings. Payments made to Barron's or Forbes/SHOOK are in consideration for permission to utilize certain benefits which may include, but are not limited to, use of logos and listing in advisor directories. AdvisorHub 1000 Advisors to Watch - 50 Women RIAs (2026) issued by AdvisorHub in June 2026 for the time period 1/1/2025 - 12/31/2025 was awarded to women advisors who manage over \$150m in assets under management (AUM). More than 50 people were considered for this honor and 50 were selected. AdvisorHub 1,000 Advisors to Watch - 250 Over \$1B (2026) issued by AdvisorHub in June 2026 for the period 12-31-2024 to 12-31-2025 was awarded to advisors who manage over \$1B in assets under management (AUM). More than 250 people were considered for this honor and 250 were selected. Barron's Top 100 Women Financial Advisors (2026) issued by Barron's in June 2026 for the period 3-31-2025 to 3-31-2026 was awarded to the top female advisors in the country. Barron's Top 1,500 Financial Advisors (2026) issued by Barron's in July 2026 for the period 9-30-2025 to 9-30-2026 was awarded to the top advisors organized by state. Barron's Top 100 Independent Financial Advisors (2025) issued by Barron's in October 2025 for the period 6-30-2024 to 6-30-2025 was awarded to the top advisors in the country. Barron's Hall of Fame (2019) Patricia Brennan was inducted into the Barron's Hall of Fame in Oct 2019. The Hall of Fame acknowledges advisors who have appeared in Barron's annual Top 100 Advisors rankings for 10+ years and honors advisors who exemplify long-term success and commitment to their clients. The Ernst and Young Entrepreneur Of The Year (2023), issued by Ernst and Young in June 2023 for the period 01/01/2023 - 12/31/2023. The award has recognized the endeavors of exceptional men and women who create the products and services that keep our worldwide economy moving forward. Nominees should be the founder or the current executive responsible for the day-to-day operations of the for-profit business. This is typically the company's CEO or president, in their role for a minimum of two years, and the business should be operational for at least two years. Co-nominees are eligible if they share leadership responsibilities at the company. Past regional award winners are eligible to apply again for the national competition if desired. Anyone who is associated with a successful entrepreneur can nominate a candidate. This includes spouses, employees, bankers, attorneys, public relations managers, or entrepreneurs themselves. At the regional level, all nominees are judged based on their individual merits, stories, and achievements. They are not scored in categories or only against companies in their industry. The judges carefully consider all of the nominees across the same scorecard and select the most impressive and compelling ones to be named finalists and winners each year. ThinkAdvisor Luminary Award (2025) Patti Brennan was awarded the ThinkAdvisor Luminary Award 2025 in the Thought Leadership & Education category for RIAs Less Than \$10 Billion AUM/ALIA. 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. America's Top Wealth Advisors (2026) issued by Forbes/SHOOK Research in April 2026 for the period 6/30/2024 - 6/30/2025 with Patricia Brennan being recognized. 29,109 advisors were considered for this honor and 250 were selected. America's Top Women Wealth Advisors (2026) issued by Forbes/SHOOK Research in February 2026 for the period 6/30/2024 - 6/30/2025, awarded to the top female advisors in the country with Patricia Brennan being recognized. 11,840 women advisors were considered for this honor and 100 were selected. The Top Wealth Advisors Best-in-State (2026) issued by Forbes/SHOOK Research in April 2026 based on the period 6/30/2024 - 6/30/2025, awarded to the top advisors organized by state with Patricia Brennan being recognized. 29,109 advisors were considered for this honor and 39% were selected. The Top Women Wealth Advisors Best-in-State (2026) issued by Forbes/SHOOK Research in February 2026 based on the period 6/30/2024 - 6/30/2025, awarded to the top female advisors organized by state with Patricia Brennan being recognized. 11,840 women advisors were considered for this honor and 24% were selected. America's Top Wealth Advisors issued by Forbes/SHOOK Research are based on an algorithm of qualitative and quantitative data, rating thousands of wealth advisors with a minimum of seven years of experience and weighing factors like client impact, industry experience, client retention, revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion, as client objectives and risk tolerances vary and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. Barron's awards are based on an algorithm of qualitative and quantitative data, rating thousands of wealth advisors with a minimum of seven years of experience and weighing factors like client impact, industry experience, client retention, revenue generated for their firms. Investment performance is not a criterion, as client objectives and risk tolerances vary and advisors rarely have audited performance reports. AdvisorHub additional criteria used to determine the winner(s) required to have a minimum seven years experience, 2 years at current firm, and a clean regulatory record (2 or fewer complaints and no significant judgments). Advisors were ranked on the 1) size and makeup of their practice; 2) year-over-year growth; and 3) professionalism. Patricia Brennan applied for recognition to Barron's and AdvisorHub. No fees were paid for the nomination or receipt of these awards. However, Forbes, Barron's and AdvisorHub were compensated for enhanced features on their online profile to promote these awards. Third-party ratings are no guarantee of future investment success and do not ensure that a client or prospective client will experience a higher level of performance or results. These ratings should not be construed as an endorsement of the advisor by any client nor are they representative of any one client's evaluation.

302-764-0408

www.DiSabatinoInc.com

610-361-0595



HOLLY GROSS GROUP

Residential • Farms • Land • Commercial

Holly Gross | Stephen Gross | Stewart Gross

CALL 610-430-3030 • HollyGrossGroup.com
Licensed in PA, DE, MD



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Fox & Roach, REALTORS®
610-431-1100
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC



**BERKSHIRE
HATHAWAY**
HomeServices
Fox & Roach, REALTORS®
610-431-1100
A member of the franchise system of BHH Affiliates, LLC

HOLLY GROSS GROUP

Residential • Farms • Land • Commercial

Holly Gross | Stephen Gross | Stewart Gross

CALL 610-430-3030 • HollyGrossGroup.com
Licensed in PA, DE, MD



Serpentine Mansion with Unparalleled Architectural Detail

Surrounded by conservation easements & set in prestigious Birmingham Township, Fembank 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.

\$3,300,000



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



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



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
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.

\$2,650,000

SOLD



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

NEW
LISTING



Picturesque Setting with Loads of Possibilities!

Set on 5.5 acres in an exceptionally private and picturesque setting overlooking open fields and a neighboring pond, this spacious 3BR, 2.1B ranch house offers the rare combination of a tranquil country lifestyle and remarkable convenience—just one mile from downtown West Chester. The home's lower level offers a 1BR guest suite with private ground-level access. Over the garage is an additional 2BR living space with lots of possibilities!

\$889,000

SOLD



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

SOLD



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



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
LISTING



Charming Farmhouse in Unionville Schools!

This wonderful modern farmhouse blends timeless charm with comfortable, everyday living, offering 3BR and 2 BA. Bright and airy throughout, the home features a welcoming Great Room on the main level with beautiful random-width oak flooring, 9' ceilings & the lovely Primary Suite. Upstairs are two bedrooms and the lower level has a Family Room & workshop. A larger stand-alone workshop is outside. Set on 1.34 acres & enjoys low taxes!

\$725,000

NEW
LISTING



Great Home in Bailey Station!

Set within the highly desirable Northgate at Bailey Station community, this exceptional 4BR, 2.1BA rare Huston model is a fantastic offering - one of only a select few to come to market. Lovingly maintained, the home has been exceptionally cared for and presents a condition that feels remarkably like new. Features include a handsome moulding package, private office, great kitchen, wonderful floor plan and lots of extras.

\$598,900



FALL 2026



VISIT VILLA DAYS

September 21 and 28,
October 6 and 26,
and November 3 and 17



**DANCE COMPANY
EXPERIENCE**

October 4
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**ENTRANCE-
SCHOLARSHIP EXAM**

September 26 or
October 18
8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



**GOOD MORNING
AT VILLA**

September 23, October 15,
or November 19
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.



FALL OPEN HOUSE

October 4
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**DARE TO BE
EXTRAORDINARY**



VILLA MARIA ACADEMY HIGH SCHOOL
Learn more and register at vmahs.org/events



Karen Nader Properties

Local Expertise. Global Exposure.

karennaderproperties.com | karen.nader@sothebysrealty.com | 484.888.5597



NEW LISTING

CHESTER SPRINGS | 44+ ACRES

Spectacular equestrian facility with 21 stalls, indoor arena,
European inspired custom-built home and stunning views.



KENNETT SQUARE | 84 ACRES

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



NEW LISTING

CHESTER SPRINGS | 26 ACRES

Exceptional equestrian estate surrounded by scenic views
with 8 stall barn, 5 paddocks and Circa 1850 farmhouse.



NEW LISTING

KENNETT SQUARE | 2.6 ACRES

Charming Cape Cod in Unionville-Chadds Ford School District
featuring extensive custom landscaping and walking trails.



Monument

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



WILLOWDALE TOWN CENTER | 674 UNIONVILLE RD, SUITE 104 | KENNETT SQUARE, PA | 484.210.0800 | monumentsothebysrealty.com



from the EDITOR

Welcome October! Fall festivals, autumn color, and *County Lines*' annual tour of our area. Plus, plenty of pumpkins — see the magazine covers from old issues above this letter and some of our favorites on the facing page. And this month's cover!

Our continuing golden anniversary celebration makes us a bit nostalgic. In "Across County Lines," Shannon Montgomery takes a guided trip down memory lane to revisit spots featured over the years as she discovers what's new and finds extra fall fun along the way. For a narrower focus, Cindy Walker shares 15 reasons "Why We Love Phoenixville," one of the most celebratory boroughs in Chester County, with dozens of festivals and plenty of places to raise a glass.

October also brings Halloween. Read Ed Malet's take on finding thrills in "Someone — or Some *Thing* — is Knocking." For a different kind of fun, this month has become a popular wedding date, so we've found unusual venues for the big day — tall ships, railroads, polo fields. Find more in "You Can Get Married Where?"

It's also private school open house season, covered in our semi-annual Guide. As parents consider school options, they should read what schools are doing to improve their students' reading skills. JP Phillips takes a closer look in "Reversing the Youth Reading Recession." Meanwhile Kim Andrews shares what schools looked like at the time of the American Revolution in "Learning Liberty."

This month's dream home is "Fernbank Farm," a serene serpentine estate in Birmingham Township, with stunning architectural details, including a former icehouse converted into a multi-level wine cellar. Even without your own wine cellar, you surely have a pantry for storing the bounty Liz Tarditi puts in jars in Brandywine Table's "Perfect Pickles."

And finally, we have the Best Local Events, along with Family Fun options and a preview of a special installation at Tylor Arboretum, "Steve Tobin: In the Light."

Thank you for reading.

Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

October 2026

Volume L Number 2

PUBLISHER
Edwin Malet

EDITOR
Jo Anne Durako

ART DIRECTOR
Harvey Walls

ASSOCIATE EDITORS
Marci Tomassone
Shannon Montgomery

FOOD EDITOR
Liz Tarditi

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES
Susan Gillespie
Ivana Samsonova
Jason Frenchman
Eddie Davis

BUSINESS MANAGER
Mary Jones

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
Laurel Anderson / Cara Corridoni
Emily Hart / Elizabeth Hughes
Shelley Laurence / Carol Metzker

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Brenda Carpenter / Roman Coia
Wil Moore / Timlyn Vaughan

CONTACT US AT
ValleyDel Publications, Inc.
515 S. Franklin St., Ste. 100
West Chester, PA 19382
610-918-9300. Info@ValleyDel.com

Issue: \$5.00
Subscriptions: \$36/print; \$12/digital
Advertising: 610-918-9300

TO GET OUR NEWSLETTER
Send an email to Info@ValleyDel.com

To find County Lines, check our website's "Get A Copy" page, pick one up at Main Point Books, Wellington Square Bookshop, Reads & Company and specialty food markets, or visit advertisers listed in the Index.



County Lines Vols. L No. 2. Copyright, 2026 by ValleyDel Publications. All rights reserved. *County Lines* and *County Lines Magazine* (ISSN 0195-4121) are registered names of ValleyDel Publications, Inc. Use of these names without the consent of ValleyDel Publications, Inc. may subject the infringer to penalty and suit as provided by law.

COMING IN November

CONTINUING TO CELEBRATE OUR 50TH YEAR!

Kennett Square & Chadds Ford Focus
Holiday Shopping • Local Heroes
55+ and Retirement Communities
Local Music • Dream Home • Baking Bread

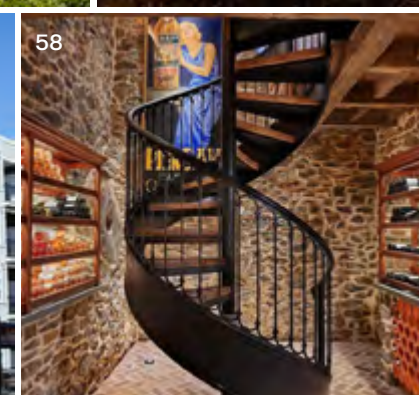


LOOKING BACK



October has meant pumpkins at *County Lines*, especially for our covers. Here's a look back at covers from issues when we published our larger format. Enjoy!





- 9 50TH ANNIVERSARY: FROM THE ARCHIVES**
Looking back at October's covers
- 25 STEVE TOBIN: IN THE LIGHT**
Immersive art at Tyler Arboretum, October 16–October 2027
- 26 BRANDYWINE STORIES**
Learning liberty: no buses, no bells, no public schools
Kim Andrews
- 28 SOMEONE — OR SOME *THING* — IS KNOCKING**
It's a Brandywine Halloween
Edwin Malet
- 32 YOU CAN GET MARRIED WHERE?**
Unexpected places to say "I do"
- 34 ACROSS COUNTY LINES**
A fall ramble through 50 years of favorites
Shannon Montgomery
- 42 WHY WE LOVE PHOENIXVILLE**
15 reasons to love this town
Cindy Walker
- 48 REVERSING THE YOUTH READING RECESSION**
Independent schools are relying on science ... and parents
JP Phillips
- 53 GUIDE TO PRIVATE, INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS & EDUCATION SERVICES**
Edited by Shannon Montgomery
- 58 DREAM HOME**
Serene serpentine estate in Birmingham Township
Laurel Anderson
- 62 BRANDYWINE TABLE**
Pickle perfect — time to preserve the season
Liz Tarditi

departments

13 **GOOD TO KNOW**
15 **OCTOBER PICKS**

16 **BEST LOCAL EVENTS**
61 **FOOD NEWS**

66 **INDEX**

Cover photo from the 2025 Great Pumpkin Carve in Chadds Ford, "Mushroom with Worm." Carved by the Owens/Ware family. Photo by Jen Manderscheid.

It's hard to Measure
the Value of a Life Well Lived

RITTENHOUSEBUILDERS.COM

JOIN US FOR THE 91ST ANNIVERSARY RUNNING OF THE PENNSYLVANIA HUNT CUP RACES Nov 1, 2026



©Jim Graham

NSA Sanctioned
Timber & Flat Races
US Pony Races
Carriage Parade
Stick Pony Race

Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds
Boutique Shops & Party Tents
Tailgates & General Admission

RACING FOR FOOD

to benefit

Chester County
FoodBank

On-Line Ticket Sales start September 1

For more information, visit pahuntcup.org



©Jim Graham



©Bob Keller



©Bob Keller



©Tisa Della Volpe

[Good to Know]

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

Fresh Finds. West Chester welcomes two new stores this fall. Now open on East Gay Street, **Setting the Bar** offers curated vintage barware, custom bars, cocktail classes and private events. 153 E. Gay St. @SettingTheBarShop. Coming soon, **West Chester Refillery Station** will offer package-free (BYO container) organic and eco-friendly goods, from household and beauty products to pantry staples, coffee and tea, and even pet supplies. 54 E. Gay St. WestChesterRefilleryStation.com



Save Darlington Inn. Help save one of West-town Township's last remaining historic buildings. The Westtown-Brandywine Historical Society has proposed a historic preservation easement to protect the **Darlington Inn**, which could be sold at public auction. Built in 1823, the inn was a meeting place for the abolitionist Whig and Republican parties, featuring serpentine stone walls, period details, beehive oven remnants and remarkable carvings by local artist David H. Taylor. Sign the petition at Change.org.



A New Chapter. The **Chester County History Center** welcomes Kim Collison as its new president. With more than 20 years of museum and nonprofit experience, Collison most recently served as Curator of Exhibitions at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library, spearheading major exhibitions including "Ann Lowe: American Couturier" and "Costuming The Crown." She plans to expand CCHC's cultural impact, strengthen community connections, advance education and ensure long-term stability. 225 N. High St., West Chester. MyCCHC.org



PHOTO CREDIT: NAT CACCAMO

Fall Reads. Add two new books by local authors to your reading list. Sue Weldon, founder and CEO of Unite for HER, presents "**Heal Empower Restore**," a whole-person care guide for breast and ovarian cancer, with integrative therapies, recipes and inspiring stories. For kids, John F. Rappold Jr.'s debut, "**The Little Ghost & The New Friend**," is a cozy autumn friendship story about a ghost named Wisp and his new neighbor, Penelope. UniteForHER.org/HealEmpowerRestore; JohnFRappold.com

Look Closely. Historic **London Grove Friends Meeting** recently opened its newly renovated gallery space with "Faces in Quaker Trees," an exhibit by nationally recognized nature photographer Atala Toy. Her photographs reveal images seemingly hidden in trees on the grounds of Quaker Meetinghouses throughout the region, including London Grove, Kennett, Birmingham, Swarthmore and Arch Street Meetinghouses. See them for yourself Sundays during Meeting events through December. 500 W. Street Rd., Kennett Square. LondonGroveMeeting.org





Our Best Services

Live life your way—with support when you need it. Maintain your routines and independence while receiving personalized assistance with medications, bathing, dressing, grooming, and daily tasks.

Independence, with support when you need it. Enjoy comfortable living, engaging activities, delicious dining, and a welcoming community—all with a helping hand nearby.



Contact us to schedule your tour today!

Phone 610-384-6310

Website www.harrisonhousechestercounty.com



Where Exceptional Craft Meets Extraordinary Living

A King Barn is more than a structure. It is a signature piece of architecture shaped by master builders who understand the art of luxury and the value of heritage. From grand equestrian barns with soaring light to impeccably finished indoor arenas, from elegant event barns to custom barn homes designed for modern comfort, every project is created with impeccable detail. King Construction crafts spaces that elevate the everyday and transform the way you live, gather, and experience your land. This is luxury with purpose, built to endure for generations.



1-888-354-4740 | www.kingbarns.com

best Local Events

October Picks

by Marci Tomassone

Yellow Springs Village Fall Festival

October 11

Celebrate autumn in this historic Chester Springs village with live music, village tours, a haunted history house, artist demonstrations, pumpkin painting and the Great Pumpkin Classic. A pumpkin carving contest adds to the festive fun. Rain or shine, free and open to the public. 1685

Art School Rd., Chester Springs. Noon to 4. YellowSprings.org



Art in the Woods

October 10

Celebrate the beauty of autumn at this Chester County Art Association event. The scenic woods behind CCAA will be transformed into an outdoor art festival for strolling and discovering works available for purchase handmade by 80 talented local artists. Music, sound bath, plus a canned soup drive for the West Chester Food Cupboard — bring a can to donate. 100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. 11 to 4. ChesterCountyArts.org



Fall Festival of Homes

October 16

Spend the day on this self-guided tour of six extraordinary homes, from Villanova to West Chester. On this reimagined, returning house tour, discover beautifully designed interiors, gorgeous gardens and surprises at every stop. A memorable day celebrating the



beauty, history and charm of the Main Line and Chester County. Benefits Bryn Mawr Hospital. 10 to 4. Tickets: \$85, \$105 with boxed lunch. Devon-Country-Fair-Events.com

Oktoberfest at Devon

October 10 & 11

Continue the fall equestrian season at the iconic Devon Horse Show grounds at Oktoberfest, where local riders compete throughout the weekend at the historic showgrounds, with lead line and more events. Enjoy the changing seasons and experience



Devon in a more relaxed autumn setting. 23 Dorset Rd., Devon. Hours and admission TBA. Devon-HorseShow.net

Frog Hollow Art Show

October 16-18

Local artists display original work in a uniquely restored four-story mill house at this curated show featuring paintings, ceramics, jewelry, fiber art and more, with plenty of one-of-a-kind finds. Meet the artists, explore the creative setting and enjoy a visit to the countryside. Fri., 5 to 9; Sat. & Sun., 10 to 6. 1655 Hollow Rd., Birchrunville. FrogHollowArtShow.com



FAMILY FUN

THROUGH NOVEMBER 1

First Sundays

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

OCTOBER 2–5

102nd Unionville Community Fair & Farm Show. Celebrating 102 years of agriculture and community with family activities, music, animal exhibits, beer and wine garden, food trucks and more. *147 E. Street Rd., Kennett Square. Fri, 3 to 9; Sat, 10 to 9; Sun, 10 to 4:30. \$5/person, \$10/car. UCFair.org*



OCTOBER 3

Truck & Tractor Day at Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library. Get up close to trucks and tractors, suit up in firefighter gear, take a hayride and milk a mechanical cow. *5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. 10 to 4. \$12–\$29. Winterthur.org*

OCTOBER 4

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

OCTOBER 4

Railroad Museum of PA 19th Annual Garden Railways Tour. Take an exclusive, self-guided tour of operating model trains in outdoor and garden settings—a fun family outing for all ages. *300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. 1 to 5 pm. \$10. RRMuseumPA.org*

OCTOBER 4

Radnor Fall Harvest & Great Pumpkin Patch. Spend the day enjoying fall-themed activities including tractor rides, pumpkin picking, mechanical bull, balloon twisters,

food and entertainment. Rain date, Oct. 11. *The Willows Park, 490 Darby Paoli Rd., Villanova. 11 to 4. Free. Radnor.com*

OCTOBER 4, 11, 17, 18, NOV. 1, 8 West Chester Railroad Fall Foliage Express. Enjoy a brisk fall afternoon along the picturesque Chester Creek Valley on a 90-minute journey back in time to the village of Glen Mills, then return. *Trains depart the station at 203 E. Market St., West Chester. 10 am, noon and 2 pm. \$25–\$30. WCRailroad.com*



OCTOBER 10

East Goshen Pumpkin Festival. Come out for the hay rides, a family pumpkin carving contest, frozen turkey bowling, a petting zoo, pumpkin pie-eating contest, pony rides and free pumpkins for kids. *1580 Paoli Pk., West Chester. 10 am. FriendsOfEastGoshen.org*

OCTOBER 11

Westtown Day 2026. The annual community day features live music, food trucks, petting zoo, historical reenactors, bounce castle, inflatable axe throwing, emergency vehicle touch-a-truck and more. *Oakbourne Park, 1014 S. Concord Rd., West Chester. 11 to 3. Free. WesttownPA.org*



OCTOBER 17

The Lights Festival at Plantation Field. Enjoy food, live music, dancing, play areas and games for all ages and the sight of the sky lit with thousands of lanterns. *1537 W. Doe Run Rd., Kennett Square. 3:30 pm. \$41–\$75. TheLightsFest.com*

OCTOBER 17

Natural Lands Fall Festival & Connect.

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

OCTOBER 18

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

OCTOBER 24

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



OCTOBER 25

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

OCTOBER 28

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

OCTOBER 30

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

BOOKS.....

OCTOBER 1–21

Wellington Square Bookshop. NonFiction Book Group: Oct. 1. “Michelangelo and the Pope’s Ceiling” by Ross King, 7 pm. **Classics Book Club: Oct. 13,** “Great Short Works of Stephen Crane” by Stephen Crane, 2 pm. **Fiction Book Group: Oct. 21,** “Wild Dark Shore” (Reese’s Book Club Pick) by Charlotte McConaghy, 2 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com

OCTOBER 7–28

Reads & Company. The Big Reads Book Group: Oct. 7, “Sunrise” by Téa Obreht. **International Voices Book Group: Oct. 14,** “The Great Reclamation” by Rachel Heng. **Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group: Oct. 21,** “The Devil She Knows” by Alexandria Bellefleur. **Then and Now Book Group: Oct. 27,** “Ghost Story” by Peter Straub. **What’s the Tea? Book Group: Oct. 28,** “Camp Damascus” by Chuck Tingle. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. 7 pm. ReadsAndCompany.com

OCTOBER 8–29

Main Point Books. Oct. 8, Denise Brown with her new book “For My Sister Nicole,” a trauma-informed book, 7 pm. Tickets on web-

site. **Fiction Book Group: Oct. 20,** “What We Can Know” by Ian McEwan. **Oct. 27,** Stephanie Feldman with her new book “The Night Parade and Other Stories,” joined by guest host A. C. Wise, 6:30. RSVP on website. **NonFiction Book Group: Oct. 29,** “Dogs, Boys and Other Things I’ve Cried About” by Isabel Klee, 1 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPoint-Books.com

DANCE.....

OCTOBER 10 & 11

Brandywine Ballet Fall Repertoire. Featuring “Carmina Burana,” choreographed by Nancy Page, with additional ballet pieces and a premiere performance by Brandywine Contemporary, choreographed by Tim Early. Asplundh



Hall, West Chester University, 700 S. High St., West Chester. Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 2 pm. \$30–\$50. BrandywineBallet.org

OCTOBER 24 & 25

First State Ballet Presents “Don Quixote.” An audience favorite, this is a romantic comedy bursting with dazzling dancing and spirited Spanish flair. A beloved and vibrant classic that’s a joy to watch from start to finish. The Grand Wilmington Copeland Hall, 818 N. King St., Wilmington. Sat, 7; Sun, 2. \$45–\$80. TheGrandWilmington.org

EQUESTRIAN EVENTS.....

OCTOBER 24

Maryland’s Day at the Races. Jim McKay Maryland Million Day marks the 41st annual event featuring more than \$1 million in purses and awards for Maryland-sired horse. Plus vendors and family-friendly entertainment. Free.



Christmas in
PERFECT HARMONY
JOY HAS COME!

NOVEMBER 11 - DECEMBER 30, 2026
312 PARADISE LANE, RONKS, PA | 717-687-5000 | BARNATPARADISESTATION.COM/EVENTS

THE PERFECT DAY TRIP WWW.PARADISESTATION.US 717-687-5000

Rt. 198 & Racetrack Rd. Laurel, MD. MarylandMillion.com

NOVEMBER 1
91st Running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup. Timber steeplechase race with a distance of four miles and 18 fences over fair hunting country. Enjoy vendors, a carriage parade, the PA Junior Hunt Cup, Mr. Stewart's Cheshire Foxhounds and tailgating under tents. Benefits Chester County Food Bank. North of Rt. 926 & Newark Rd., Unionville. Gates open, 10 am, Hunt Cup at 3. For tickets, PAHuntCup.org.



FESTIVALS & FAIRS.....
THROUGH OCTOBER 25
Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. A cast of hundreds fill the shire. Visit the website for themed weekends such as Fairies and Fantasy and Viking Invasion Weekends. Mt. Hope Estate, 2775 Lebanon Rd., Manheim. Sat–Sun, 11 to 8. \$43; kids, \$24. PAREnFaire.com

OCTOBER 3
175th Annual St. David's Country Fair. A fun-filled day for the whole family with flea market, food booths, antiques, midway games and prizes, mini-train ride and pumpkin painting. Benefits the church's outreach partners. 763 S. Valley Forge Rd., Wayne. 10 to 4. \$5; \$20/household. 610-688-7947; StDavidsChurch.org/Fair

OCTOBER 10
Rock Hall Fall Fest. While the oyster is the star of the show, this festival features all the highlights of Kent County, including a variety of live music performances, children's activities, music and craft vendors. Parking at 21125 Sharp St., Rock Hall, MD. 10 to 4. RockHallFallFest.org



OCTOBER 16 & 17
White Horse Village Octofair. *Oct. 16*, silent auction, baked goods, handcrafted items, garden treasures and antiques. *Oct. 17*, lunch options

(cash only), a clothing sale, kids activities, and food truck. White Horse Village, 535 Gradyville Rd., Newtown Square. Fri, 4:30 to 7:30; Sat, 9 to 2:30. Free. WhiteHorseVillage.org/Octofair

FOOD & BREWS.....
OCTOBER 2–NOVEMBER 1
Saturday & Sunday
Chaddsford Winery Adult Trick-or-Treat. Enjoy seasonal fun with an immersive outdoor walking tour where you'll visit Halloween-themed pairing stations and receive tips, pairing notes and a menu from a wine guide. Food for purchase. Costumes encouraged. 632 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford, \$45. 11 am to 8 pm. Chaddsford.com

OCTOBER 10
Kennett Brewfest. The Connoisseur Session ticket includes food pairings, live music, unlimited tastings, signature tasting glass, noon to 1:30, \$104. The regular session features unlimited tastings from over 150 local and regional craft breweries and cideries, 1:30 to 5, \$65. Designated driver, \$26. Benefits Kennett Collaborative. 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. KennettBrewfest.com



OCTOBER 10
Pints on the Preserve at ChesLen Preserve. Hike, picnic and have fun. East Branch Brewing Company will be pouring suds at the Lenfest Center pavilion. Bring your picnic! 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 3 to 7 pm. Free. NatLands.org

OCTOBER 11
24th 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. Sample as many as you can and vote for your favorite. Rain date, Oct. 18. W. Gay St., West Chester. Noon to 4 pm. \$10. WestChesterChiliCookOff.com

NOVEMBER 1
Good Food Fest. A celebration of local food and agriculture, bringing farmers, food makers and the community together. Enjoy music, food trucks, a pouring room, demonstrations, kids activities, farm animals and more. Kimberton Fair Grounds, 762 Pike Springs Rd., Phoenixville. 11 to 4. \$10; VIP early bird entry, \$25 at 10 am. GoodFarmsGoodFood.com

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

NOVEMBER 7
Tavern Night—Historic Dinner at Newlin Grist Mill. Enjoy an evening of 18th-century food, drink and music featuring a selection of foods and beverages based on period recipes. Punches, beers and other beverages will be served along with fresh (non-alcoholic) cider. 219 S. Cheyney Rd., Glen Mills. Two seatings: 4:30 and 7:30. \$95. NewlinGristMill.org



FUNDRAISERS.....
See also: Food & Brews and Outdoor Activities.
OCTOBER 3
Blessing of the Animals at Ryerss Farm. Bring your dogs, cats or other small animals on a leash or in a carrier for a short, nondenominational service and blessing. Benefits Ryerss Farm for Aged Equines. Noon to 3 pm. 1710 Ridge Rd., Pottstown. Donation options on website, RyerssFarm.org.

OCTOBER 8
Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet. Recognizing the best in our community including Business of the Year. Desmond Hotel & Conference Center, One Liberty Blvd., Malvern. Cocktail hour, 5 pm. Tickets \$185 and up. GreaterWestChester.com

OCTOBER 9 & 10
Apple Dumpling Days at Ephrata Cloister. Enjoy homemade apple dumplings while supporting the Back to the Cloister Fund, which helps preserve and acquire rare items connected to the historic site. 632 W. Main St., Ephrata. Fri, 9 to 3; Sat, 9 to 1 or sold out. Free. EphrataCloister.org



OCTOBER 15
Eleganza Luncheon & Fashion Show. The Ministry of Caring presents a fashion show, luncheon and live auction to benefit emergency

homeless shelters and job placement services. Wilmington Country Club, 4825 Kennett Pk., Wilmington. 11 to 2. RSVP by Oct. 6. \$150. MinistryOfCaring.org

OCTOBER 18
12th Annual Miles for Mutts To Love a Canine Rescue Event. Grab your four-legged running or walking buddy and join TLC Rescue for a fun 5K race and 1-mile fun walk raising money for veterinary care for rescue dogs. Register for a virtual option to run or walk whenever it fits your (or your dog's) schedule best. Wilson Farm Park, 500 Lee Rd., Wayne. 8 to noon. \$30–\$40. TLCRescuePA.com



NOVEMBER 7
French & Pickering 44th Annual Auction Party. *Nov. 5–9*, online auction. *Nov. 7*, in-person auction—enjoy cocktails, auctions and delicious food. Benefits French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. Stonewall Golf Club, Bulltown Rd., Elverson. 5:30 pm. Tickets \$125 and up. FrenchAndPickering.org

NOVEMBER 7
14th Annual Bark & Whine Gala. Join this fundraiser to celebrate the PA SPCA's mission with cocktails, dinner, music and dancing, auctions and adoptable pets. URBN (Navy Yard), 5000 S. Broad St., Philadelphia. 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Tickets \$200 and up. PSPCA.org



GARDENS.....
THROUGH OCTOBER 31
Mt. Cuba Center—Native Plants and Gardening Workshops. Explore native gardening with programs including *Oct. 3*, Grow a Living Bird Feeder; *Oct. 10*, Lesser-Known Native Shrubs; *Oct. 17*, Designing with Native Grasses; *Oct. 22*, Seed Collecting; *Oct. 31*, Succession Planting. Register at MtCubaCenter.org.

Arts, Crafts & Antiques



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

October 3
Lititz Outdoor Fine Art Show. Featuring original works and high-quality reproductions from 130+ artists. Moravian Church Square, 8 Church Square, Lititz. 9 to 5. Free. LititzArtAssociation.com

October 3–11
8th Annual Delco Arts Week. The Delaware County Arts Consortium hosts more than 60 events, many free to the public. DelcoArts.org

October 3 & 4
Artists of Landenberg Studio Tour. Eight studios feature original artwork. 10 to 4. Free. Pick up a Studio Passport, ArtistsOfLandenberg.com

October 3 & 24
Artisan Days at The Shoppes at Miller's. Meet Lancaster County artisans and experience their craftsmanship firsthand. 2811 Lincoln Hwy. E., Ronks.

October 4 & 18
Clover Market. Antique and vintage wares, food trucks, music. *Oct. 4*, 7 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr. *Oct. 18*, 600 S. Broad St., Kennett Square. 10 to 4. Free. TheCloverMarket.com

October 16 & 17
Antique & Collector Fair. Formerly the Antiques at Kimberton, featuring many quality dealers. Greater Phila. Expo Center, 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Fri, 10 to 6; Sat, 10 to 4. \$10. AC-Fair.com

October 17 & 18
Hagley Craft Fair. Artisans display and sell their fine arts, crafts and gourmet items. Hagley Museum & Library, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Sat, 10 to 5; Sun, 10 to 4. \$8–\$15. Hagley.org

November 7 & 8
Tuscarora Lapidary Society Gemarama Show. Browse and shop for gems, jewelry, beads and rocks, enjoy the exhibits, a silent auction, demonstrations and a kids activity area. Greater Philadelphia Expo Center, 100 Oaks Ave., Oaks. Sat, 10 to 6; Sun, 10 to 5. \$7; 12 and under, \$1. Lapidary.org/Gemarama

MUSEUMS.....
THROUGH JANUARY 10, 2027
Brandywine Museum of Art. *Through Nov. 8*, “Treasures from the Family: The Gift of Betsy James Wyeth.” *Through Nov. 21*, 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



THROUGH DECEMBER 2027
Delaware Art Museum. *Through Dec. 2027*, “Jamey Grimes: Aster” installation transforms DelArt’s Fusco Hall with swirling, synthetic forms inspired by nature. *Through Oct. 25*, “Walls of Resistance: Art as Activism.” *Through*

Jan. 17, “Lisa Bradley: Beyond Luminosity.” *Through Jan. 24*, “Pyle and the Pre-Raphaelites.” *Oct. 10–Jan. 10*, “Transcendent: Landscapes of the Hudson River School.” 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed–Sun, 10 to 4. \$14–\$25. DelArt.org

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT
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



OCTOBER 1–30
The Keswick Theatre. *Oct. 1*, An Evening with Rachel Reid; *Oct. 2*, Yachtley Crew; *Oct. 7*, Gladys Knight; *Oct. 10*, The Vampire Circus; *Oct. 15*, Kathy Griffin; *Oct. 19*, Ghostbusters in Concert; *Oct. 23–24*, The Musical Box performs Genesis; *Oct. 28*, Hokus Pokus

Live; *Oct. 30*, Magical Mystery Doors tribute to The Beatles, Led Zeppelin & The Doors. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

OCTOBER 3–11
American Music Theatre. *Oct. 3*, Itzhak Perlman with Rohan De Silva; *Oct. 4*, Diamond Rio; *Oct. 6*, Ringo Starr & His All-Starr Band; *Oct. 9*, Vitamin String Quartet & Girl Named Tom; *Oct. 11*, The Statler Experience. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.



OCTOBER 3–30
The Grand in Wilmington. *Oct. 3*, Kenny Wayne Shepherd Band: “Ledbetter Heights” 30th Anniversary Tour; *Oct. 3*, Graham Nash at The Playhouse; *Oct. 4*, Moonlight Princesses tribute to Demon Hunters; *Oct. 6*, The Carpenters Songbook; *Oct. 18*, Delaware Rock and

Roll Society Induction; *Oct. 30*, Coco Montoya. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

OCTOBER 3
7th Annual Malvern Porch Fest. Presenting 25 musical acts from varying genres on front porches and lawns across town, all within walking distance of each other. A complete schedule will be available at the end of September on the website and on Facebook. MalvernPorchFest.org



OCTOBER 7–29
The Colonial Theatre. *Oct. 7*, An Evening with Buena Vista Orchestra; *Oct. 15*, Countess Luann LOVE Tour; *Oct. 21*, Goblin performs their score live to “Tenebre”; *Oct. 28*, Allison Russell; *Oct. 29*, Watsky X Infinity Anniversary Tour. 227 Bridge St., Phoenixville. Times and tickets, TheColonialTheatre.com.

OCTOBER 10–24
Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Oct. 10*, The Brit Pack; *Oct. 17*, Kashmir tribute to Led Zeppelin; *Oct. 21*, Dueling Pianos with The Philly Keys; *Oct. 22*, Glenn Miller Orchestra; *Oct. 23*, Abacab: The Music of Genesis, Phil Collins & Peter Gabriel; *Oct. 24*, Meet Loaf. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.



OCTOBER 17
Crossroads Music Festival. Enjoy bluegrass, folk and old-time music from local and regional musicians, plus food, drinks and a community atmosphere. Benefits the Oxford Area Historical Association. The Barn at Nottingham,

101 Ponds Edge Dr., Nottingham. 2 pm. \$45. OxfordHistorical.org

NOVEMBER 1
Chester County Concert Band Presents: Back to the Future. Travel through centuries of music, from Bach, Handel and Scarlatti to Sinatra, Disney’s “Fantasia” and Alan Silvestri’s “Back to the Future.” Fugett Middle School, 500 Ellis Ln., West Chester. 2:30 p.m. \$10–\$15; under 12, free. CCCBand.org

OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES.....
OCTOBER 3

Willistown Conservation Trust Run-A-Muck Countryside Bash. Come run the 5K or muck (walk) the cross-country trail over diverse terrain. Enjoy food, beer, wine, a bonfire, live music, lawn games, mechanical bull rides and more. 912 Providence Rd., Newtown Square. 2:30 pm. \$25–\$55. WCTrust.org/Run-A-Muck

THEATER.....
THROUGH OCTOBER 4
“The 25th Annual Putman County Spelling Bee” at Delaware Theatre. Experience this charming and deeply human musical that


**LANTERN TOURS
AT HISTORIC SUGARTOWN**
♦♦♦
**LANTERN TOUR PREVIEW & BIERGARTEN:
OCTOBER 15TH**
♦♦♦
**LANTERN TOURS:
OCTOBER 16TH AND 17TH
OCTOBER 23RD AND 24TH
6PM-8PM**
♦♦♦
**JOIN ONE OF OUR KNOWLEDGEABLE
GUIDES AS THEY LEAD YOU THROUGH
THE VILLAGE BY LANTERN LIGHT!**

TICKETS REQUIRED: HISTORICSUGARTOWN.ORG

**13TH ANNUAL
Cutest Pet
Photo Contest!**
Congratulations to our winner:
RILEY!

Thanks to all the adorable pets that participated,
and a special thank you to **Concord Pet Foods & Supplies** for contributing the prize!

**CHILD & CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER (CCDC)
WHERE EVERY CHILD
DESERVES TO THRIVE**

**THREE CAMPUSES.
ONE MISSION.**

- Coatesville
- Great Valley
- West Grove


**HELPING YOUR
CHILD REACH
THEIR FULL
POTENTIAL.**


**CCDC GREAT VALLEY
OPENING FALL 2026**
**LEARN MORE AT
CCIU.ORG**




shines a light on the inner lives of six adolescents vying for the spelling championship of a lifetime. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, DelawareTheatre.org.



THROUGH OCTOBER 19
“**Rachmaninoff and the Tsar**” at **People’s Light**. Discover the East Coast premiere of Hershey Felder’s new musical play, starring as the virtuoso pianist and composer Sergei Rachmaninoff. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets limited so order soon. PeoplesLight.org

THROUGH OCTOBER 18
“**Ragtime: The Musical**” at **Fulton Theatre**. A sweeping musical adaptation of E.L. Doctorow’s novel that follows three fictional families in pursuit of the American Dream at the dawn of the 20th century. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, 717-397-7425; TheFulton.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 25
“**Fiddler on the Roof**” at **The Candlelight Theatre**. Sing along to the music of this award-winning tale of Tevye the Dairyman and his family’s struggles in a changing Russia. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, 302-475-2313; CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.

THROUGH OCTOBER 18
“**Murder for Two**” at **The Media Theatre**. A hilarious musical murder mystery with one actor playing the detective and another portraying all the suspects, as they race to solve the murder of a famous novelist. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

OCTOBER 6-NOVEMBER 8
“**The Lifespan of a Fact**” at **Act II Playhouse**. This witty, fast-paced comedy pits a fact checker against a celebrated author and an editor in a battle over truth, art and accuracy. Starring Philadelphia-area actor Ian Merrill Peakes, known for his role on HBO’s “Task.” 56 E. Butler Ave., Ambler. Times and tickets, Act2.org.

OCTOBER 23-25
“**The Wiz**” at **The Playhouse**. The Tony Award-winning musical returns in a new Broadway tour, putting a soulful, gospel-, rock- and funk-filled spin on “The Wizard of Oz” as Dorothy journeys down the Yellow Brick Road. 1007

N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.



TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS
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 15
Third Thursdays on State Street in Kennett Square. Enjoy outdoor dining, extended shopping hours, live music, children’s activities, pop-up vendors and more. State Street is closed from Broad to Center Sts. from 5 to 10 pm every third Thursday. KennettCollaborative.org

OCTOBER 1 & 8
Town Tours and Village Walks. *Oct. 1*, Kennett 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. ChesCoPlanning.org/Historic/TownTours

OCTOBER 3
Chester County Day House Tour. Tour beautiful homes, restored barns and historic landmarks in the northwest quadrant, many with connections to the county’s Revolutionary War history. Benefits Chester County Hospital. 10 to 5. \$60–\$100. ChesterCountyDay.com

OCTOBER 7-NOVEMBER 4
Chilling West Chester: A Dark History Walking Tour. Hear true tales of murder, mischief and misadventure, drawn from the archives of the Chester County History Center, on a 90-minute outdoor walking tour. 225 N. High St., West Chester. \$20. Times and tickets, MyCCHC.org.

OCTOBER 15
West Chester Historic Preservation Awards. Celebrate the 15th annual awards honoring projects and individuals that help preserve West Chester’s historic character, including Bricks & Mortar, Preservation Service and Preservation Legacy awards. Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester. 5:30 pm. \$75. WCDF.org

OCTOBER 16-31
West Chester Public Library’s Halloween Door Tour. Doors and porches in West Chester Borough will look spooktacular! For a donation to the library, participants receive a map and list of scavenger items to look for during the self-guided tour. Look for the Halloween Door Tour sign in participating yards around the borough. WCPublicLibrary.org



OCTOBER 17
Paoli Battlefield Paranormal Tour. Join

Interstate Paranormal Research for an evening investigation of the historic battlefield, exploring “hot spots” of paranormal activity along the trails and throughout the grounds. Bring flashlights, cameras and recording equipment. Monument & Wayne Aves., Malvern. 7 to 11 pm. \$45. Register at PBPfInc.org.

OCTOBER 18
Tours at Margaret Esherick House. Tour this celebrated 1961 modernist home designed by architect Louis Kahn, one of only two collaborations between Kahn and artist Wharton Esherick. The private residence features an extraordi-

nary kitchen designed by Esherick. 204 Sunrise Ln., Philadelphia. 10 am, 12:30 and 2:30 pm. \$50. Tickets, WhartonEsherickMuseum.org. ♦

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

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

For more events visit:
CountyLinesMagazine.com

Thursday
October 22
5–7:30PM

BRANDYWINE ZOO

SIP & STROLL

HAPPY HOUR

Come celebrate Halloween at our Sip & Stroll Happy Hour at the Zoo

The Brandywine Zoo invites you to Sip & Stroll through the zoo and enjoy a Halloween themed evening, with a costume contest. So dress to impress the judges.

Limited number of tickets will be sold.

Drink and food purchases sold separately.

BRANDYWINE ZOO

Go a little wild!

Tickets: Non-Member: Adults \$10, Children \$7
Brandywine Zoo Member: Adults \$5, Children \$3

Purchase tickets:
brandywinezoo.org/events/sip-stroll

FREE PARKING

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

JOIN OUR TEAM!

County Lines is looking for a personable, organized, detail-oriented person for our editorial team. FLEXIBLE HOURS, PART-TIME EVENTS EDITOR

Please send resume and letter of interest to Info@ValleyDel.com.

COUNTYLINESMAGAZINE.COM

MICHAEL COOK JEWELER

ENDURING

1500 East Lancaster Avenue | Suite 200 | Paoli, PA 19301

610.644.5347 | michaelcookjeweler.com

22 County Lines | October 2026 | CountyLinesMagazine.com

CountyLinesMagazine.com | October 2026 | County Lines 23

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



McCOMSEY BUILDERS, INC

McComseyBuilders.com 610.679.6161



STEVE TOBIN: In The Light

IMMERSIVE ART AT TYLER ARBORETUM,
OCTOBER 16
THROUGH OCTOBER 2027

ART TAKES ROOT AT TYLER ARBORETUM this fall as internationally acclaimed sculptor Steve Tobin brings more than 50 large-scale, nature-inspired works to the 650-acre property. Opening October 16, “STEVE TOBIN: IN THE LIGHT” will place sculptures across 15 unique sites, creating an immersive experience that connects Tobin’s work with Tyler’s woodlands, meadows and historic landscapes.

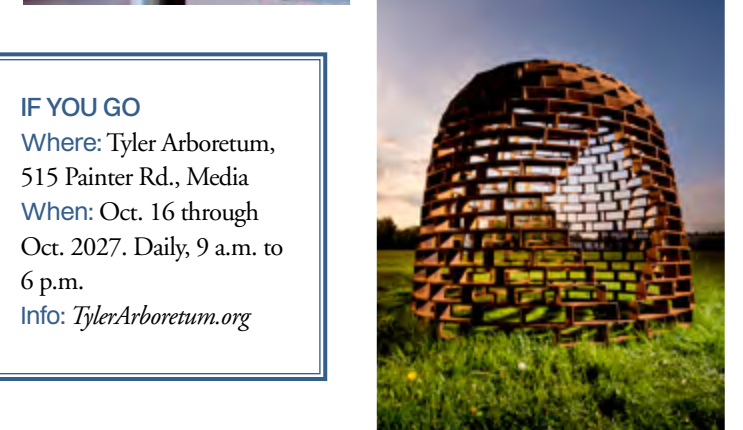
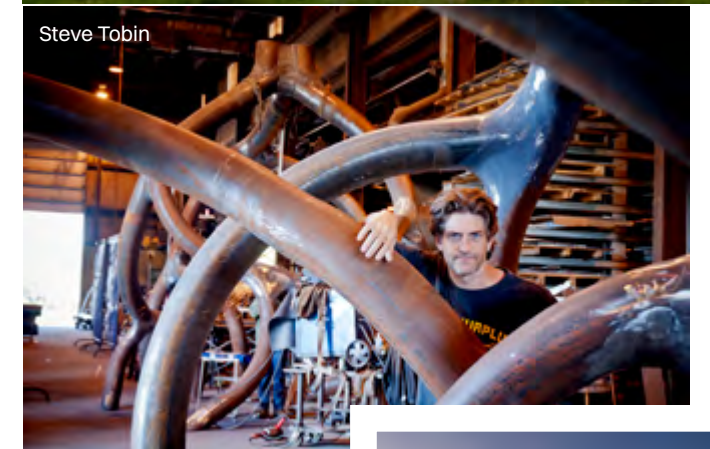
Raised on the Main Line, Tobin has spent four decades combining science, industrial processes and recycled materials to create sculptures inspired by trees, roots, geology and the hidden structures of nature. His work in steel and bronze includes several of his signature series. Towering “STEEL-ROOTS” reach up to 30 feet into the sky, while life-sized “BRONZEROOTS” explore the complexity and unseen strength of root systems. Mirror-like polished-steel “CLOUDS” reflects the surrounding landscape, offering visitors a chance to see the artwork — and themselves — in a new way.

The exhibition is designed to be experienced from different perspectives rather than simply viewed from a distance. You can touch the sculptures, sit inside them or lie beneath them, taking in panoramic views and the changing interplay of light and shadow.

The placement of the works throughout Tyler’s varied landscapes creates a conversation between sculpture and setting, encouraging you to notice familiar vistas and natural forms in fresh ways. Tobin describes the arboretum’s intimate natural settings as “living vignettes” well suited to his work.

And there’s plenty of time to explore. The exhibit continues through October 2027, so you can experience the sculptures as the landscape changes — from autumn color and winter stillness to spring blooms and the summer canopy.

The opening weekend, October 16–18, features guided tours, festivities, food and drink on Saturday and Sunday. A September 27 “Monumental Arrival” marks the beginning of the sculptures’ journey from Tobin’s Quakertown studio to the arboretum. Additional exhibition programs and events will be announced throughout the coming year. ♦



IF YOU GO

Where: Tyler Arboretum,
515 Painter Rd., Media
When: Oct. 16 through
Oct. 2027. Daily, 9 a.m. to
6 p.m.
Info: TylerArboretum.org

Learning Liberty: No Buses, No Bells, No Public Schools

WHAT SCHOOLING LOOKED LIKE IN REVOLUTIONARY CHESTER COUNTY

Kim Andrews

CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN WALKING TO school in the 1770s didn't head toward a bus, a brick school or a grade-level classroom. Their destination might be a Friends meetinghouse, a minister's home, a neighbor's kitchen or a community schoolhouse. Some children learned at home or through work, although many never entered a classroom at all. Before public education, schooling depended on geography, money, faith and how much labor was needed at home.

EARLY SCHOOLS

Quakers, Presbyterians and German immigrant communities were among Chester County's strongest supporters of education, as each community had to find a teacher, raise money, provide a room and decide who could attend. Families may have paid three cents a day or two dollars per quarter to send a child to school. Those children who didn't attend school might learn from relatives or ministers, through household work, or as apprentices in a trade. Around the time of the Revolutionary War, education was not yet a public promise but an opportunity assembled by families, congregations and neighborhoods.

For example, in Tredyffrin wealthy German immigrant Jacob Sharraden set aside land for a church and school. A log schoolhouse was built there in 1768, then replaced in 1788 by the stone

building now known as Old Eagle School. During the Valley Forge encampment, pupils may have seen soldiers moving along nearby roads or heard supply wagons passing on their way to the army.

SPLINTERS, SLATES AND PRACTICAL SUMS

For many children, education began with religion. Learning to read made it possible to study the Bible, and copying Scripture and moral sayings was thought to reinforce honesty, obedience, conscience and duty. Schooling was meant to shape character as well as the mind.

Classrooms were plain and uncomfortable. At Old Eagle, children may first have sat on split logs, flat side up with splinters included. Younger pupils sat near the teacher, with older students behind them. Heat came from a fireplace and later an iron stove. On gray days, candles in wooden wall racks lit the room.

Students shared books and approached the schoolmaster's desk to recite. Beginners learned letters and sounds from primers or hornbooks, small wooden paddles holding a printed lesson beneath a protective transparent sheet of animal horn. Older pupils practiced reading, spelling, penmanship and arithmetic. Girls might work on a needlepoint sampler to practice their letters.

Time in school also competed with chores at home. Children fetched water, fed animals, planted seeds, churned butter and

helped preserve food. In craft and merchant households, children assisted with the family business. Older children might enter apprenticeships, combining labor with vocational instruction. School attendance could be interrupted for days or weeks by farm demands, bad roads and winter storms.

Some schools taught beyond basic literacy and numeracy. At New London Academy, founded in 1743, selected students studied Latin, Greek and moral philosophy. Pupils there included future national leaders and signers of the Declaration of Independence.

The contrasts in education were enormous. One child might learn just enough to read and write by age 12, while another might receive an education designed for public leadership. Schooling could open doors, but only for those with the opportunity to approach them.

LEARNING LIBERTY AND ITS LIMITS

The schoolroom reflected Revolutionary America's central contradiction — a growing language of liberty alongside unequal access to its tools. Quaker communities often placed greater emphasis on educating girls than many of their contemporaries did. By the late 18th century, Friends were also thinking more deliberately about how schools should be organized. Owen Biddle's "Plan for a School" helped shape the thinking that led to the founding of coeducational Westtown School in the late 1700s.

But still education was not equal for all. Pennsylvania did not outlaw teaching enslaved people, yet Black children faced great educational barriers. In nearby Frederick Township, a Moravian boarding school enrolled African, African American, white and Native American boys during the 1740s, but such opportunities were rare for Black and Native students. The education offered to these students might be intended to teach Christianity and obedience rather than independence.

No colonial schools taught liberty as Americans understand it today, and lessons often reinforced authority, faith and social rank. Still, literacy opened newspapers, pamphlets, petitions and Scripture. Inside Chester County's schoolrooms, children learned their letters and practiced their sums. They also learned what their communities expected, became leaders themselves, and sometimes gained the tools to change the world they inherited. ♦

What Was in a Colonial Schoolbook?

A colonial student's "backpack" might hold a slate and slate pencil, primer, hornbook, loose paper, quill and copybook. Beginners practiced letters, syllables and Bible passages. Older pupils copied moral verses, handwriting models and business forms, then solved arithmetic problems involving money, land, cloth or crops.

Because books and paper were expensive, memorization and recitation mattered. A slate could be wiped clean and reused; a quill had to be cut, sharpened and dipped in ink. The supplies were spare, and lessons were designed to prepare children for work, faith and community life.

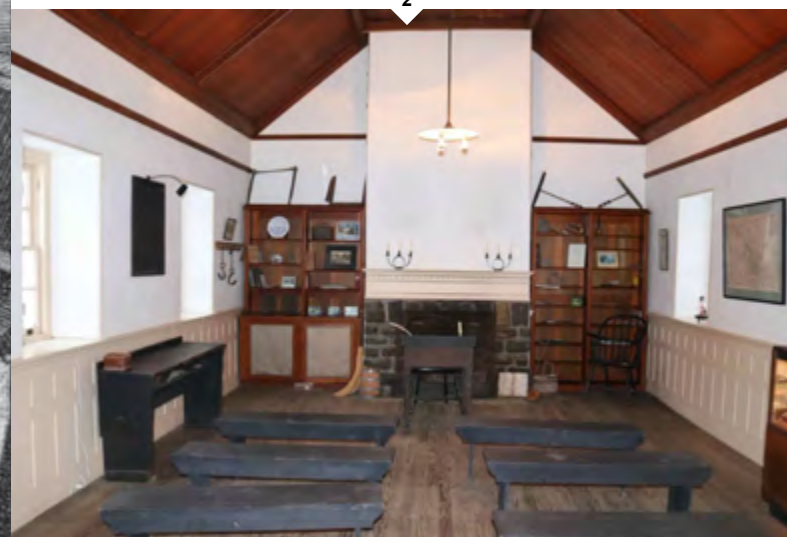


PHOTO CREDIT: OLD EAGLE SCHOOL TRUSTEES

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 commemorate 2026, the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. For more information and to get involved: America250Chesco.org or CCCCF250.org



1. "Old-Time School in Pennsylvania" by Howard Pyle
2. Old Eagle School interior
PHOTO CREDIT: OLD EAGLE SCHOOL TRUSTEES
3. Old Eagle School
PHOTO CREDIT: SHUVAEV/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



Someone — or Some *Thing* — Is Knocking

IT'S A BRANDYWINE HALLOWEEN

Edwin Malet



The Great Pumpkin Carve
PHOTO CREDIT: JENNIFER MANDERSCHIED

HALLOWEEN'S APPROACHING. KIDS ARE TRYING on costumes. And adults are getting into the act, too. The Minions are probably going to sell out, as will characters from "Toy Story" and "The Mandalorian." Elphaba and Glinda the Good Witch from "The Wizard of Oz" are also very popular.

Think you'll see few characters from "The Odyssey"? Perhaps someone will be courageous enough to be Polyphemus, the Cyclops who was blinded by Odysseus. Now that's scary!

Homes are dressing up as well with spider webs, bats, skeletons, ghosts. Not to mention spooky sounds. Still, you can choose to decorate with colorful pumpkins. So many ways to celebrate.

PUMPKINS AND JACK-O-LANTERNS

Great Pumpkin Carve (Oct. 15–17)

1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford

ChaddsFordHistory.org

Over 70 carvers sculpt, saw and chisel giant pumpkins — some weighing up to 400 pounds — before crowds of onlookers. Back in the early 1970s, Andrew and Jamie Wyeth carved pumpkins to decorate the Chadds Ford Inn. Others joined. Today, enjoy live music, food trucks, kid-friendly haunted trails, raffles and more. \$15 adult, \$5 child, free under 7.

Pumpkin & Face Painting (Oct. 25 & 31)

124 Beaver Valley Rd., Chadds Ford

PennsWoodsWinery.com/HarvestCelebration

Pick and paint a pumpkin from the patch. There'll be face painting (\$10) as well as apple cider donuts and Pumpkin Spice Sangria. On the 31st, don your costume and enjoy Halloween-themed cocktails, face painting and the hay maze. Wine tasting, beer, cider, cheese, food trucks and live music.

Great Pumpkin Play Day (date TBD)

Sykes Student Union, 110 W. Rosedale Ave., West Chester

@WCU_CSM

Share a family-friendly afternoon at West Chester University. They'll have face painting, hair tinsel, games, kids' tattoos, races and a basket raffle. Proceeds benefit Safe Harbor of Chester County.

Check the website for updates.

HAUNTINGS

The Bates Motel, Haunted House and Corn Fields (Sept. 25–Nov. 1)

1835 N. Middletown Rd., Glen Mills

TheBatesMotel.com

Expect levitating spirits, pictures that follow you and scary evildoers. On the Scarecrow's Haunted Trail, you'll tour a creepy New England church, an abandoned toxic waste dump and a massive cavern filled with dinosaurs, lizards and flying demons. On a Haunted Hayride, you'll walk through tall corn filled with monsters and villains. \$40–\$55.

Amstel House (Oct. weekends)

2 E. 4th St., New Castle, DE

NewCastleHistory.org

Step inside the Amstel House, where you may meet the spectral Lady in Blue looking out from the upper windows. Guides share their knowledge of Victorian funeral customs, local superstitions, and tales of crime and punishment. \$8.50 adult, \$4 child.

Chilling West Chester (multiple dates)

Chester County History Center, 225 N. High St., West Chester

MyCCHC.org

From the horrors of the county prison to havoc-wreaking explosions, West Chester's streets and alleys have witnessed two centuries of crime. The educators of the History Center share these stories. Not mere ghost stories, these are true tales of terror. \$20. 90 minutes. 1.25 miles.

GHOSTS AND GOBLINS

Brandywine Zoo (Oct. 16–18)

1001 N. Park Dr., Wilmington

BrandywineZoo.org

At "Boo at the Zoo," celebrate "zoo-style." It's a merry — not scary — event. Wear a costume and bring your own bag for treats. Great photo ops! \$8. 10 to 3 p.m.

Brandywine Creek Park's Enchanted Meadows (Oct. 23–25)

41 Adams Dam Rd., Wilmington

DEStateParks.com/Park/Brandywine-Creek

Walk through an enchanted meadow, visit Disney characters, Pixar heroes, Harry Potter's wizards and others. Collect treats and pose for pictures. \$6. 30 minutes. 6 p.m.

Wayne Trick or Treat (Oct. 31)

WayneBusiness.com

North Wayne Ave. in downtown Wayne is transformed into a magical realm of ghosts, goblins, princesses, superheroes and whimsical characters. The Wayne Art Center will host enchanting Halloween crafts. Businesses and restaurants are handing out treats. 1 to 3 p.m.

JOIN A SCARY PARTY

Candy Crawl, Parade and Monster Mash (Oct. 24)

King St. and Burke Park, Malvern

Malvern.org/1285/Parks-And-Open-Space

It's an all-day affair in Malvern. Trick-or-treat along King St., parade toward Burke Park and party at the Monster Mash, featuring live music, games, crafts, food and face-painting. 3 to 6 p.m.

1. The Bates Motel
2. Brandywine Zoo's "Boo at the Zoo"

Parades

Media (Oct. 26, 11 a.m.)

The 60th annual Delco Halloween Parade on State St. in Media features the Philly Ghostbusters and the Star Wars 501st Legion, comic book characters, scouting troops, dance academies and floats. Come in costume. Expect spooky surprises.

West Chester (Oct. 28, 7 p.m.)

The parade starts at Church and Market Sts. and loops around downtown. Candy stations will be located along the route for children to collect goodie bags. Afterwards, enjoy performances from marching bands plus cheer and dance teams.

Oxford (Oct. 29, 6:30 p.m.)

The Halloween Parade starts downtown at South and 3rd Sts. and features children's marches, costume judging with awards, floats and community participation.



Oxford Halloween Parade



Movies

Colonial Theatre (Oct. weekends)

227 Bridge St., Phoenixville

TheColonialTheatre.com

Lights out. Curtains up. Everyone quiet. Bring someone to hold for this month-long series. "Young Frankenstein" (Oct. 2), "Goke, Body Snatcher from Hell" (Oct. 3), "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Oct. 10), "Halloween" (Oct. 23), "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (Oct. 24), "The Innocents" (Oct. 25). \$15 adults, \$13 seniors, \$10 kids.

Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center (Oct. 19 & 31)

226 N. High St., West Chester

UptownWestChester.org

For a charming, nostalgic classic, see "Halloween-town" (Oct. 19, \$7). To examine and laugh at your worst fears, watch "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" (Oct. 31, \$17-\$22).



3



4

West Chester Halloween Train (Oct. 30)

230 E. Market St., West Chester

[Check Eventbrite.com](http://CheckEventbrite.com)

Join a spirited adult costume party benefiting homeless and hospitalized veterans. Come ride the historic train, tell and listen to ghost stories, listen to music and enjoy the open bar, buffet and party. \$100. 6 to 9 p.m.

Die Laughing Halloween Party (Oct. 31)

Rivet: Canteen & Assembly, 238 E. High St., Pottstown

[Check Eventbrite.com](http://CheckEventbrite.com)

Find spooks and laughs at an eerie Halloween bash at this events space! Dress up in your wildest costume, enjoy creepy tunes, share crazy laughs. Come ready to die laughing! \$12.51. 6 to 11 p.m.

LIGHTS OUT

Rockwood Park & Museum (Oct. 16, 17, 23, 24 & 30)

4651 Washington St. Extension, Wilmington

NewCastleDE.gov/431/Rockwood-Park-Museum

Take the Revisionists Gothic Walk, where restless apparitions appear. The narrator speaks with the dead, uncovers their deaths and rewrites their tragedies. On the 23rd and 30th, you can use electronic ghost-hunting gear to investigate paranormal activity across the property. \$28. 90 minutes. 1.5 miles.

"Fright Night" at People's Light (Oct. 28)

39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern

PeoplesLight.org

Monsters, mayhem and all manner of midnight mischief will run amok in the Farmhouse. Keep your eyes on the story as a crime scene unfolds while you sip your flights. Will your table follow the clues? Or will you fall for the misdirections? \$45. 6 p.m.

Candlelight: A Haunted Evening of Halloween Classics at The Media Theatre (Oct. 29)

104 E. State St., Media

MediaTheatre.org

A live string quartet performs Halloween-inspired music and movie themes under the glow of candlelight. \$37. 60 minutes.

AN EERIE ORGAN PLAYS

Longwood Gardens Spellbound Weekend (Oct. 23- 25)

1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square

Longwood.org

A unearthly good time with a 62-bell carillon, organ music, illuminated fountains and, on the weekend, the "Halloween Magic" show (8:15 p.m.). 5 to 9 p.m. \$38 adults, \$22 youth, free for kids. ♦

3. West Chester Halloween Train
4. Candlelight: A Haunted Evening of Halloween Classics at The Media Theatre

HISTORIC PRESERVATION | CUSTOM HOME BUILDING | RENOVATIONS



Festive Lights and Winter Nights!

Enjoy a holiday getaway in Prince George's, Maryland. Stay, play, dine, sip, shop, and savor the season. See our festival of lights and ice! at Gaylord National Harbor. Book today!



Book Your Stay



You Can Get Married *Where?*

WONDERFULLY UNEXPECTED
PLACES TO SAY “I DO”



YOUR WEDDING DAY IS ONE OF A KIND, SO why not choose a venue with a little personality, too? From sailing down the Christina River aboard a historic tall ship to rolling through Lancaster County by train, these distinctive settings bring an extra element of fun to the big day. They offer beautiful backdrops, memorable experiences and plenty of opportunities to create a celebration that feels uniquely yours.

✓ Kalmar Nyckel

Set sail as you say “I do” aboard the Kalmar Nyckel, Delaware’s full-scale replica of a 17th-century Swedish tall ship while you cruise the Christina River along Wilmington’s riverfront. This choice for an intimate celebration offers a built-in experience for guests, rather than a traditional ballroom reception. The ship’s crew handles the sailing while the couple provides the officiant, music, décor and caterer. Book a private 90-minute sail with for a micro-wedding or stay dockside and host 90 guests for a two-hour celebration. For larger receptions, pair the ship experience with a celebration at the nearby Copeland Maritime Center.

1124 E. 7th St., Wilmington. KarmarNyckel.org

✓ Strasburg Rail Road

All aboard the oldest continuously operating historic railroad — the Strasburg Rail Road in Lancaster County — for an unusual wedding venue. Choose among several beautifully restored train cars for wedding ceremonies and vow renewals, including the elegant First Class Parlor and Lounge Cars. Then hit the rails for a 45-minute, nine-mile scenic ride through the countryside, toward Paradise (the town). Continue the festivities at Lefever Hall, accommodating 40 guests, with views of passing steam trains, or opt for the 76-seat Dining Car. For larger celebrations, private train arrangements and other event options are available for up to 400.

301 Gap Rd., Ronks. StrasburgRailRoad.com

✓ Brandywine Polo Club

Here’s an unforgettable setting for couples looking for an equestrian theme. Set on 122 acres of rolling Brandywine Valley countryside, the polo fields provide a unique backdrop for an outdoor celebration with horses, wide-open views and plenty of room for guests to mingle. Exchange vows beneath the beautiful white oak Wedding Tree, a charming spot for an intimate ceremony for up to 75 guests. Then celebrate with cocktails, dinner in the Polo Pavilion (54 guest seated, 150 standing) and dancing surrounded by the fields. The polo atmosphere lets couples incorporate a match, divot-stomping or a polo-themed experience into the festivities.

232 Polo Rd., Toughkenamon. BrandywinePolo.com

✓ Abraham Fetters-White School House

Teachers and history buffs alike can celebrate their big day with a reception in a charming one-room schoolhouse dating to 1817. Adjacent to St. Paul’s United Christian Church in Exton, the Abraham Fetters-White School House began as a subscription school established by local Uwchlan Township families and later became one of the township’s first public schools. When enrollment reached 60 students in 1863, the school was rebuilt at its current location on Route 100 and Worthington Road, where students attended until 1918. Today, the lovingly renovated space offers an intimate setting for receptions of up to 50 guests.

723 N. Pottstown Pk., Exton.

SaintPaulsUCC.net/Fetters-White-Historic-Schoolhouse



✓ The Mill at Anselma

Dream of a wedding with a little history and a lot of scenery? The Mill at Anselma delivers, with 22 picturesque acres along Pickering Creek and a historic mill as your backdrop. Host an outdoor celebration for up to 150 guests, or gather up to 30 inside the 275-year-old mill — the most complete example of a custom grain mill in the U.S. — or the rustic 1860s wagon barn. The restored 1871 Miller’s House offers a charming spot for the bridal party to get ready. Meadows, woods, streams and historic buildings provide plenty of memorable photo ops.

1730 Conestoga Rd., Chester Springs. AnselmaMill.org



✓ Mulberry Art Studios

Add an artistic twist to your big day at this one-of-a-kind venue, housed in a renovated historic bakery. High ceilings, exposed brick, hardwood floors, vintage details and more than 1,700 original works of art create an eclectic backdrop for ceremonies, cocktail hours and receptions. The flexible space can accommodate up to 250 guests, with plenty of room for dinner, dancing and mingling. Couples can select artwork from the collection to complement their wedding theme, colors or season. And don’t miss the rooftop, where the wedding party can capture memorable photos with downtown Lancaster as the backdrop.

19–21 N. Mulberry St., Lancaster. MulberryArtStudios.com





Across County Lines

A FALL RAMBLE THROUGH 50 YEARS OF FAVORITES

Shannon Montgomery



FOR 50 YEARS, *COUNTY LINES* has brought you the best of the Brandywine Valley — shopping, dining and all the things that make our corner of the country so special. And there’s no better time to explore than autumn, when the foliage bursts with color, the fields glow golden and the weather demands sweaters.

For countless Octobers, we’ve encouraged readers to get out and discover *County Lines* country. Inspired by our popular shopping maps in the late ’70s and ’80s, we introduced the “Autumn Shopping Ramble” in 1990, with listings and a map highlighting places for “shopping the way it used to be” — independent shops with character and unique finds, staffed by friendly, knowledgeable faces. Soon, we added dining and lodging

stops, followed by photos of the unique and colorful shop signs that dotted downtowns and country backroads.

In 2000, we rechristened the feature “Across County Lines.” Over the years, it evolved from listings and shop signs to a guided tour of the region, showcasing favorite shops, restaurants, attractions and fall events.

Now, as we celebrate our golden anniversary, we’re feeling nostalgic. Come along for a guided trip down memory lane as we revisit some of the shops and restaurants we’ve featured over the years, discover what’s new, and take a few extra detours for extra fall fun.

WEST CHESTER

Since *County Lines*’ early days, West Chester has been home to charming locally owned shops. In our October 1998

“Autumn Shopping Ramble,” we sent readers to longstanding local businesses that have since closed — like **Halladay Florist**, opened in 1957, and the historic **Jane Chalfant**, a landmark on North High Street for nearly a century, now home to **Mayday Coffee Shop**. Others have stood the test of time, including **KALY**, which has been keeping West Chester stylish since 1988.

West Chester’s retail scene continues to evolve with newcomers like **Leaves & Lore**. Hundreds of eager fans lined up around the block for this fantasy-focused bookstore’s late-August opening, prompting an early closing when bookworms nearly cleared the shelves. Inside, browse dark wood shelves draped in greenery, then settle into an armchair by the fire with a cup of **Twin Valley Coffee** or tea from

Mimi’s Tea Cottage. Or pick out a “book bouquet” — literature wrapped in flowers.

New arrivals also include **Setting the Bar**, specializing in vintage barware, custom bars and cocktail-party essentials, along with classes and private events. And at long last, the **West Chester Cooperative** has a permanent home on West Market Street, offering fresh produce, organic foods and sustainably sourced goods while supporting local farmers and producers.

West Chester’s dining scene has flourished, too. New spots include **Dim Sum Taste**, bringing authentic Shanghai soup dumplings to West Gay Street; **Los Sombreros**, a family-owned restaurant

serving Mexican and Venezuelan cuisine; and **The Biscuit Lady**, dishing up breakfast sandwiches and buttery biscuits. For something stronger, visit **Cutter & Cannon Spirits**’ new bottle shop and tasting room on East Gay Street for small-batch rum, whiskey and bourbon — then take a bottle home.

For a perfect fall outing, head downtown Friday, October 2 for the **Fall Gallery Walk**. Explore over two dozen stops on this self-guided tour of public art murals, local galleries and studios, including **The Art Trust at Meridian Bank**, **Roman Coia Photographer** and **Sunset Hill Jewelers & Fine Arts**

Gallery. One-night-only galleries will pop up at **Bookmarks**, **LoCali Wine Lounge**, **Pine + Quill** and more. An added bonus: on-street parking is free starting at 4 p.m.

WESTERN CHESTER COUNTY

The western part of the county has changed quite a bit over the years. In 1998, we highlighted **The Mad Hatter’s Tea Room**, a “charming olde world tea shop” in Uwchlan Commons, and **The Clay Lady** for pottery and gifts in a historic Eagle home that’s now a WSFS Bank branch. Yet a few familiar names remain, including Exton’s **Ball & Ball**,

◆ 1. Leaves & Lore

◆ 2. West Chester Fall Gallery Walk ◆



3



4



5



6

-
- ◆
 - 3. The Iron Bird
 - ◆
 - 4. Looker Books
 - ◆
-

which has been outfitting homes with antique hardware reproductions for 87 years and counting.

Blending old and new, **The Iron Bird** in Chester Springs offers a curated mix of vintage and new furniture and decor, clothing, jewelry, gifts and other finds, with an emphasis on local and American-made goods. This spring, owner Jenna Dobyn opened a second location at **Sauder's Nursery** in Downingtown, featuring the works of 29 talented artisans.

Also new this spring, **Artisan Alley & Market** in Downingtown combines a gallery and working studio for seven featured artisans. The space is open by appointment, with monthly Studio Drops (open houses) announced on social media. Meanwhile, **Looker Books** is preparing to move to a larger storefront in Coatesville. The indie bookstore has operated out of the **Made in Coatesville Small Business Incubator** since 2022 and is moving just across the street. Stay tuned for the grand opening.

Hungry? Western Chester County has plenty of new dining options. Downingtown newcomers include **Mother**, serving tacos, margs and local beer, and **The Borough**, a happening pub with two bars, live entertainment and 60 big-screen TVs.

This spring, Irish native Brendan FitzGerald opened **Dublin Brewing Company**, an authentic Irish pub pouring its own Irish dry stout (think Guinness). And the team behind **Pomod'oro** is

transforming the historic Thorndale Inn into **La Piazza Trattoria**, promising Italian cuisine, New York-style pizza and much more.

For Italian now, head to Eagleview Town Center and **L'Olivo Trattoria**. The husband-and-wife team behind **Birchrunville Store Cafe** opened the restaurant last fall, serving northern Italian faves from Chef John Amann, formerly of Amani's BYOB. Or drop by **Andréa's Jazz Café** in Coatesville, which opened in February after much anticipation. Come for live music, American and Creole-inspired fare and good company.

For a final fall detour, make your way to **Historic Yellow Springs**. Along with the Fall Fest on October 11 (see October Picks), the historic village hosts art workshops and classes year-round. October highlights include beginner watercolor on October 10, printmaking with plants on October 24 and a spooky gel-plate printmaking workshop on Halloween. Check online for the full course catalog.

SOUTHERN BRANDYWINE VALLEY

Rolling hills and pastoral roads await in the southern Brandywine Valley. In October 2000, our inaugural "Across County Lines" guide recommended **Barbara Hood's Country Store** in West Grove, now the site of **Casa Carmen Farm & Winery**, and **The Stencil Shoppe** in Chadds Ford's Olde Ridge

Village, before grabbing a bite to eat at the historic **Kennett Square Inn** — now home to **Letty's Tavern**.

This year, two new Kennett Square shops are worth a visit. On Valentine's Day, bibliophiles welcomed **Forage Books**, an indie bookstore whose name is a nod to the town's mushroom heritage. "Forage" for your next read in this sunny, plant-filled space. At historic **R-P Nurseries**, family owned for over 160 years, **Rooted in Kennett** offers another kind of treasure: handcrafted goods from over 250 small businesses and local artisans, plus popular toys like Jellycats and NeeDohs.

For dinner in Kennett, try **Opus**, which opened last month in a restored Birch Street building that served as Hank's Place's temporary location. The latest project from Square Roots Collective serves elevated New American fare in an intimate downstairs dining room, with a moody upstairs lounge for after-dinner drinks. Curated artwork adds to the atmosphere, while proceeds benefit local nonprofits including The Garage Community & Youth Center and Brandywine Red Clay Alliance.

There's more to come. **Top Dog Cocktails** is bringing a cocktail bar and vinyl listening lounge to Kennett Square this fall, while **Proximity Wine Bar** plans to celebrate local wines in the former Catherine's Restaurant space in Unionville.

Make it a weekend with a stay at **The Francis Hotel & Suites**, another new Square Roots project. A long-vacant historic home has been transformed into a boutique hotel with eight well-appointed rooms, each with a local story to tell — from The Watchmaker king suite, a tribute to the craftsman who once lived there, to The Abolitionist room with private balcony, paying homage to Kennett's Underground Railroad history.

And of course, no southern Brandywine Valley outing is complete without visiting **Longwood Gardens**. Autumn brings fall foliage, festive harvest displays and the return of the Garden Railway. From October 16 to November 1, the fan-favorite Chrysanthemum Festival fills the conservatories with dazzling blooms and whimsical forms. This year, look for a spectacular double-chrysanthemum arch in the East Conservatory.

-
- ◆
 - 5. Opus
 - ◆
 - 6. Longwood Gardens Chrysanthemum Festival
 - ◆
-





7

7. Merrick's Tavern
at The Brandywine



8

8. "Speakeasy" by Andrey
at Midtown Social

MAIN LINE

The Main Line has always known how to honor the past while making room for what's next. In 2000, we featured **The Little House Shop** in Wayne, whose roots date to 1934, and **Walter J. Cook Jeweler**, the renowned Paoli jeweler that closed last year after nearly 80 years — but has since found new life as **Michael Cook Jeweler**, a boutique, appointment-only shop. For dining, we recommended **333 Belrose** in Radnor. Then a newcomer, the popular bar and grill reopened in June after a yearlong renovation, with rearranged dining rooms, a larger bar and the same beloved nachos.

In 2026, update your wardrobe with two stylish boutiques that have expanded to the Main Line. The family behind Phoenixville's Refinery opened a second location in Malvern this summer: **Refinery on King**, offering the same effortless styles the original is known for, plus a permanent jewelry station from Headstrong Jewelry. In Wayne, **Style by Per Lei** joins locations in Newtown Square, Ardmore, Media and beyond, bringing the latest trends and personalized styling. While in Wayne, pick up a bottle at



Nature's Vin, specializing in natural, sustainable wines from women-led producers.

Then grab a bite at **The Buttery**. It's been a busy year for the Martha Stewart-approved bakery and café, with a brand-new location on Lancaster Avenue in Bryn Mawr, another on the way in Northern Liberties, and the addition of dinner service at its flagship Malvern location. For more baked goodness, visit its outpost at the **Ardmore Farmers Market**, which opened last fall, or **Wild Yeast Bakehouse's** new location in Wayne's Eagle Village Shops, a move that takes this one-man sourdough operation out of his Rosemont living room.

Make it an evening — or a weekend — at **The Brandywine**, a Marriott-affiliated boutique hotel that opened in Radnor this spring. Enjoy seasonal comfort food at **Merrick's Tavern**, or head upstairs to **Pomelo Rooftop Terrace** for shared plates and botanical cocktails.

Before leaving the Main Line, keep an eye out for murals. We covered many in our May issue, but there's even more to find. **Main Line Mural Arts** has added new works, including an America 250-themed mural at Wayne's **At the Table**, a Jazz Age-inspired mural at Berwyn's **Midtown Social** and a tribute to veterans on Lancaster Avenue near the Devon Horse Show grounds.

Plus, the **Ardmore Mural Project** celebrated the completion of new murals near the SEPTA station and longtime home of **Past*Present*Future**, where after five decades owner Sherry Tillman is preparing to close up shop and begin her next chapter.

DELAWARE COUNTY

Small but mighty, Delco is having a moment. These days, you may spot a celebrity or two — Jason Kelce grabbing a bite at the **Havertown Grille**, Mark Ruffalo and Mahershala Ali filming the next season of "Task" at the **Llanerch Diner**. But beneath the buzz, Delco remains full of the local charm that longtime residents — and visitors — know and love. Our 2006 edition of "Across County



9

Lines" recommended **Bunny Hare's** in Newtown Square for jewelry, home goods and gifts and Media's **Silver Moon Studio Antiques** for vintage finds. Two decades later, both are still going strong.

Alongside longtime favorites, Media has welcomed new additions to State Street's eclectic mix of independent shops. This summer, yarn and fabric shop **Homesewn** moved to the former Ten Thousand Villages space at State and Olive Streets. The larger shop means more room for craft supplies, plus classes and workshops, like the Japanese fabric mosaic technique, kinusaiga (October 4), needle-felted pumpkins (October 26) and a five-week crochet class for a granny-square vest (Mondays, October 5 to November 2). In Homesewn's former East State Street location, **Media Mercantile**, an outdoor lifestyle store, opened in September.

Although Dining Under the Stars ended in September, Media's dining scene is still shining. Newcomers include **Maris**, restaurateur Loïc Barnieu's latest venture (La Belle Époque, Sterling Pig) with a Mediterranean and seafood-focused menu, and **Taquero**, a Mexican BYOB by Antonio Garcia, the longtime chef at Ariano. Cheesesteak connoisseurs can sample several varieties (classic, balsamic brie, hot honey pepperoni) plus sandwiches, wings and Meyers Brewing Company beer at **Jackson St. Steaks**. Meanwhile, **The Hungry Hub**, a family-run breakfast and lunch spot, is slated to open October 1 in the former Rivalry Café space, with plans for extended hours and a late-night menu.

For a quick detour, head to Swarthmore and **Celia Bookshop**, which opened next to the library last fall. This lively bookstore and community hub stocks over 8,000 titles, with a special focus on local authors. Coming soon: **Stylus Room**, a vinyl listening room and bar. Check social media for updates.



10



11

9. Delaware Art Museum
PHOTO CREDIT: GREATER WILMINGTON
CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

10. Taquero

11. Create Magic Art Shop



Before crossing back over the county line, spend an evening at **The Media Theatre**. From October 1 to 18, see “Murder for Two,” a rollicking musical take on old-fashioned murder mysteries, with just two performers playing 13 eccentric suspects. Families can return October 10 to 25 for the youth ensemble’s performance of “Shrek the Musical Jr.” starring everyone’s favorite ogre.

WILMINGTON

Our final stop is Wilmington, a city that has reinvented itself many times over. When we launched the “Autumn Shopping Ramble,” Wilmington was transitioning from its industrial past into the vibrant riverfront city we know today. In our October 1991 issue, we directed readers to **Artisans Emporium**, a quaint country store in the Concord Mall, and **The Pot-Pour-Ri**, a gift shop and furniture store in Fairfax Shopping Center promising “The Unique and The Imaginative.”

We also recommended a meal at **The Brandywine Room** at the **Hotel du Pont**, now home to the modern French brasserie **Le Cavalier**.

Today, the Hotel du Pont has another new addition: **The Little Huxley**. The team behind beloved indie bookstore **Huxley & Hiro** on Market Street opened this intimate shop last fall, offering books, curated gifts, Delaware souvenirs and snacks. Nearby, a colorful storefront on North Market Street hints at another newcomer. Next to **La Fia**, **Create Magic Art Shop** is preparing to open this fall as a locally owned art supply shop, drop-in studio, craft café and gallery. For now, it’s open by appointment and for special events.

For dinner, try **Ezme**, the latest venture from James Beard-nominated Chef Antimo DiMeo of the Bardea Restaurant Group. Inspired by the chef’s travels along the Aegean Sea, the menu features coastal Mediterranean cuisine. Or rediscover **Moro Bistro**, revived by

Chef Michael DiBianca after a 10-year hiatus. Now in the former Brandywine Brasserie space a few blocks from its original location, it pairs old favorites — duck confit salad, blood-orange cocktails — with new surprises. Speaking of comebacks, **Iron Hill Brewery** returned to the riverfront this spring under new management, including original founder Mark Edelson.

Cap off your Wilmington visit at the **Delaware Art Museum**. Admire the dramatic Chihuly glass installation at the entrance, then explore the museum’s renowned collection of British Pre-Raphaelite works, the largest outside the U.K. This month, “Pyle and the Pre-Raphaelites” examines how Wilmington native Howard Pyle was inspired by Pre-Raphaelite art, and “Transcendent: Landscapes of the Hudson River School” examines beloved works through the lens of Transcendentalism, a 19th-century spiritual movement. ♦

YOUR WEDDING WEEKEND - ALL IN ONE PLACE!



THE DESMOND MALVERN | ONE LIBERTY BLVD. | MALVERN, PA | DESMONDWEDDINGS.COM | 610-296-9800

READING HOSPITAL Rx LIMERICK PHARMACY



MEDICATIONS MADE *Simple*

Reading Hospital Limerick Pharmacy offers:

- ✓ **Simple** prescription transfers
Scan to transfer now → 
- ✓ **Superior** customer service
- ✓ **Reliable**
FREE home delivery*
- ✓ **Expert** medication counseling

Most insurance plans are accepted.

HOURS:

Monday to Friday 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Closed for lunch from 12:30 to 1 p.m.

Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

484-659-1650

420 W Linfield Trappe Road,
Building 100, Suite 1500, Limerick

[TowerHealth.org/Pharmacy](https://www.towerhealth.org/pharmacy)

*In Pennsylvania. Offered through Reading Hospital Berkshire Pharmacy.



Reading Hospital
TOWER HEALTH

WHY WE PHOENIXVILLE

15 REASONS TO LOVE THIS TOWN

Cindy Walker



PHOTO CREDIT: MERCEDES THOMAS

PHOENIXVILLE — ONE OF THE MOST celebratory boroughs in Chester County, with its dozens of festivals and abundance of establishments to raise a glass to all that makes your heart sing — is a multi-faceted gem with a long list of reasons to visit and enjoy. Find history, art, music, food, nature, frills and thrills galore.

Plus, it's also a walkable town. So, we suggest you put on your walking shoes and head there to explore. Along the way, you'll learn why Phoenixville's population of 20,000+ people more than doubles at several of its most well-attended events. And we think if you give it a chance, you'll love Phoenixville, too.

 **1. Origin Story.** Phoenixville has one of the best comeback stories. Once powered by the Phoenix Iron Works and other industries, the town became a manufacturing center known for producing everything from railroad rails to cannons. But times changed — mills closed, jobs disappeared and downtown Phoenixville struggled. Yet its industrial past never completely disappeared. Today, historic buildings and ironworks remnants are part of the community's strengths. Revitalized storefronts, restaurants, arts venues and gathering places brought new energy, giving Phoenixville a distinctive sense of place and a remarkable story of reinvention — like its namesake.

 **2. Phoenix Wheel.** A piece of history is back in town this year after a century. Yes, a century! Like the legendary Firebird and the town itself, the Wheel has risen back to its glory days. Made in 1893 by the Phoenix Iron and Steel Company, the 78-foot-high bright red attraction is the oldest surviving Ferris wheel *in the world*. Entertaining throngs of riders, it whirled for 93 years at Asbury Park, serving as the backdrop for Bruce Springsteen's "New Jersey Songs" album cover and making a cameo in the Boss's "Tunnel of Love" music video. Members of the Schuylkill River Heritage Center recognized its legacy and value, and brought it back to Bridge Street for another era of history and fun.

 **3. The Colonial Theatre.** Opened in 1902 on Bridge Street beneath its iconic marquee, The Colonial is where to go for movies with personality plus live music and performances. See first-run films, indie gems, classics, cult favorites



1



2



3

1. Phoenixville c. 1960s
2. Phoenix Iron & Steel Company
3. Phoenix Wheel



4. Blobfest at the Colonial Theatre
5. Firebird Festival
6. Diving Cat Studio Gallery
7. Bridge Street Chocolates

— mark July for Blobfest 2027, plus late October for spooky films — and themed screenings in this beautifully restored gem. It's clearly not your typical multiplex, even though it does have three theaters. See silent films with live organ accompaniment on their Wurlitzer pipe organ. Reserve tickets now for the November 14 immersive Hush speakeasy night with local music and hooch.

4. Firebird Festival. On December 12 this year, Phoenixville celebrates its own rebirth by building — then burning — a giant wooden phoenix. Now in its 23rd year, this unique tradition brings thousands together for an unforgettable night of art, music, dancing and community spirit. The 20-foot-tall Firebird takes about three months and hundreds of volunteer hours to create this spectacular bonfire symbolizing renewal, creativity and the town's own transformation. A December night that's worth coming out for, no matter the temperature.

5. Downtown District. In this compact downtown area, there's Bridge Street, which many people think is Main Street, and then there's Main Street, which actually has a large bridge. Got it? If not, no worries — they intersect, so you can't miss either one as you wind your way through town for a leisurely stroll. Any way you go, there's great shopping, food

and drink, sights and sounds in this walkable town.

6. Whimsical Shops. A distinctive town deserves distinctive shops. And so, for art, gifts, whimsy and glam you won't find elsewhere, two standouts are [Diving Cat Studio Gallery](#) (on Bridge) and [Lulu Boutique and Gifterie](#) (on Main). The Cat's jewelry and little heart chimes with pretty patterns are just the beginning of a captivating visit to the shop. Lulu's quirky vintage and resale clothing and accessories are stellar picks to add whimsy to your wardrobe and home, as well as a boon to the planet for reusing and repurposing. Allow plenty of time for both places — they're much too fascinating for a quick browse.

7. Chocolate. Yes, chocolate, full stop, is a reason to love Phoenixville. More specifically, [Bridge Street Chocolates](#), the holder of many "Best of" awards — and actually on Bridge Street — offers a bounty of delectable creations. For bourbon and whiskey tastings, try the honey whiskey crème caramel collaboration with local Bluebird Distilling. Or cover all your food groups with the fair trade, organic sunflower microgreen chocolate bar, packing carbs, protein (cacao *beans* must have protein, right?) and practically salad from microgreens into a sweet package. Revisit for the holidays to sample their homage to the 'Ville's Ferris wheel.

8. Phoenixville's Beer Supply. With roughly one brewery for every 3,000 or so residents and nearly two breweries for each of 3.5 square miles, Phoenixville can wet your whistle. We're counting [Root Down Brewing](#), [Rebel Hill Brewing](#), [Conshohocken Brewing's Rec Room](#), [Sly Fox Brewery](#), [Stable 12](#), [Steel City Coffeehouse & Brewery](#), [Twelve78 Brewing](#) and [Fun Dungeon](#), where you can also get mead. And that doesn't even include [Bluebird Distilling](#) for the hard stuff, [Bistro on Bridge](#) with its rooftop VW-bus bar, ever-popular [Sedona Taphouse](#) or the many other bars daring you to create your own self-guided bar crawl complete with plenty of food options for additional pairing.

9. Live Music. Look for jazz evenings featuring Philly-based and local artists on third and fourth Fridays at the [Fenix](#), curated by vinyl lounge [Forever Changes](#). When the weather's nice, keep an ear out for the tunes of saxophonist Brandon White. You'll hear notes of gospel, smooth jazz and classical tunes under the mural on Bridge and Main. Phoenixville's music scene offers live performances on and off stage, covering covers and originals in many styles at large venues like the [Colonial Theatre](#), intimate spaces, like [Steel City Coffeehouse](#), as well as the many bars in town. Phoenixville First's [PXV Inside Out Music Series](#) offers more tunes during warm months (ending October 4), and there's First Fridays for more.

10. Town Murals. Colorful murals turn downtown walls into an open-air gallery. Start your tour at Bridge and Starr Streets by the three-story [Welcome to Phoenixville](#) mural with colorful scenes inspired by the town and its industrial past. Next on to [Phoenix Rising](#) (aka Godzilla) mural at 131 Bridge Street, depicting a phoenix rising from the ashes of the town's past. Then to Bridge and Main Streets, site of the landmark [Phoenixville Mural](#), created in 1994 with imagery celebrating the iron-and-steel heritage and rivers.

11. Rainbow Crosswalks and More Public Art. Notice additional public art worth a separate shoutout. Head to where Bridge and Church Streets intersect. Though not as long as the Rainbow Road in Iceland, this spot's got just as much heart. Dance across the colors or simply stride in safety over the pedestrian walkways. There's more public art on utility boxes with splashes of local culture in paint — a landscape, a tribute to jazz and more. If you're lucky, as you walk along a sidewalk or back alley you'll stumble upon a piece of old cardboard or other repurposed surface with a fabulous original painted on it by David Gerbstadt. It's dropped to be taken and enjoyed — the finder is the keeper.

12. Close to Nature. Industrial towns like Phoenixville were often located near a river, which in this case is the Schuylkill. Not far from Bridge Street you find opportunities for kayaking,



8. Rec Room by Conshohocken Brewery Company
9. Saxophonist Brandon White
10. "Welcome to Phoenixville" mural
PHOTO CREDIT: MIKE IRBY





11



12



13

- 11. Black Rock Sanctuary
- 12. PXV Bed Races
- 13. Rainbow crosswalk at Bridge and Church Streets

fishing, birding and scenic walks along the riverfront and connected trails. The [Schuylkill River Trail](#) and [Schuylkill East Trail](#), which runs through town, make it easy to explore the landscape on foot or by bike. Just north of town, [Black Rock Sanctuary](#) is a 119-acre haven of wetlands, woodlands and meadows along the river. Once a coal-silt settling basin, it's now important wildlife habitat and a favorite spot for hiking and birdwatching. Trade the bustle of Bridge Street for a little fresh air and discover how much nature surrounds Phoenixville.

♥ **13. Seriously Good Food Scene.** For a town its size, Phoenixville offers an impressive range of restaurants — from Italian and Greek to Mexican, Korean, contemporary American and more. Add cafés, bakeries, bars and plenty of outdoor dining, and it's an easy place to make a meal the destination. Dine at one of the many favorites: [Avlos](#), [Il Granaio](#), [Pablo's Taqueria](#), [Soko Bag](#), [Guatemalan Kitchen](#), [Tai Me Up](#), plus [Great American Pub](#), [The Boardroom](#) and [Black Lab Bistro](#) for reliable American. Make plans to return to have a second helping.

♥ **14. PXV Bed Races.** Every great town needs some quirk, and this event fits the bill. Held on November 9 this year at Reeves Park, the bed races feature a whole lot of mattresses, but no one's snoozing. Contestants — helmeted riders on custom-built wheeled beds each propelled by four human pushers — compete in speed, decoration and amount of funds raised. The real winners are the beneficiaries of help from nonprofits working against housing insecurity and vulnerability.

♥ **15. Community Feel.** Perhaps the best reason to love Phoenixville is harder to put on a map: people here genuinely seem to participate in their town. Festivals, First Fridays, the farmers market, theater, local businesses and neighborhood traditions create the feeling of a place where people don't just live — they show up. ♦



Small Business, *BIG* Dreams

We have the resources you need to start, reinvent, or re-energize your business today!

**Mortgages | Construction Loans
Business Loans / Lines of Credit**

Questions about your business lending needs?

Contact our Commercial Lending Team
610.933.2655 | CMLReferral@phoenixfed.com



PhoenixFed.com



Reversing the Youth Reading Recession

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS ARE RELYING ON SCIENCE ... AND PARENTS

JP Phillips

MOST KIDS DON'T READ anymore. It's easy to point fingers at the Covid-19 pandemic, but the reality is more complicated.

This reading "recession" actually started over a decade ago. According to the federal government's Nation's Report Card, reading scores steadily increased from the 1970s to 2012, plateaued, and then started to slide after Covid. Just 14% of 13-year-olds self-reported that they read for fun nearly every day in 2023, versus 27% in 2012. Nationally, only 37% of fourth graders read at grade level.

What happened?

PHONICS DEEMPHASIZED

Up until the 1970s, teachers used phonics-based techniques — sounding out words — to teach children to read. Starting in the 1980s, phonics was deemphasized in favor of "cueing" strategies. In addition to phonics, young students memorized short "sight" words (such as the, see, and, play). They were also encouraged to guess unfamiliar words based on story pictures or sentence context.

Phonics slowly started making a comeback after a Department of Educa-

tion study in 2000 found that some of these old-school methods were most effective for early readers.

Yet teaching colleges have been slow to react to this change in philosophy. According to the National Council on Teacher Quality's 2023 report, half the colleges studied have not sufficiently changed instruction materials to adequately teach skill-based structured literacy (or "The Science of Reading") — phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension — and have not deemphasized cueing techniques.

TECHNOLOGY'S LURE

Television, videos, gaming, computers and cellphones own a major piece of how our youth spends their time. According to a study shared by the American Association of Pediatrics, children in early grades spend over 3½ hours per day on screens. Tweens (ages 8–13) spend 5½ hours and teens spend 8½ hours, which includes significant time on social media.

Sort snippets. Instant gratification. Why read a book?

THE SCIENTIFIC APPROACH

We asked independent schools in our

area about their approaches to reaching reading and what tips they have for parents to foster a love of reading in their children. All schools we interviewed confirmed their use of a scientific approach with evidence-based strategies that build on one another.

Kim Wagner, Head of Lower School at Tatnall School, emphasized using all skill areas in The Science of Reading. Phonics is the center, but the other skills, such as vocabulary, fluency and comprehension, are vital. "We know from research that having a robust vocabulary makes learning how to read much easier. We read [our students] great, robust books in preschool in kindergarten, because having that background knowledge and that robust vocabulary is going to help make the reading process, the phonics piece, so much easier."

LOVE OF READING

All schools agreed that teachers showing their love of literature by enthusiastically reading out loud is contagious, especially to younger children. It's an important part of every school day.

Katie Zuber of Kimberton Waldorf School said they strive to create a culture in

which reading is something children naturally want to do. "Of course, we want students to become capable, confident readers," Zuber said. "But we also want them to become the kind of people who reach for a book because they are curious, because they want to be transported somewhere, or because they want to understand something about themselves or the world."

Teachers also agreed that every child is different and may have different tastes in reading. Finding books that excite them can help open the door to becoming lifelong readers. "Our library is a central element of the lower school," said Chris Loeffler of Wilmington Friends School. "Classes visit consistently throughout the year to hear a read-aloud and check out books, and our librarians work hard to get to know our students and help them find books that interest them."

Wagner from Tatnall School said that reading unchallenging literature shouldn't be frowned upon. "Kid humor, graphic novels — they're not very meaty. But if that's all your child will read, and they're excited to get in that book and read it — that should be encouraged. As long as they're reading, they're building their knowledge, they're getting fluency practice, they're building their vocabulary."

LEARNING DIFFERENCE

"Nobody loves doing something that's really, really painful and difficult," said Jim Miller of Delaware Valley Friends School. That's why all of the schools try to spot challenges early on and apply appropriate intervention techniques. "A child who is not interested in reading — it doesn't necessarily mean that they don't care. It might mean that it's especially effortful for



1



2

them in ways that it isn't for the parent," he said.

Parents should always speak to the teacher about any concerns with reading skills. Schools have programs in place to provide the specific instruction to meet each child's needs.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP

Schools agree that students seeing their parents read sets a powerful example. "One of the most important things parents can do is model the behavior they hope to see," said Evan Lober of Upland Country Day School. "When children see adults reading for enjoyment, curiosity or learning, they

understand that reading is not simply something they are required to do for school." Set aside family time devoted to reading physical books and model how to build reading into one's daily life.

"Parents can take that a step further by reading the same book as their child," Lober added. "A shared book creates natural opportunities for conversation. Parents can ask what surprised them, which character they connected with, or whether they interpreted a part of the story differently. These conversations help strengthen comprehension while making reading feel like a shared experience rather than another assignment or test."

- Local schools are embracing the skills-based “Science of Reading”
- Parents can help by making reading a regular part of the family’s home routine

Teachers Casey Lyons and Kristen Thomas from Media-Providence Friends suggest making reading a regular part of the home routine. “Encourage children to read every day, listen to them read, ask questions about what they are reading, and talk about books together. Reading aloud to children — even older children — continues to build vocabulary,



3



4

What’s Happing In Pennsylvania

Pennsylvania changed Act 47 of the Public School Code to mandate statewide requirements related to structured literacy techniques, effective spring 2027. It requires professional development, updated curriculum materials, universal screenings and reading interventions for students in kindergarten through third grade.

This year the Pennsylvania House and Senate passed similar bell-to-bell cellphone bans for K-12 public schools. Governor Shapiro urged lawmakers to send him a final bill to sign. Note: Many schools have already adopted their own cellphone policies.

comprehension and a love of reading. Going to the library to select engaging books nurtures a love of reading.”

Calamaro of Delaware Valley Friends said, “If you’re trying to transition your child away from screens, a Kindle might be the way to go — give them Kindle screen time.” He also suggests books with the accompanying audio, which can make reading easier for those who have decoding or fluency challenges.

Wagner from Tatnall School had a tip that wouldn’t embarrass older students who struggle to read — turn on closed captioning on TV. “Your eyes can’t help but to look down at those words when they’re on the TV screen. And so, they’re hearing it and they’re seeing it,” she said.

Parents shouldn’t get discouraged if their child seems to be struggling. Always talk to the teacher. Have additional testing done if recommended.

“Some children are just slower to pick up reading skills, and it doesn’t mean it’s not coming. It’s just a little bit slower than their peers, and that’s okay. Phonics, reading fluency,” Wagner said. “It’s like riding a bike: once you know how to do it, you can always do it. Once you’ve cracked the code, you can read.” ♦

“Thank you DV, for supporting me throughout these six years and for giving me memories, friendships, and opportunities that I will carry with me to my next chapter.”

– EMMA
Class of 2026

Delaware Valley Friends School
19 E Central Avenue | Paoli, PA 19301 | 610-640-4150



Delaware Valley Friends School is one of the nation’s best schools for bright students who learn differently, guided by the Quaker commitment to uplift and honor every student’s inherent worth. We empower bright students to grow with confidence, learn with joy, and move forward prepared for success in learning and life.

DVFriends
GRADES 1-12

THE VANGUARD SCHOOL & SERVICES

Programs for Neurodiverse Children & Adults

The Vanguard School was the first approved special education school in Pennsylvania. We serve approximately 235 students who require a high degree of individualized attention, clinical supports and intervention, including those with autism spectrum disorders, developmental disabilities, speech-language deficits and students who experience social-emotional, executive functioning and behavioral difficulties. Most of our students receive school district and state funding to cover tuition costs.

Vanguard students enjoy many of the cherished experiences offered at typical schools, such as STEM, art, music and horticultural classes, school musicals, talent shows, Homecoming, community trips, Senior class trips to Disney World, and more. Vanguard also has a robust vocational program for off-campus job experiences, as well as an on-campus jobs program that includes a student-run coffee and meal shop, auto detailing center and package delivery warehouse so students can gain real-world work experiences as part of their school day.



admissions@vsspa.org

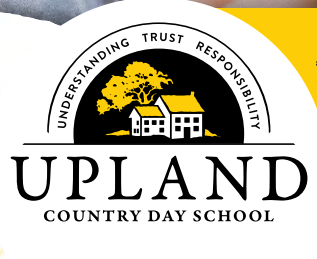
610.296.6700 x128

vsspa.org



Experience
UPLAND

KENNETT SQUARE, PA

Open House
OCTOBER 21ST • 6-7 P.M.

Preschool through 9th Grade
ACADEMICS • ATHLETICS • ARTS • ATTITUDE

uplandcds.org




Devereux | PA
CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Since 1912, Devereux has offered outstanding and innovative educational programming across Southeast Pennsylvania. Our small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction/support in a safe/therapeutic setting for students with a wide variety of learning differences.

Educational Services

- Approved Private Schools* located in Audubon, Downingtown, Landenberg, Malvern and West Chester
- Assessments/Evaluations
- Residential Treatment for Children/Adolescents
- School-based Consultation and Support with Subject Matter Expertise in the areas of Autism Support
- Behavior and Classroom Management and Multi-Tiered Support

*PDE 4010 funding available to eligible students

Additional Services

- Acute Psychiatric Hospital for Children and Adolescents
- Outpatient Services
- Family-Based Services
- Blended Case Management

CONTACT US
DEVEREUXPA.ORG | (267) 418-9623
PAEducationReferrals@devereux.org

GUIDE TO Private, Independent Schools & Education Services

PENNSYLVANIA

Bryn Mawr

The Agnes Irwin School

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

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

All-School Open House: Oct. 21, 6 pm

Athletics Open House: Nov. 5, 7 pm

Touring Tuesdays: Oct. 6 & 27, Nov. 3 & 17, Dec. 8, Jan. 12, Feb. 9, Mar. 2, Apr. 20, May 11



Kennett Square

Upland Country Day School

420 W. Street Rd.

610-444-3035; UplandCDS.org

Upland is an independent, coed, nonsectarian day school in Kennett Square, serving preschool through 9th grade. Guided by their pillars of Academics, Athletics, Arts and Attitude, students grow, explore and lead with confidence and character. In this community, every student is known, loved and valued, challenged to grow, and given the best possible start to a lifetime of learning.

Autumn Open House: Oct. 21, 6–7 pm

Register at UplandCDS.org/OpenHouse



Malvern

Villa Maria Academy High School

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

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

Fall Open House: Oct. 4, 9 am to 12:30 pm

8th Grade Entrance-Scholarship Exam: Sept. 26 & Oct. 18, 8:30 am to noon

8th Grade Visit Villa Days: Sept. 21 & 28, Oct. 6 & 26, Nov. 3 & 17



Villa Maria Academy Lower School

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

With a legacy of over 150 years of empowering young women through leadership and service, at Villa Maria Academy Lower School, they strive to maintain a culture rooted in the charism of the IHM Sisters, which is love, creative hope and fidelity. In their preschool through 8th grade environment, Villa provides girls with the confidence to lead, the academic foundation to excel, and the character to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Open House: (Preschool–Gr. 8): Oct. 15, Nov. 11, Feb. 3, Mar. 17

Private Tours available. Register at VillaMaria.org



Ensuring that children and families **Start Healthy, Stay Healthy, & Succeed in School** since 1991.




Maternal and Child Health Consortium

Visit us at ccmhc.org



Early Detection Saves Lives!

Did you know breast cancer is one of the most common cancers affecting women in the U.S.? This October, Roxborough Memorial Hospital invites you to take action. Schedule your mammogram and join us in raising awareness and fighting against breast cancer. Your health is worth it!

Scan the QR Code to Discover Our Exciting Specials!



 **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**
(215) 483-9900 | roxboroughmemorial.com




The Walden School
901 N. Providence Road, Media, PA 19063

One School, One Journey

From 16 months through fifth grade, Walden nurtures curious, confident, capable learners. Our Montessori preschool gives children a hands-on foundation in independence, concentration, and joyful learning. As students move into elementary school, they build on that foundation through a collaborative academic program designed to develop communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. By fifth grade, Walden students are academically prepared, confident in who they are, and ready to thrive in middle school.

Admissions Open Houses
Sun. Nov. 1 | 1:00-3:00 P.M.
Sat. Jan. 9 | 10:00-Noon
Sun. Feb. 7 | 1:00-3:00 P.M.

For more information
thewaldenschool.org/tour
(610)892-8000



Media

The Walden School
901 N. Providence Rd.
610-892-8000; TheWaldenSchool.org



From 16 months through 5th grade, Walden nurtures curious, confident, capable learners. The Montessori preschool gives children a hands-on foundation in independence, concentration and joyful learning. As students move into elementary school, they build on that foundation through a collaborative academic program designed to develop communication, critical thinking and problem-solving skills. By 5th grade, Walden students are academically prepared, confident in who they are and ready to thrive in middle school.

Open Houses: Nov. 1 & Feb. 7, 1 to 3 pm; Jan. 9, 10 am to noon



Newtown Square



Episcopal Academy
1785 Bishop White Dr.
484-424-1400; EpiscopalAcademy.org

Since 1785, The Episcopal Academy has prepared bold leaders in mind, body and spirit. Students thrive through rigorous academics, character education, championship athletics and award-winning arts on a 123-acre campus. With personalized college counseling and a coeducational model that reflects the real world, EA graduates step confidently into life—joining accomplished alumni who are driven by purpose and curiosity.

Lower School Open House (Pre-K–5th grade): Oct. 24
Middle & Upper School Open House (6th–12th grade): Oct. 17
Register at EpiscopalAcademy.org/Events



Guide to Private Schools

DELAWARE

Wilmington

The Tatnall School
1501 Barley Mill Rd.
302-998-2292; Tatnall.org



At Tatnall, students from age 2 through grade 12 experience an exceptional education that unlocks their passion for learning. Every student has opportunities to explore endless possibilities through challenging academic, artistic and athletic programs. The devoted teachers, coaches and community members are the driving force behind the school's success. The strong bonds formed at Tatnall between students and educators foster devotion to learning, enabling students to unleash their full potential and nurture their great minds.

Middle & Upper School Open House (Gr. 5–12): Oct. 3
Early Childhood Open House & Harvest Hayride (Age 2–PreK): Oct. 17
Lower School Open House & Trunk or Treat (Gr. K–4): Oct. 28



LEARNING DIFFERENCES AND SPECIAL EDUCATION

Malvern

The Vanguard School & Services
1777 N. Valley Rd. 610-296-6700; VSSPA.org



The Vanguard School and Services provides educational, recreational and vocational programs for neurodiverse children and adults. Founded in 1959 as Pennsylvania's first publicly-funded special education school, Vanguard serves approximately 235 students from 55 school districts. Students also receive clinical, transition and vocational support. Vanguard Recreation Services extends their mission through an inclusive school-age summer camp and year-round social activities for adults that are open to the public. Schedule a tour today



Discover
VILLA MARIA ACADEMY
LOWER SCHOOL




Preschool – 8th grade
October 15
November 11
www.villamaria.org



Agnes Irwin knows girls.
AND WE'RE READY TO KNOW YOU.



All-School Open House
PreK-Grade 12
October 21, 6 p.m.

Athletics Open House
Grades 5-12
November 5, 7 p.m.



The **Agnes Irwin School**
Be Known VisitAIS.org

The Episcopal Academy
INSPIRING
TOMORROW'S LEADERS
—since 1785—




explore EA at
OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, Oct. 17 grades 6-12
Saturday, Oct. 24 grades PK-5
episcopalacademy.org | Independent | PK - 12 | Co-ed | Newtown Square

NEED MORE SCHOOL INFO?
Visit our website for the latest on private schools, school sports, summer camps and more!



CountyLinesMagazine.com

Paoli

Delaware Valley Friends School
19 E. Central Ave. 610-640-4150; DVFriends.org



Delaware Valley Friends School is guided by the Quaker commitment to uplift and honor every student's inherent worth and unique potential. Through evidence-based teaching in a community that fosters deep relationships, they empower bright students in grades 1-12 who learn differently to grow with confidence, learn with joy and move forward prepared for success in learning and life.
School Tours: Sept. 29, Nov. 11, Dec. 1, 9 am
Oct. 13, Nov. 19, 1 pm
Information Sessions: Nov. 1, 1 pm; Dec. 10, 8:45 am



Multiple Locations

Chester County Intermediate Unit Child & Career Development Center
484-237-5000; CCIU.org



The Child and Career Development Center (CCDC) provides a caring, nurturing learning environment for K-12+ students with high support needs. With campuses in Coatesville, West Grove and Great Valley, they serve learners in Chester County and beyond. Dedicated staff provide services such as behavior support, autistic support, speech and language, multi-disability support, occupational therapy, physical therapy and more. Learn more at CCIU.org



Devereux Pennsylvania Children's Services
267-418-9623
PAEducationReferrals@Devereux.org
Enrolling kindergarten through grade 12 in six PDE-approved Private Schools in Chester and Montgomery Counties. Small classroom ratios allow for individualized instruction/support in a safe and therapeutic setting for students with a variety of learning/emotional differences. Full-time mental health clinicians, Wilson reading intervention services and reading specialists in all schools. Devereux nurtures students' potential with school-wide Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports and offers community-based instruction, school-based mental health and related services. PDE 4010 funding available. Schedule a tour today



NEED MORE FAMILY FUN?
Find the best local events in print, online and in our Events Newsletter for the whole family to enjoy.



CountyLinesMagazine.com

Fernbank Farm

SERENE SERPENTINE ESTATE IN BIRMINGHAM TOWNSHIP

Laurel Anderson

“THIS IS ACTUALLY THE FIRST house we’ve owned,” said the wife of the lucky couple who’ve lived for nine years at Fernbank Farm — the stately manor home on Birmingham Road’s so-called serpentine corridor. She chuckled while explaining the unusual circumstances of this “starter home.” The couple had rented apartments while living abroad for 20 years, the first 10 in Asia the remainder in Europe.

“We were living in Paris when I made a two-day house-hunting trip and fell in love with this property,” she continued. “It was the European aesthetic that attracted me — the look of Italian stone, the many architectural details and superb craftsmanship everywhere. Just look at these floors!”

The stunning, intricate designs of wood floors throughout the home include

herringbone, chevron, octagonal, even original 18th-century heart pine floors with exposed nails. That’s just one striking detail of this unique six-bedroom, four-and-a-half bath, three-story home on six acres — with two hundred conserved neighboring acres — that’s as rich in history as in architectural features.

HISTORY AND OWNERS

Dating to the 1790s and constructed with thick walls of green serpentine stone from nearby Brinton’s Quarry, the original core of the home retains charming period details carefully preserved by centuries of owners.

Significantly expanded around 1846, the home became the summer residence of Dr. James Cheston Morris, a prominent Philadelphia physician and scientist

known for his work with purebred Devon cattle and for pioneering methods of bottling milk, making use of the onsite icehouse (more on that later). Dr. Morris’s interests extended to horticulture, cultivating a grove of legacy trees and perennial landscaping that enhance the property today.

Subsequent owners added modern amenities such as a family room with cathedral ceiling, light-filled breakfast room, as well as necessary upgrades to the mechanical systems (electrical, HVAC, gas fireplaces).

The current owners took on projects of their own — reclaiming and improving the neglected saltwater swimming pool, installing imported French marble fireplace mantels, plus converting the icehouse into a spectacular multi-level wine cellar.

TOUR OF THE HOME

The gracious foyer sets the tone, displaying period details and exceptional craftsmanship while showcasing unique herringbone walnut-and-chestnut floors, crown-glass windows and a grand mahogany staircase.

To the right, enter the spacious library, complete with oak built-in bookshelves, an original slate fireplace, bay window and octagonal-patterned hardwood floors.

Farther down the hall is a grand double living room, anchored by a wood-burning fireplace with a herringbone firebox. This formal space boasts more octagonal-patterned floors, a rare 19th-century imported Campan Rubané Breccia marble mantel, crystal chandelier, and elegant French doors opening to the welcoming wraparound

veranda. “The veranda is where I drink coffee and work,” said the wife. “And it’s where we enjoy our meals most of the year,” added the husband.

At the far end of the hall find a charming powder room with an antique “money window,” as well as the dining room in the original 1790s section of the house, complete with heart pine floors, 1840s French marble fireplace and hidden stairway.

Next is the thoroughly updated chef’s kitchen with marble island, solid walnut countertops, top-of-the-line appliances and French limestone floors. Step down to the adjacent sunroom with cathedral ceiling, built-in entertainment center, floor-to-ceiling doors bringing in the outdoors, garden views and sunlight to this favorite gathering space with sunset views.

Adjoining the kitchen through an archway flanked by columns is a bright breakfast room, with doors to a terrace and gardens for more outdoor dining. This inviting room is also the entryway to a hidden gem.

Beyond an iron railing, down stone stairs, then a spiral cast iron staircase, you’ll discover that Dr. Morris’s stone icehouse was restored and transformed into a stunning two-level natural wine cellar, tasting room, bar and entertainment area. Features include a dumbwaiter, mercury glass, iron sconces plus original salvaged brick and millstones. One of the most charming and eclectic features of the home is also one of the most historically important rooms.

The upper floors boast six bedrooms — three bedrooms, three full baths with radiant floors and two more fireplaces on





the second floor, with three additional bedrooms and another full bath on the third. The spacious, sunny primary bedroom suite features high ceilings, a converted gas fireplace, jacuzzi tub in the primary bathroom and a walk-in closet (double cedar closets are on the third floor).

Practical elegance and modern luxury continue outdoors with more amenities. A magnificent wraparound veranda, surrounded by banks of ferns, looks out over easy-to-maintain, old-growth perennial gardens that bloom from March to October. In warmer months, a heated saltwater pool with bluestone deck and a jacuzzi offer a unique infinity view over the rolling hills and protected, conserved land.

When asked what they'd miss most about Fernbank Farm, the couple agreed: the veranda, the views, the country estate with a county-club lifestyle. And, of course, that wine cellar. ♦

For more about this 6-bedroom, 4.5-bath historic serpentine home with 3-car garage, studio, saltwater pool on 6 acres (bordered by conserved properties) in Birmingham Township and Unionville-Chadds Ford School District, contact Stephen Gross of The Holly Gross Group, Berkshire Hathaway, Fox & Roach, 610-430-3030 (office), 484-883-0681 (cell); HollyGrossGroup.com. Unionville-Chadds Ford schools. Price upon request.

Food News

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

Cheers to the Wheel. Root Down Brewing rolled out Phoenix Wheel, a new American pale ale created in collaboration with Schuylkill River Heritage to celebrate and raise funds for the borough's historic 133-year-old Phoenix



Wheel. Light, crisp and pale golden, the 5.3% ABV beer features citrusy hops and low bitterness. A second version followed: Phoenix Wheel II, a wheat beer with citrus notes and an oat body. Find both at Root Down and select local spots. 1 N. Main St., Phoenixville. RootDownBrewing.com

Pasta Buffet.

On Thursday nights, upstairs at **Northbrook MarketPlace**, you'll find a surprise — an all-you-can-eat Italian buffet, featuring cavatappi and linguini with rotating



sauses, chicken Marsala, meatballs, eggplant Parmesan, lasagna, homemade pizza, salads, garlic bread and desserts. BYOB and be sure to snag an apple cider donut. 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. \$25.95/person, \$12.50/kids. Reservations recommended. 1805 Unionville-Wawaset Rd., West Chester. NorthbrookMarketplace.com

Beyond Sushi. New to Malvern's Worthington Center, **EGAWA Japanese Dining** delivers an elegant, modern take on Japanese cuisine. The menu showcases premium sushi, sashimi, hand rolls, signature rolls, robata skewers and Japanese entrées, emphasizing fresh seafood and traditional techniques. Plus chef's selections or omakase (\$100). The serene dining room makes for a zen experience. 650 Carnegie Blvd. EgawaMalvern.com



MexVen? A new Mexican and Venezuelan restaurant joined the mix in downtown West Chester. **Los Sombreros** recently opened in the short-lived Bored Trading Café spot, now serving tacos, burritos, enchiladas and other Mexican favorites alongside Venezuelan specialties (hoping to see arepas, cachapas and more). The casual spot offers dine-in and takeout, with a menu designed for a quick lunch or a relaxed dinner. 139 W. Gay St. LosSombreros.com

Bardea Bonus. Ready for a modern coastal Mediterranean restaurant rooted in the vibrant flavors, warm hospitality and ingredient-driven cooking? Then head for **Ezme**, the newest concept from Bardea Restaurant Group's Chef Antimo DiMeo, just across the street from the original Bardea Food and Drink. Savor dishes with pistachios, honey tahini, za'atar to accompany your kababs, lamb kefta and baklava tart. Or seven-course tasting menu (\$125). 625 N. Market St., Wilmington. EzmeWilmington.com



Pickle Perfect

TAKE TIME TO PRESERVE THE SEASON

Liz Tarditi

IT'S OCTOBER, SO FOR SPOOKY SEASON, I'M GOING to scare you — just a little.

In John Steinbeck's "East of Eden," the plot to murder Faye begins on a mid-October afternoon. The truly terrifying Cathy Ames disguises her cold-blooded poisoning by blaming a single bad jar of home-canned string beans. The doctor falls for the ruse, chalking the violent illness up to botulism, and Cathy ultimately gets away with murder.

Still with me? Cool. Now let's make pickles!

Fortunately, our story has a much nicer protagonist. Rich O'Donnell of **OD's Goodies** started where many great food businesses do: making something people love. What began during retirement as a way to turn surplus backyard garden produce into thoughtful homemade gifts quickly took on a life of its own. "I love gardening," O'Donnell said. "And a friend encouraged me saying, 'Christmas is coming, and let's just see what happens.' If I'd known, I would have left banking 30 years ago."

The response was overwhelming. Today, O'Donnell still hand-makes every small batch from his home kitchen, using charming jar labels designed by a high school friend of his wife.



OD's Goodies

Scaling up meant learning how to turn that passion into a licensed business and produce food safely.

O'Donnell sought guidance from the PA Department of Agriculture and Penn State Extension and studied established recipes. His words of wisdom are straightforward: "I listen to what they tell me." Knowing when to experiment and when to consult an expert is one of the most useful skills any cook can develop.

That approach has deep Pennsylvania roots. Benjamin Franklin inspired the Philadelphia Society for Promoting Agriculture, founded in 1785, to discover and share better scientific farming practices.

Meanwhile, something delicious has happened. Pickles went from invisible to artisanal. The humble spear beside a sandwich has become a culinary fascination. But the modern pickle revival isn't just chefs throwing exotic things into vinegar. It's renewed interest in the craft — acidity, fermentation, texture, flavor balance, seasonality and preservation. Plus interest in wasting less food and making food dollars stretch.

OD's Goodies operates primarily wholesale, but local shoppers can find O'Donnell at the Christmas Bazaar at Our Lady of the Assumption in Strafford on November 7 and the German Christmas Market in Phoenixville on November 21.

O'Donnell gets us started with recipes for Bread & Butter Pickles, Dill Pickles and Spicy Bread & Butter Pickles. Then we venture beyond cucumbers.

Think of these recipes as an invitation to start your own journey. Check your sources, understand the technique, then get creative. The pickle jar has plenty of room for both science and imagination — and that's where the magic begins.

Bread & Butter Pickles

Rich O'Donnell passed this recipe along the old-fashioned way — handwritten on an index card. You don't get more authentic than that! This recipe is the template for the skill of pickling and canning safely and makes a batch that's manageable for homemade gifts and pantry storage.



Yields 7 pint jars

- 4 lbs. 4"-6" cucumbers, trimmed and sliced
- 2 lbs. onions, thinly sliced
- 1/3 C. Ball Salt for Pickling
- Ice, as needed
- 2 C. sugar
- 2 T. mustard seed
- 1 tsp. peppercorns
- 3 C. white vinegar, 5% acidity
- 7/8 tsp. Ball Pickle Crisp, divided

Wash cucumbers and trim 1/16" from blossom ends. Slice cucumbers and thinly slice onions. Combine cucumbers and onions in a large bowl and sprinkle with pickling salt. Cover with ice and refrigerate 3 to 4 hours. Drain well.

Combine sugar, mustard seed, peppercorns and vinegar in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add drained cucumbers and onions and return to a boil.

Pack hot pickles and liquid into prepared pint jars, leaving 1/2" headspace. Add 1/8 tsp. Pickle Crisp to each jar. Apply lids, *taking care not to overtighten*.

Place jars on a steel rack in a boiling-water canner, with water covering jars by at least 1 inch. Process 10 minutes.* Turn off heat and

let jars stand in canner for 5 minutes. Remove jars from canner and cool undisturbed for 12 hours.

*Chef's Note: Processing time varies with elevation, and 10 minutes is correct for our Brandywine Valley region. At higher elevations, consult current National Center for Home Food Preservation guidelines.

Dill Pickles

This recipe from O'Donnell is a great counterpoint to the Bread and Butter Pickles because you arrange the spears in the jars and then pour in the hot brine, in a quick, neat, safe process that you can apply to other tested recipes for long produce such as asparagus, green beans, carrots or watermelon rinds. Imagine the "hot mess" if you tried it the other way!



Yields 7 pint jars or 3 quart jars

- 8 lbs. 4"-6" cucumbers, trimmed and cut into spears
- 3/4 C. sugar
- 1/2 C. Ball Salt for Pickling
- 1 qt. white vinegar, 5% acidity
- 1 C. water
- Dried dill, as needed
- Ball Pickle Crisp, as needed

Wash cucumbers and trim 1/16" from blossom ends. Cut cucumbers lengthwise into spears.

Combine sugar, pickling salt, vinegar and water in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar and salt dissolve. Reduce heat and simmer for 15 minutes.



Safety First

Good cooks improvise, but smart canners know when not to. For shelf-stable pickles, begin with a research-tested recipe from a trusted source such as Penn State Extension or the National Center for Home Food Preservation, then follow it carefully. The proportions of produce, liquid and acid, the size of the pieces and the processing time all matter.

Check the vinegar bottle, too. For home pickling, use vinegar labeled at least 5% acidity, and never reduce or dilute the vinegar unless your tested recipe specifically directs you to. Homemade vinegar has variable acidity and shouldn't be substituted in canning recipes.

Finally, respect processing times and adjust them for elevation when necessary. Safe preserving isn't about being afraid of the jar. It's about understanding the science well enough to cook confidently.

Follow those rules, and that takes the spooky-scary right out of the dilly bean jar.

Pack cucumber spears into prepared jars. Add dried dill to each jar. Pour hot pickling liquid over cucumbers, leaving ½" headspace. Add ⅛ tsp. Pickle Crisp to each pint jar. Apply lids, taking care not to overtighten.

Process jars in a boiling-water canner as directed for Rich O'Donnell's Bread & Butter Pickles.*

Spicy Bread & Butter Pickles

This isn't simply the original Bread & Butter recipe with some heat tossed in. Adding peppers changes the balance, so Rich O'Donnell adjusts the seasoning accordingly. There's plenty of room for creativity in pickling, but when preserving food for pantry storage, start with a tested recipe from a trusted source — then play safely within its guidelines.

Yields 7 pint jars

4 lbs. 4"-6" cucumbers, trimmed and sliced
2 lbs. onions, thinly sliced
½ C. Ball Salt for Pickling
Ice, as needed
2 C. sugar
2 T. mustard seed
1 C. hot or chili peppers, sliced
3 C. white vinegar, 5% acidity
⅞ tsp. Ball Pickle Crisp, divided

Wash cucumbers and trim ¼" from blossom ends. Slice cucumbers and thinly slice onions. Combine cucumbers and onions in a large bowl and sprinkle with pickling salt. Cover with ice and refrigerate 3 to 4 hours. Drain well.

Combine sugar, mustard seed, peppers and vinegar in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add drained



cucumbers and onions and return to a boil.

Pack hot pickles, peppers and liquid into prepared pint jars, leaving ½" headspace. Add ⅛ tsp. Pickle Crisp to each jar. Apply lids, taking care not to overtighten.

Process jars in a boiling-water canner as directed for Rich O'Donnell's Bread & Butter Pickles.*

Pickled Grapes

Here's proof that a pickle isn't a cucumber! These sweet-tart grapes require no canning at all. A quick refrigerator pickle transforms fresh grapes into bright little bursts of acidity, perfect for a cheese board, charcuterie platter or autumn salad.

Yields about 1 quart



1 lb. seedless red grapes
1 C. apple cider vinegar
½ C. water
½ C. sugar
1 tsp. mustard seed
1 tsp. black peppercorns
2 whole star anise

Wash grapes and remove from stems. Place grapes in a clean 1-quart jar or other covered, nonreactive container.

Combine vinegar, water, sugar, mustard seed, peppercorns and star anise in a small saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat and let cool slightly.

Pour warm brine over grapes, making sure grapes are submerged. Let cool to room temperature. Cover and refrigerate at least 24 hours before serving. Keep refrigerated and use within 3 months.

Chef's Note: These are refrigerator pickles, not canned preserves. Keep refrigerated throughout storage.

Spiced Pickled Pears

Checking your recipe is the pro move when it comes to preserving. For these autumn beauties, we turned to the experts: a tested recipe from University of Georgia, shared by Oregon State University Extension, and Penn State Extension's recommendation of petite Seckel pears for pickling. We've adapted the recipe form "So Easy to Preserve." Sweet, warmly spiced and decidedly October, they're delicious alongside cheese, ham or roast pork.



Yields about 4 pint jars
3½ lbs. firm Seckel pears (available October-February)
2½ C. sugar
1¼ C. white vinegar, 5% acidity
1 C. water
2 tsp. dried whole ginger
2 T. whole cloves
7, 3" cinnamon sticks

Wash and peel pears. Leave Seckel pears whole, with stems intact, if desired. To prevent browning, place peeled pears in acidulated water until ready to use. Drain well.

Pickling Isn't Canning

A pickle isn't a cucumber. It's a process. And pickling and canning aren't interchangeable terms.

Quick pickles use added acid, usually vinegar, to create their characteristic tang. Refrigerator pickles, like our Pickled Grapes recipe, stay refrigerated and never enter a canner. Shelf-stable pickles combine a tested acidic recipe with proper heat processing so sealed jars can be safely stored in the pantry.

Fermentation takes another route. In traditional sauerkraut and fermented pickles, beneficial bacteria convert naturally occurring sugars into lactic acid over time. Instead of pouring all the acid into the jar, you're creating conditions that allow it to develop. Salt, proportions, temperature and time still matter, so tested recipes are important here, too.

In other words, something can be pickled without being canned, canned without being pickled, or both pickled and canned.



Combine sugar, vinegar, water, dried ginger, cloves and cinnamon sticks in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add pears and simmer gently until heated through and tender but still firm.

Pack hot pears into prepared pint jars. Cover with hot pickling syrup, leaving ½" headspace. Remove air bubbles and adjust headspace if necessary. Apply lids, taking care not to overtighten.

Place jars on a rack in a boiling-water canner, with water covering jars by at least 1 inch. Process 15 minutes.* Turn off heat and let jars stand in canner for 5 minutes. Remove jars from canner and cool undisturbed.

**Chef's Note:* Processing time varies with elevation, and 15 minutes reflects our Brandywine Valley region. At higher elevations, consult current National Center for Home Food Preservation or Extension guidelines. ♦

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.



Index to Advertisers

Look for *County Lines* at Main Point Books, at Events and Affiliates.
Check our website's Get A Copy page.

County Lines is available at the following
advertisers. See our Advertiser Directory on
CountyLinesMagazine.com.

The Agnes Irwin School.....56	Gordon Eadie Landscaping.....47	Prime Healthcare PA.....54
Berkshire Hathaway Fox Roach / Holly Gross Group4-5	Harrison Senior Living.....14	Rittenhouse Builders.....10
Brandywine Zoo22	Historic Sugartown.....20	Roxborough Memorial Hospital.....54
Chester County Intermediate Unit21	Key Financial.....3	Schuylkill Valley Regional Dance Co.47
The Colonial Theatre47	Keystone Gun-Krete Concrete Lifting.....66	Tatnall School67
Delaware Museum of Nature & Science31	King Construction.....14	Tower Health.....41
Delaware Valley Friends School.....51	Limerick Pharmacy41	Upland Country Day School52
The Desmond Malvern40	Maternal & Child Health Consortium54	Vanguard School & Services.....51
Devereux Pennsylvania Children's Services52	McComsey Builders.....24	Villa Maria Academy High School.....6
DiSabatino Landscaping.....2	Michael Cook Jeweler23	Villa Maria Academy Lower School.....56
E.C. Trethewey Building Contractors.....31	Monument / Sotheby's Int'l Realty K. Nader.....7	The Walden School.....54
Episcopal Academy56	Natural Landsback cover	
Experience Prince George's31	Paradise Station.....17	
Freedom Village at Brandywine24	Pennsylvania Hunt Cup.....12	
	Phoenixville Federal Bank & Trust.....47	

*This Index is provided as an additional
service to our advertisers. County Lines
takes no responsibility for errors.*



Experience the **JOYFUL EXCELLENCE** of a Tatnall Education

Visit our 110-acre campus this fall!

Middle and Upper School Open House October 3 from 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.
Grades 5 - 12

Meet the students, teachers, and school leaders who make Tatnall exceptional. Ask questions, enjoy one-on-one conversations, and discover how academic excellence and the strength of The Family School create an experience where every student is known, challenged, and inspired to thrive. See the Tatnall community in action for our home football game following the Open House.

Lower School Open House October 28 from 4:00 - 5:15 p.m.
Kindergarten - Grade 4

Explore the spaces where curiosity grows, confidence takes root, and joyful learning comes to life. Tour our Lower School, connect with school leaders and current parents, and experience the warmth of The Family School. Then stay to enjoy one of our favorite community traditions: Trunk or Treat.

Early Childhood Open House October 17 from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m.
Age 2 - Pre-K

Experience the joy, wonder, and belonging that define Tatnall's Early Childhood program. Meet our teachers, explore our learning spaces, and connect with current families as you discover what makes The Family School so special. Stay after to join current families for our Harvest Hayride on campus!

Register or schedule a personal tour at tatnall.org/visit

LIFT & LEVEL

YOUR EXISTING CONCRETE

DON'T REPLACE. LIFT & SAVE!

We Lift Commercial & Residential:

- Sidewalks
- Pool Decks
- Patios
- Porches
- Garage Floors

Since 1980

KEYSTONE GUN-KRETE LLC

CONCRETE PUMPING

717-768-3641

KeystoneGun-Krete.com