COUNTY LINES
MAGAZINE
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West Chester, PA

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**

Natural
Lands
land for life. nature for all.

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

NOVEMBER 2026

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

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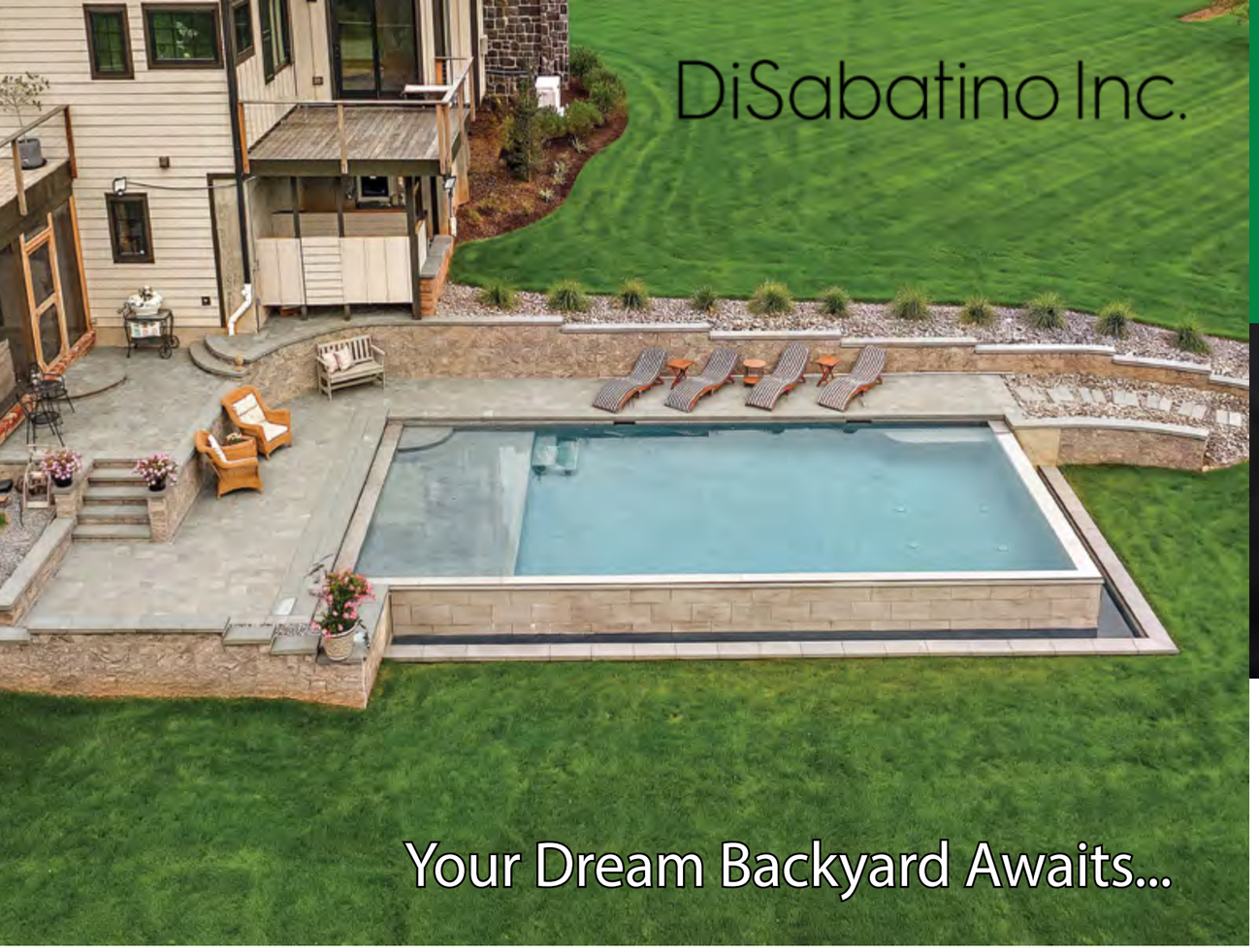





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AdvisorHub 50 Women RIAs To Watch 2026

AdvisorHub Advisors To Watch Over $1B 2026

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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.com in June 2026 for the time period 1/1/2025 – 12/31/2025 was awarded to women advisors who manage over $150mnin 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/AUA. This award honors firms that have gone above and beyond in leading a firm that has introduced a new approach or framework to their segment of financial services, which address clients (or the broader market for advice) in a novel way via insights that can, ideally, be shown to have both a qualitative and quantitative impact - and can serve as a model of industry excellence and achievement. Examples include - but are not limited to - podcasts, webcasts, social media campaigns and white papers. 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, review of best practices, credentials, compliance records, firm nominations, assets under management, and 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, review of best practices, credentials, compliance records, firm nominations, assets under management, and 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.



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Serpentine Mansion with Unparalleled Architectural Detail

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

$3,300,000



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

NEW LISTING



Bayard Taylor's Celebrated Historic Home

Cedarcroft is the home of renowned author Bayard Taylor and arguably one of the most celebrated historic homes in the tri-state area. Cedarcroft remains an exceptional example of its period, thoughtfully updated while retaining the character and grandeur that define this remarkable property. Updates include new roof, updated electrical, geothermal heating/cooling system, public water and sewer, new kitchen, laundry and powder room. Unionville Schools.

$3,100,000

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.

$2,550,000

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



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

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SOLD



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

UNDER CONTRACT



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

NEW PRICE



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!

$668,000

If you have questions or would like to visit any of our listings, please contact us at

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from the EDITOR

Summer's in the rearview as we blast into November — busy with fun, holiday prep and a full calendar of events.

Let's start by exploring. We've been fans of Kennett Square for years, so Ed Malet is sharing "Eight Reasons to Love Kennett Square & Chadds Ford" — from greenspace to mushrooms to horses and more.

Next, explore upcoming musical performances. Shannon Montgomery's got what's on the program for local musical groups as they tune up for the season in "The Soundtrack to Fall." Laurel Anderson explores 44+ acres at Peace by Piece Farm in Chester Springs. This month's "Dream Home" is a luxury country estate with a turnkey equestrian facility.

Need an unforgettable holiday gift? Cara Corridoni suggests "The Gift of a Memorable Day" — think polo match, cooking class or a trip to a hidden gem. And for the Thanksgiving table, Brandywine Table's Liz Tarditi take a closer look at bread in "The Upper Crust" and how this humble course can be a star — or an edible cornucopia.

Meanwhile, in Brandywine Stories, Kim Andrews recounts ways to show up for history and the people who collect, preserve and tell it. Read about them in "Giving the Past a Future." More folks we're grateful for include those with The Fund for Women & Girls, our 2026 "Local Heroes." Learn about the group's 30-year history of promoting health, voting, and eliminating discrimination and advancing gender equity.

It's a sensitive subject. Carol Metzker enlightens us in "What You May Not Know About Hospice." You'll learn more about retirement options in our "Guide to 55+ and Retirement Communities & Services."

As always, we have the Best Local Events, now compiled by our newest editorial team member, Sue Howard. She's assuming the hugely important role of our longest tenured team member, Marci Tomassone, who retired after 40+ years with County Lines! We'll miss you, Marci!

Thank you for reading. And Happy Thanksgiving!

Jo Anne Durako
Editor



COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE

November 2026
Volume L Number 3

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CONTENTS

Volume 50, Number 3 ✪ November 2026

COUNTY LINES MAGAZINE



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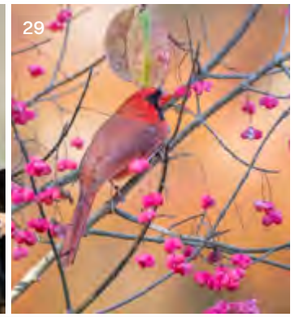

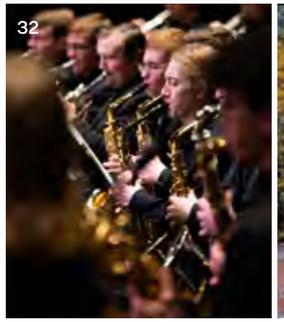



24 **BRANDYWINE STORIES**
Giving the past a future
Kim Andrews

26 **LOCAL HEROES: THE FUND FOR WOMEN & GIRLS**
Improving the lives of women and girls for 30 years
Shannon Montgomery

29 **CLEAR DANGER**
Protecting Pennsylvania's bird population
Ashley Vadner, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

32 **THE SOUNDTRACK TO FALL**
Discover the musical traditions bringing the Brandywine Valley to life this season
Shannon Montgomery

36 **EIGHT REASONS TO LOVE KENNETT SQUARE & CHADDS FORD**
Much more than mushrooms
Edwin Malet

41 **THE GIFT OF A MEMORABLE DAY**
Help someone on your list explore and enjoy
Cara Corridoni

45 **WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW ABOUT HOSPICE**
Many options and services
Carol Metzker

51 **GUIDE TO 55+ AND RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES & SERVICES**
Edited by Shannon Montgomery

59 **HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE**
Get an early start on your holiday shopping

60 **DREAM HOME**
Peace by Piece Farm
Laurel Anderson

63 **WINE & SPIRITS PAIRINGS FOR THANKSGIVING**

66 **BRANDYWINE TABLE**
Baking bread and saving sanity this Thanksgiving
Liz Tarditi

departments

10 WORTH KNOWING
13 GOOD TO KNOW
15 NOVEMBER PICKS
16 BEST LOCAL EVENTS
65 FOOD NEWS
70 INDEX

Is a Family Trust Right for You?

Stephanie Pahides Kalogredis, Esq.

WHEN PEOPLE TALK about creating a "family trust," they usually mean a revocable trust — an estate-planning tool that can hold assets during your lifetime and direct how those assets are distributed after your death.

WHAT IS A REVOCABLE TRUST?

A revocable trust has two primary functions: to hold, manage and distribute your assets during your lifetime, and to distribute those assets after your death. As the name suggests, you can change or revoke the trust at any time, much like a will.

Your trust can specify who receives your assets and whether they receive them outright or through a continuing trust.

A revocable trust isn't a complete estate plan. It typically works alongside a will, financial power of attorney, medical power of attorney and beneficiary designations.

WHY CREATE ONE?

Planning for incapacity. While you're healthy, you typically serve as trustee and remain in control of the assets in the trust. If you become incapacitated, a person you've chosen can step in to manage those assets and pay your bills without a court-appointed guardian. This can help keep matters moving without court involvement.

Avoiding probate. A common reason for creating a revocable trust is to avoid probate — the court-supervised process for transferring assets after death. In Pennsylvania, however, probate generally is not as difficult, so avoiding it isn't always necessary for all estates.

Owning property in another state. Real estate outside your home state may be subject to separate, or ancillary, probate. For example, a Pennsylvania resident who owns real estate in New York could face a second probate proceeding there. Transferring the property by deed into a revocable trust can avoid that.

Providing for loved ones. A trust can establish continuing trusts after your death for a spouse, minor children or other beneficiaries. This can help protect assets and provide for beneficiaries over time.

Privacy. Unlike a will, a revocable trust isn't automatically filed with the court and generally isn't part of the public record. That privacy can disappear, however, if a beneficiary or family member challenges the trust.

SHOULD YOU FUND YOUR TRUST?

If avoiding probate is one of your goals, yes. A revocable trust must be funded during your lifetime to accomplish that goal. Otherwise, the trust exists, waiting for assets to be transferred at death — potentially through your will or a beneficiary designation.

Funding means changing ownership of assets from your individual name to the name of the trust. Assets that may be transferred include investment and checking accounts, real estate, business interests and valuable collectibles.

Some assets generally cannot be transferred during your lifetime, including jointly owned assets and retirement accounts such as IRAs, 401(k)s and pensions.

WILL IT SAVE PENNSYLVANIA INHERITANCE TAX?

No. Assets held in a revocable trust remain fully subject to this tax at death. In general, the only way to reduce Pennsylvania inheritance tax is to make qualifying gifts more than 365 days before death.

WILL IT MAKE THINGS EASIER?

Sometimes, but not necessarily. Pennsylvania financial institutions generally require an Inheritance Tax Clearance Certificate before a trustee or beneficiary can control funds in an account titled to a revocable trust or subject to a beneficiary designation. Obtaining those certificates can take more than a month.

Even when probate is avoided, the trustee still must perform many of the tasks an executor would handle. Avoiding probate doesn't necessarily mean avoiding paperwork, administrative responsibilities or delays in distributing assets.

IS A REVOCABLE TRUST RIGHT FOR YOU?

There's no universal answer. It depends on your financial and family circumstances, which can change over time. A revocable trust isn't the solution for everyone.

For someone with a simple estate, a well-drafted will, beneficiary designations and a financial power of attorney may provide an efficient plan. For others — particularly those with out-of-state real estate or more complicated family circumstances — a funded revocable trust may be preferable. It all depends on your goals and circumstances.

An estate-planning attorney can help you evaluate your circumstances, explain the advantages and limitations, and determine which approach makes the most sense for you. ♦

The opinions expressed in this article are for general information purposes only and are not intended to provide specific legal advice or recommendations.



Stephanie Pahides Kalogredis, Esq. concentrates her practice in Estate Planning, Wealth Transfer and Succession Planning along with Estate and Trust Administration as Chairman of the Estate Department at Lamb McErlane, PC's West Chester location. More at LambMcErlane.com.



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

Anniversary News. We're celebrating 50 years of *County Lines* in some pretty special ways! The Pennsylvania State Senate has issued an official citation recognizing our milestone, sponsored by Senator Carolyn Comitta. And a copy of our 50th anniversary issue is now part of West Chester's America 250 Time Capsule, waiting to be rediscovered in 2076 during America's Tricentennial. That's a long time to wait for a good read! Luckily, you can revisit all our stories, past and present, anytime at *CountyLinesMagazine.com.*



Art on Track. Downtown Media has a new mural celebrating its trolley-town charm. The Media Arts Council recently unveiled "A Postcard from Everybody's Hometown" in the garden between the Pennsylvania Veterans Museum and Kung Fu Tea. Designed by Stephanie Untz and installed by Media's own Carrie Kingsbury, it features the iconic 1940s-era Red Arrow trolley that ran through State Street until 1981. Today, Media is one of the last small towns in America with an active trolley on its main street. *MediaArtsCouncil.org*



PHOTO CREDIT: STEPHANIE UNTZ

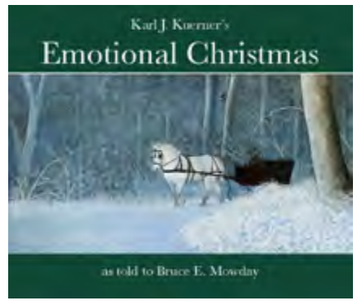
Forever Green. French & Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust has permanently protected two Chester County properties. In West Vincent Township, 78.3 acres of farmland and woods expand a protected landscape to 236 acres, including Natural Lands' Bryn Coed Preserve. In North Coventry Township, a new conservation easement safeguards 13 acres, including wetlands and a stream corridor flowing into the Schuylkill River. These conservation wins preserve open space, wildlife habitat and the county's rural character. *FrenchAndPickering.org*

Rustic Romance. A former dairy farm in Kennett Square has become a wedding and event venue. Overlooking the Willowdale Steeplechase grounds, Willowdale honors the property's heritage with beautiful gathering spaces: the Silo Courtyard for outdoor ceremonies, the Kitchen Garden and Millstone Lounge for cocktails, and The Loft, with vaulted arches, custom chandeliers and room for 300. Plus, the iconic Yellow House offers eight overnight rooms and two private suites. *115 E. Street Rd. JAM-Hospitality.com/Venues/Willowdale*



PHOTO CREDIT: JIERU PHOTOGRAPHY

Christmas in Color. Add a little local art to your holiday gift list with "Emotional Christmas," a new book by local author Bruce E. Mowday. The book showcases 36 paintings of Christmas and holiday scenes by Chadds Ford's Karl J. Kuerner, the only artist to study under Andrew and Carolyn Wyeth. This is the third in Mowday and Kuerner's "Emotional" series, following "Emotional Gettysburg" and "Emotional Brandywine." Find it at your local independent bookstore. *KarlJKuerner.com; Mowday.com*











best Local Events

November Picks

by Sue Howard

Silent Book Clubs

Meet Monthly

This nationwide meetup trend for book fans has come to the Brandywine Valley with several groups in our area (Kennet Square, Media, West Chester). BYOB (bring your own book) gatherings welcome e-book, audiobook (with headphones) and old-school print book readers to come together in a calm, shared, changing space. Check in, read for an hour, then chat. Silent crafters are also welcome, so knitters and others can join in for some quiet during the holidays and beyond. *Check online for a group near you.*

"Whose Revolution? Choice & Consequence" Exhibition

Through September 2027



The Chester County History Center launched a new exhibition, continuing the celebration of America 250 and focusing on Chester County's unique role in the Revolutionary War. This display features artifacts and manuscripts from the late 1700s, as well as original artwork by Paoli printmaker Cheryl Harper. Visit through September 2027 — the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Brandywine. *$5–$10. 225 N. High St., West Chester. MyCCHC.org*

Philadelphia Horticultural Society's Bouquet of Stories

November 6–January 30, 2027



PHOTO CREDIT: MORGAN HORELL

PHS and The Athenaeum of Philadelphia are bringing three centuries of Philadelphia's gardening history to life with a new free exhibition opening November 6. "Bouquet of Stories: Celebrating Philadelphia's Gardening Heritage" explores the growers, communities and traditions that have shaped Philadelphia, from immigrant seed traditions and neighborhood greening to the Philadelphia Flower Show. Plus a new garden "of fragrance and calm" designed by award-winning landscape designer Wambui Ippolito. *Free. 219 S. 6th St., Phila. PhilaAthenaeum.org*

A Longwood Christmas

November 20–January 10, 2027

Longwood Gardens plans an out-of-this-world seasonal display for the holidays inspired by the wonder of the stars. The magic and mystery of the cosmos take center stage as the gardens are transformed into a universe of lights, celestial-inspired decorations and horticulture grandeur. Highlights include more than 100 decorated outdoor trees, a 22-foot rotating Fraser fir wrapped in shooting star garland, culinary experiences and holiday-inspired classes. Reserve early! *$45 and up. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. LongwoodGardens.org*



PHOTO CREDIT: BECCA MATHIAS FOR LONGWOOD GARDENS

Small Business Saturday

November 28

Mark the Saturday after Thanksgiving (Nov. 28) once again to buy local. Or it's bye-bye local! Small business — including independently owned restaurants — need support all year to keep our towns filled with charming options for shopping and dining, and the holidays are especially important. West Chester plans a whole weekend celebration (Nov. 27–29), with special deals, perks and in-store events. Similar shop-local promotions are planned throughout Brandywine Valley towns as the holiday season gets underway.

FAMILY FUN

NOVEMBER 1

Steamin' Day 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*



NOVEMBER 1, 5 & 19

Brandywine Museum of Art Family Events. *Nov. 1,* First Sunday for Families—enjoy free admission, creative art activities and interactive music, *10 am to 2 pm. Nov. 5,* Children's Read-Aloud Program—hear a story, explore art and create your own artwork, *10:30 to 11:30 am. Nov. 19,* Sensory-Friendly Evening: Brandywine Railroad—an after-hours experience for individuals on the autism spectrum or with sensory processing disorders and their families. *1 Hoffman's Mill Rd., Chadds Ford. Brandywine.org*



NOVEMBER 1 & 8

West Chester Railroad Fall Foliage Express. Enjoy a brisk fall afternoon along the 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*

NOVEMBER 14

Pints on the Preserve Family Edition. Families are invited to meet for a few hours of fun and exploration. Bring a picnic to enjoy and hike the preserve's 14 miles of trails. Pints for the grown-ups, too. Activities are free, but registration requested. *ChesLen Preserve, 1199 Cannery Rd., Coatesville. 3 to 5. Free. NatLands.org*

NOVEMBER 14 & 15

Kennel Club of Philadelphia's 25th National Dog Show. This popular family attraction features some 2,000 dogs representing 205 breeds in an AKC-sanctioned competition for Best in Show. Saturday's show will be taped for NBC's Thanksgiving Day broadcast, airing Nov. 26. *Greater Phila. Expo Ctr., 100 Station Ave., Oaks. Sat, 8 am to 6 p.m.; Su., 8 am to 5 pm. $10–$20. NDS.NationalDogShow.com*



NOVEMBER 14 & 26

Culinary Workshop: Kids Cook Thanksgiving. Ages 8+ and their families will enjoy preparing old and new favorites for the Thanksgiving meal. After the meal is cooked, everyone sits down to the feast. *Wayne Art Center, 413 Maplewood Ave., Wayne. 1:30 to 4. $40–$60. Register at WayneArt.org.*

NOVEMBER 21

Kennett Square Holiday Light Parade. Gather your family and friends for the annual Holiday Light Parade and tree lighting. Come meet Santa and Mrs. Claus and welcome the holiday season and light up the town. *6 pm. KennettCollaborative.org*



NOVEMBER 28 & DECEMBER 12

Celebrate the Holidays in Downingtown. *Nov. 28,* Tree Lighting Ceremony with refreshments, music and Santa. *Log House Field next to the Gazebo in Kerr Park. 5:30 pm. Dec. 12,* the hometown Christmas parade features local bands, dancers, scouts and the arrival of Santa Claus. *Starts at Beaver Creek Elementary School and travels Rt. 30 to East Ward Elementary. 3 pm. DTownChristmas.com*



DECEMBER 4

Feel the Holiday Spirit in Phoenixville. First Friday Holiday Edition and tree lighting downtown, *5:30 to 8:30 pm. PhoenixvilleFirst.org*

DECEMBER 4 & 5

Christmas Celebrations in Wayne. *Dec. 4,* enjoy trolley rides, arts and crafts, winter ice rink, tree lighting and Santa's arrival, *5:30 to 8 pm,* tree lighting at *7:30 pm. Dec. 5,* Radnor Elves for Shelves Fun Run and 5K at *8 am,* parade at *10 am,* and photos with Santa *until 11:45 am. Details at WayneBusiness.com.*

DECEMBER 5

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

DECEMBER 5

Breakfast with Santa. Head for the Chester County History Center to meet Santa and enjoy breakfast. *225 N. High St., West Chester. 9:30 to 11 am. $15. Pre-reg. required. West-Chester.com*

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

See also: Family Fun.

NOVEMBER 13–15

Delaware Hospice Festival of Trees. Beautifully decorated trees and wreaths plus events, festival marketplace, bakeshop and raffles make the weekend special. Brantwyn Estate, 600 Rockland Rd., Wilmington. Free, VIP Preview $75. Fri, noon to 4; Sat & Sun, 10 to 4. DelawareHospice.org

NOVEMBER 14

The Saturday Club's Annual Holiday Market. Featuring local and national vendors for holiday shopping with a selection of art, jewelry, clothing, accessories, home decor and gifts. Auctions of vendor gifts and services will be held as well. 117 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne. 10 to 2. SaturdayClub.org

NOVEMBER 14 & 15

Haverford Guild of Craftsmen Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show. Shop from over 60 juried artists for high-quality handcrafted works of basketry, ceramics, fiber, glass, jewelry, leather, mixed media, painting, photography, sculpture, wood and more. Haverford Community Recreation and Environmental Center, 9000 Parkview Dr., Haverford. 10 to 5. $5. HaverfordGuild.org



NOVEMBER 19–22

Brandywine Museum of Art Annual Holiday Critter Sale. Delightful, distinctive ornaments and tabletop decorations handmade using natural materials, each with its own unique personality and expression—no two are alike. Chadds Ford Historical Society, 1736 Creek Rd., Chadds Ford. Member Preview Wed, 9:30 to 5; Thurs–Sun, 9:30 to 5. Brandywine.org

NOVEMBER 20–JANUARY 10

A Longwood Christmas. The Gardens are transformed and twinkling lights dance as you explore the beauty of the stars and cosmos, and every path leads to a new discovery. 1001 Longwood Rd., Kennett Square. $32–$52. Timed tickets required. 10 am to 11 pm. Longwood-Gardens.org

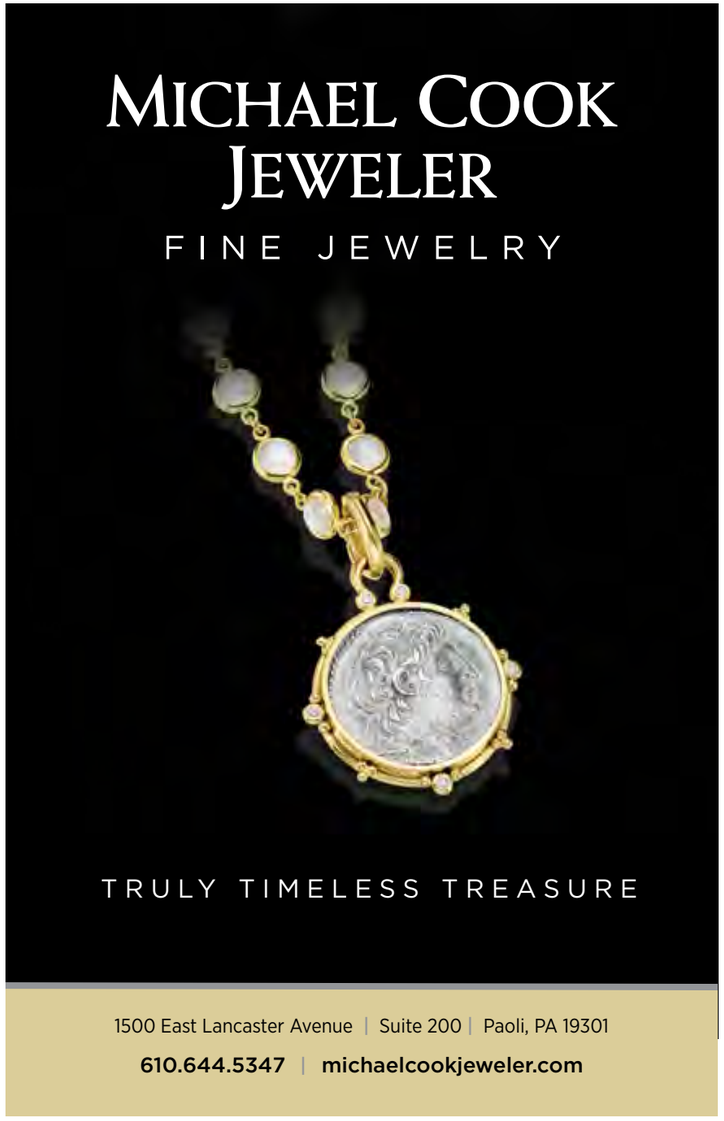


NOVEMBER 21–JANUARY 3

Yuletide at Winterthur. Yuletide charm meets the theme, "Home," celebrating the traditions of the du Pont family. Delight in beautifully decorated trees inside and out and marvel at a large-scale gingerbread house and 18-room dollhouse. Enjoy enchanting decorations and outdoor lighting. *Nov. 21,* Holiday Market, 10 to 1 or 2 to 5. 5105 Kennett Pk., Winterthur, DE. Tues–Sun, 10 to 5, some special hours. $12–$33. Winterthur.org

NOVEMBER 27–JANUARY 3

Chester County Hospital Lights Up Holiday Weekends in West Chester. Festivities in the borough begin *Nov. 27,* with holiday lights aglow; *Weekends,* the West Chester Borough Balladeer Carolers perform; *Nov. 28,* Making Spirits Bright Holiday Music Series and Santa on a fire truck; Holiday Window Decorating Contest. Visit GreaterWestChester.com for details through the month.



NOVEMBER 27–JANUARY 3

Holidays at Hagley. Visit the Holiday Home and Garden Tours, the annual Gingerbread House Contest, and *Dec. 5* is Santa Day. Enjoy the "Festival Flora" theme at the Holiday Nights Tours, 4 to 7. Hagley's Library & Soda House, 298 Buck Rd., Wilmington. Daily (closed Wed) 10 to 5. $10–$20. Hagley.org

DECEMBER 4

Surrey Holiday House Tour & Shop. Visit Main Line homes decorated for the holidays, 9:30 to 4, $95, then stop by the Holiday Shop for the perfect holiday gift, 10 to 4. Benefits Surrey's nonprofit outreach and services for older adults. St. David's Episcopal Church Hall, 763 S. Valley Forge Rd., Wayne. SurreyServices.org/Holiday-House-Tour-2026



DECEMBER 5

Historic Sugartown Holiday Craft Market. Get into the holiday spirit at the Holiday Market featuring over 40 local crafters and artisans, and Santa will be on hand to greet shoppers. 260 Spring Rd., Malvern. Noon to 4. $10. HistoricSugartown.org

DECEMBER 5

West Chester Public Library Holiday Home Tour. The tour showcases borough residential homes and attractions decked out for the holidays. The homes display the homeowners' art, collectibles, antiques and holiday decor. Benefits the library. 10 to 3. For tickets, visit WCPublicLibrary.org.



DECEMBER 5 & 6, 12 & 13

Kennett Square 10th Holiday Village Market. Shop dozens of artisan and vintage vendors while enjoying live music, festive cocktails, food trucks, family activities and more. The Creamery, 401 Birch St., Kennett Square. 11 to 5. Free. KennettCollaborative.org

DECEMBER 5

Annual Candlelight Holiday Tour in Phoenixville. Enjoy a self-guided tour of beautifully decorated homes and local landmarks. Stop by the Holiday Marketplace on Church Street for food, drinks and holiday vendors. $35. Brandywine Valley Active Aging Phoenixville Campus (formerly Phoenixville Sr. Ctr.), 153 Church St., Phoenixville. 3 to 7 pm. GiveButter.com/C/PHXHolidayTour

ART, CRAFTS & ANTQUES

THROUGH OCTOBER 2027*

"Steve Tobin: In the Light" at Tyler Arboretum. Explore more than 50 large-scale, nature-inspired sculptures across 15 sites, connecting art with the arboretum's woodlands, meadows and historic landscapes. Touch the sculptures, sit inside them and discover familiar views from new perspectives. 515 Painter Rd., Media. Daily, 9 am to 6 pm. TylerArboretum.org

OCTOBER 31 & NOVEMBER 1

Chester County Craft Guild Fine Craft Fair. Come out and shop small while supporting local artists at The Chester County Art Association for this juried craft fair. Shop for one-of-a-kind, high-quality gifts. 100 N. Bradford Ave., West Chester. Sat, 10 to 4; Sun, 11 to 4. Free. ChesterCountyCraftGuild.org

NOVEMBER 5–8

Winterthur's Annual Delaware Antiques Show. A showcase of art, antiques and design, featuring the finest offerings from more than 60 distinguished dealers. Thurs, the Opening Night Collectors' Preview includes cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and exclusive early shopping, 6 to 9, $175–$350. Chase Center on the Riverfront, 815 Justison St., Wilmington. Show hours, Fri–Sat, 11 to 6; Sun, 11 to 5. $25. Winterthur.org



NOVEMBER 8–JANUARY 31

Bryn Mawr Rehab's Annual Exhibition and Sale. *Nov. 7,* opening evening features a cocktail reception and dinner. The show continues as a showcase and marketplace for talented artists, educating the community about the remarkable abilities of people with disabilities. Open daily during visiting hours. Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, 414 Paoli Pk., Malvern. MainLineHealth.org

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 20

Craft and Mercantile. A curated evening market celebrating local makers and artisans alongside live music, food, drink, and arts and crafts activities. Tree Grove at Eagleview Town Center, 570 Wellington Sq., Exton. 4:30 to 8 pm. Free. GrowingRootsPartners.com



BOOKS

NOVEMBER 4–17

Main Point Books. NonFiction Book Group: *Nov. 4,* "Lost Chester County" by Mark DeWill Lanyon, 7 pm, offsite. Girls in Capes Book Club: *Nov 14,* "Godkiller," by Jannah Kaner, 5 pm. Fiction Book Group: *Nov. 17,* "My Friends" by Fredrik Backman, 1 pm. 116 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne. MainPointBooks.com

NOVEMBER 4–18

Wellington Square Bookshop. Classic Book Club: *Nov. 4,* "The Scarlet Letter" by Nathaniel Hawthorne, 2 pm. NonFiction Book Group: *Nov. 5,* "Eat the Buddha" by Barbara Demick, 7 pm. Fiction Book Group: *Nov 18,* "Time of the Child" by Niall Williams, 2 pm. 549 Wellington Sq., Exton. WellingtonSquareBooks.com

NOVEMBER 4–24

Reads & Company. The Big Reads Book Group: *Nov. 4,* "Exit Party" by Emily St. John Mandel. International Voices Book Group: *Nov. 11,* "A Burning" by Megha Majumdar. Kiss and Tell Romance Book Group: *Nov. 18,* "Between Tides and Thunder" by Leena Kazak. Then and Now Book Group: *Nov. 24,* "Heartwood" by Amity Gage. 7 pm. 234 Bridge St., Phoenixville. ReadsAndCompany.com

DANCE

NOVEMBER 13–15

First State Ballet Theatre Presents "Up Front on Market." A mixed program of highlights from classical repertoire and contemporary work in an intimate setting. Studio One at The Grand Opera House, 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Sat, 7 pm; Sun, 2 pm. For tickets, visit TheGrandWilmington.org.



EQUESTRIAN EVENTS

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

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FOOD & BREWS

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



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.

NOVEMBER 5

23rd Annual Wine, Wit & Wisdom for Phoenixville Public Library. Guests will enjoy an unforgettable night featuring *New York Times* bestselling author Hannah Nicole Maehrer, a guided wine tasting, elegant dinner and silent auction. RiverCrest Golf Club & Preserve, 100 Rivercrest Dr., Phoenixville. 6 to 9 pm. $100–$140. PhoenixvilleLibrary.org



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



Take a Turkey Trot

A great way to prepare for, or burn off, the holiday meal. There are many options to choose from, so grab the kiddos, friends and neighbors and have fun!

NOVEMBER 26

Chester County Turkey Trot. Enter the 5k race in 2 waves, 2K walk or a kids fun run. 445 Manor Ave., Downingtown. 7:40 am. $32. RunSignUp.com/Race/PA/Downingtown/ChesterCountyTurkeyTrot

Turkey Trot in West Chester. Grab your family and friends for this 5K run/2Kwalk—the perfect way to celebrate the holiday. 50 W. Market St. 8:15 am. $32. DowntownWestChester.com

Wayne Turkey Trot. This 5K run/walk benefits the Children's Hospital of Phila., the Radnor Township Police K-9 Unit and Phila. Financial Scholars. N. Wayne & West Aves., Wayne. $40. 8 am. RunTheDay.com/Register/Detail/Wayne-Turkey-Trot-2026-Wayne-PA

Unionville High School 5K and 1 Mile Turkey Trot and Food Drive. This race is for all ages and all skill levels. Unionville High School, 740 Unionville Rd.,Kennett Square. 10:15 am. $25–$35. RunSignUp.com/Race/PA/KennettSquare/Unionville5KTurkeyTrot

Garnet Valley Turkey Trot 5K & 1 Mile. A special Turkey Day prize will be awarded to the best dressed group, adult turkey and kid turkey. Garnet Valley High School, 552 Smithbridge Rd., Glen Mills. 9 am. $25–$35. RunSignUp.com/Race/PA/GlenMills/GarnetValleyTurkeyTrot

Pottstown's Toss Your Turkey 5K. "Toss" a frozen turkey (7 to 8:20 am) then run the 5K at 8:30. Win a prize for farthest toss. Montgomery Co. Comm. College, 101 College Dr., Pottstown. $30. RunSignUp.com/Race/PA

Delco Turkey Trot. Come out for the 5K Road Race and a 1 Mile Little Drumstick Fun Run. Benefits and held at Nether Providence Elementary School, 410 Moore Rd., Wallingford. 8:30 am. $20–$35. RunSignUp.com/Race/PA/Wallingford/DelcoTurkeyTrot

NOVEMBER 28

Burn Off the Bird 5K. A 5K Race & 1-mile Fun Run held annually. Phoenixville Recreation Center, 501 Franklin Ave. 9:30 to 1 am. Phoenixville.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 pm. Tickets $200 and up. PSPCA.org

NOVEMBER 7

Railroad Museum of Pennsylvania 1940s Swing Dance. Jump, jive & swing to the Moonlighters big band playing tunes among the historic trains. Dress to impress in your best 1940s vintage attire or military uniform and enjoy the music of the era. Benefits Friends of the Railroad Museum. 300 Gap Rd., Strasburg. 7 to 10. $20–$25. RRMuseumPA.org



NOVEMBER 7

Living Beyond Breast Cancer's Annual Black-tie Gala—Butterfly Ball. One of LBBC's most important events celebrating its 35th anniversary, featuring cocktails, dinner, live and silent auctions, dancing and more. Please Touch Museum, 4231 Avenue of the Republic, Phila. Doors open at 6:30. $400. LBBC.org

DECEMBER 5

38th Annual West Chester Charity Ball—Back to the 80s. Friends Association celebrates with a totally rad evening featuring retro-themed food, an 80s DJ, dancing, an arcade, caricature artist, photo booth and silent auction. Dress in your best '80s look and compete for prizes. West Chester Golf & Country Club, 111 W. Ashbridge St., West Chester. 6:30. Tickets $200 and up. FriendsAssoc.org/Charity-Ball

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 Jan. 10,* "Transcendent: Landscapes of the Hudson River School." *Through Jan. 24,* "Pyle and the Pre-Raphaelites." *Nov. 4–29,* "Living in the Present" honors Indigenous Peoples' Month. 2301 Kentmere Pkwy., Wilmington. Wed–Sun, 10 to 4. $14–$25. DelArt.org

MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT

NOVEMBER 1

Chester County Concert Band Presents: Bach 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 pm. $10–$15; under 12, free. CCCBand.org

NOVEMBER 1–29

The Keswick Theatre. *Nov. 1,* Michael Feinstein; *Nov. 5,* Punch Brothers; *Nov. 6 & 7,* An Evening with The Hooters; *Nov. 14,* Ryan Hamilton; *Nov. 19,* Andrea Gibson's Love Letter from the Afterlife; *Nov. 21,* The Ultimate Tribute to the Bee Gees; *Nov. 27 & 28,* The Machine performs Pink Floyd; *Nov. 29,* Rocky Mountain High Experience: A John Denver Christmas. 291 N. Keswick Ave., Glenside. Times and tickets, KeswickTheatre.com.

NOVEMBER 3–DECEMBER 30

American Music Theatre Presents The 2026 Christmas Show: Winter Wonderland. From a charming Bavarian village to the North Pole, step into the magic of the season with dazzling sets and costumes, live performances of favorite holiday songs, a live orchestra and a visit from Santa. 2425 Lincoln Hwy. E., Lancaster. Times and tickets, AMTShows.com.



NOVEMBER 7–19

Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center. *Nov. 7,* Bell Bottom Blues—Eric Clapton Tribute; *Nov. 13,* Total Mass Retain—YES Tribute Band; *Nov. 14,* Better Than Bacon—Bacon Gives Back; *Nov. 18,* Dueling Pianos with The Philly Keys; *Nov. 19,* Laugh Lounge. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.





NOVEMBER 7–21

The Grand in Wilmington. *Nov. 7,* The Robert Cray Band; *Nov. 8,* GCS featuring Eric Gales, Dennis Chambers & Billy Sheehan; *Nov. 12,* Theresa Caputo Live!; *Nov. 13,* Eddie Griffin; *Nov. 14,* The Rock Orchestra Plays Peter Gabriel; *Nov. 19,* Geoff Tate's Operation: Mindcrime—The Final Chapter; *Nov. 21,* The Power of Love: A 1980s Concert & Gala. 818 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.



NOVEMBER 15

Brandywine Valley Symphony Presents Masterworks I. Hear Bizet's "Symphony No. 1" with insights and live musical examples from conductor Michael Hall, plus food and drink. Mendenhall Inn, 323 Kennett Pk., Mendenhall. 3 pm. $75. BVSymphony.org

DECEMBER 5 & 6

BVS Brass Quintet Holiday Concerts. The Brandywine Valley Symphony's brass quintet shares holiday favorites for all ages. *Dec. 5,* Oxford Presbyterian Church, free, reg. req. *Dec. 6,* Chester County History Center, $5. 3 pm. BVSymphony.org

THEATER

NOVEMBER 14–DECEMBER 21

"Scrooge!" at The Candlelight Theatre. Charles Dickens' beloved "A Christmas Carol" gets the musical treatment in this festive production, featuring the Academy Award-nominated score by Leslie Bricusse. 2208 Millers Rd., Wilmington. Times and tickets, CandlelightTheatreDelaware.org.



NOVEMBER 20–DECEMBER 31

"Annie" at Fulton Theatre. Join everyone's favorite optimistic orphan as she charms Oliver Warbucks in this beloved, Tony Award-winning musical filled with memorable songs and plenty of holiday cheer. 12 N. Prince St., Lancaster. Times and tickets, TheFulton.org.

NOVEMBER 18–JANUARY 3

"Cinderella: A Musical Panto" at People's Light. This joyful holiday tradition brings a fresh twist to the classic fairy tale, with music, mischief, heroes and villains. Cheer for Cinderella, boo the baddies and enjoy a magical outing for all ages. 39 Conestoga Rd., Malvern. Times and tickets, PeoplesLight.org.

NOVEMBER 27–29

"SIX" at The Playhouse. The six wives of Henry VIII take the microphone in this electrifying musical remix of 500 years of heartbreak, history and girl power. 1007 N. Market St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, TheGrandWilmington.org.

NOVEMBER 27–JANUARY 3

"Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" at Media Theatre. Enter a world of pure imagination as Charlie Bucket and four other lucky golden-ticket winners discover the wonders and surprises inside Willy Wonka's marvelous chocolate factory. 104 E. State St., Media. Times and tickets, MediaTheatre.org.

DECEMBER 2–20

"Steel Magnolias" at Delaware Theatre Company. This beloved Southern story follows six women whose friendship, humor and strength carry them through life's joys and heartbreaks. 200 Water St., Wilmington. Times and tickets, DelawareTheatre.org.



DECEMBER 5–27

Uptown Knauer Performing Arts Center Presents "White Christmas." Irving Berlin's beloved holiday musical brings romance, friendship and plenty of festive songs to the stage. 226 N. High St., West Chester. Times and tickets, UptownWestChester.org.

TOWNS, TALKS & TOURS

THROUGH 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.

NOVEMBER 14

250th Revoutionary Speaker Series: "Noble Volunteers: The British Soldiers Who Fought the American Revolution." Historian Don N. Hagist offers a fresh look at the men who served in the British Army, drawing on archival records and firsthand accounts. Onsite at Brandywine Battlefield Park and virtually via Zoom. $20. 1491 Baltimore Pk., Chadds Ford. Noon to 1:30. BrandywineBattlefield.org ♦

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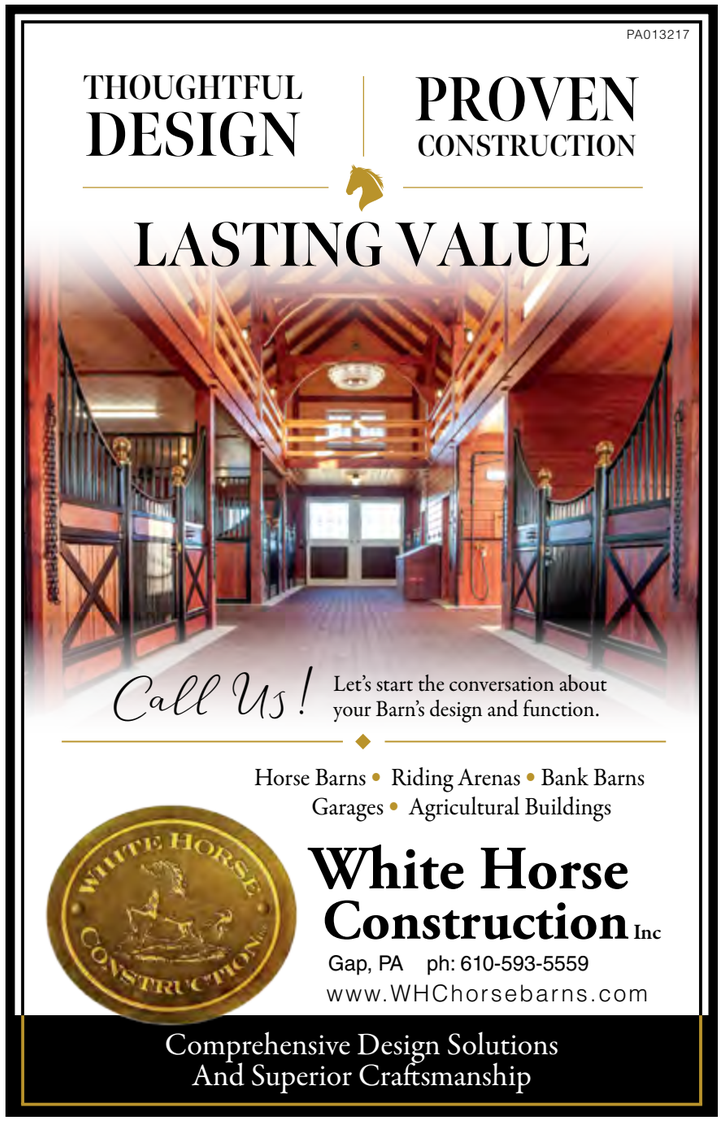

BRANDYWINE STORIES

Giving the Past a Future

SHOWING UP FOR HISTORY

Kim Andrews

AT THANKSGIVING, WE think about what we're grateful for and what we can give back. And in Chester County, giving back can mean spending a Saturday leading battlefield tours, scanning and labeling old photographs, taking students through Coatesville to uncover the history in buildings they pass every day, or helping plan events, care for historic sites and keep records in order.

After a year spent marking America250, it's a good time to notice the people who make all that history visible in the first place. History doesn't just stick around on its own. It stays with us because people keep showing up for it.

GIVING TIME

Jim Christ has given a lot of himself to history. In 2012, he joined the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, becoming its president in 2018. Christ estimates that he devotes about 10 hours a week to the organization, while also volunteering with six other history groups and maintaining his day job.

The Battlefield Preservation Fund has no paid staff. Volunteers organize programs, give tours, research history, raise money and handle everything from event setup to budgets.

Christ's favorite moments come when visitors realize important history happened here, in their own backyard. "The best ones are obviously the kids," Christ said. "You need another generation to come on."

GIVING KNOWLEDGE

That next generation is exactly what Coatesville teacher Joe Tassoni is working on.

Tassoni, Coatesville Area School District Social Studies Department Head and the AP History and Government high school teacher, is beginning his 19th year teaching in Coatesville. His Historical Research and Preservation students visit local landmarks, tour the steel mill and walk through the city learning the stories behind places they pass every day.

"You can see the lightbulbs go off," he said. For Tassoni, teaching history is itself an act of preservation. A building or artifact needs context before people understand why it matters or why they should save it.

Former student Gloria Kasitz is evidence that the approach works. She took Tassoni's course for three years and competed in National History Day. Learning about Coatesville's steel mill, former hospitals and other familiar places changed how she saw her hometown.

"I really found a new beauty after learning so much about the past," she said.

Now headed to Temple University to study film and media arts, Kasitz hopes to combine her interests in history and media, another way of carrying those stories forward.

GIVING ACCESS

At Historic Yellow Springs, volunteer Ellen Gelches spends hours doing work most visitors never see: cataloging, scanning and digitizing archival materials so people can find and use them.

A retired metadata librarian, Gelches began volunteering after retirement, but her connection to Yellow Springs reaches much further back. Her grandmother, Kathryn Kern, happily attended the village's Civil War Orphans School in the late 1800s and returned to visit throughout her life.

While conducting her volunteer collections care, Gelches discovered something unexpected in the archives: a detailed letter her own mother had written to Historic Yellow Springs in 1987. Decades later, the archive gave some family history back to her.

Cataloging can take an hour for a single item and several hours for a folder, Gelches said. And she does it for people she may never know.

"I certainly hope that future generations benefit," she said. "That's why I'm doing it."

The work gives something back to her, too. Gelches uses a phrase she learned from her father, a writer and teacher: "psychic income." That's the personal reward that comes from doing something worthwhile. For her, it's the pleasure of volunteering and seeing visitors connect with a story or place in a new way.

GIVING MEMORY

At the Chester County History Center, Director of Collections/Curator Ellen Endslow sees another kind of giving. About 95% of the items in the museum's collection have been donated by descendants of their original owners.

Endslow encourages families to identify and date photographs, record oral histories and document ordinary experiences. What seems commonplace today may fill an important historical gap tomorrow.

That's how Chester County's history survives: people decide that a place, a story, a photograph or an object matters, then give their time and care to make sure it's not lost. What they preserve becomes something the we, and the generations after us, get to inherit. ♦

CHESTER COUNTY community FOUNDATION

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; CCCF250.org.

Give Some Time to History

You don't need a history degree to help preserve local history. Museums, battlefields and historical organizations need volunteers to give tours, welcome visitors, help with events, tend grounds, scan collections, work with school groups and tackle behind-the-scenes jobs.

Start with a site or story you care about, contact the organization and ask what help is needed. Historic Yellow Springs volunteer Ellen Gelches says the work can meet your level of experience and grow with you.

Volunteer opportunities are widely available in our area. Options include the Paoli Battlefield Preservation Fund, Sanderson Museum, Paoli Memorial Association and Brandywine Battlefield's 250th anniversary reenactment in September 2027.



PHOTO CREDIT: THE SANDERSON MUSEUM

Storyteller at the Sanderson Museum







1. Coatesville Aarea Senior High School AP Government students with the French & Pickering Creek Cannon
   PHOTO CREDIT: JOE TASSONI
2. Jim Christ giving a historical tour at Paoli Battlefield
   PHOTO CREDIT: JIM CHRIST
3. Teacher Joe Tassoni with reenactor Noah Lewis at the Coatesville Area High School America 250 assembly
   PHOTO CREDIT: KIM ANDREWS



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Local Heroes: The Fund for Women & Girls

IMPROVING THE LIVES OF WOMEN AND GIRLS FOR 30 YEARS

Shannon Montgomery

AT A LISTENING SESSION AT The Garage Community & Youth Center last year, one issue came up repeatedly: many girls lacked accessible, affordable menstrual products. Students expressed frustration about missing class time to trek to the nurse's office for basic supplies, while some skipped school altogether during their periods.

After hosting the listening session, The Fund for Women & Girls went to work. The Fund partnered with The Garage to create Project Dignity, guiding the students to create a school district policy to make menstrual products available in school bathrooms, where students can easily access them.

"Initially, the girls were like, 'No way can I meet with the school board,'" said Cheryl Brubaker, Executive Director of The Fund for Women & Girls. "By the end of the program, all of them ended up presenting at a school board meeting."

The girls were successful. Starting this school year, every middle and high schooler in the Avon Grove School District has access to a variety of menstrual products in all the girls' and unisex bathrooms. Soon after, students in other school districts learned about Project Dignity and reached out to take action.

This is just one of many ways The Fund for Women & Girls is improving lives across Chester County. For 30 years, The Fund has fought for gender equity, ensuring that women and girls have resources and opportunities to thrive.

ADDRESSING GENDER INEQUITIES

The Fund for Women & Girls was founded in 1996, when a philanthropist and fundraiser assembled a board of visionary leaders to launch a fund focused on the needs of women and girls in Chester County. Originally under the umbrella of the Chester County Community Foundation, The Fund became an independent nonprofit organization in 2003.

Today, The Fund works to advance gender equity in Chester County by addressing both immediate community needs and the systemic barriers that prevent women, girls and anyone facing gender discrimination — including transgender, nonbinary and gender nonconforming individuals — from reaching their full potential.

In 1997, The Fund made its first two grants of $2,500 each. In the three decades since, they've awarded $4.9 million to 102 nonprofits in three core areas: equity in education, health and safety, and economic stability. This includes addressing barriers to education like funding inequities and period poverty, accessible healthcare, fair pay, paid family leave, and affordable, accessible childcare.

The Fund also publishes a comprehensive Blueprint Report assessment every five years. Following the latest edition in 2022, The Fund launched focus groups centered on Black and Latina women, whose voices are often missing from local data, culminating in a Supplemental Focus Group Report in 2025.

ADVOCATING FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS

While grantmaking and research continue to drive much of The Fund's work, the organization has recently expanded their advocacy efforts. "A common misconception is that The Fund is primarily a grantmaking organization," said Brubaker. "We see grantmaking as serving immediate needs and advocacy as working on underlying issues."

For the last two years, The Fund has championed the Family Care Act, which would allow Pennsylvanians to take paid time off for parental leave, or if they or a family member have a serious medical condition or are victims of violence. "It's astounding how many women go through maternity and childbirth without paid leave," said Brubaker. "Around one in four women go back to work within 10 days of giving birth due to financial needs." The Fund has worked alongside fellow nonprofits and bill sponsors in the Pennsylvania legislature to promote the bill.

Other advocacy work includes Empower Her Vote, an initiative aiming to make voter participation more accessible, which launched on the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment. This legacy is depicted in the "100 Years" mural on East Market Street in West Chester, which The Fund commissioned.

EMPOWERING THE NEXT GENERATION

Since its founding, The Fund has understood the need to include the next generation in their mission — it's why "Girls" is in the name. In 2005, they launched the Girls Advisory Board, putting grantmaking decisions in the hands of young women, resulting in 120 grants totaling over $420,000.

Another new initiative is Vote16PA, a nonpartisan, youth-led project advocating for 16- and 17-year-olds to vote in local school board elections — giving students a voice in their education and future. High school and college students learn about the legislative process, build connections across the state, develop strategies and meet with legislators. Because of their efforts, House Representatives announced forthcoming legislation on this issue.

GET INVOLVED

Help The Fund make equity and security for women and girls a reality by getting involved. "You can help us spread the word by getting on our email list and joining us on social media," said Brubaker. "A lot of people say, 'I don't have time.' But just like and share!"

Or join the Gender Equity Action Group, where 90+ volunteers work to advance gender equity in Pennsylvania. It's a "choose-your-own-adventure" approach to advocacy, where you decide your level of involvement, from making phone calls and sending emails to legislators to taking trips to Harrisburg, with support from The Fund's staff. Start by signing up for their advocacy newsletter online.

Other opportunities include attending and volunteering at The Fund's events, contributing funds to support programming and advocacy, or hosting a "Gathering for Good" event — you pick the theme, they bring the program.

For 30 years, The Fund has worked tirelessly to support women and girls in Chester County and across the state. "I think The Fund for Women & Girls is a perfect example of what happens when two or three people really care about an issue and get involved," said Brubaker. "It's an incredible legacy of women and men who stepped up and decided to work on these issues together. That's what's so powerful about The Fund."

Through grantmaking, research and advocacy, The Fund's staff and volunteers have improved the lives of countless women and girls in our community. For that reason, we honor them as this year's Local Heroes. ♦

The Fund for Women & Girls can't do this work alone. To learn more, visit TheFundCC.org and CountyLinesMagazine.com.

1. Participants in Project Dignity
2. Advocating for Black maternal health at the Pennsylvania State Capitol
3. Students advocating for Vote16PA

Be a Local Hero!

In addition to The Fund for Women & Girls, many local organizations need your support. Here are just a few of the nonprofits improving the lives of women and girls in our community.

Black Women of Chester County in Action: P.O. Box 825, Downingtown. *BWCCA.org*

Domestic Violence Center of Chester County: Offices in Coatesville, Kennett Square, Phoenixville and Oxford. *DVCCCPA.org*

Home of the Sparrow: 969 Swedesford Rd., Exton. *HomeOfTheSparrow.org*

The Wardrobe: Locations in Kennett Square, Malvern, Upper Darby and more. *CareerWardrobe.org*

YoungMoms: 708 E. Baltimore Pk., Kennett Square. *YoungMomsChesterCounty.org*

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CLEAR Danger

PROTECTING PENNSYLVANIA'S BIRD POPULATION

Ashley Vadner, Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens

IT'S DUSK, THE SUN IS SLIPPING low behind the trees, and a bird is in flight. She has dozens of miles to cover tonight. Through her eyes, positioned on the sides of her head, the world zips by in blurs of green, deep blue and brown. Ahead, dusky patches of sky and foliage promise safe passage, an open invitation.

She doesn't realize she's looking at a reflection in glass as she zips forward. Not even when her tiny body slams against the solid surface, cutting her flight short. It's another bird strike.

A MODERN PERIL

Window collisions like these are an all-too-common occurrence. From a young age, humans learn to associate visual cues like window frames or smudges with the solid, transparent material that is glass. Birds, however, lack the cognitive ability to make this connection. Unable to identify glass, they perceive reflections literally.

At night, artificial light glowing behind windows presents an added danger, luring birds into a maze of urban landscaping that they struggle to escape the following day. The impact of this threat to bird populations is staggering. Every year, over one billion birds die from window collisions in North America alone.

AT HOME AND IN CITIES

The problem of collisions is as relevant at our own homes as it is at commercial or public buildings. Almost half (roughly 44%) of bird collisions occur at residences. On average, window collisions kill one to 10 birds per home per year. With nearly 149 million residential houses in the United States, the cumulative effect is devastating.

The shared blame for this problem is also the shared responsibility to create change. If every home poses a danger, then every homeowner has the opportunity to take part in the solution.

WHAT TO DO?

Small, inexpensive home projects make a big difference in preventing fatal bird strikes. Adjustments don't need to be made to every window of a home to mitigate the danger to birds. Nearly all collisions can be reduced by addressing windows that have already caused accidents: large windows and glass doors that reflect sky or greenery and windows across from feeders, baths or fruit-bearing plants.

Remember, if you see habitat reflected in your window, so do birds.

An effective method to make windows collision-proof is to attach patterns to the outside of the glass, giving birds a visual cue that an impassable barrier is in their flight path. Shape, color, size and spacing are all important factors to consider.

Pattern elements should be at least ¼ inch in diameter and spaced no more than 2 inches apart. White markers offer the best contrast for glass reflecting the

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To apply online, you must be a Chester County resident and at least 18 years old.

patterns of trees or vegetation, while black markers are best for glass reflecting the sky. As long as these guidelines are followed, the material used to create the preventive patterns can be as simple as sticky notes, stickers or paint arranged in a grid.

Many products are available for purchase to retrofit home windows, including rolls of ABC BirdTape laid in a checkerboard pattern or Feather Friendly adhesive markers that are installed in strips or sheets. Products are available at a range of prices and sizes depending on your home needs.

If you don't want to adhere anything to the surface of your windows, you can hang lengths of 1/8-inch parachute cord spaced less than 4 inches apart outside the window (a design known as Acopian BirdSavers). The movement of the cord helps alert birds to the presence of glass.

Bird-proofing your windows can also be a source of color and fun. If you're looking for a creative personal or family project, try painting designs on your windows with tempera paint in a 2"x2" grid. Tempera paint can be easily removed with vinegar and water, making it a fast and simple solution that doesn't require a permanent commitment.

AT JENKINS

A diverse array of resident and migratory birds find food and shelter in the gardens at Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens. In the heart of the property is the John J. Willaman Education Center, the hub of activity for programs, workshops, staff offices and art exhibitions. With the intention of blurring the lines between indoors and outdoors, the building features nearly 2,000 square feet of glass windows.

Knowing this building posed a threat to the very birds Jenkins sought to attract, Feather Friendly deterrent markers and Acopian BirdSavers were installed on window surfaces during the summer of 2025. Since installing this simple retrofit, we've observed a 100% reduction in fatal bird strikes! A heartbreaking problem was quickly and easily resolved.

Join in to protect our feathered friends with simple solutions. Visit Jenkins to see firsthand how bird-safe windows operate, or purchase bird strike prevention kits in The Garden Shop to protect your windows at home.

The scale of the danger facing birds may be daunting, but the steps to help are not. ♦

IMAGES COURTESY OF LIZ PETTIT AND JENKINS ARBORETUM & GARDENS

Jenkins Arboretum & Gardens is a 48-acre public garden showcasing native flora of the eastern United States and a world-class collection of rhododendrons and azaleas. The gardens are open every day of the year and are always free. Plan your visit at JenkinsArboretum.org.



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1. Jenkins staff installing Feather Friendly bird-strike deterrent markers
2. Installing a simple grid of dots to indicate a solid surface to birds

The *Soundtrack* to Fall







DISCOVER THE CONCERTS, ENSEMBLES AND MUSICAL TRADITIONS BRINGING THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY TO LIFE THIS SEASON

Shannon Montgomery

AS THE BRANDYWINE VALLEY settles into fall, local musicians are tuning up for a busy season. From sweeping symphonies and centuries-old compositions to lively jazz, student performances and festive holiday favorites, the local music scene offers something for every taste.

Read on for a look at this season's standout concerts. Whether you're a longtime concertgoer or simply looking for something new, there's a performance waiting to strike the right note.

SYMPHONY ORCHESTRAS

Plan an afternoon of beautiful music, a festive evening out, or a holiday tradition with family and friends. Our local symphony orchestras are filling the fall calendar with everything from beloved classical works to seasonal favorites, with special performances that pair great music with a little extra atmosphere. Settle in, discover a new favorite or enjoy the familiar sounds of the season.

Fresh off its Carnegie Hall debut last month, the Brandywine Valley Symphony keeps the excitement going with "Masterworks I" on November 15. Settle in for a relaxed afternoon of food, music and drink at the Mendenhall Inn's Grand Ballroom as Artistic Director Michael Hall pulls back the curtain on Bizet's "Symphony No. 1," sharing stories, insights and live musical examples that reveal how the music comes together. Next up, the BVS Brass Quintet brings holiday cheer to Oxford Presbyterian Church on December 5 and the Chester County History Center on December 6. *BVSymphony.org*

For a festive musical outing, the Delaware County Symphony presents "A Holiday Chamber Celebration" on November 29 at Neumann University's Meagher Theatre. Enjoy music celebrating winter holidays of all kinds, with audience sing-alongs adding to the fun. The symphony returns on December 6 for "Romantic Masters," part of its 2026–27 Symphony Series. The program pairs Franz Liszt's "Piano Concerto No. 2" and

Across the state line, the Delaware Symphony Orchestra's 121st season is in full swing. "Light Within Shadows" features Nokuthula Ngwenyama's "Primal Message," Mozart's "Sinfonia Concertante" and "Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 6," with performances at Wilmington's Grand Opera House on November 6 and Cape Henlopen High School in Lewes on November 8. Kicking off the holiday season, "Jingle Bell Jamboree" mixes festive faves — from "The Nutcracker" to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" — on November 29. Then, "Holidays at the Hotel" returns December 8 to the Hotel du Pont's elegant Gold Ballroom. *DelawareSymphony.org*

In Wayne, the Main Line Symphony Orchestra launches its 81st season with "Latin Flair & Young Person's Guide" on ovember 20 at Valley Forge Middle hool. The program brings lively ythms and musical discovery together, with selections from Mitch Leigh's "Man of La Mancha" and Alberto Ginastera's "Estancia" suite. Plus, Benjamin Britten's "The Young Person's Guide to the Orchestra" introduces listeners to the orchestra's many personalities, showcasing each instrument family along the way. It's an entertaining introduction for younger concertgoers and a delightful refresher for longtime music lovers. *MLSO.org*

EARLY MUSIC ENSEMBLES

Step back in time with early music ensembles, bringing centuries-old sounds to life with period instruments, historically informed performances, and music from the Renaissance, Baroque and Classical eras. Think delicate strings, intricate harmonies, soaring voices and the timeless works of composers like Bach and Handel. Whether you're drawn to the intimacy of chamber music or the grandeur of a holiday oratorio, these performances offer a chance to experience classical music as audiences did centuries ago.

In Delaware, Brandywine Baroque invites you to join them "At the Pleasure Gardens," a musical escape to the elegant entertainment gardens of 18th-century Europe. Repertoire includes three of William Hayes' Six Cantatas (II, III and IV) as well as works by Georg Philipp Telemann and Ferdinando Tenducci. Catch a performance at The Barn at Flintwoods in Wilmington on November 6 and 8, or at Rehoboth Beach's Lutheran Church of Our Savior on November 7.

1. Delaware Symphony Orchestra
   PHOTO CREDIT: GREATER WILMINGTON CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU/MOONLOOP PHOTOGRAPHY
2. Brandywine Valley Symphony
3. Main Line Symphony Orchestra



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Then, get into the holiday spirit with "A Joyous Christmas," December 4 to 6, featuring festive selections by Vivaldi, Handel and Bach. *BrandywineBaroque.org*

Celebrating its 40th anniversary season, VoxAmaDeus has a lineup that spans dramatic choral masterpieces and holiday traditions. On November 13, the Ama Deus Ensemble takes the stage at the Kimmel Center for Guiseppe Verdi's "Messa de Requiem," a powerful work famous for the thunderous "Dies Irae," with its double chorus and orchestra. Come December, Handel's "Messiah" returns to area churches on December 4, 6, 18 and 20. For more seasonal magic, the Vox Renaissance Consort dons period attire for "Renaissance Noël," filling Chestnut Hill's St. Martin-in-the-Fields with music on December 12 before heading to Bryn Mawr College's Great Hall on December 13. *VoxAmaDeus.org*

SCHOOLS & UNIVERSITY GROUPS

Here's a chance to hear tomorrow's stars today. Local universities and music schools nurture the next generation of performers, giving students opportunities to hone their craft alongside accomplished musicians and to share their talents with the community. From intimate student recitals to grand orchestral masterpieces, these performances offer a chance to enjoy great music while cheering on the next generation of talent.

Head to Immaculata University's Alumnae Hall to hear the Immaculata Symphony, a distinctive community-university partnership that brings together students and talented local musicians. On November 7, "American Symphonies" celebrates the country's rich orchestral tradition and distinct sound with Leonard Bernstein's "Overture to Candide" and "Symphony No. 1, 'Jeremiah,'" alongside Howard Hanson's "Symphony No. 2, 'Romantic.'" Return December 6 for the Christmas concert featuring holiday favorites, sing-alongs and special guests, the West Chester Children's Chorus. *ImmaculataSymphony.org*

For over a century, the Music School of Delaware has helped aspiring musicians of all ages find their rhythm. The only statewide, accredited music school in the country, it presents over 100 public performances annually. On November 18, the school teams up with the Delaware Art Museum for an evening with the Mosaic String Duo in Fusco Hall. Expect an eclectic mix inspired by flamenco, Middle Eastern, classical and rock traditions. Other highlights include the Delaware Women's Chorus Concert on November 14 at the Wilmington campus, plus adult and student recitals at both the Wilmington and Milford campuses on November 17 and 21, respectively. *MusicSchoolOfDelaware.org*

It's a milestone fall at West Chester University's renowned Wells School of Music, which is celebrating 100 years of jazz at WCU. The story began in 1926 with the formation of a dance band that became the Criterions Jazz Ensemble, now the longest-running band of its kind in the country. From November 6 to 8, the 100 Years of Jazz Celebration brings that legacy to life with a Welcome Concert with the Criterions and Statesmen, Dance Soiree in the Sciences & Engineering Building, and the 100th Anniversary Celebration with the Criterions, an all-star alumni band and acclaimed jazz vibraphonist Stefon Harris.

The semester's lineup continues with the Symphony Orchestra's "A Portrait of Prokofiev" on November 21, the Wind Symphony and Concert Band's "Dance Atlas" on November 27 and the 105th annual Holiday Program December 5, featuring the Symphony Orchestra, Combined Choirs, Criterions and WCU Pops Orchestra.

And don't miss one more chance to cheer on the "Incomparable" Golden Rams Marching Band at the November 7 football game before they head to Indianapolis for the Bands of America Grand National Championships. Of course, they'll be back in time for the West Chester Christmas Parade on December 4! *WCUPA.edu/Music*

With so much musical talent in our own backyard, the coming months are a wonderful time to explore the local arts scene and enjoy a memorable performance. Discover the stories behind the music, experience the talents of both seasoned performers and rising stars, and enjoy the sounds that make this time of year so special. ♦



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4. VoxAmaDeus
5. Immaculata Symphony
6. WCU Criterions Jazz Ensemble

Encore!

The region's vibrant music scene offers even more opportunities to enjoy live performances this fall. Here are a few more of the ensembles bringing harmony to our area.

Chester County Concert Band Fall Concert: "Bach to the Future." November 1, Fugett Middle School, West Chester. *CCCBand.org*

Chester County Choral Society Fall Chamber Concert. November 8, St. Michael Lutheran Church, Unionville. *ChescoChoral.org*

Lancaster Symphony Orchestra Concert: "Solitude to Triumph." November 20–22, Gardner Theatre, Lancaster Country Day School. *LancasterSymphony.org*

West Chester Children's Chorus Fall Concert. November 21, Emilie K. Asplundh Concert Hall, West Chester University. *WCCCMusic.org*

Liberty Youth Wind Symphony Concert. November 22, Madeline Wing Adler Theatre, West Chester University. *LibertyWindSymphony.org*

Rose Tree Pops Fall Concert. November 22, St. Anastasia Church, Newtown Square. *RoseTreePops.org*

West Chester Community Concert Band Fall Concert. November 22, Alumnae Hall, Immaculata University. *WCBand.org*



Eight Reasons to Kennett Square & Chadds Ford

MUCH MORE THAN MUSHROOMS

Edwin Malet

LONGWOOD GARDENS, THE Brandywine Creek, the Brandywine Battlefield, Willowdale racecourse and the woods of Anson B. Nixon Park are just a few contributors to the abundance of green, rolling hills and magnificent countryside of this area. Kennett Square's longstanding equestrian institutions and its diverse restaurant scene give it grace and texture. And all of it is built on a foundation of history and community.

We've been major fans of this growing area of southern Chester County for many years. Here are eight reasons we think you'll love Kennett Square and Chadds Ford, too.

1. Longwood Gardens. The top tourism spot in the Brandywine Valley is glorious Longwood Gardens, which doubles as a favorite destination for locals. Enjoy acres of lush gardens and meadows, walking paths, greenhouses, waterfalls, fountains and pools. See a 700-year-old bonsai, meadow grasses, giant cacti, huge water lilies, custom-bred clivias, massive staghorn ferns and magnificent oaks near historic elms. And so much more.

A very special time to visit is during "A Longwood Christmas" (November 20–January 10, 2027), with a theme inspired by space and the cosmos. Exhibition Hall features vibrant poinsettias. Plus, there will be a rotating Christmas tree, massive light tunnel and model trains. And of course, live music and dancing fountains.

2. Brandywine Museum of Art. All aboard! Although the Brandywine Museum of Art is celebrated all year for its distinctive art collection, for the holidays (November 14–January 10, 2027) it has another draw. See the Brandywine Railroad display featuring a gallery full of miniature trains with locomotives, passengers, passenger and freight cars, running on thousands of feet of track and passing through a tiny town with factories, farms, a drive-in movie theater and a carnival. Lionel, Williams and Atlas are only a few of the manufacturers represented. Try out the interactive push buttons and foot pedals for visitors. Another holiday favorite is the Dolls and Dollhouse Exhibits, featuring a massive collection of antique dolls curated by Ann Wyeth McCoy, a six-room dollhouse and miniature masterpieces by the extended Wyeth family.

The museum's permanent collection highlights the Wyeth family — N.C., Andrew, Jamie Wyeth — in a 19th-century gristmill alongside towering glass modern walls overlooking the Brandywine Creek. From winter through autumn, the museum offers tours of the Wyeths' art studios and the inspiring Kuerner Farm, seamlessly blending regional art history with a 15-acre campus featuring native wildflower gardens and walking trails.



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3. Rich History. History can be found woven throughout the landscape. This area was the site of a major Revolutionary War battle — the largest of the war — leading to the British capture of Philadelphia in September 1777 after the colonial troops' loss at the Battle of Brandywine. The ultimate victory of the Revolutionary War is celebrated as part of Historic Chadds Ford Days, the annual colonial history festival held in September, hosted by the Chadds Ford Historical Society. The event generally features battle reenactments, Revolutionary War encampments, tactical drills and a kids' program. Yankee Doodle!

Kennett Square had another key historic role, this time in the 19th century. Known as a "hotbed of abolitionism," its strategic location just north of the Mason-Dixon line served as a crucial gateway for African Americans seeking freedom through a network of abolitionists. Hundreds of enslaved people were guided toward safety on the Underground Railroad. Today, this heritage is actively preserved by the Kennett Underground Railroad Center.

4. Equestrian Life. Hooves thumping, riders galloping, enthusiasts watching and cheering, the Kennett Square area is a renowned hub for equestrian culture. The Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, one of only three elite four-mile timber steeplechase races sanctioned by the National Steeplechase Association, occurs nearby, scheduled for the first Sunday in November. The Willowdale Steeplechase, in early May, kicks off Chester County's spring equestrian season. That race benefits the University of Pennsylvania's world-renowned New Bolton Center, with over 70 veterinary specialists, which is also located here. Barbaro, the 2006 winner of the Kentucky Derby, was one of its patients. Add in Derbydown, Pony Island Farm and Walnut Creek Farm, just a few of the stables and training facilities that dot the area for more equestrian action.



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1. Longwood Gardens
PHOTO CREDIT: HOLDEN BARNES FOR LONGWOOD GARDENS

2. Brandywine Railroad at the Brandywine Museum of Art
PHOTO COURTESY OF THE BRANDYWINE MUSEUM OF ART

3. Pennsylvania Hunt Cup
PHOTO CREDIT: BOB KELLER

4. Historic Chadds Ford Days


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5. The Mushroom Festival
6. Nomadic Pies
7. Midnight in the Square
PHOTO CREDIT: CHESTER COUNTY'S BRANDYWINE VALLEY

5. Great Food in a Small Town. Kennett Square's restaurant scene is quite sophisticated for a town of its size — from tasting-menu destinations to ethnic cuisine, BYOBs and casual spots. And the farm-to-table emphasis makes sense when farms are right outside town. Talula's Table tops many lists, known for its seasonal, hyper-local, multi-course, reserve-a-year-in-advance Farm Table. For more formal ambience, try 1906 at Longwood Gardens. To dine as the Wyeths dined, head to Hank's Place for breakfast, lunch or dinner. If it's pie you want, you'll have to order in advance and wait in a long line at Thanksgiving, but Nomadic Pies is worth it, with fruit, custard, meats and quiches and ranked 5th in a *USA Today* poll.

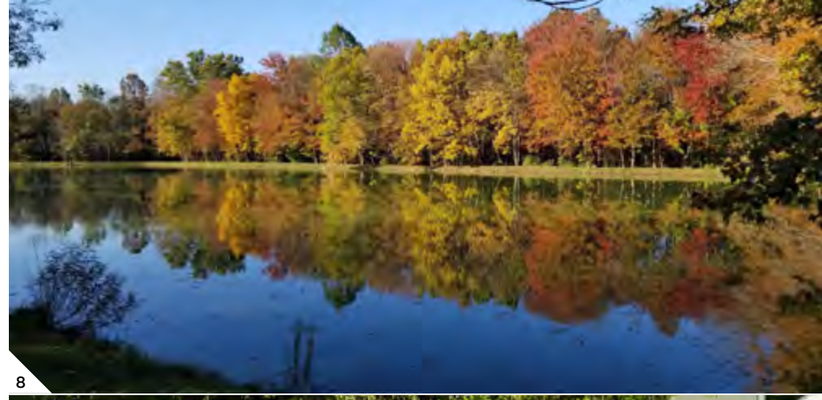
And many, many more: La Verona Italian Restaurant, Lily's Asian Cuisine, La Peña Mexicana, Sovana Bistro, Sweet Amelia's and newly opened Opus. Or forget the calories and go to Hangry Bear Creamery (with reservations and about 10 friends) to learn about ice cream and create your own unique flavor. Leave with a few pints of your newest favorite.

6. The Mushrooms. Kennett Square is the "Mushroom Capital of the World," annually producing about half of America's mushrooms — that's 500 million pounds. For many, fungi fun peaks at September's Mushroom Festival, but mushroom delicacies from cream of mushroom soup to mushroom ice cream are available year-round. At New Year's Eve, be ready for Midnight in the Square and the annual Mushroom Drop. A giant 700-pound stainless-steel mushroom, ringed with lights, is lowered from an 80-foot crane. That's the finale to the street party and free community events.

All year long, visit the retail store at the Woodlands at Phillips Mushroom Farms for every kind of fungi from white button and portabella mushrooms to more exotic varieties such as shiitake, oyster, lion's mane and hen of the woods. At its museum, you'll see live growing mushrooms! Then head to The Mushroom Cap for themed gifts and collectibles shaped like you-know-what.

7. Parks and Countryside. Just north of downtown, Anson B. Nixon Park consists of over 100 acres of fields, woods and ponds, with three miles of walking trails, sports facilities — tennis, pickleball, volleyball and basketball courts, plus soccer and lacrosse fields — a playground, picnic pavilions and two ponds stocked with trout. In mid-November, the park is the site of the Jive Turkey Cranksgiving Cyclocross Race. In the spring, it holds its annual Trout Rodeo and, in summer, free concerts. Last summer, the series concluded with the 3rd annual Roots and Blues Festival.

8. Anson B. Nixon Park
9. Kennett Brewfest
10. The Francis Hotel & Suites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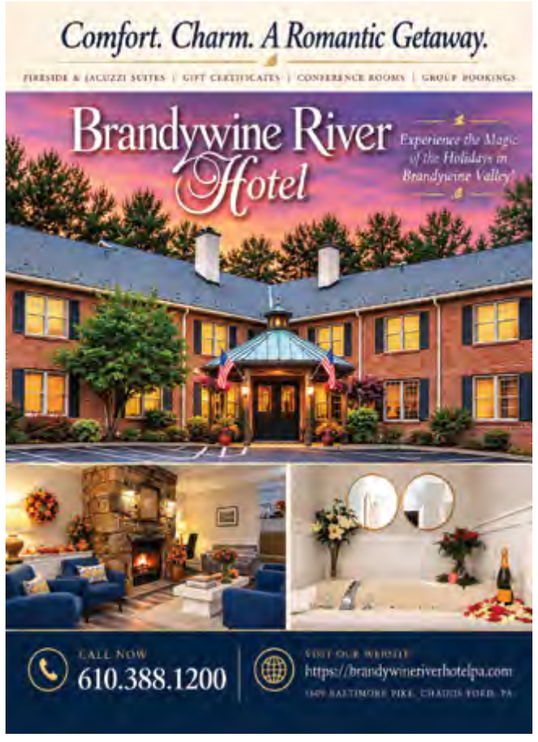
8. The Community. A major booster of Kennett Square, Kennett Collaborative (formerly Historic Kennett Square) is dedicated to making the town a more beautiful and welcoming community. The Kennett Collaborative contributes to the Mushroom Festival, Kennett Brewfest, Kennett Winterfest, Kennett's Third Thursdays on State Street, KSQ Farmers Market, Holiday Village Market and more. It posts lights on the town's streets at Christmas and flowers in the spring.

A newer addition to building the community, Square Roots Collective works closely with the Collaborative. An incubator that operates several businesses and community-driven projects, the Collective invests 100% of its profits back into the community. Projects include The Creamery, Artelo (an art hotel), The Francis Hotel & Suites and Opus restaurant with more planned. It's also developing the Kennett Greenway, a 14-mile loop tying together Anson B. Nixon Park, the YMCA and several open spaces. Together, the Collaborative and the Collective sponsor Kennett Decides, allowing local residents to participate in how community investment funds are spent.

Eight reasons only scratch the surface. The area has a way of rewarding repeat visits, whether you're exploring familiar favorites or finding something you've somehow missed. Mushrooms are just the beginning. ♦









The *Gift* of a Memorable Day

HELP SOMEONE ON YOUR LIST EXPLORE AND ENJOY

Cara Corridoni

THE SECRET TO THE BEST gifts is finding that something special the recipient will truly love but will never get for themselves. To do that, you may have to think outside the website, and instead bestow a truly memorable experience. Find a gift of shared laughter and stories to tell (and retell). That's something often needed and overlooked in everyone's overscheduled and overburdened lives.

To get you started, we've boxed up and wrapped in shiny paper some of our favorite adventures in waiting.

HIDDEN GEM DELIVERY

For the person who has it all, give the gift of the overlooked. For every Longwood Gardens, there's a Scott Arboretum, Swarthmore College's 425-acre botanical garden abloom in inspiration and repose. An equally amazing destination — less buzz and no crowds.

How about planning a visit to the Wharton Esherick Museum, celebrating its 100th anniversary this year? Located atop Valley Forge Mountain, this museum was hand-built by the famed American artist over the course of 40 years and serves as an organic work of art in its own right. Today, the property is registered as a National Historic Landmark and an ode to the beauty of the everyday. It's open Wednesday through Sunday and best experienced by a guided tour.

As part of this outing, swing by Dixie Picnic in Malvern for a fun twist on lunch on the run. Select a Bette box lunch packaged with a sandwich — like their best-selling chicken salad — choice of side, a homemade deviled egg and a signature upcake (upside down cupcake with more icing) for something sweet.

Speaking of rethinking the everyday, instead of letting your gift recipient settle for the usual pizza spot on Friday, make their night (or week) and reserve dough from Ravanesi Pizzeria Napoletana in Glen Mills. Their signature pies start with traditional long-fermented dough and finish in a super-hot oven. Hot enough to turn the dough a rich, warm brown and get the cheese bubbling in just 90 seconds. The result is a pizza night that won't soon be forgotten. And what goes perfectly with pizza? Pair it with game night with friends.

Where Amazon has added convenience, it has eliminated fun. The Games Keep in West Chester is having none of that. The highly rated games destination hosts regular tournaments and weekly game nights. The small, nondescript shop features floor-to-wall shelves of board games in categories like family, strategy, war and historical. A round of Zillionaires Road Trip USA, anyone?

THE EQUESTRIAN LIFE TIED UP IN A BOW

This whimsical escape to a world of jockeys and thoroughbred horses is sure to excite whether the recipient is entrenched in Chester County's rich horse culture, a longtime lover of the beautiful beasts, or simply someone always up for something new.

Start with tickets and tailgate passes to the 92nd running of the Pennsylvania Hunt Cup, a four-mile, 18-jump, timber steeplechase race that takes place each November in Unionville. Gather the family and provide a tasty spread as part of an unforgettable afternoon of pomp, circumstance and plenty of cheering.

To make tailgating setup even easier, include a gift basket packed with treats from Northbrook Marketplace in West Chester. Let the lucky recipient munch on a lunch of pulled pork and barbecue chicken sandwiches served with plenty of their famous Uncle Harold's Chips. For something sweet, include one of the best apple cider donuts around. Share the treats or don't — it's your gift.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1. The Whip Tavern
2. Wharton Esherick Museum
   PHOTO CREDIT: CHESTER COUNTY'S BRANDYWINE VALLEY
3. Scott Arboretum
4. Brandywine Polo
   PHOTO CREDIT: TISA DELLA-VOLPE
5. Va La Vineyards

Or give a gift that lets folks get in on the action with riding lessons from Carousel Park Equestrian Center in Wilmington. The 200-acre Delaware park offers lessons from beginner to advanced plus specialty classes like Western Dressage. Sweep through meadows, trot around ponds, and spot swans and geese while gaining a new appreciation for life on high.

For someone whose tastes run in the royal direction, give passes to the sport of kings, a polo match at the Brandywine Polo Club. Matches take place on Fridays and Sundays from June through September. Remind them to bring a chair or blanket for a front-row seat to the action.

After the match, send them to the Whip Tavern in Coatesville for dinner with fellow horse enthusiasts. The A-line cottage pub is just enough out of the way to evoke images of an English countryside tavern. A proper British menu, including Scotch eggs and Welsh rarebit, doesn't hurt either. Suggest they order a pint of ale or some For Fox Sake hard cider before settling in to recap the day's action.

UNWRAP A TASTING TOUR

What better gift to give this season than a chance to raise a glass for the things we love?

Begin with an invitation to share a glass, or several, at Avondale's Va La Vineyards. Va La remains a Pennsylvania rarity, an old-world-style winery featuring wines made from northern Italian and French grape varietals grown right here in Chester County. Specializing in small-batch vintages, the family-owned vineyard remains committed to the philosophy of farmer as winemaker. Plan a visit for a staff-guided tasting of four of the farm's seasonal offerings. And arrange for a tasting from the local artisan cheese menu, selected specially to pair with the wines. Perhaps the fresh goat chevre with honey from Shellbark Hollow Farm in Honey Brook and a glass of the La Prima Donna.

When the temps have dipped and the weather is threatening, the new Wayvine Tasting Room in Kennett Square is another wine lovers' destination. This spot may not have the rolling hills of the brand's Nottingham farmstead, but it's similarly flush with character, with the bar, tables and shelves made from trees that have fallen at the main farm. "Crafted with care in true Wilson DIY fashion," their website reads. Also the same:



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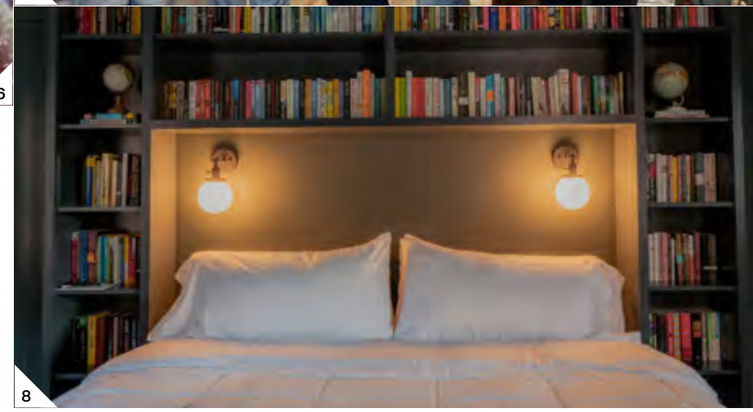
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Wayvine's signature tastings. Choose from bold reds and crisp whites, or try one of their new cocktails.

Got a history lover on your list? Then how about a toast to America? Let them travel back to the days of our Founding Fathers with a pint of crisp English-style cider from Old Stone Cider in Lewisville., brewed from 1,200 heirloom apple trees grown on the farm specifically for fermenting into hard cider. They can enjoy a pint in the property's historic rebuilt Pennsylvania bank barn or meander through the working farm. Or for something different, they can skip over to Hangry Bear Creamery in Kennett Square for Old Stone on tap, but more importantly, in ice cream form!

Before this country bids farewell to its 250th year, gift a celebration of its history with a meal at the General Warren in Malvern. Originally established in 1745, the historic restaurant has gone by a variety of names over the last 280 years. But whatever you call it, it's literally served history, starting with the men of General Washington's army. Your guest can tuck into their signature beef Wellington, then shuffle over to the Warren Tavern and raise a glass to another 250.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE (GIFT) BOX

Here's a little treasure for the lifelong learner on your list or anyone who just needs a little inspiration. This pretty box is also a reminder that nights don't need to be routine. Add a little zest back into their evenings and maybe their cooking, too, with some spicy red lentils. It's one of several recipes to master during the Ethiopian Kitchen class offered by Chester County Lifelong Learning.

Cooking not the right match? The course options run the gamut from crafts and photography to technology and professional development. Or maybe that special someone on your list just needs some space to let the creative juices flow? The Chrysalis Art Center in Downingtown offers open studio time for adults on Wednesdays. This gift is good for five two-hour sessions. The time can be used for painting, drawing or sculpting in the company of other artists.

Consider the simple but always appreciated gift of a gift card to Main Point Books in Wayne. This lovely independent gem always has the best recommendations. And for a gift your book lover won't soon forget, they work with a collection of authors to provide signed copies of their latest works. You even get to weigh in on what the inscription will say.

Finally, send your bibliophile to Kennett Square for a night away from it all at the ultimate book lovers' staycation, the original Bookhouse Hotel. Book a night in the Writer's Den, the second-floor suite in rich green and pink that's peaceful, warm, with just a hint of romance. It's the perfect place for that lucky person on your gift list to pen a happy ending. Or thank-you note.

Things are nice. Time spent together is priceless. Here's hoping this holiday will be one to remember. ♦

6. Old Stone Cider
7. Chrysalis Art Center
8. The Bookhouse Hotel
   PHOTO CREDIT: CHESTER COUNTY'S BRANDYWINE VALLEY



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What You May Not Know About Hospice

MANY OPTIONS AND SERVICES

Carol Metzker

LINDA SAID THAT THERE WERE two surprises when her mother received hospice care. First, she was pleasantly surprised at how much was covered by Medicare: a cane, walker, incontinence products, medications for comfort and more. Second, she was moved by the kindness of each person — social worker, nurses, chaplain, aides and others — who supported them during the experience.

Like many others, their journey was not straightforward. Linda's mother began hospice while in independent living at Ivy Creek and continued after she moved to a memory care center. After breaking a hip, she temporarily left hospice to try surgery. Later, she returned to hospice after transferring to nursing care. "My mother was well cared for during her last days," said Linda.

Throughout Linda's decision-making, hospice workers helped with the progression of change, allowing Linda to be present during her mother's declining health. "Heartland Hospice in Chadds Ford served as cheerleaders and helped me think things through," she continued. She still receives calls from the chaplain and social worker every few months and shared that she feels ready to move on.

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

The need for hospice care comes with a lifetime's worth of emotions. While most people understand that sadness, grief and fear can be front and center, hospice can help bring comfort, relief, laughter and joy. People in a variety of hospice roles talked about what many patients and loved ones said they wished they knew earlier.

When to call about hospice — sooner, rather than later.

"Calling about hospice isn't about giving up. It's about having a conversation about making life better for the patient and their loved ones," said Charles McDonough, CEO of Delaware Hospice — a nonprofit, community-based healthcare organization that offers compassionate, expert care and support.

Hospice isn't just about the end of a life-story. For patients, it's about living final days better with choice, dignity, trust and joy. For spouses and grown children, it's about spending time as a family, instead of as caregivers, and turning over some of the difficult tasks to someone who feels honored to help at a pivotal point in life.

Monica Sullivan, executive director of Crossroads Hospice — an organization serving the Philadelphia region including Chester County and that prioritizes spending time with patients — concurs. "Entering hospice doesn't mean you're dying today. You're entering a quality-of-life conversation.

What do you want out of life?" Conversations take into account what patients want, choose and how they make the most out of their time while living.

> You can exit the program and return to it later, if you choose. You can leave the hospice situation if you want to try treatment.

Electing hospice isn't just one "permanent" decision.

You can exit the program and return to it later, if you choose. "If you change your mind and want to start chemo, that's okay," said Sullivan. You can leave the hospice situation if you want to try treatment.

"Even if you elect it, you don't have to have a DNR [Do-Not-Resuscitate order]," said McDonough.

People of all ages are eligible for hospice.

This article is one in a series about senior communities and continuing, progressive care, so it focuses on older adults. Hospice is an option for others as well.

While entering hospice is based on a terminal illness with less than six months to live, there can be extensions.

No one is rushing the patient out the door. Certain bereavement services are covered for family members for 13 months after the loss of their loved one.

Medicare has a definition and standards for hospice, but hospice is more.

Medicare is a federal program with a minimum level of care and benefits. Wherever you are in the U.S., regardless of what your insurance is, there's a preset level of service you can receive.

LEVELS OF CARE

Because hospice providers have the same requirements, the numerous organizations throughout the Brandywine Valley — including Crossroads, Delaware Hospice, Heartland, Holisticare, Main Line Health, Penn Medicine, Willow Tree and others — offer the same required medical care and services. All must be able to provide four levels of care:

- Routine care takes place where the patient is living, whether a longtime homestead, older adult community or loved one's home.
- Continuous home care takes place where the patient is already living, but often starts with an unusual event such as agitation, medication change or a patient's pain that's out of control.
- Inpatient care can take place at a skilled nursing facility, special medical facility that feels like a home, or hospital — perhaps referred when the patient is already there for medical care or referred by the hospice program.
- Respite takes care of the patient, but is designed to help the caregiver. Families experiencing exhaustion from physical and emotional stress after tending a loved one for a long time can get a five-day break to prevent burnout.

Because the minimum level of service is preset, questions to ask hospice organizations should include how they deliver those specialty services and what extras they provide. Will the same nurse stay with the patient throughout their time on hospice? Will someone be present at the time of death, if wanted? Is the organization based in a specific faith's practices?

The earlier the conversations start, the sooner help can start.


Crossroads Hospice

FINDING PEACE

In one case, Crossroads Hospice was able to help a patient with ALS take control of when, where and how she transitioned, when other organizations were reluctant about the liability of leaving a hospital to return to her house. On a ventilator, she decided to end treatment and die at home. A special team including a nurse practitioner, nurse, social worker, chaplain, pharmacist and family gathered with the patient to discuss her wishes.

Crossroads advocated for her. "The patient was very aware of what she wanted. It was our gift to her and the family to help make it happen," said Sullivan.

The patient planned what her surroundings would be, who would be in the room,



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Sue Weldon, Author
Unite for HER Founder and CEO



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favorite songs that would be played and whose hands she held during final moments. "She truly lived to the end," Sullivan said.

MATTERS OF THE HEART, SOUL AND SPIRIT

Whether part of a hospice organization or outside of one, there are many complementary options for pain and stress relief: sound and music therapy, reiki and massage, healing harp, pet therapy, spiritual care, guided visualizations to reduce fear and more. Compassionate volunteers give their time and service. End-of-life doulas are growing in significance, mainstream recognition and numbers.

End-of-life doulas work within HIPAA and have ethical standards. They can help with practical support for exhausted family and caregivers, discussing last wishes or funeral arrangements, or writing notes to friends. It's usually a calling, according to Robin Nelson Woodward, a local end-of-life doula with a certificate from the University of Vermont.

For the client, Woodward's role involves "companioning" — focusing on actively listening to what the patient wants with unconditional positive regard and being present to pain. "It means going with them to the wilderness of the soul. We believe the dying person has their answers and we don't take that away. It honors spirit and bears witness to struggles," said Woodward.

"Near the time of imminent death, we move toward it, not run from it," she continued. "We embrace its sacredness. Like people who are present at the birth of babies, we also see miracles."

Interviewees who spoke with *County Lines* talked about the privilege of being with patients and families during a milestone. According to Delaware Hospice's McDonough, when you begin hospice, "you inherit a family. Aides become caregivers. Nurses become part of the family."



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1. Delaware Hospice
2. Crossroads Hospice

My father's last week was in a small, beautiful hospice center close to his home. The large room had a bed for my mother and a sunny window for watching a bird feeder. Meals, massage therapy and loving attention were available for Mom, as Dad slept without pain or the worries of Alzheimer's. Once when he awoke briefly, he stroked a therapy dog, calling him by the name of his childhood four-footed best friend.

After Dad died, staff member lined the hall to honor him as the gurney passed by. The hospice team gave Mom hugs and a teddy bear with a crystal tear in the corner of its eye. These gestures were not mentioned on any brochure, but were reassurance of love and life — the message that we are never alone even when we, who are still walking the Earth, are beginning our solo flight. ♦





Guide to 55+ and Retirement Communities & Services

55+ COMMUNITIES FOR THE FIT, ACTIVE AND INDEPENDENT

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Exton

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

Glen Mills

Ivy Creek
610-981-2740; SeniorLivingInStyle.com

King of Prussia

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

West Chester

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

Hershey's Mill
610-436-8900; HersheysMill55Plus.com

INDEPENDENT LIVING COMMUNITIES, WITH CONTINUING CARE AND LIFE CARE COMMUNITIES

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

PENNSYLVANIA

Coatesville

Harrison Senior Living
610-756-1597; HarrisonSeniorLiving.com
see the ad on page 48

Harrison Senior Living is a family-owned senior living community dedicated to providing compassionate, personalized care. They offer independent living and personal care, with an exciting memory care option coming soon. Their mission is to create a welcoming environment where residents feel safe, valued, supported and truly at home.

Cornwall

Cornwall Manor
717-274-8092; CornwallManor.org


Tel Hai Retirement Community


Revelle King of Prussia


Riddle Village


Kendal-Crosslands Communities

Glen Mills

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

Honey Brook

Tel Hai Retirement Community
484-796-4262; TelHai.org

see the ad on page 47

Life is better at Tel Hai. Set in the scenic countryside of Chester County, Tel Hai blends vibrant senior living with peace of mind. From cottages, apartments and townhomes to their unmatched amenities, you'll find the perfect setting to embrace your passions. Plus, as a life plan community, they provide the full continuum of care—ensuring confidence and comfort at every stage of retirement.

Kennett Square

Friends Home in Kennett
610-444-2577; FriendsHomeInKennett.org

Kendal-Crosslands Communities
844-907-1800; Kendal-Crosslands.org

see the ad on page 20

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

King of Prussia

Revelle King of Prussia
484-939-9830; LegendSeniorLiving.com

see the ad on page 50

Revelle King of Prussia redefines senior living with sophisticated residences, exceptional hospitality and personalized care tailored to each individual. Offering independent living, personal care and memory care, the community features elevated dining, enriching experiences and thoughtfully designed spaces for connection and wellness. Just minutes from King of Prussia Mall and major medical centers, Revelle blends comfort, convenience and peace of mind.

Malvern

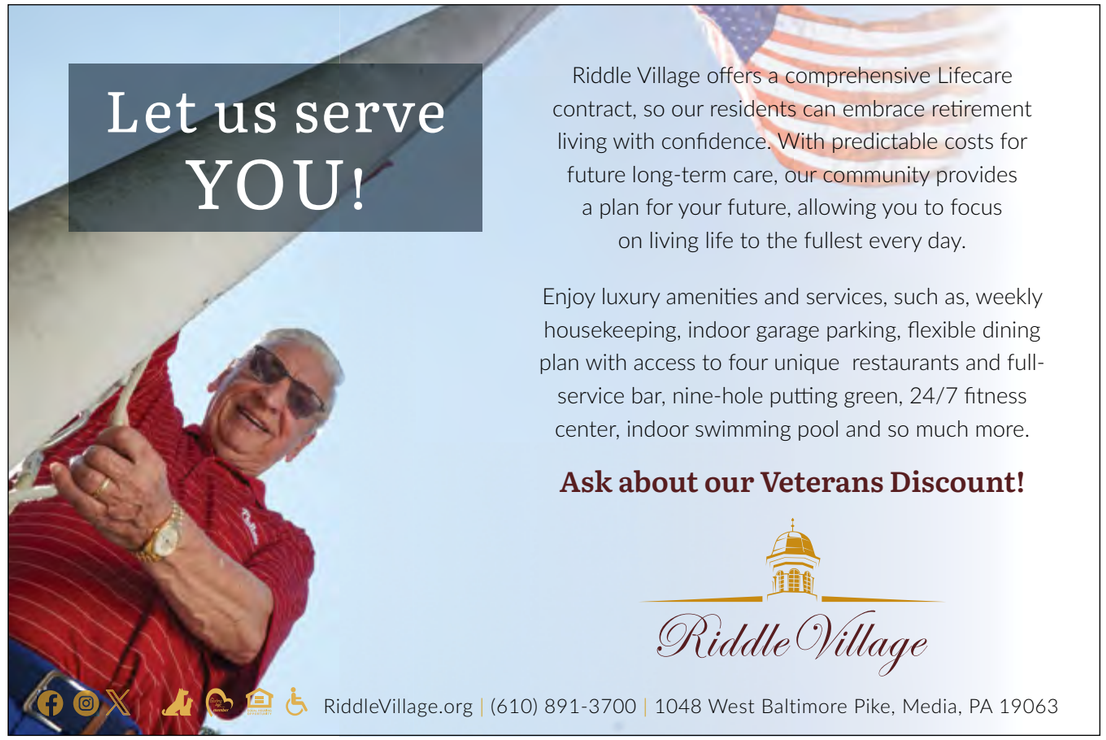
Echo Lake
484-568-4777; LivingAtEchoLake.com

Media

Riddle Village
610-891-3700; RiddleVillage.org

see the ad on page 53

Riddle Village is a life care community that offers amenities including a fitness center, putting green, indoor parking, personal trainer, four unique restaurants, a flexible dining program and much more. Riddle Village has 10 spacious apartment styles ranging from studios to three-bedroom apartments.





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2. Explorer Club | $3,000 Deposit

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

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

Newtown Square

Dunwoody Village
610-359-4400; Dunwoody.org
see the ad on page 57

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

White Horse Village
610-558-5000; WhiteHorseVillage.org
see the ad on page 53

Discover White Horse Village, a vibrant senior living community set on 109 scenic acres. Residents enjoy exceptional wellness opportunities, thoughtful amenities, spacious homes, chef-prepared dining and the security of a full continuum of care. From fitness and nature walks to arts, lifelong learning and more, there's something for everyone. Here, friendships flourish, interests emerge and each day brings something to enjoy.

Rosemont

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

Wallingford

Plush Mills
610-690-1630; PlushMills.com
see the ad on page 8

Plush Mills checks the boxes for a lifestyle rich in opportunity, hospitality and personalized attention. Offering Independent living and personal care with a diverse range of amenities, Plush Mills is for anyone who is ready to live every moment in an exceptional way. Recent renovations further enrich the lifestyle residents already enjoy every day. Refreshed gathering spaces, updated interiors and thoughtful enhancements designed with comfort, connection and well-being in mind.

West Brandywine

Freedom Village at Brandywine
484-288-2601; FVBrandywine.com
see the ad on page 54


White Horse Village

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

West Chester

Barclay Friends
610-696-5211; BF.Kendal.org

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

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

Wyomissing

The Highlands at Wyomissing
610-775-2300; TheHighlands.org
see the ad on page 54

With over 113 acres of gently rolling hills, lush walkways and towering hardwoods, The Highlands at Wyomissing has offered stunning amenities, engaging activities and endless opportunities for 35 years. They're proud to be the only nonprofit life care community in Berks County, where residents are free to live their active, independent lifestyles with a continuum of care available right at home if they were to ever need it.


Dunwoody Village

Multiple Locations

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888-521-3651
AboutActs.com/CountyLinesMag
see the ad on page 44

For more than 50 years, Acts Retirement-Life Communities have provided residents an elevated lifestyle and the freedom to pursue passion, purpose and well-being. Celebrate the good life in a community full of great new friends and rich with possibility.

Luthercare
717-626-1171; Luthercare.org

DELAWARE

Wilmington

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

IN-HOME CARE & SPECIAL SERVICES

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The Highlands at Wyomissing


Plush Mills


Osher Lifelong Learning Institute


Acts Retirement-Life Communities


Delaware Hospice

MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Delaware Hospice

Serving Chester & Delaware Counties and the state of Delaware
800-838-9800; DelawareHospice.org
see the ad on page 47

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

Surrey Services for Seniors

Broomall, Bryn Mawr, Devon and Media
SurreyServices.org

SENIOR SERVICES & CONTINUING EDUCATION

DELAWARE

WILMINGTON

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware

302-573-4417; OLLI.UDel.edu
see the ad on page 57

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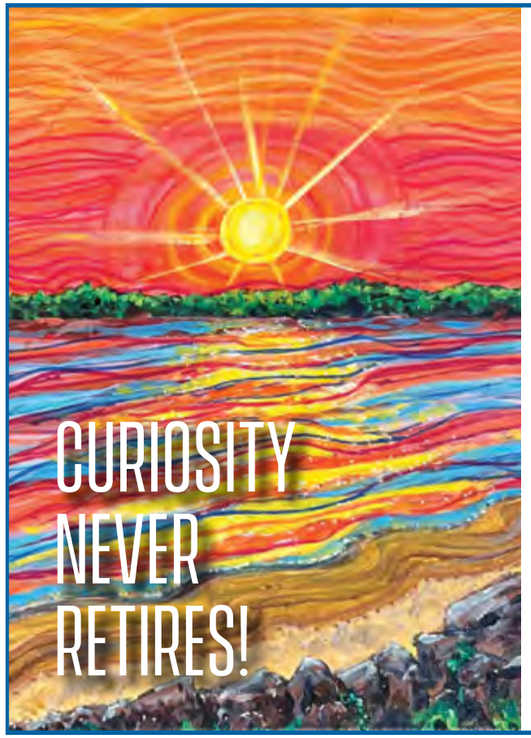

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SAVE THE DATES

January 5: Spring semester registration opens
January 7: Open House at Arsht Hall in Wilmington
January 11: Free, online January mini-courses begin
February 1: Spring classes start!

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Vibrating Sunrise by Mary Kate McKinley, OLLI member



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BEST NURSING HOMES U.S.News

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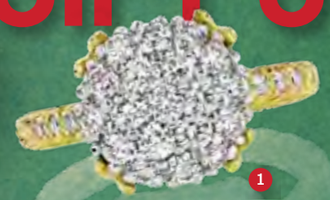
Holiday GIFT GUIDE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Artist: Christine Wright
5


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1. Holiday Sparkle

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Michael Cook Jeweler—Fine Jewelry, Paoli
See ad on page 17

2. Unique Gifts & Decor

Shop Matlack for unique gifts, decor and custom planters and floral designs for the holiday season and beyond.

Holiday Preview, November 21.

Matlack Florist, West Chester
See ad on page 58

3. Gifts of Nature & Science

Shop the Delaware Museum of Nature and Science Museum Store for nature- and science-inspired books, toys, activity kits, home decor, jewelry and more. Or, give the gift of membership.

Delaware Museum of Nature & Science
See ad on page 40

4. Mini Poinsettias

Liven up your gift list with holiday greenery from local plant experts.

Mostardi Nursery, Newtown Square
See ad on page 19

5. Unique Holiday Gifts

Shop for one-of-a-kind artisan gifts.

HGC's Holiday Art & Fine Craft Show, Nov. 14 & 15, 10 to 5.

Haverford Guild of Craftsmen, Haverford
See ad on page 22

6. Unique Gifts & Decor

The Main Line's favorite shop for home decor, luxury gifts, bedding, tabletop, stationery and wedding registries.

The Little House Shop, Wayne
See ad on page 58



Peace by Piece Farm

TURNKEY EQUESTRIAN FACILITY WITH EUROPEAN-INSPIRED LUXURY HOME IN CHESTER SPRINGS

Laurel Anderson

AS THE NAME OF THIS 44+-acre property suggests, Peace by Piece Farm has evolved over the years, growing from a country retreat with a small barn to a state-of-the art equestrian training facility with a palatial home set on three parcels of land. This is an opportunity for luxury country-estate living built around a passion for horses on a property that includes a 100-by-200-foot indoor riding arena, 12-stall main barn, five-stall lower barn, four-stall shed row, plus 10 paddocks and three all-weather paddocks.

CUSTOM HOME

A short distance from the village of Historic Yellow Springs, this tranquil farm is tucked away, surrounded by conserved properties. Through the entrance, take the scenic drive past a stone peace sign, then two red barns and an indoor riding arena with its three cupolas and rows of skylights, to the paved circular driveway punctuated by a central fountain.

Amid the manicured landscaping is the stately European-inspired custom home designed by Main Line architect Peter Batchelor, known for his refined blend of traditional and contemporary design, with an emphasis on light-filled open interiors and a strong connection between the house and its setting. This well-designed equestrian estate boasts a home, working horse facilities and sweeping countryside coming together as one distinctive property.

Built in 2003, the five-bedroom residence has a pavilion-style entrance leading to a grand foyer with statement chandelier, multiple columns and a graceful curved staircase. Next, step into the light-filled, two-story great room, where a wall of arched windows and French doors frame views of the terrace, swimming pool and countryside, making the landscape part of the interior. A magnificent fireplace is balanced by a 630-gallon saltwater fish tank. Custom millwork with built-ins and alcoves throughout the interior, along with stone tile floors and custom chandeliers, provide a sense of luxury.

Flowing seamlessly from the great room, find the gourmet kitchen, with large center island, granite countertops, chandelier and a breakfast area with access to the terrace and more views of lush fields. A wet bar connects the kitchen to the sunroom, offering more bright space and country vistas from the terrace. Continuing the easy flow, perfect for entertaining, a convenient butler's pantry connects the formal dining room, complete with arched windows, ceiling medallion and chandelier.

On the left of the entrance foyer are a secluded study and a tranquil conservatory room with abundant natural light. Completing the main level are a powder room, closets and a hallway leading to the attached four-car garage.

The upper level is where you'll find the primary bedroom suite with tray ceiling, fireplace and more countryside views. A spacious spa-like primary bath — with soaking tub by a window and an elegant chandelier — along with walk-in closets round out the suite. A wrought iron and brass walkway overlooking the foyer and great room offers privacy by separating the second-floor laundry and three additional spacious bedrooms, each en suite with walk-in closets. A bonus room serves as flexible open space for additional uses, from family room to office.















The finished lower level is designed for entertainment and family enjoyment, featuring a bar area, large recreation room, mirrored exercise room, bedroom, full bath and storage/utility room. French doors lead out to a covered lower terrace and then through graceful arches to the heated saltwater pool.

The pool area, with jacuzzi, is surrounded by stamped stone decks, beautiful landscaping and raised garden beds framing panoramic views of the expansive lawns, open fields and woodlands — a perfect setting for entertaining and enjoying a luxurious outdoor lifestyle.

This modern home comes equipped with the expected amenities, including a generator, radiant heat floors, seven-zone heat and central vacuum.

EQUESTRIAN FACILITIES

For the equine enthusiast, the property offers modern, well-maintained turnkey facilities. The largest structure in the complex is a 100x200-foot indoor arena featuring high steel-truss ceilings with continuous skylights for ample natural light. This functional structure is designed for year-round training and events, complete with a well-appointed second-floor observation room with large picture window, two paneled offices with views of the arena, and a utility room — everything needed to run a serious, working equestrian operation.













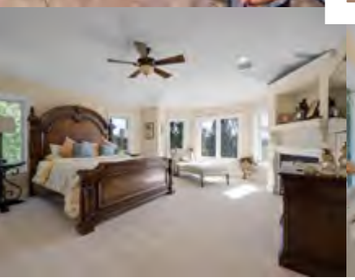



The 12-stall main barn, which flows directly into the arena, blends classic red-board design with modern amenities, including heat and air conditioning. Careful craftmanship is evident throughout, with a clear commitment to the comfort of both horses and riders. A heated wash stall and dedicated tack room ensure year-round use, plus ample storage.

Also finished in red-board siding, the smaller five-stall lower barn has a wash stall and tack room. A four-stall shed row, equipment/shavings shed, 10 paddocks and three all-weather paddocks round out the exceptional equestrian facilities.

This spectacular oasis is situated in a coveted and convenient location, providing easy access to major commuting routes and just minutes away from shopping, restaurants, parks, Ludwig's Corner Show Grounds and more. ♦

For more information about this 44+-acre property — in three Act 319 tax parcels — with 5-bedroom, 5.2-bath custom home and equestrian facilities, contact Karen Nader, Monument Sotheby's International Realty. 484-888-5597; 484-210-0800. Karen.Nader@SothebysRealty.com. Price upon request.

Celebrate Thanksgiving with Good Spirits

Appetizers	Desserts	After Dinner
Cranberry Mule Vodka • Cranberry • Ginger Beer • Lime • Rosemary **PAIR WITH:** • Mini Crab Cakes • Smoked Salmon Crostini	**Aged Rum** **PAIR WITH:** • Pumpkin Pie • Apple Pie	**High Rye Bourbon** **PAIR WITH:** • Aged Cheddar
High Rye Old Fashioned Rye Bourbon • Demerara Bitters • Orange **PAIR WITH:** • Sweet Potato Croquettes • Kielbasa Bites	**Pecan Honey Rum** **PAIR WITH:** • Pecan Pie • Maple Bread Pudding	**Rye Whiskey** **PAIR WITH:** • Dark Chocolate
Dark Rum & Ginger Dark Rum • Ginger Beer • Lime **PAIR WITH:** • Baked Brie • Cornbread with Maple Butter	**Dark Rum** **PAIR WITH:** • Warm Apple Crisp • Dark Chocolate Truffles	**Pecan Honey Rum** **PAIR WITH:** • Chocolate Truffles

Raise a Glass To What Matters. *Courtesy of the experts at Cutter & Cannon Spirits*

Holiday Your Way: *For the Wine Connoisseur*

APPETIZERS	SOUP & SALAD	MAIN COURSE	DESSERT
SPARKLING A brut-style pairs with fried or fatty appetizers.	**PINOT GRIGIO** The dry, fruity citrus flavors match with salads.	**CHARDONNAY** Rich, full-bodied and oak-aged, matches earthy dishes.	**RIESLING** Ranging from dry to sweet, pair it with fruit-focused desserts.
MOSCATO Sweet with a fizz, the bubbles cleanse the palate.	**SAUVIGNON BLANC** Citrus, melon and grassy notes pair well with lighter first-course dishes or greens.	**PINOT NOIR** Lighter body and tart acidity hit all the right notes when paired with any main course.	**TAWNY PORT** Rich nuttiness that matches pecan, almond or hazelnut desserts.
ROSÉ Dry or sweet, its fruit-forward freshness complements salty, fried or flavorfully spicy pre-dinner bites.	**GEWÜRZTRAMINER** Dry or sweet, floral, spice and apricot aromas pair with rich soups or sweet potatoes.	**ZINFANDEL** Rich, fruit-forward notes match well-seasoned meats.	**LATE HARVEST** Very sweet and pairs well with sweet, confectionary desserts.

Please enjoy responsibly.

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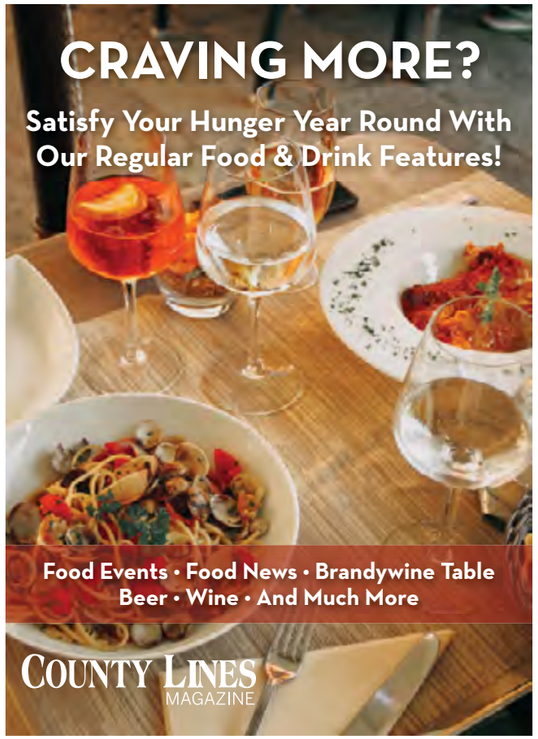

[Food News]

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

Saved! Fans of Slow Hand's historic firehouse space in West Chester rejoiced when Bar Avalon's John Brandt-Lee announced a new concept to open there in November — Beef & Bird Public House. The interior's been gutted for a glow up, with plans for an approachable pub menu centered on beef and chicken, with rotisserie chicken, sandwiches, entrées and elaborate, family-style meat boards. Brandt-Lee's many entertaining Instagram posts include his commitment to open the Christmas bar this year. *30 N. Church St. @BeefAndBirdWC*



Good Catch. Craving seafood? Head to Phoenixville's The Drift Seafood Kitchen & Raw Bar for fresh seafood and coastal vibes. Find an approachable menu along with a raw bar, featuring oysters and seafood favorites, including handhelds (lobster rolls), a Sea & Land section (black cod, branzino, salmon), plus Butcher's Block options for carnivores. Themed drinks include Black Sand and Pearl Diver Oyster Shooters. Open for dinner and weekend lunch. *231 Bridge St., Phoenixville. TheDriftSeafood.com*



Milestones. Two local favorites celebrate milestones this year! Family-owned Penns Woods Winery in Chadds Ford turns 25, marking the occasion with a special anniversary bottle, a tasting lineup and more. And A Taste of Britain in Wayne celebrates 35 years of bringing civilized afternoon tea, British faves and more to our area with their café, store and catering. Since 1991! *124 Beaver Valley Rd. PennsWoodsWinery.com; 503 W. Lancaster Ave. ATasteofBritain.com*



Fearless Martini. Plans for the former Bertucci's in Wayne evolved from another Testa Rossa to a more upscale Italian dining option named Martini & Roz, from the Fearless Restaurant Group. Think retro-futuristic design with open kitchens, tasting counter and glass-enclosed cheese cave, plus a menu from Chef Merick Devine spanning wood-fired pizza to steaks in a space for 300, with a fall opening planned. *523 W. Lancaster Ave. MartiniAndRoz.com*

Wawa Sushi? West Chester, Media, Exton and Glen Mills were among the test sites for Wawa's experimental rollout of six cooked sushi roll options from Hissho Sushi's Sushi Soku brand. Some call this "gas station sushi," though the brand is also available at local supermarkets, including Giant. Is that better? Your eight-piece Wawa sushi meal, plus wasabi, ginger and soy sauce (it's BYO-chopsticks) costs $9 and up. A good hoagie will cost you less. You choose. *Wawa.com*



The Upper Crust

BREAKING BREAD AND SAVING SANITY THIS THANKSGIVING

Liz Tarditi

AS WE ROLL INTO NOVEMBER, EVERYONE HAS a lot on their plate before the Thanksgiving table is even set. There are decorations to pack away (so long, Halloween) and get out, lists to make, groceries to buy and, somewhere in there, a feast to cook. This month at Brandywine Table, let's take one thing off that proverbial plate.

Why? Because sometimes it isn't even *your* Thanksgiving table. Maybe someone else has claimed the turkey and you've been assigned a side dish. You want to contribute something memorable without arriving at your in-laws' house with a competing pumpkin pie and starting a family incident.

Bring bread. It plays nicely with everybody else's traditions while leaving room for a little showmanship.

A spectacular bread basket doesn't require making everything yourself. Instead, think like an event caterer and build variety. Mix textures, shapes, colors and flavors: something soft and pillowy, something with a crust that crackles when you tear into it, something savory and something with a touch of sweetness. Add good butter melting into warm bread, and suddenly the humblest part of the Thanksgiving menu doesn't feel quite so humble.





The secret is deciding what's worth making, what's worth buying and where to find the good stuff. Fran McLaughlin of Brandywine Valley Bread in Downingtown knows the good stuff. After a career in food service, a trip to Sicily to visit his wife Maria's family sparked his fascination with naturally leavened bread. That fascination eventually grew into farmers markets and the family's Downingtown bakery.

Natural leavening requires patience and precision. Rather than commercial yeast, the baker works with a living culture, responding to time, temperature and place. McLaughlin has noted that over- or under-proofing can make an undesirable loaf. Today, Brandywine Valley Bread emphasizes heritage organic grains and offers naturally leavened loaves alongside bagels, croissants, morning buns and pastries. McLaughlin once summed up local tastes simply: "Here, in Chester County, people want quality."

We do. But quality doesn't require kneading every crumb. Brandywine Valley Bread offers holiday preorders, or visit another favorite local bakery for a crusty loaf. Then have fun with the homemade pieces: Pumpkin-Shaped Dinner Rolls, Cranberry-Walnut Quick Bread, Little Hands Parmesan-Rosemary Drop Biscuits or colorful Flower-Power Focaccia.

For the *pièce de résistance,* there's our Horn of Plenty Bread Cornucopia. Fill that showstopper with everything you've made and bought, add some compound butter and take it to the table. It's a very Brandywine Table approach to Thanksgiving: abundance, local food, a little showmanship — and absolute sanity. Because the best Thanksgiving table isn't the one where the cook made everything. It's the one where the cook gets to sit down and enjoy it, too.

Pumpkin-Shaped Dinner Rolls

Pumpkin purée gives these pillowy dinner rolls their golden color and just a whisper of autumn flavor — not the sweetness or density of pumpkin bread. Kitchen twine creates their festive shape, finished with a pecan stem. Make extra — they're too cute to pass up!



Makes 12 rolls

½ C. whole milk, warmed to about 110°
2¼ tsp. active dry yeast (1 packet)
¼ C. granulated sugar, divided
½ C. canned pure pumpkin purée (not pumpkin pie filling)
¼ C. unsalted butter, melted and slightly cooled, plus more for brushing
1 large egg
1 tsp. fine salt
3–3½ C. all-purpose flour, plus more for kneading
Vegetable or olive oil, for soaking twine
24 ft. 100% cotton kitchen twine
12 elongated pecan pieces, for stems

In a large bowl, whisk together warm milk, yeast and 1 T. sugar. Let stand 5 to 10 minutes, until frothy.

Whisk in remaining sugar, pumpkin purée, melted butter and egg until smooth. Stir in salt and 3 C. flour. If dough is too sticky to handle, add remaining flour, 1 T. at a time.

Knead by hand or with a stand mixer fitted with a dough hook for 6 to 8 minutes, until dough is smooth and elastic. Place in a greased bowl, cover and let rise in a warm place for about 1 hour, or until doubled in size.

Punch down dough and divide into 12 equal pieces. Shape each into a smooth ball.

Cut twine into twelve 24-inch lengths and soak in oil to prevent sticking to dough. Center one piece of twine over a dough ball. Turn ball over, cross twine underneath and bring ends back over the top, dividing dough into quarters. Cross twine again around the ball to create 8 segments. Tie loosely at the top, leaving enough slack for the dough to expand. Trim excess twine. Repeat with remaining rolls.

Arrange rolls on a parchment-lined baking sheet, leaving space between them. Cover loosely and let rise 30 to 45 minutes. Preheat oven to 350°. Bake rolls for 18 to 22 minutes, until golden brown and centers register 190°. Brush hot rolls with melted butter, if desired.

Cool until comfortable to handle. Snip twine at the top and gently pull it away from each roll. Press a pecan piece into the center of each roll to form the pumpkin stem.

Make ahead: Rolls may be baked a day ahead. Cool completely, store airtight at room temperature and warm briefly before serving.

Cranberry-Walnut Quick Bread

Called a "quick bread" because it relies on baking powder and baking soda instead of yeast, this festive loaf requires no kneading or rising. Cranberries, walnuts and a hint of orange make it right at home on the fall table.



Makes 1 loaf

2 C. all-purpose flour
¾ C. granulated sugar
1½ tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. baking soda
½ tsp. salt
1 C. fresh or frozen cranberries, coarsely chopped
½ C. chopped walnuts
1 large egg
¾ C. orange juice
¼ C. unsalted butter, melted and cooled
1 tsp. grated orange zest

Preheat oven to 350°. Grease a 9x5-inch loaf pan or line with parchment paper. Note: use a smaller 8x4-inch pan if a taller loaf is preferred.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Stir in cranberries and walnuts and coat thoroughly with the dry ingredients. In a separate bowl, whisk together egg, orange

Editor's note: For tips on making better butter and the history of the horn of plenty, go to CountyLinesMagazine.com.

juice, melted butter and orange zest. Add to dry ingredients and stir just until combined. Do not overmix.

Spoon batter into prepared pan and smooth top. Bake for 50–60 minutes, until golden brown and a toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool in pan for 10 minutes, then remove loaf and cool completely on a wire rack before slicing.

Make it your own: Substitute equal amounts of your favorite nuts, seeds or chopped dried fruit. Try pecans and figs, pistachios and apricots, or pumpkin seeds and dried cherries.

Little Hands Parmesan-Rosemary Drop Biscuits

Bringing children into the culinary arts is all about capturing their natural energy and turning it into pride. When my daughter was little, managing her ADHD meant finding recipes tailored to her pace — fewer ingredients, simple steps and a fast, delicious reward. These effortless drop biscuits are the perfect way for little hands to make a big contribution, sparking a true love for baking.



Makes 12 biscuits

2¼ C. Original Bisquick mix
½ C. freshly grated Parmesan cheese
1 T. finely chopped fresh rosemary or 1 tsp. dried rosemary, crushed
⅔ C. whole milk
4 T. unsalted butter, melted, divided

Preheat oven to 450°. Line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, stir together Bisquick, Parmesan and rosemary. Add milk and 2 T. melted butter. Stir just until a soft dough forms. Do not overmix.

Drop dough by 12 generous spoonfuls onto prepared baking sheet, spacing about 2 inches apart. Bake for 8 to 10 minutes, until biscuits are risen and golden brown. If a child is helping with the final step, remove biscuits from the hot baking sheet and cool to a safe temperature.

Brush biscuits with remaining 2 T. melted butter. Serve warm.

Flower-Power Roasted Red Pepper & Olive Focaccia

Garden focaccia is undeniably gorgeous, but by November, woody rosemary and thyme stems can ruin the bite. Rather than fighting tough winter herbs or slicing straight through intricate dough landscapes, this recipe maps out the artistic fun with the final slice in mind. Individual, picture-perfect florals bloom across the dough so that every single cut portion yields its own beautiful, self-contained work of art.

Makes 1 (9x13-inch) focaccia



3½ C. all-purpose flour
2¼ tsp. instant yeast (1 packet)
1½ tsp. kosher salt
1½ C. warm water
5 T. extra-virgin olive oil, divided
½ C. mixed pitted olives, drained and halved
1 C. roasted red peppers, drained well, patted dry and cut into strips
½ tsp. dried oregano
Flaky sea salt, for finishing

In a large bowl, stir together flour, yeast and kosher salt. Add warm water and 2 T. olive oil. Stir until a soft, sticky dough forms. Cover and let rise in a warm place for about 1 hour, or until doubled.

Coat a 9x13-inch baking pan with 2 T. olive oil. Transfer dough to pan and gently stretch toward edges. If dough springs back, let rest 10 minutes, then continue stretching.

Cover loosely and let rise 20–30 minutes, until puffy.

Preheat oven to 425°.

Before adding toppings, think about how you'll cut the finished focaccia and design around the individual pieces. Arrange olives and peppers so each serving gets a little of both.

Drizzle with remaining 1 T. olive oil. Using fingertips, press deep dimples over the surface, pressing toppings securely into dough. Sprinkle with oregano and flaky sea salt.

Bake for 20–25 minutes, until focaccia is deeply golden brown with a crisp bottom crust.

Cool in pan for about 10 minutes, then transfer to a wire rack. Serve warm or at room temperature.

Make ahead: After mixing dough, cover tightly and refrigerate for 12 to 24 hours instead of letting rise at room temperature. The next day, transfer cold dough to the well-oiled pan and gently stretch toward edges. Cover loosely and let stand at room temperature for 2 to 3 hours, stretching again as dough relaxes, until it fills the pan and becomes puffy. Top, dimple and bake as directed.

Horn of Plenty Bread Cornucopia

This is the showstopper! A golden, bread-woven horn spilling over with rolls and biscuits brings instant abundance to the Thanksgiving table. If you've never made one, consider a dry run a few weeks ahead. And if your practice cornucopia turns out perfectly, congratulations! Wrap it well, freeze it and you won't have to make another one for Thanksgiving.



Makes 1 large cornucopia

Heavy-duty aluminum foil, nonstick heavy duty preferred
Nonstick cooking spray
3 cans Pillsbury Original Breadsticks refrigerated dough, pre-scored into 1-inch strips
1 large egg
1 T. water
Sesame seeds, optional

Line a baking sheet at least 17x14 inches with parchment paper.

Tear off a 30x18-inch sheet of heavy-duty aluminum foil. Fold in half to make an 18x15-inch rectangle. Roll diagonally into a hollow cone about 18 inches long with a 5-inch opening. Stuff firmly with crumpled foil until mold is rigid and holds its shape — sturdy enough to wear as a hat to next year's Blobfest. Bend narrow tail up, then curve tip slightly downward to create a classic horn-of-plenty shape.

Place mold on prepared baking sheet and set it in cold oven before preheating to make sure it fits comfortably. Adjust shape if necessary, then remove from oven.

Preheat oven to 350°. Coat outside of foil mold thoroughly with nonstick cooking spray.

Keep breadstick dough refrigerated until needed. Open one can and separate three strips along pre-scored lines. Pinch ends of strips together and braid loosely. Pinch opposite ends together to secure braid. Place braid on a plate or small baking sheet and refrigerate while assembling cornucopia.

Working with one can of dough at a time, keeping remaining dough refrigerated, separate strips along pre-scored lines.

Beginning at pointed end of mold, wrap dough strips around cone, slightly overlapping each row. When joining strips, overlap ends, pinch together and brush with a little egg wash to seal. Continue until mold is covered, leaving wide opening uncovered. Remove braid from refrigerator and wrap around opening to create a finished edge. Gently pinch ends and seams to secure. Whisk together egg and water. Brush cornucopia lightly with egg wash and sprinkle with sesame seeds, if desired.

Bake about 45 minutes, or until deeply and evenly golden brown. Begin checking at 30 minutes. If some areas brown faster than others, shield loosely with small pieces of foil and continue baking until evenly browned. (Individual ovens vary.) Let the clock tell you when to look, then trust your senses to tell you when it's done.

Cool completely on mold. Once cool, gently loosen foil at wide opening, carefully collapse foil inward and remove from baked cornucopia.

Fill just before serving with dinner rolls, biscuits, breadsticks or other breads, allowing them to tumble generously from opening.



Make ahead: Cornucopia may be made ahead and frozen. Cool completely, leaving foil mold inside to support its shape. Wrap carefully and freeze. Thaw completely at room temperature before gently collapsing and removing foil mold. If desired, refresh in a 300° oven for 5 to 10 minutes. Cool before filling. ♦



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

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Ennis Fuels 71
Freedom Village at Brandywine 54
Gordon Eadie Landscaping....14
Harrison Senior Living.....48
Haverford Guild of Craftsmen Fine Art & Craft Show....22
The Highlands at Wyomissing.....54
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La Verona Authentic Italian Dining....40
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Michael Cook Jeweler 17
Monument / Sotheby's Int'l Realty K. Nader....7
Mostardi Nursery 19
National Dog Show....14
Natural Lands ....back cover
Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the University of Delaware 57
Paradise Station....35
Pietro's Prime Steakhouse & Martini Bar....64
Plush Mills by Solera Senior Living 8
The Quiet Resorts / Southern Delaware....22
Revelle Senior Living King of Prussia 50
Riddle Village 53
Sheller Energy. 71
Square Roots Collective 64
Tel Hai Retirement Community 47
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