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*Photo courtesy of Canyon Ranch*



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ED WILLIAMS

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## FOREWORD



# BACK TO SCHOOL (FINALLY)

Wherever your kids or grandkids are headed, it's bound to be a memorable fall semester this year. For my daughter, it's a high-rise dorm on Broad Street in Center City, where she'll be a freshman at the University of the Arts, majoring in acting and minoring in musical theater. After building up a head of steam on stage her junior year of high school, things came to a frustrating halt for 18 months. So she's looking forward to hitting the reset button and getting back to interacting with fellow thespians.

Here at Main Line Today, we have two college freshmen who also have a lot to look forward to. Contributing writer Davis Giangiuolo is just getting started at Northwestern University. For intern Lily Henderson, it's Penn State. Both were integral to this month's fall education package, reporting on how local colleges are prepping for the 2021-22 school year with the COVID-19 pandemic not quite in the rearview mirror.

Giangiuolo took some time to reflect on his expectations for his first year in college after an unprecedented 18 months. "It's still quite daunting—the fact that the first time I'll be gathering with large crowds of my peers again, consistently in a classroom and hopefully ditching Zoom meetings altogether, will be 662 miles away," he says. "While being stuck at home throughout the pandemic was never exhilarating, I developed an affection for it that I never had before. I realized just how much I loved growing up here, and it pains me that I won't be here as the world slowly returns to normal."

Giangiuolo is looking forward to the many positives that come with college life. "I'm electrified that I'll begin with a clean slate—just as the world turns a corner, I'll turn my own," he says. "I'll mark that stage by having experiences that new college students didn't have the privilege to enjoy last year."

But his optimism is tempered with caution. "I know that anything could make normalcy disappear again," says Giangiuolo. "I'll miss home dearly after spending so much more time here this past year and a half, and I have fears that this return to normal may be reversed. But I also can't wait to start this new chapter of my life in a world that's slowly returning to form again."

Best of luck all of our students this fall.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**

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W. T. Conway Photography

*Fall Events!* Shakespeare in the Park *Sept 18*  
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# COMING UP + WEB EXTRAS



## NEXT MONTH

As always, this year's Power Women are an impressive bunch. Check out their stories in the October issue, and join us for our summit on Oct. 20.

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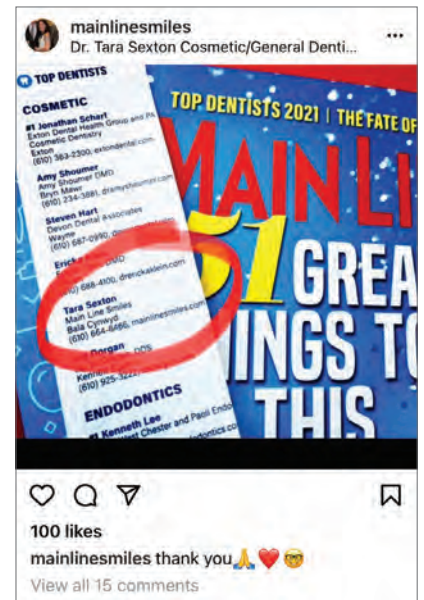


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## Instagram Alert!



## PLUS ...

Local nonprofits continue to have success in their efforts to save vestiges of our colonial-era history. Most recently, a 72-acre parcel of Brandywine Battlefield was saved from developers. It will open next year as Brinton Run Preserve—and we have the story.



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# SCENE



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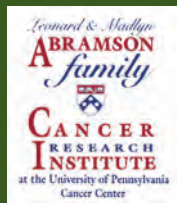
JUNE 23, BRYN MAWR

**6.** Jennifer Laszlo Mizrahi with JCHAI chairperson Judy Creed **7.** The new center **8.** Amy, Lily and Randy Stein **9.** Judy Creed.

TOP: SUSAN SCOVILL BOTTOM: DAVIES PHOTOGRAPHY



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# FRONTLINE

THE HOT SEAT, GREAT ESCAPE P.16 | FROM THE ARCHIVES P.18 | STYLE P.22 | LIVING WELL P.28 | DIVERSIONS P.30



Archer & Buchanan Architecture's Peter Archer (left) and Richard Buchanan.

TESSA MARIE IMAGES

## INNOVATION

# HORSE AND HOME

**A LOCAL DESIGN FIRM RIDES THE CREST OF CHESTER COUNTY'S HISTORIC RENOVATION WAVE.**

BY MELISSA JACOBS

When Peter Archer and Richard Buchanan debuted their architectural firm 25 years ago, they initially had a tough time landing local clients. "It took a whole year to get our first house on the Main Line," Archer recalls. "We called it our flagship house."

As it turns out, their timing was perfect. "At the end of the 20th century, the internet was just coming into existence and people were looking online for available spaces," says Buchanan. "They were also moving out of the city and into Chester County's horse country and the Main Line."

A new wave of urban flight

began in 2020. With real estate at a premium, people are buying land and renovating the homes on it. It's a similar situation to what happened more than two decades ago when the dissolution of King Ranch aggregated about 8,400 acres of land that became available for development—or redevelopment. Homes, barns and other buildings existed on many properties, but they'd fallen into disrepair or were otherwise not conducive to modern living.

And the standard of living was changing. Technology and modern conveniences were upgrading the way people lived. Homeowners didn't just want central air—they wanted smart-home systems. At

the same time, they wanted to keep the historic, sometimes rustic aesthetic that's so closely identified with Chester County.

Those twin goals may seem oppositional—but accomplishing is more a matter of renovation than preservation. “We’re not doing reproductions,” Buchanan says. “We utilize the beauty, character and detail of these 18th-century houses to create homes that people can live in now.”

Back in the 1990s, Comcast founder Ralph Roberts bought one of the initial King Ranch tracts and renovated its buildings using the region's 1700s architectural language. That set the tone for other property owners, sparking a movement that benefited the growth of Archer and Buchanan's firm. “We had the benefit of being in the right place and time,” says Buchanan. “Our mission is to use the visual language of Chester County responsibly and accurately to interpret for modern living.”

That visual language is unique to this region, setting it apart from, say, an Arizona ranch or a Vermont farm. Here, local architects left their unique imprint. Richardson Brognard Okie specialized in the Colonial Revival style, while William

“**WE’RE NOT DOING REPRODUCTIONS. WE UTILIZE THE BEAUTY, CHARACTER AND DETAIL OF THESE 18TH-CENTURY HOUSES TO CREATE HOMES THAT PEOPLE CAN LIVE IN NOW.**”

—PETER BUCHANAN

Price was a giant in the region's Arts and Crafts movement. That's the visual language Buchanan and Archer learned to speak. “Having those details gives us tools to make an older house livable for someone in 2021,” Buchanan says. “It's not strictly preservation but adaptation.”

One example: In the 18th century, many Brandywine Valley families lived in multi-generational farmhouses with rooms to accommodate every family member who worked the land. At the same time, many Main Line families lived in large

estates with staff quarters for servants. In both situations, houses typically had an upstairs, a downstairs, a back of the house and a front of the house, with two kitchens, two parlors and two entryways. Today, those homes are generally occupied by one family. So Archer and Buchanan turn three small bedrooms into one larger one and add more bathrooms. Two kitchens become one, albeit with plenty of room for modern appliances.

Not surprisingly, technology plays a huge role in the reallocation of space. Making room for a flat-screen TV isn't tough, though creating laundry facilities can be. It's the same for the plumbing and electricity required for modern master bathrooms. The heating and cooling elements alone are mind boggling. “We spend a lot of time thinking about environmental enclosures for managing heat flow and humidity gradients,” Archer admits. “A 21st-century home is bristling with technology.”

And COVID-19 ushered in the “away spaces” residential design trend—places where people can get away from each another. Archer and Buchanan are fielding requests for kids' play spaces separate from family rooms and master *continued on page 21*



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# DARRELL ALSTON

CEO AND  
LEAD DESIGNER  
BUNGEE, PAOLI

BY MELISSA JACOBS

**Darrell Alston spent much of the 2000s in prison serving sentences for selling cocaine, crack and marijuana. After his third conviction, he pledged to change his life. Now a successful entrepreneur, Alston is the creative force behind Bungee, a brand of sneakers and athletic wear.**

**MLT: How did you start Bungee?**

**DA:** I created the company while I was incarcerated. I made a business plan after reading books my mom sent me.

Other people in jail were doing business plans, and they taught me. I taught myself how to draw and sketched the sneakers. But I got my barber's license in case the sneakers didn't become reality. I had no more jail time to give. I worked two jobs and saved money until I had enough to get a sample sneaker made. That took two years. I had the first sample in 2014.

**MLT: Did your involvement with drugs begin as a student at Conestoga High School?**

**DA:** No, it was after graduation. I come from a great family in Paoli. We were on the urban side of Paoli, in a middle-class area. But I had everything I needed, including both parents. After graduation, I could've gone to college. I chose to be a rap artist, but music wasn't paying the bills. So I looked for products to sell to make money.



In North Philly, drugs were selling for \$3 that I could sell in Paoli for \$20. People from Paoli don't go to North Philly.

**MLT: What led to your third conviction?**

**DA:** After you get convicted, your life is statistically done. Once you can't pass a criminal background check, you can't get a good job or a good apartment. Once you make that first mistake, there's no good way back. You can work for \$7 an hour, but that's about it. My plan was to sell drugs to finance my music career.

**MLT: What was your first big break with Bungee?**

**DA:** It was 2018, the year the Eagles won the Super Bowl. That night, I designed Eagles sneakers and had them manufactured. Before the first game of the next season, I packed up my car with sneakers and went to an official pep rally outside the stadium. I sold out, which was

great. But I didn't have official licensing for the Eagles. I didn't know what that was. My dumb ass was right at the Eagles stadium selling merchandise without licensing. But I used that money to build my brand. I also got investors to help me finance the company.

**MLT: How has Bungee grown?**

**DA:** We have close to 10 different kinds of sneakers and a full apparel line for men and women. We had some delays because of COVID. But in the spring of 2020, I locked myself into my office, got an embroidery machine and cranked out hoodies and T-shirts. After I designed the samples, manufacturers created the garments. I put tags on the pieces—even stitching logos. We got the shoes in January. Since then, we've been selling very well. It's great to do something positive that makes my parents proud.

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# DEAD FLOWERS

## THE FAMILY FRICTION BEHIND THE SELF-INFLICTED DEMISE OF WATERLOO GARDENS.

BY J.F. PIRRO

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This piece initially ran in the April 2014 issue of *Main Line Today* and quickly became one of the magazine's most well-read stories. The same month it was published, *Main Line Gardens in Malvern* acquired the Waterloo Gardens brand. The original location was eventually absorbed into Devon Yard, and its Exton address now belongs to a 3,555-square-foot home. Susan LeBoutillier continues to carry on the family legacy at LeBeau Gardens in Downingtown. Her oldest sister, Linda Anne, passed way in February of this year.



Nature once filled Susan LeBoutillier's days. Every spring and summer, she could walk into any number of greenhouses and revel in the beauty, bundling it into bouquets at will. "I like dirt, flowers, the smells," says LeBoutillier. "It brings me right back."

It was an idyllic childhood not unlike that of her eventual sister-in-law, Lucy LeBoutillier, who worked summers at a Connecticut flower farm. Her family decorated nine Christmas trees at home. "It's a bug in you," says Lucy. "I just love being in nature. It centers me for everything I do."

For both, the family business was Waterloo Gardens, a Main Line mainstay that employed hundreds over seven decades, until the company's deflowering. Its last location in Exton closed in the summer of 2013, and the much-loved Devon store was shuttered the year before. Financial problems had begun to mount five years earlier, when an upstart Warminster branch became a fast-and-furious \$10 million failure. It's now rightfully regarded as "the big mistake."

That same year, Waterloo opened another garden center in Wilmington, Del. Its fate wasn't much different, as the recession and the collapse of

suburban home building cut demand for landscaping services, flowers, ornamental trees, fountains and patio furniture. The Warminster store closed in 2008. Wilmington followed in 2011. Zelinda (Linda) LeBoutillier died that same year. She owned and operated the company with her husband, Bo, who'd passed away a decade earlier. Their only son, Roberts (Bobby) LeBoutillier, became Waterloo Gardens' CEO and president. He would be its last.

Waterloo quickly went to pot—and not the clay variety Bobby's sister, Susan, spins as a stress release once a week at the Wayne Art Center. One of those therapeutic pots now holds M&M's. It sits on a long farm table upstairs at LeBeau Gardens in Downingtown. Now 54, Susan has moved on. The new business is named after her father—though it's a different spelling.

One of Bobby's four sisters, Susan was once president of Waterloo's landscaping division, before she struck out on her own in 2012. Since Waterloo withered, her salvos are her new ventures. She unwinds with her potting and her putting—nine holes a week at Downingtown Country Club.

Bobby, 59, and his wife, Lucy, were still wrapping up Waterloo's financial

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**SUSAN LEBOUTILLIER OFTEN DREAMS ABOUT HER FATHER, WHO PASSED AWAY IN 2001. SHE WONDERS WHAT HE'D SAY NOW, THOUGH NONE OF IT WOULD OFFER ANY CONSOLATION.**

loose ends before the holidays. They have a mortgage on a farmhouse in Exton, and they need jobs. “There was a vacuum hooked up to the safe that went to the bank,” says Bobby.

Waterloo's purpose was to attract families. On Black Friday, the lights on the shrubs and trees in the Devon and Exton locations flickered on, and the holidays began. Bobby was Santa at times. “There were so many traditions. In 10 years, probably no one will remember them,” laments his sister, Susan. “But, right

now, I've heard of people going through Waterloo withdraw.”

The LeBoutilliers had their own Christmas traditions. Susan remembers the family in the growing fields, choosing and cutting a tree, then bringing it to the house. Her parents built the home on the 50-acre Exton property after they acquired it in 1959. “Every year, we had a theme,” Susan recalls. “We'd all go into the store and pick ornaments, but we never took the price tags off. The day after Christmas, we'd take them back to the store. Dad loved Christmas.”

Susan often dreams about her father, who lost a battle with Lou Gehrig's disease in 2001. She wonders what he'd say now, though none of it would offer any consolation. “He'd still be proud, but also intensely disappointed that what he built is gone,” she says. “If there's anything I could've done to change it—anything—I certainly would have. It still bothers me that maybe I could've done something. But I don't know what that something could've been.”

Of all the LeBoutillier children, only Bobby and Susan stayed with Waterloo during its final years. Rene left Waterloo 20 years ago and now resides in Missouri.

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Elise, the youngest, lives in Collegeville. She departed after Bo died, and now runs Freeland Market in the Pottstown Farmers Market. First-born Linda Anne lives in Downingtown and is writing a book about the history of Waterloo.

Before Bo died, Bobby and Susan were each named president of their respective division—he the garden centers, and she the landscape company. Two years before her death, however, their mother began shifting more authority to Bobby, who was told to oversee Susan. “It was oversight she didn’t appreciate,” Bobby admits. “Previously, she was on her own. Dad paid little attention to [the landscaping division]. Mom didn’t pay attention to it.”

After Linda died late in 2011, her will made Bobby the general partner, giving him majority control (though only outside executors and the bank ever played that role). Financially, each daughter was given a different percentage of the estate—less for Linda Anne and Elise, who’d already taken company buyouts.

Susan finished out the holiday season in 2011. Then, in January, Bobby ordered a seasonal layoff. Susan could’ve returned in March, when better weather brought business, but she ventured out on her own instead, refusing to play a victim’s role. “I was a thorn in his side,” she admits. “I was difficult, but my life was turned upside down. I created a lot of profit for the company over the years.”

But the resentment ran deeper. Susan’s grandfather, James Paolini, founded Waterloo Gardens with his wife, Anna, in 1942 on two acres in Devon. He always said Bobby would get the company. “He rubbed that in the girls’ faces,” remembers Bobby. “They hated me for him saying that.”

Susan often tried to talk to her mother about the business, but Linda wouldn’t reciprocate. “I stopped trying,” she says. “It was always meant to be his. Sure, the economy went bad. But when it does, you have to be better and develop a strategy that works. Waterloo could’ve survived.”

When Susan started LeBeau, she took Waterloo clients with her. An hour before Linda died, the estate lawyer made it clear—verbally, with Bobby present—that Linda wanted Susan to have that customer list, some vehicles and equipment, and any employees, so she could get started on her own. In that arrangement, Bobby would acquire the retail stores and the properties. But it was never in writing, and the bank wasn’t giving anything away.

Bobby grew up in Waterloo’s fields, weeding and watering from the age of 6, learning how plants grow and how to keep

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**WATERLOO GARDENS GREW INTO A \$34-MILLION-A-YEAR COMPANY THAT EMPLOYED 400 PEOPLE. EVENTUALLY, THOUGH, IT BECAME A STRUGGLE NOT TO LIVE IN THE PAST.**

operations safe and efficient. He made machines for specific jobs. He met Lucy at Waterloo. She’d interviewed with Linda out of college, after her family moved to a Berwyn farm. Lucy spent her time in the gift, flower and Christmas departments, and she didn’t initially get along with her future husband. “I was into the magic of it, not operations,” she says.

The LeBoutilliers weren’t really getting along, either. Every member of the family moved to the beat of a different drummer. Away from Waterloo, the family seemed viable. Linda even took them all to Italy after Bo died. Growing up, Bobby says, his parents would never acknowledge any problems, figuring it would make them disappear. Of course, that only made things worse.

James Paolini’s first sign read, “Waterloo Gardens, Grower of Rare Plants.” He’d learned the industry in Italy, north of Rome, traveling by wagon with a blind man who sold nursery stock. He collected the money and made sure the right customers received the right plants. Paolini started the company in Devon and later opened the Exton location. Linda and Bo grew it, purchasing it from her parents in 1972.

Linda was an only child, so there was no question about who’d control Waterloo then. Bo was partial to his daughters. Bobby was largely a worker bee. Linda balanced the scales, elevating her son. “It was easy to love Mom,” says Bobby.

Bobby contends that his mother felt her daughters were trying to control her. Susan believes it may have been the other way around. At 50, she completed her executive MBA in 2009 at Temple University, figuring it would help—maybe even save—Waterloo. But she disobeyed her mother to do it. “She forbid me,” Susan recalls. “I guess it was just her position that women

were not to be educated, that women weren’t to be important. My education was threatening to some, and I was left completely out of any decision making.”

There’s little doubt that Susan was closer to her father, a French-English Quaker from Wayne who was part of an entrepreneurial family that owned dry-goods businesses in Philadelphia, Cincinnati and New York. He was “one tough cookie,” she says. “But I’d work for Dad again.”

Working for Bobby, however, was different. They had conflicting ideas about how to best run Waterloo Gardens. Bobby claims that Susan wouldn’t extend Waterloo’s 1 percent preferred retail customer discount to landscaping clients; he argued for consistency. Susan says the 1 percent is merely a sales incentive that leads to data the landscaping side already had. Bobby is convinced it would’ve helped with client retention.

Regardless, Waterloo Gardens grew into a \$34-million-a-year company that employed 400 people. At one point, it was doing \$6 million in patio furniture alone. Eventually, though, it became a struggle not to live in the past. Eight landscaping crews shrunk to three. In the end, there were just 70 employees. “I got tired of making the speech,” Bobby admits.

A turning point came in September 2008, when the gift shop outsold the nursery. “All of a sudden, it wasn’t what we wanted but what the buyers wanted,” Lucy says.

As the economy constricted, jewelry and linen sales increased, while landscaping decreased. “That was a radical change,” says Lucy.

Longtime customers were coming in, buying a gift-shop card, and that was it. “We never thought the Main Line would stop buying,” says Lucy. “These were people who at one time didn’t even look at price tags.”

In the end, Waterloo would have 75-percent-off sales, and buyers would still want a better price. “It became a question of what to sell and who to be,” says Lucy.

Meanwhile, there was a shift in the do-it-yourself landscaping ideology to a more contractor-driven industry. “Now, it’s do-it-for-me,” says Bobby.

No doubt, the Warminster expansion was ill timed. Purchased on Aug. 1, 2007, as a shell of a former Pathmark, Waterloo renovated and opened Nov. 1, 2007. It was closed by Dec. 31, 2008. “We were already having trouble in Devon and Exton, so we were banking on new clientele,” Bobby says of a move that was supposed to fix everything. “Once September 2008 hit, Warminster began drying up, and Devon

was suffering even more. We were already bleeding from a thousand wounds.”

To cut costs, Bobby shifted into high gear. He struggled to sell the Warminster location, a 56,000-square-foot monster on a nine-acre site that drastically decreased in value. The land sat vacant for two years before the LeBoutilliers converted it into 263 Marketplace, a flea market and food-vendor destination. But the bank wasn't satisfied, forcing its closure so the property could be sold.

Debt mounted. Waterloo began losing vendors and couldn't get product. It filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection in July 2012. Linda's death only fueled the bank's impatience. She had guaranteed the Warminster loan. When she was gone, and the site was only attracting \$3 million offers, something had to give.

Waterloo never even built greenhouses in Warminster, and then it closed Devon to help stock the Exton location. “We were always way overstocked—but that's how we grew up,” says Bobby. “We always just built more shelves. Then customers wondered why stuff wasn't falling off the shelves anymore.”

By the end, Bobby says, Waterloo had turned the corner and become profitable again, but it couldn't cover the debt or pacify the bank. Fortunately, Linda didn't live to see the bankruptcy. Battling cancer was enough. “We knew why God took Linda,” Lucy says. “She could never have witnessed it.”

The site in Exton sold for \$4.6 million to BET Investments, a Horsham commercial real estate company owned by Bruce Toll. BET has said it want to develop the property with a mix of uses, but nothing is finalized. In Devon, Urban

Outfitters has leased 6.5 acres of the former Waterloo site from the property's current owners, developer Eli Kahn and partner Wade McDevitt, president of the Devon Horse Show and CEO of a retail real estate company. If approved, Urban Outfitters' \$100-million Devon Yard complex will include a Terrain garden center, an Anthropologie, a boutique hotel and two restaurants, plus other shops and amenities—finally giving Devon what some see as a “downtown to call its own.”

These days, Susan is enjoying her freedom. It's what drives her—that, and the responsibility she feels for restoring the family name. “I'm driven, like my father, to create something,” she says. “If I was younger, I'd start three garden centers.”

The location of her new business along Route 113 is prime. Three miles from the Pennsylvania Turnpike, LeBeau could become a destination. Loyal customers from Villanova, Devon and Wayne are driving a little further “because, yes, it's mine,” she says. “I don't feel too much pressure. I feel like it's going to work.”

When Susan left Waterloo in 2012, she took out a home equity line of credit, then later learned of a vacant site and entered into a lease literally as Waterloo Gardens began liquidating. It created an opportunity to purchase equipment that she couldn't pass up. Five weeks later, she opened, just four miles south of Waterloo's Exton location. Her entire staff once worked at Waterloo. “I really like Susan,” says Lucy. “We want her to succeed. Maybe [we] could become a family again, now that we're not in the same business.”

They only found out about LeBeau when its operations manager, Michael Stuart, was sent to buy fixtures and equipment during

Waterloo's bank-ordered liquidation. “We asked Susan if she wanted Waterloo's phone number to ring to hers,” says Bobby. “It took days to even get an answer, then the number went dead.”

Bobby asked Stuart if he thought Susan had a job for him. It was a joke, of course. Bobby's sense of humor is one of his best traits, says Lucy—and it may have saved him. “I've offered olive branches,” says Bobby. “We were once friends at work, and we could certainly go back to that when Susan wants to bury the hatchet.”

After his dad died, Bobby often visited St. Agnes Cemetery in West Chester to water the flowers at his burial plot. It wasn't too long before he found himself watering needy flowers at other grave sites. He'd spend three hours exhausting himself, then came an epiphany. “I couldn't save them all,” says Bobby.

Subconsciously and slowly, he began to let go of his past. He and Lucy now ride motorcycles, and they're promoting wellness supplements. “We want to continue to take care of people,” Bobby says.

And he's appalled by the work of local contractors. “Proper landscaping increases a property's value, but I can drive around for four hours and not find one properly designed and installed property—commercial or residential,” he says.

“It sounds like a great opportunity for Susan and you to build a relationship,” Lucy suggests. “Maybe it's time to heal.”

Right now, the two don't speak. But they do share a sense of renewal. In the last days, a rainbow appeared over the Waterloo Gardens sign in Exton. Lucy took a picture of it. “It led me to believe there would be a future for everyone here,” she says. “Waterloo is in us all.” **MLT**

## FRONTLINE | INNOVATION

continued from page 14

bedrooms with adjacent private reading or meditation rooms. Even guest suites are being a bit more removed from the main areas. “COVID made us realize the value of having actual rooms,” Buchanan says. “It was, ‘Oh my goodness, I can't get away from my family.’”

On the other hand, the design of equestrian facilities hasn't changed. They're still built on the 12-by-12-foot grid that dictates everything from the horse stall to the stable itself. There's a new priority on the functionality of barns, paddocks and the like. “People are concerned with the safety and performance within the facilities because they're invested in their horses,”

Archer says. “The change is in the process of how horses get fed and turned out, and where the manure goes. It's improving the lives and safety of the horses.”

Horses aren't the only thing this region is known for. Archer and Buchanan have dealt with plenty of quirky characters—or the remnants of their houses. A carriage house in Wayne built by Price still had a hayloft and walls that tilted out six inches. Okie's famous home in Berwyn had fallen into disrepair and needed extensive repair and renovation. Then there was the house on Avon Road in Haverford. Its previous owner believed he was a reincarnated German knight, so he had the house

built in a style to match. On a more conventional note, there's also been The Willows in Villanova, St. Patrick's Church in Kennett Square and the Lenfest Center at Cheslen Preserve in Coatesville.

When it comes to houses, it's the character that matters most to Archer and Buchanan—that, and the current inhabitants. Both architects bristle at the notion that, like their predecessors, their firm has developed a distinct visual style. “Our fingerprints don't need to be visible,” says Buchanan. “It's not all about the architect. It's all about the family that calls the place home.” **MLT**



## LOCAL FASHIONISTA ...

## LESLIE CLEARWATER

TEN AIR STUDIOS, PHOENIXVILLE

BY MELISSA JACOBS

It's not every day that *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair* rave about a little-known Phoenixville jewelry maker. While Ten Air's boho-chic pieces now grace fashion magazines, **Leslie Clearwater** has been an artisan for two decades. And it wasn't until COVID-19 closed her gallery that she really hit her stride.

**HER STYLE:** I'm not traditionally fashionable; my vibe is my own. I think I look best when I feel comfortable, natural and maybe a little eclectic. I love quirk and authenticity. It's freeing not to "have a style," because then I can wear anything that just feels good in the moment. As I age, I'm aiming to fall somewhere between Diane Keaton and Helena Bonham Carter— androgynously feminine and a little weird and messy.

**WHAT TEN AIR REFERS TO:** In astrology, you have humors and elements, and you should have a certain amount of each to be balanced. Out of 12 spots, 10 of mine are air.

**HOW SHUTTERING HER GALLERY CHANGED HER BUSINESS:** It was one of those closed doors that opened a bigger window. It funneled my attention more fully into creation and ushered in an expansion of my work.

**WHERE SHE SOURCES HER**

**MATERIALS:** I've cast a net across the globe. It's taken time to find lapidary artists who aren't just reputable but also ethical, which is important to me. Now, I've developed trustworthy connections both abroad (some of my favorites are in Indonesia and India) and here in the U.S., particularly out west. A good portion of my turquoise comes from Native American lapidaries and mine owners.

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**CLOTHING:** I hate rules. If it makes you feel like a goddess, then you drip with that energy and you look good, period. My tagline is "intentional adornment for the unleashed spirit." That can happen on your own terms, however you define them.

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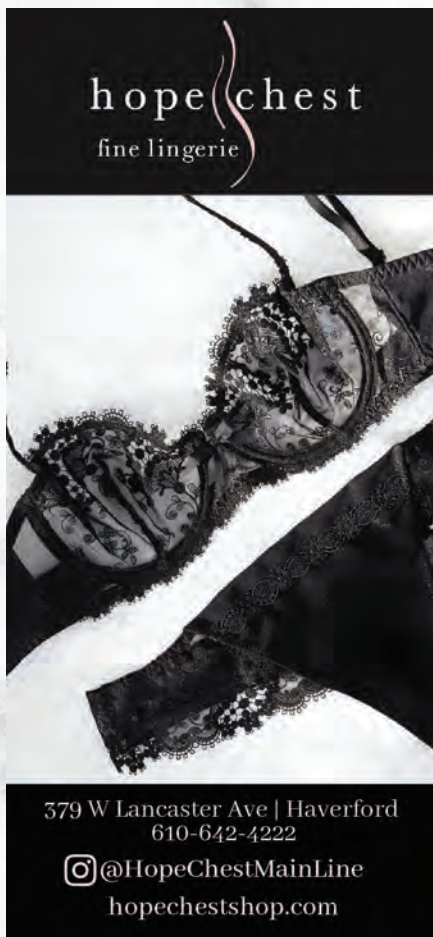
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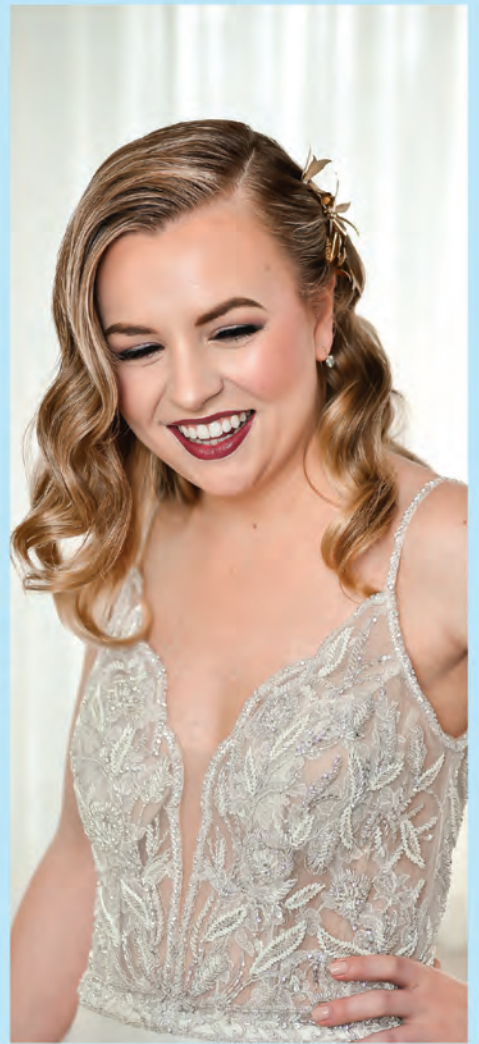
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# FALLEN HERO

**THIS YEAR'S GIANT MAIN LINE RUN/WALK PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE FIRST LOCAL FIREFIGHTER KILLED ON THE JOB IN 15 YEARS.**

BY MICHAEL BRADLEY

When the nearly 500 runners taking part in the 24th Giant Main Line Run/Walk toe the starting line on Sept. 12, some will be trying for personal bests. Others will be looking forward to a leisurely 5K jaunt with friends. All should be thinking about Sean DeMuynck.

On July 4, the Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills firefighter died while working to extinguish a house fire. DeMuynck had come to the area from Canada with his wife, Melissa Richard-Greenblatt, two years earlier. He'd answered the call that night while the couple was packing up the house they'd rented. They were looking forward to returning to Ontario in the next week or so.

The run, which is staged on Lancaster Avenue in Wayne, raises money to provide scholarships for firefighters and other emergency personnel throughout the Main Line. This year, it will also pay tribute to the 35-year-old DeMuynck. "Sean was a fantastic person," says Ted Schmid, chief at Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills Fire Company. "He was either the quiet presence

in the room or the one snapping pictures, making fun of people and laughing it up. He could do that in good fun and good humor. Sean was an exceptionally hard worker and put a lot into firefighting. He pushed himself to be a better person, and he pushed others, too.”

DeMuynek and his wife arrived here in July 2019, four months after they were married. Melissa, a microbiologist, received a two-year fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine, and the couple settled in Overbrook. DeMuynek had been working as the manager of an automobile-recycling plant. Upon arriving here, he began pursuing of his dream of becoming a firefighter.

Schmid recalls that DeMuynek created study guides for himself, which he shared with colleagues. (They’re now in the Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills firehouse as a reference for future trainees.) DeMuynek had planned to return home to volunteer as a firefighter, hoping to return to the area someday with Melissa to continue his work with Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills. Once a member of the company, DeMuynek responded to just about every call that went out. “He was dependable,” Schmid says.

On July 4, the call was for a three-story home on Rosedale Road, less than a mile from City Line Avenue. The fire was intense, and those fighting it initially couldn’t find its source within the house. Teams can usually last about 15-20 minutes at a time in a burning building. Part of a later crew to cycle into the structure, DeMuynek headed to the top floor. From that point on, it’s been difficult to recreate the details of the incident. An investigation has been launched to determine exactly why he died.

DeMuynek was the second firefighter the company has lost in the line of duty. The other was Harold Beck, who perished in the 1988 nine-alarm Kiddie City fire in Ardmore. “Firefighting is dangerous, and occasionally there is an injury—but it’s usually nothing serious,” Schmid says. “This is a little different. This was not a 60-something man. This was a strong, energetic, vibrant man who had so much ahead of him.”

DeMuynek’s wife has returned to Canada. In late July, she was part of another remembrance, this time at the hockey rink in Strathroy, Ontario, where DeMuynek, a fine Canadian juniors prospect, played. Back at the Penn Wynne-Overbrook Hills station, no one will use DeMuynek’s locker again. A picture of him hangs inside it, along

*continued on page 34*

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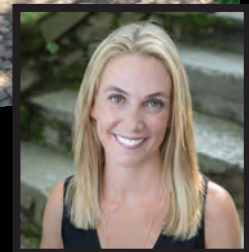
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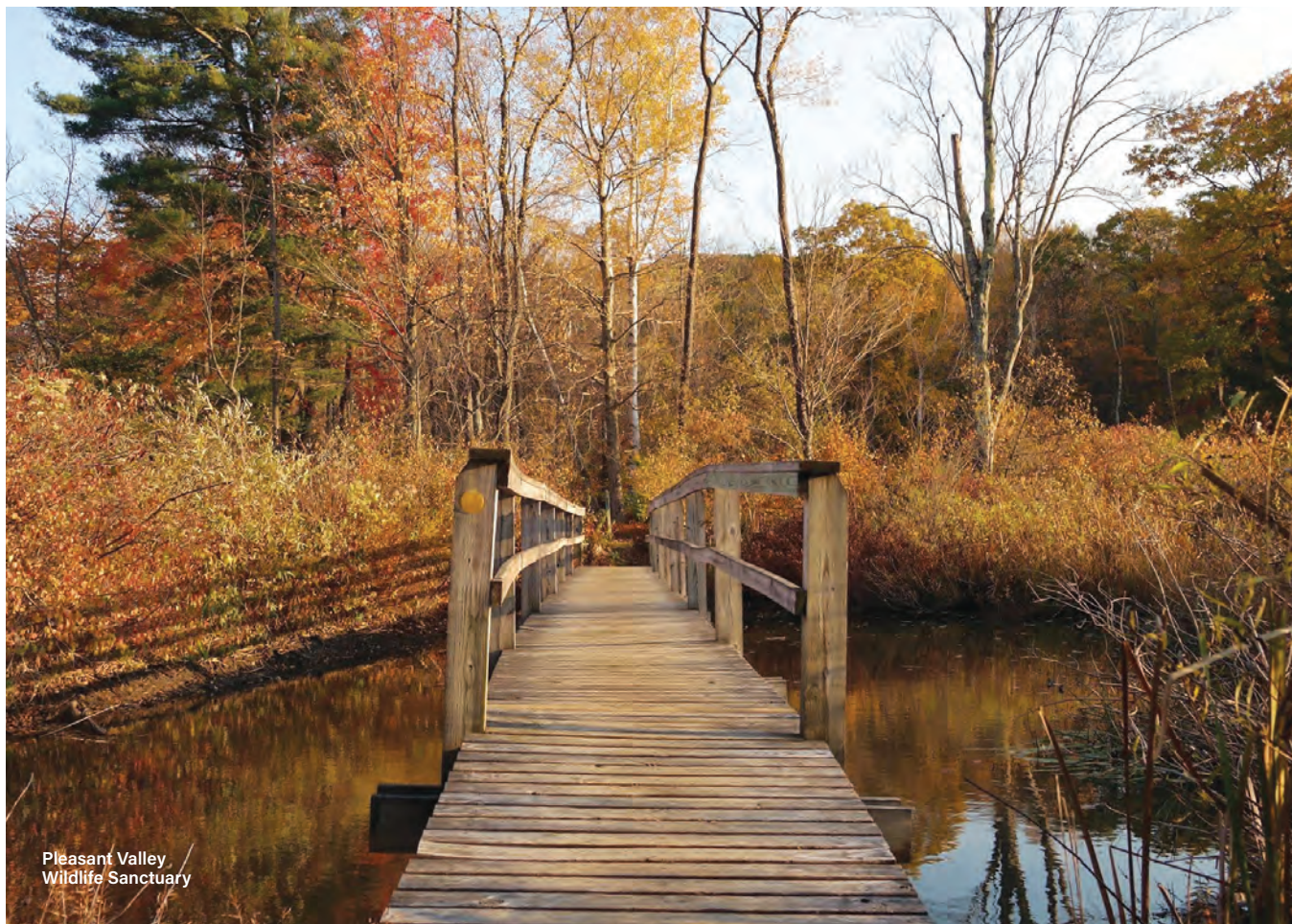
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Pleasant Valley  
Wildlife Sanctuary

# ESCAPE PLAN

**WITH THE DAZZLING AUTUMN COLORS AS YOUR INSPIRATION, IT'S TIME TO HEAD OUT FOR A CHANGE OF SCENERY. HERE ARE FOUR IDEAL GETAWAYS.**

BY MARILYN ODESSER-TORPEY

## LENOX, MASS.

Situated in the beautiful Berkshire Mountains of western Massachusetts, Lenox and its surrounding area offer a host of outdoor and cultural activities.

**Peak foliage:** mid-October.

**Drive time:** 4 hours, 15 minutes.

**Stay here:** **Canyon Ranch** is an all-inclusive mind-body wellness retreat that includes everything from thoughtfully crafted meals and snacks to more than 35 activities per day, including group hikes, bike rides, yoga, aquatics, fitness and dance classes, and creative arts. You'll work with a diverse team of healthcare professionals who combine Western and Eastern healing

techniques to create a customized program. At the posh Bellefontaine Mansion, you can even select your perfect pillow from a special menu. *Starting at \$1,580/night. 165 Kemble St., (413) 637-4100, canyonranch.com.*

**Eat here:** Dine indoors under crystal chandeliers or ask for a table outside at the **Red Lion Inn**, known for its award-winning wine menu and outstanding American-style food. Think prime rib and maple-cured pork loin. Breakfast choices include eggs Benedict and corned beef hash with poached eggs (a New England favorite). *30 Main St., Stockbridge, (413) 298-5545, redlioninn.com.*

Michelin-starred chef Daniel Boulud brings his signature style to **Café Boulud**

at **Blantyre**, offering French classics with innovative twists. A recent menu included shrimp risotto and rack of lamb. Coat and tie required. *16 Blantyre Road, Lenox, (413) 637-3556, blantyre.com.*

**Do this:** Take an exhilarating hike up **Mount Greylock**, the highest point in the state at 3,491 feet, and you'll be rewarded with a 90-mile view encompassing five states. *30 Rockwell Road, Lanesborough, (413) 499-4262, mass.gov.* Or choose anything from an easy walk to a challenging hike at **Pleasant Valley Wildlife Sanctuary**, 1,000 acres of wilderness with a variety of terrain. *472 W. Mountain Road, Lenox, (413) 637-0320, massaudubon.org.*



Canyon Ranch's Bellefontaine Mansion.



Hawk Mountain's main attraction.

The **Norman Rockwell Museum** displays the world's largest collection of the beloved artist's large-scale paintings and illustrations, along with works by other artists, in 10 galleries. Through Oct. 31, the museum features an outdoor sculpture exhibition on its 36-acre riverside campus. *9 Glendale Road, Stockbridge, (413) 298-4100, nrm.org.*

Most people are familiar with the Shakers through the handsome utilitarian furniture they built. Established in 1780s and active until the 1950s, **Hancock Shaker Village** offers deeper view of how this humble community lived and worked in their quest to create a heaven on earth. *1843 W. Housatonic St., Pittsfield, (413) 443-0188, hancockshakervillage.org.*

## JIM THORPE, PA.

Surrounded by the Pocono Mountains on three sides in the Lehigh Gorge, this tiny town appears to be frozen in time—specifically, the Victorian Era. First impressions are breathtaking when the fall colors are on full display. The beautifully preserved downtown streets are lined with boutiques and restaurants.

**Peak foliage:** early November.  
**Drive time:** 1 hour, 30 minutes.

**Stay here:** The imagineers at Walt Disney World were so impressed with the authentically Gothic **Harry Packer Mansion Inn**—built in 1874 high on a hill overlooking the town—that they designed the park's Haunted Mansion ride in its image. Stay in the mansion, or choose the adjoining Carriage House, built in 1861 as a hunting lodge, with six guestrooms.

Some accommodations have sitting rooms, electric fireplaces and whirlpool tubs. Breakfast is included. The inn is also known for its elaborate Murder Mystery Weekends, which include Saturday-night dinner. *\$195-\$295. 19 Packer Hill, (570) 325-8566, murdermansion.com.*

**Eat here:** Stop in for weekday happy hour at **Broadway Grille's** original Victorian bar and stay for a short-rib grilled cheese, a Chilean sea bass taco or something more substantial like Argentinian grilled bavette steak or wild shrimp linguini. *24 Broadway, (570) 732-4343, broadwaygrillepub.com.*

The upscale, eclectic menu at **Moya** is the love child of Ecuador-born internationally trained owner/chef Heriberto Yunda. Recent selections include crab agnolotti with saffron cream sauce, honey-glazed and tomatillo-sauced shrimp, and rack of lamb. *24 Race St., (570) 325-8530, jimthorpemoya.com.*

**Do this:** Rent a bike for a leisurely pedal along the scenic Lehigh Gorge section of the Switchback and D&L rail trails to the village of White Haven.

**Pocono Biking** will shuttle you to the trailhead. *7 Hazard Square, (800) 944-8392, poconobiking.com.* Pack a picnic or grab a bagged lunch at **Renee's Cold Cut Hut** in White Haven. *103 Berwick St., White Haven, (570) 215-0057.* Or buzz through town and the surrounding countryside in a vintage BMW sidecar with **Jim Thorpe Sidecar Tourz**. Options include wine tasting, a waterfall, Lehigh Gorge and Hickory Run State Park. *Tours start at Marion Hose Bar, 16 W. Broadway, (570) 249-1570, jimthorpesidecartourz.com.*

Rafting on the Lehigh River is a big draw in September and October. First-timers and families with children (age 4 and up) will enjoy three hours of easygoing water time with **Jim Thorpe River Adventures**. Longer and more challenging excursions are also available. *Lehighton Outdoor Center, 123 Lehigh Drive, Lehighton, (800) 424-7238, jtraft.com.*

Every year since 1934, birders have flocked to **Hawk Mountain** for the Autumn Hawk Migration, the longest running raptor migration count in the world. Aside from hawks, you'll spot eagles, falcons and vultures. *1700 Hawk Mountain Road, Kempton, (610) 756-6961, hawkmountain.org.*

Hop on the diesel engine **Lehigh Gorge Scenic Railway**, with its vintage coaches (some built in 1917) for a relaxing round-trip ride between downtown Jim Thorpe and Lehigh Gorge State Park.

*1 Susquehanna St., (570) 325-8485, lgsry.com.* Or take in a show at the **Mauch Chunk Opera House**, an intimate spot for music and comedy established over 138 years ago, making it one of the oldest venues in the country. *14 W. Broadway, (570) 325-0249, mcchji.com.*

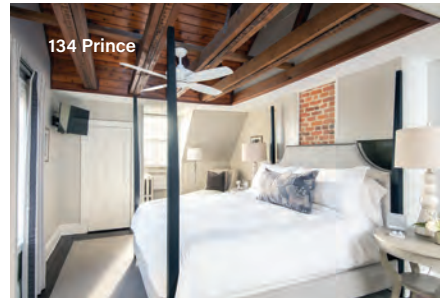
## LURAY, VA.

Shenandoah National Park is the big attraction in this northwestern Virginia area nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains. The famous Skyline Drive runs 105 miles north and south along the mountain crest and is the only public road through the park.

**Peak foliage:** It varies, from the first week of October in the highest spots to the rest of the month for mid to lower elevations.

**Drive time:** 4 hours.

**Stay here:** Leave your electronics behind (no phones in the rooms and cell access



is spotty) for a stay at **Skyland Resort**, a collection of traditional and preferred rooms, suites and detached one- to four-bedroom cabins located in 28 buildings along the ridge and in the wooded areas at Shenandoah National Park. All suites have wood-burning fireplaces. *7 Skyline Drive Mile 41.7 and 42.5, (540) 999-2213, goshenandoah.com.*

**Eat here:** Skyland is home to the **Pollock Dining Room**, known for comfort foods like old-fashioned pot roast and pan-seared rainbow trout. For dessert, don't miss the Mile High Blackberry Ice Cream Pie. A grab-and-go outlet offers sandwiches, snacks and beverages. Sip a Prohibition Punch, Speakeasy Sour or other specialty cocktail at the **Skyland Taproom**. Wings, spinach artichoke dip, salads and sandwiches are available. *Skyline Drive Mile 41.7 and 42.5, (877) 847-1919, goshenandoah.com.*

If you're craving an early Thanksgiving feast, order the signature roast turkey dinner at **Spottwood Dining Room** at Big Meadows Lodge, another park accommodation. Or try a draft-brew flight and one of almost a dozen creative personal pizzas at Big Meadows' **New Market Taproom**. *Skyline Drive Mile 51, (877) 847-1919, goshenandoah.com.*

**Do this:** Start your **Shenandoah National Park** hike at the Dickey Ridge (Mile 4.6) or Harry S. Byrd (Mile 51) visitor centers to pick up maps and get information. The park has 500 miles of well-marked trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian

Trail. To get to its highest point is an easy two-mile walk to Hawksbill Summit. *(540) 999-3500, nps.gov.*

It takes about three hours to drive the length of the park on **Skyline Drive**. The at 35-mph speed is due to the abundance of wildlife—mostly deer, bears and wild turkeys—that cross the road. More than 190 species of birds either reside or migrate through the park, especially at Big Meadows, a large grassy expanse located about a mile from the lodge. Other outstanding birding sites are Fox Hollow Trail (which starts at Dickey Ridge Visitor Center), Stony Man (at Mile 41.7) and South River Falls (at Mile 62.7). The latter has an 83-foot waterfall and observation point.

Even if you're a beginner at rock climbing and rappelling, **Tealink** has a guided adventure for you. *(301) 695-1814, teamlinkinc.com.* Or visit three wineries and distilleries on the **Skyland Whisky Wine Shuttle**. *Skyland Resort, (877) 847-1919, goshenandoah.com.*

## ANNAPOLIS, MD.

Set sail for a nautical adventure on the Chesapeake Bay in Maryland's capital city. On downtown Annapolis' brick and cobblestone streets, you'll be surrounded by four centuries worth of history, architecture and art.

**Peak foliage:** mid to late October.  
**Drive time:** 2 hours, 30 minutes.

**Stay here:** Just opened this past December,

**134 Prince** is a five-suite luxury boutique hotel located in the heart of the city's downtown. Colonial architecture combines with tastefully elegant décor and amenities for a truly upscale experience. Breakfast is included. *\$499-\$6.99 weekdays, \$649-\$749 weekends. 134 Prince George St., (410) 834-4606, 134prince.com.*

**Eat here:** Situated on Spa Creek overlooking the waterfront, **Carroll's Creek Cafe** offers a quintessential Eastern Shore dining experience that includes jumbo lump crab cakes, signature baked oysters and an herb-encrusted rockfish fillet. Steaks are also a specialty here. *410 Severn Ave., (410) 263-8102, carrollscreek.com.*

At **Flamant**, Belgium-born chef Frederik de Pue offers a four-course menu that changes monthly to match the seasons and the availability of fresh local ingredients. Recent menus include lamb saddle with pistachio sauce, and squid with an eggplant and zucchini stuffing. A clear roof on the covered patio lets you dine under the stars. *17 Annapolis St., (410) 267-0274, flamantmd.com.*

At **Preserve**, simplicity allows the carefully sourced ingredients to shine. Think bone-in lamb shoulder chops or butter-baked scallops. *164 Main St., (410) 598-6920, preserve-eats.com.*

**Do this:** Nicknamed "America's Sailing Capital," Annapolis offers so many ways to get out on the water. Built in 1940 and one of only 22 remaining Chesapeake skipjacks (oyster-dredging boats), the **Wilma Lee** offers heritage or sunset cruises. *Annapolis Maritime Museum, 723 Second St., (410) 295-0104, amaritime.org.* Or you can help hoist the sails on the sleek 74-foot **Schooner Woodwind** during a daytime or sunset cruise. *Annapolis Waterfront Hotel, 80 Compromise St., (410) 263-7837, schoonerwoodwind.com.*

On the **Colonial Annapolis Walking Tour**, you'll stroll the brick-lined streets of the nation's first peacetime capital with a period-garbed guide, passing stately mansions built by signers *continued on page 34*

# MAIN EVENTS

BY MELISSA JACOBS



ALYSSA MURPHREE MEDIA



**Sept. 4-6**  
**78th Annual Ludwig's Corner Horse Show & Country Fair**

With 33 acres of open space, there's plenty of room to enjoy the horses and vendors that make this one of Chester County's favorite Labor Day traditions. *Uwehland, (610) 458-3344, ludwighorseshow.com.*



COURTESY OF CHESTER COUNTY BALLOON FESTIVAL

**Sept. 10-12**  
**Chester County Balloon Festival**

More than 20 balloons take flight twice a day during this three-day event, which includes a beer garden, monster truck rides, live music, crafts from local artists, and a kids' zone. *Willowdale Steeplechase, Kennett Square, ccballoonfest.com.*



COURTESY OF RADNOR HUNT

**Sept. 10-12**  
**Radnor Hunt Concours d'Elegance**

Starting with the Friday-night barbecue and featuring Saturday's road rally, art auction and black-tie gala, the weekend festivities culminate with Sunday's show of classic cars, coaches and carriages. *Radnor Hunt, Malvern, radnorconcours.org.*

**Sept. 17 & 19**  
**Landhope Challenge Cup**

Watch the preliminary matches on Friday and the finals on Sunday at one of the oldest polo clubs in the region. With 122 acres, the family-friendly fields offer plenty of room for spectators, tailgating and the kids. *Brandywine Polo Club, Toughkenamon, brandywinepolo.com.*



COURTESY OF BRANDYWINE POLO CLUB

**Sept. 19**  
**Radnor Fall Festival**

Food, friends and family fun are the focus of the Wayne Business Association's 28th annual festival. Head to North Wayne Avenue to shop, eat, drink and celebrate the township's small businesses. *Noon-4 p.m., radnorfallfestival.com.*



COURTESY OF WBA

**Sept. 24**  
**Bryn Mawr Night**

Boutiques, restaurants and salons celebrate the creativity and resilience of the town's small businesses with tastings, fashion shows—and the Bryn Mawrtini. *5-8 p.m., brynmawr19010.com.*



COURTESY OF BMBA

## Stop Playing the Allergy Guessing Game

Do you often wonder...

Why won't this cough or throat clearing go away?

Why do I feel tired all the time?

Which allergy medication should I take?

What am I allergic to?



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## FRONTLINE | DIVERSIONS

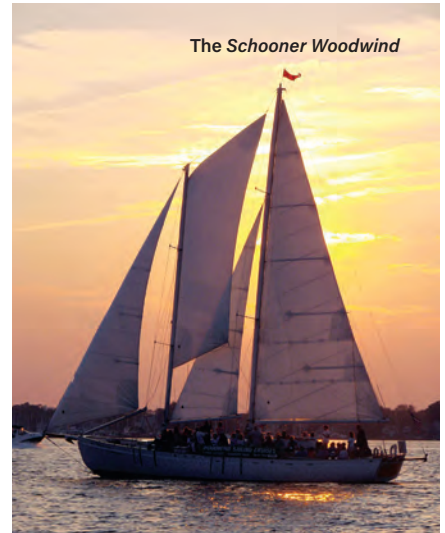
continued from page 32

of the Declaration of Independence. You'll also visit the Maryland State House, where George Washington resigned his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army and the Continental Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris, ending the Revolutionary War. **Market House Park, 25 Market Space, (410) 268-7601, watermarkjourney.com.**

Travel from tasting in an electric cart on Annapolis Eventours' two-hour **Original Annapolis Seafood Crawl**. *Departs from the Annapolis Visitors Center, 26 West St., (443) 510-1348, annapoliseventours.com.*

Just reopened after extensive renovations, the **Preserve at Eisenhower Golf Course** is a challenging 18 holes. Seventeen boardwalks protect its natural resources. *1576 Generals Hwy., Crownsville, (410) 222-3400, thepreserveateisenhower.com.*

Opened in August, **Gallery 57 West** is the exhibit space for the nonprofit Annapolis Arts Alliance. Members work in a wide range of media, including paints, photography, jewelry, sculpture, glass work, pottery, textiles, mixed media, maps and collages. *57 West St., (410) 263-1300, gallery57west.com.* If you'd like to exercise



your own creativity, take an evening workshop at **ArtFarm Annapolis Studio**. *111 Chinquapin Round Road, Suite 200, (443) 360-5278, artfarmannapolis.com.*

Take in an evening of live music featuring headliners and up-and-comers in the intimate atmosphere of **Ram's Head Tavern**. *33 West St., (410) 268-4545, ramshheadtavern.com.* **MLT**

## FRONTLINE | LIVING WELL

continued from page 29

with American and Canadian flags. "It's our worst nightmare come true," Schmid says.

On a chilly Thursday in December 2006, 25-year-old Tom Hays returned to his apartment after helping to extinguish an electrical fire. The seven-year member of Ardmore's Merion Fire Company told his two roommates he was feeling ill and went to bed. He never woke up.

Each year, the organizers of the Giant Main Line Run/Walk and its participants honor Hays, who died that night of a heart attack. In June, at the Lower Merion Township building, three \$5,000 scholarships were awarded in his name to local emergency personnel who can use them for education at two- and four-year colleges or trade schools.

Like DeMuyneck's tragedy, Hays' death was mourned deeply by those who serve the community. "Sean was an impressive guy, and we have a lot of impressive people in the emergency field," says Bernie Dagenais, president and CEO of the Main Line Chamber of Commerce and president of the Main Line Chamber Foundation, which stages the run. "His death is a devastating loss for

the community, and the run is a chance to show gratitude to the people who serve. They're the ones who run into the house when people are running out of it."

At June's Hometown Heroes ceremony, the chamber distributed \$51,000 in grants, including a \$10,000 Community Service Leadership Scholarship to Judy Flanagan of the Merion Fire Company. Over the past decade-plus, the chamber has given out more than \$500,000 to worthy recipients, thanks in a large part to a generous array of sponsors.

The Giant Main Line Run also brings awareness to the need for more emergency personnel. Charles McGarvey has been Lower Merion's fire marshal for 16 years. He notes that the number of volunteers has dropped precipitously since the late 1900s, and the need remains huge.

DeMuyneck's impact on the community was evident in the more than 2,000 people who attended his memorial service and paid tribute to him outside the Lower Merion High School auditorium. "Some came from fire companies in Virginia," says McGarvey. "Firefighters form a true brotherhood and sisterhood."

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# CAMPUS COMEBACK

Local colleges and universities navigate vaccine mandates, the return to in-person learning and the potential of another COVID-19 outbreak.

By Davis Giangiulio

Photos by Tessa Marie Images

**A**nna Jankowski has yet to have a normal year of college at Villanova University. When COVID-19 closed campus in the spring semester of her freshman year, Jankowski returned home to Baltimore. In the fall of 2020, almost all of her sophomore classes were virtual. “I’m so ridiculously hopeful that this year will be something close to normal,” says Jankowski of her junior year.

This fall, area universities anticipate a near-complete return to pre-pandemic form. West Chester University spent all

Fifth-year West Chester University student Molly Scollo is looking forward to a renewed sense of school spirit on campus.

of the 2020-21 academic year in remote-learning mode, with just a trickle of students on campus. Now, nearly 18,000 students are returning.

Vaccine mandates are a hot topic. Do schools have the legal right to require that students and staff be vaccinated? Villanova thinks so, announcing its decision in a June email. “My peers and I are hoping that it [will] make things much more accessible and open,” says Jankowski.

Swarthmore College has also mandated vaccines. “For us, this was a relatively easy decision,” says Jim Terhune, vice president of student affairs and a member of the university’s COVID-19 planning group.

“Once we saw the efficacy of this vaccine, it was very clear what direction we’d go.”

At WCU, a vaccine requirement is unlikely. A state institution would need Harrisburg to pass legislation to mandate it. “I’m told that federal legislation doesn’t allow organizations to coerce people to be vaccinated by vaccines approved on an emergency basis,” says Chris Fiorentino, the school’s president. “That’s the guidance we have.”

Regardless, WCU administrators strongly encourage vaccinations. “I know a lot of my friends have anxiety knowing that some students aren’t vaccinated,” says Scollo.

*continued on page 40*

# COVID Case Study

How Neumann University created a unique mitigation approach.

By Lily Henderson

**C** OVID doesn’t have a rule book—or a textbook. That in mind, Neumann University created a Campus Reopening Team in the spring of 2021 to help faculty and students navigate learning and living at the school. The 17 people on the team were selected by Neumann president Chris Domes to represent a cross section of expertise at the university. Its twin goals were to contact trace and make sure symptomatic students were OK. “They were calling us every single day,” says Neumann student Jake Loburak, a senior majoring in communications and digital media.

CRT member Judith Neubauer is an assistant professor at the school and director of its graduate nursing program. She believes the vigilance paid off. “It gave us an opportunity for early intervention,” Neubauer says.

Classes continued, albeit virtually. Internships also moved forward. At Neumann—which has a large health sciences department—they’re a critical part of skill-based learning. Neumann administrators discovered different ways to conduct internships safely. Domes personally reached out to alumni for internship opportunities. The initiative

was so successful that it’s become a permanent part of Neumann’s program. “We had some ways of creating opportunities that we wouldn’t have normally had,” Domes says.

For classes, it was a hybrid model. “We ended up with about 50 percent in-person and about 50 percent online,” says Domes.

Neubauer and the rest of the team are planning for a full reopening this year. Neumann’s faculty and student population were already 65 percent vaccinated by the end of the spring semester, and the goal is to have everyone on campus vaccinated by fall. “We offered international and domestic students the ability to get vaccinated if they weren’t already,” Domes says.

There are several COVID-era changes the university plans to keep, including optional SATs and ACTs. Domes will also utilize a new advisory board to help students make business connections outside of Neumann. As for the Campus Response Team, he hopes its expertise won’t be needed again any time soon.

*Conestoga High School alum Lily Henderson is a freshman at Penn State University.*



**“THEY WERE  
CALLING US EVERY  
SINGLE DAY.”**

**—NEUMANN UNIVERSITY  
SENIOR JAKE LOBURAK**



While its more than 1,500 students are required to get the shot, Swarthmore is being cautious. “We’ve long required students to receive various vaccines, but we haven’t made a final determination on whether we’ll require staff and faculty to be vaccinated,” says a spokesperson for the school.

Vaccine inequity has been a major concern. Although they’re widely available in the U.S., some students may not get shots for a variety of reasons. This could be a particularly sensitive issue for foreign students, especially those from countries experiencing outbreaks of the Delta variant. They may not have received vaccines authorized by the FDA. Other countries—particularly China and Russia—manufactured their own.

An even bigger concern is the backlog in visa processing due to COVID travel bans. “We have a real concern that a number of our international students may not be able to get their visas processed in time to start the semester,” Terhune says. “Obviously, every message we put out comes with the caveat that, if circumstances change, we have to adjust.”

Making decisions in real time—then reversing some of them—has landed administrators in uncharted territory. For example, during the summer of 2020, WCU informed students that classes would start in a hybrid model. Eventually, the in-person option was abandoned. “We got to a point where we decided trying to operate face to face was not going to be successful,” Fiorentino says.

Swarthmore’s administrators made a similar decision. During the 2020-21 academic year, the school was almost entirely remote, with only half the students on campus each semester. “I’m knocking on wood,” says Terhune. “But I think, given the circumstances, that it’s highly unlikely we’d be in a position where everything would have to be locked down again.”

A fifth-year student at WCU, Molly Scollo admits that it was “heartbreaking to see campus so dead last year.” Virtual learning was challenging, too. “You just had to move forward,” says the student government president.

The virus also moved forward. Despite mitigation efforts, outbreaks did occur on local campuses. Over the last academic year, WCU had 280 cases and Swarthmore 100. Villanova reported nearly 1,700 cases, according to the *New York Times*’ COVID dashboard.

Villanova’s spike occurred at the start of the semester this past spring.

At one point, more than 50 percent of its quarantine beds were full. In response, the university prohibited students from accessing dorm buildings other than their own. “You weren’t allowed to see anyone—just the people you live with,” says Jankowski, who lived in a single-bed dorm room. “I went a little stir-crazy.”

This year, there won’t be any virtual classes at Swarthmore or WCU, except for those that were virtual pre-pandemic. Students will be in class and free to move throughout campus. There will be no mass testing and no quarantine beds on reserve. Fiorentino and other high-ranking officials have worked closely with the Chester County Department of Health and the Pennsylvania departments of Education and Health. Ultimately, though, he has “ultimate responsibility for the decisions.”

After the state reached its 70 percent vaccination rate, Gov. Tom Wolf lifted the mask mandate—and so did WCU. Wolf’s administration no longer requires COVID case tracking, so WCU stopped operating its dashboard.

At Swarthmore, Terhune and his team also rely on guidance from other experts, including alumni from Bryn Mawr and Haverford colleges. Some of them hold senior titles at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Mayo Clinic. Swarthmore also has a COVID-19 planning group that meets twice a week. “We have committees and working groups tasked with any number of different things along the way,” Terhune says.

If COVID taught us anything, it’s to expect the unexpected. To that end, Fiorentino remains cautious. “There are a number of decisions we’ve not made for the fall semester because we’re waiting for more information,” he says. “We’ve talked about the possibility that we’d need to take a look if [something] would change our plans.”

For Scollo, any changes could affect daily campus life. “Is my schedule going to change? Can I sit with my friends at the dining hall? There are a lot of unanswered questions,” she says.

Swarthmore is delaying the publication of its COVID outbreak contingency plans and the metric used to quantify an outbreak. How many students would have to get sick for the school to suspend in-person learning? “We’ve never had any clearly established benchmarks,” says Terhune.

Instead, Swarthmore likes to be “responsive to the circumstances that are

“**“YOU’VE GOT THREE CLASSES OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE NO IDEA WHAT IN-PERSON LEARNING LOOKS LIKE. IT’S A GREAT OPPORTUNITY.”**

—WEST CHESTER UNIVERSITY SENIOR MOLLY SCOLLO

out there.” With no testing for vaccinated students, however, that may not be so easy to do.

Jankowski and Scollo give their respective universities high ratings in their handling of the pandemic. “It was a crazy situation,” says Jankowski. “There are instances when it could’ve been clearer, but I think overall the messages wereww communicated.”

And COVID wasn’t all bad news for schools. “We determined there were better ways to convey certain information than the way we’ve been doing it in the past,” says Terhune. “The faculty discovered a whole new set of tools at their disposal that I imagine will find their way into in-person classes.”

Meanwhile, the hope is that COVID won’t find its way back on campus in any significant way. “Things keep trending downward, and we continue to hope for the best,” Fiorentino says.

Scollo has her own positive spin on things. “You’ve got three classes of students who have no idea what in-person West Chester looks like,” she says. “It’s a really unique perspective that will bring a whole new sense of spirit and energy to events and programs that we haven’t seen in a long time. It’s a great opportunity.”

*Lower Merion High School alum Davis Giangulio is a freshman at Northwestern University.*





# Parochial Predicament

Despite some disquieting numbers, administrators at the region's Catholic schools are cautiously optimistic. They have no choice but to be.

By Michael Bradley

Illustration by Jon Krause

**J**ohn Cooke likes to joke that it took a guy from Northeast Philly to lead a Delaware County high school forward. The Archbishop Ryan product and Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast president finds himself surrounded by people with direct connections to the school, which was created by a 2005 merger of two proud Drexel Hill institutions. "We've got some good stuff going on," says Cooke.

In 2012, Bonner-Prendie almost ended up in the same graveyard as several other Philadelphia Archdiocesan high schools. "The threat of closure got more people involved here, and our partnership with local colleges has been huge for our sustainability," Cooke says. "It's a good investment, and students get Catholic values at a place where people really care about them. Everybody's from here but me—but I really love this place."

*continued on page 52*

# MYTH MAKER

Award-winning media mogul  
Mike Tollin can't escape his Delaware County  
roots—not that he's ever tried.

By J.F. Pirro

**F**or Mike Tollin, it's the ultimate insult. Despite an ever-present Phillies cap, his four best pals insist on calling him the "Hollywood guy." Tollin actually grew up in what's considered Havertown, though it was an Ardmore mailing address. He recalls slipping under the fence at Merion Golf Club for an up-close view of the classic playoff between Jack Nicklaus and Lee Trevino in the 1971 U.S. Open.

These days, as a leading documentary filmmaker and media mogul, Tollin is more of a Hollywood guy than he'd care to admit—even if he's not much of a self-promoter. His immense success, however, has demanded it. Tollin did 100 interviews alone for 2020's *The Last Dance*, an enthralling 10-part ESPN series on Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls dynasty, which was hugely successful and won about a dozen awards, including an Emmy.

Protective of himself around fellow media types, he's survived the "cauldron without blemishes," even if *The Last Dance* made the coals red-hot.

Now 65, Tollin has produced and directed more than a dozen feature films, several award-winning documentaries and hundreds of hours of television. Most recently, ESPN announced his six-episode series on modern-day baseball legend Derek Jeter. Titled *The Captain*, it will air next year. His production credits also include feature films like *Wild Hogs*, *Coach Carter*, *Varsity Blues*, *Summer Catch* and *Big Fat Liar*. As a director, Tollin won a Peabody Award and was nominated for an Oscar and an Emmy for 1995's *Hank Aaron: Chasing the Dream*. He's directed and produced other award-winning docs, including "Small Potatoes: Who Killed The USFL?," an original installment of ESPN's *30 for 30* series, for

*continued on page 64*



ANTHONY GEATHERS

# Sanctuaries with Style

DESIGNING SERENITY INTO THE BED AND BATH.

BY EILEEN SMITH DALLABRIDA

PHOTOS BY JOHN FRIEDRICH (BED) & ANGLE EYE PHOTOGRAPHY (BATH)

Think of today's bedrooms and bathrooms as stylish sanctuaries for refreshment and renewal. For an insider's view of what's trendy and timeless, we turned to Phoenixville-based interior designer **Liz Walton**, who's created comfortable first-class retreats throughout the Main Line region.

**MLT:** When we're on our backs in bed, we look up. What are some ways to improve our view of ceilings without making structural changes?

**LW:** In one of my favorite bedrooms, which already had angled ceilings, we used tongue-and-groove painted wood to create a cozy and comforting aesthetic. We also love to wallpaper the ceiling as a fun accent. Another option is to paint the ceiling a soothing color.

**MLT:** There are so many mattress options out there. Any tips for selecting the right one?

**LW:** Ultimately, it comes down to knowing yourself and what you need for a good night's rest. My husband and I recently went through the mattress-buying process. We chose a hybrid model constructed using foam and springs that's hypoallergenic. We

also have clients who specify an adjustable mattress, where they can control the firmness of each side, with the capability to raise and lower the back and foot. My advice is to carefully consider what your sleep needs are and start from there.

**MLT:** What about linens?

**LW:** Having sheets that are cool, comfortable and able to breathe ensure the best night's sleep. Bamboo sheets are gaining popularity for their health benefits. They're naturally temperature-regulating, making

them great for year-round use. They also are antibacterial and hypoallergenic, which means they stay cleaner longer. Cozy House Collection offers a wide variety of bamboo sheets with a luxurious resort-like feel at a great price point.

**MLT:** We're seeing more wallpaper—and bolder patterns—in bedrooms. How do today's papers differ from those of the 1980s?

**LW:** After removing several layers of wallpaper in our first home, my husband and I vowed never to use it, but now I want it everywhere. Today, there are so many varieties, from natural textures like grass cloth and braided

*continued on page 48*



Black-and-white bunny graphics impart a sense of sophisticated whimsy.



jute—which offer a casual bohemian vibe—to realistic murals, to glitz and gold and everything in between. The patterns are fresh and fun and [can reflect] the personality of the homeowner like never before. Wallpaper has the power to transform an otherwise sterile space like a laundry room and delight guests in a powder room. It's pure joy—and right now, we all could use some of that.

**MLT: What are some closet systems and storage options that help keep bedrooms streamlined and uncluttered?**

**LW:** Dedicated storage is the name of the game. We're designing very tailored closets, taking every item into account. Lighting is key, and we take great care to ensure items don't get shoved into the back of a closet or lost in a corner. We take an inventory of our clients' items and discuss what they need out of a closet, whether it's a bench seat to sit on or an island with a large countertop top to accommodate accessories. *continued on page 50*



Bold wallpaper makes a Haverford bedroom pop.



A rustic Haverford vanity is accessorized to reflect an equestrian theme.



This serene bath in Wayne features a floating vanity and a soaker tub.

# 5 TRENDS IN BEDROOM DESIGN

**1. Getting back to nature.** Earthy colors and natural, textured materials like linen, rattan, shiplap and wicker help to make a bedroom feel comfy and inviting. Think of potted plants as living accessories.

**2. No more matchy-matchy.** Bag the bed-in-a-bag. Opt for a complementary mix of patterns and textures instead, including comforters, pillows, bed skirts and curtains.

**3. Less clutter and leaner, cleaner surfaces.** Instead of a table lamp on the nightstand, consider a streamlined wall sconce with a swing arm. Swap that jumble of family photos for a single, stunning portrait.

**4. Investing in indulgence.** Think of a top-of-the-line mattress and premium sheets as a form of self-care that contributes to restful sleep—a key factor in reduced stress and better quality of life.

**5. Soft surfaces.** Touchy-feely elements like plush, upholstered headboards, luxurious rugs and rounded corners contribute to an aura of serenity and safety.

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## BED & BATH

continued from page 48



(Here and opposite page)  
Spa-like showers are now the norm.

### **MLT: What about flooring options?**

**LW:** Hardwood floors are a classic and never go out of style, and a nice soft area rug adds texture and comfort but is much easier to clean or replace than wall-to-wall carpet.

### **MLT: TV or no TV in the bedroom?**

**LW:** In a perfect world, the bedroom is a place to unwind and relax away from media. That said, reality is a different story, and many people like to unwind in their bed with their favorite show. I follow my client's lead on this one. After we really get to know them, it's an easy discussion.

### **MLT: What special touches and/or finishes can make a small bath feel more luxurious?**

**LW:** Bathrooms have become the at-home spa. We have several designs happening right now, and almost all of them include steam and aromatherapy showers. Heated floors are now standard, and large soaking tubs are highly requested. When there's space, a beautiful chandelier is incorporated. Little luxuries like gorgeous gemstone and crystal hardware make all the difference. Lighting makes a huge impact in the bathroom, and we like to incorporate as much mood lighting as

possible. Toe-kick lighting is great and acts as a nightlight, providing a soft glow. Wall sconces and LED mirrors provide the perfect lighting for hair and makeup.

### **MLT: Brass continues to be a strong trend in faucets, lighting and hardware.**

**LW:** More and more manufacturers are adding brass. Unlacquered is beautiful and very popular for its aesthetic and antimicrobial properties.

### **MLT: What are some fabulous options for showers?**

**LW:** Steam showers are very popular, as well as aromatherapy features. Essential oils are used so you can choose a scent to your liking.

### **MLT: And tubs?**

**LW:** Freestanding soaking tubs are a must-have in a luxury bath. One of my favorite manufacturers is MTI for their design, comfort and unique sculpture stone.

### **MLT: What are some popular finishes and their plusses and minuses?**

**LW:** Porcelain tile is always popular for its look, durability and price point. We tend to specify marble because nothing



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compares to the beauty of the real material. Quartz is a popular material for countertops for its clean look, low maintenance and durability. We're also designing with statement tile, and our friends at Devon Tile keep us up to date with current trends and timelines for new products.

**MLT: How do you decorate with bath linens?**

**LW:** For us, less is more. We keep them simple, using neutrals as a base and adding accent colors with hand towels, artwork or plants. A beautiful, embroidered hand towel or accent towel can really pull a room together when used sparingly.

**MLT: What else can play a role in a well-appointed bath?**

**LW:** Plants add life to any space. Bathrooms tend to be more sterile looking, due to the variety of hard surfaces. Incorporating plants or artwork adds life, color and texture and is a great way to personalize a space. We love the company Artisan Moss for its unique products, customization and zero maintenance. **MLT**



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As Bonner-Prendie attempts to increase fundraising, boost enrollment and continue to build relationships capable of attracting and retaining students, it joins its fellow schools in what's becoming an increasingly difficult fight. Last November, the Archdiocese announced Bishop McDevitt and John W. Hallahan high schools would be closing after the 2020-21 school year. St. Basil, an independent Catholic school in Jenkintown, will also cease operations. They join North Catholic and Cardinal Dougherty on the list of recently shuttered institutions. (St. Thomas More, Bishop Kenrick, St. James and others were closed decades ago.) Bonner-Prendie, Conwell-Egan, St. Hubert's and West Catholic were all supposed to cease operations nine years ago. But last-ditch fundraising campaigns preserved all four.

There's a variety of reasons for the contraction, but shrinking enrollment is the primary culprit. Hallahan was operating at 36 percent capacity, while McDevitt was at 40. Cooke reports that this year's freshman class of 220 at Bonner-Prendie was the largest in the Archdiocese, and that the school's total of 800 students was third highest in the

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**BONNER-PRENDIE,  
 CONWELL-EGAN,  
 ST. HUBERT'S AND  
 WEST CATHOLIC WERE  
 ALL SUPPOSED TO CEASE  
 OPERATIONS NINE YEARS  
 AGO. BUT LAST-DITCH  
 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGNS  
 PRESERVED ALL FOUR.**

area. But can Bonner-Prendie, Archbishop Carroll, Cardinal O'Hara and Bishop Shanahan survive long-term, given the diminishing number of families who identify as Catholic and a growing need for financial aid? The schools are also sitting on some pretty desirable real estate, and there are other compelling forces working against them.

Forty years ago, the Archdiocese model was quite successful. Parents sent their children to parish grade schools, and those

kids moved seamlessly into the regional high schools with areas of recruitment clearly delineated by the Archdiocese. If you lived in Wynnewood, you went to Carroll. Upper Darby kids went to Bonner or Prendie. And so on.

But church attendance has lagged. In 2009, 52 percent of Americans went at least once a month. Ten years later, it was 45, and those identifying as Catholics dipped from 36 to 27 percent of the population during the same period,

Meanwhile, parochial institutions have had to adopt many of the same recruitment methods employed by independent schools. The good news: Their tuitions are substantially lower—about \$10,000 a year. The bad news: Resources aren't always of the same caliber.

And students these days need greater levels of financial assistance. During the 2020-21 school year, requests for tuition aid rose 46 percent, and that includes a large number of families that never sought grants before. As the old model fades, administrators must broaden their sales pitch to include applicants unable to pay all—or any—of the tuition.

As a result, schools *continued on page 54*



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must raise more money than ever before to provide the aid. Cooke reports that Bonner brought in \$2 million last year, up from \$1.8 million in 2019. O'Hara president Mike Connor says his school raised "about \$230,000 during a spring giving event."

"The job of school president focuses on recruitment and raising money," Connor says. "When I was interviewing for the position, I told the school that fundraising is relationship management. It's like sales. I have to manage people."

Connor is an O'Hara alum, graduating in 1985. He spent seven years as O'Hara's assistant boys' basketball coach under the legendary Bud Gardler. When Connor graduated from O'Hara, there were 900 in his class. This year, O'Hara had 829 in the entire school. Growing up in Broomall, Connor attended St. Pius X for elementary school, so for him it was either O'Hara or Marple Newtown High School. That's not the case now. "The high school choice has taken over for the college choice for families," Connor says. "Choosing a college is still very important, but seventh- and eighth-graders are now facing a lot of pressure. We have to be very creative in how we recruit. We reach out to students

“

**BECAUSE THE STUDENT POPULATIONS OF ARCHDIOCESAN HIGH SCHOOLS ARE NO LONGER EXCLUSIVELY CATHOLIC, SELLING THE CHURCH ISN'T NECESSARILY THE BEST TACTIC WHEN RECRUITING ENROLLEES.**

in our [parish] schools as early as fifth or sixth grade. We even have to reach out to the public schools."

And they're facing considerable competition at every price level. Families looking for an independent Catholic education can choose Malvern, Devon Prep or even St. Joe's Prep (which runs buses from Main Line and Delaware County locations to campus). Non-denominational independent schools abound in the area and have been more aggressive in recent years

with their financial aid awards. This is due in part to Pennsylvania's EITC program, which allows people to forward their state tax dollars to schools that then use the money for tuition assistance. There's also the no-cost option, which includes exceptional public schools like Radnor, Conestoga, Unionville and Lower Merion.

**B**ecause the student populations of Archdiocesan high schools are no longer exclusively—or in some cases, even half—Catholic, selling the Church isn't necessarily the best tactic when recruiting enrollees. But parochial high schools aren't going to abandon their principles. There are still liturgies, religion classes and an overriding commitment to Catholicism. Sometimes, though, it's packaged a little differently. Irene Hannan is CEO of Faith in the Future, an organization of business and community leaders committed to supporting Archdiocesan high schools. She's spent considerable time in the banking world, where she ran into many employers who gave Catholic school graduates preference due to their discipline and strong ethical

*continued on page 56*

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foundations. “People are finding themselves in a polarized secular environment,” Hannan says. “Many want a values-based education for their children. Having strong morals and principles is so important.”

That promise of helping students develop a strong internal compass allows Catholic high schools to justify an annual price tag of nearly \$10,000. While that’s substantially lower than other independent schools, it still isn’t affordable for many families. Archdiocesan high schools argue that by coupling the educational foundation with strong character development, the family financial commitment is worth it.

But there has to be more. Many parochial high schools are now offering students the opportunity to accrue college credits before graduation. Carroll students can take classes at nearby Cabrini University. At O’Hara, kids can attend Widener and Neumann. Shanahan is connected with Neumann and Immaculata, and Bonner-Prendie has relationships with Cabrini, Immaculata, Chestnut Hill, Rosemont and Neumann.

Now, Delaware County Community College has purchased the former Archbishop Prendergast property, so there’s a college right next door. “My goal is that



**MANY PAROCHIAL HIGH SCHOOLS ARE NOW OFFERING STUDENTS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ACCRUE COLLEGE CREDITS BEFORE GRADUATION.**

our kids will be able to get an associate’s degree from Delaware County Community College before they get a diploma from Bonner-Prendie,” Cooke says. “If a student has a free fifth period, he or she can go over to Delaware County and take a class. This way, they can get a college degree in just two years. This is going to be huge for our school’s future.”



o some, Bishop Shanahan would appear to have an ideal situation. The Downingtown-based high school is in an area where home construction is booming, and parish memberships in the

area are strong. “Every school has its up periods and down periods,” says principal Mike McArdle. “We have to hustle—it doesn’t come easily. We’re surrounded by good public schools and strong independent schools. We have to work hard.”

Shanahan’s 2020-21 enrollment was 968, with a freshman class of 200. Although McArdle expects the 2021-22 crop of newcomers to exceed last year’s freshman number, an ideal number of students is 1,100-1,200. It shows that no parochial high school is immune from enrollment issues, even one that recently added an extension to its main building.

Shanahan’s tuition is “a little more than \$10,000,” according to McArdle, making it one of the more expensive Archdiocesan high schools. And for those families willing to pay more for their children’s Catholic education, Malvern Prep, Devon Prep and Villa Maria aren’t too far away. “People are looking at college tuition and are starting to ask whether they want to pay for high school, too,” McArdle says.

In the end, it all boils down to money.

The stark decrease in vocations has removed many salary-free teachers and administrators. Add to that *continued on page 58*

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## The Academy of Notre Dame de Namur Welcomes New Head of School Dr. Laura M. Hotchkiss



On July 1, 2021, Laura M. Hotchkiss, Ed.D., began her tenure as Head of School at the Academy of Notre Dame de Namur.

Dr. Hotchkiss comes to Notre Dame from the Marlborough School in Los Angeles, Ca., where she served most recently as the Associate Head of Academics and the Director of Upper School, helping to guide Marlborough through strategic planning, leadership transition, fundraising efforts, as well as financial, operational, and academic planning.

Dr. Hotchkiss received her B.S., M.Ed., and Ed.D. from UCLA, and she is a champion of girls' education, having served on the boards of the National Coalition of Girls' Schools and One Schoolhouse.

Following a nationwide search in partnership with Diversified Search, as well as considerable involvement from Notre Dame constituents, "it was clear that the community saw that Dr. Hotchkiss not only brings a very accomplished resume but the heart, mind, spirit, and faith to lead Notre Dame into the future," shared Board Chair Anne Vazquez '99.

"Notre Dame is truly a school that lives its mission through empowering young women and building relationships so that each student can flourish," said Dr. Hotchkiss. "I am deeply honored to lead our bright, engaged students into the future with a talented and dedicated faculty and administration."

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the increased need for financial aid from prospective families, and there's a powerful vice exerting financial pressure. "Cost is the biggest factor," says Sister Maureen Lawrence McDermott, the Archdiocese's superintendent for secondary schools. "More money would drastically increase enrollment."

Certainly, any funds generated from the sale of campus properties would help the Archdiocese, which isn't exactly flush these days. But Faith in the Future's Hannan insists that it's a nonfactor. "We don't look at real estate values, period," she says.

Even so, the money that could be raised by selling Carroll's 55-acre Radnor Township property alone would be considerable. Investors have been pushing for development along Route 320 near O'Hara's campus, and perhaps DCCC might also want Bonner's facility—or maybe Delaware County Hospital.

While it's unlikely that the Archdiocese would look at a potential real estate transaction as the impetus for closing a school, if enrollments don't grow, the justification for such a move could arise. But even when faced with a worst-case scenario, interim Carroll president Jim Leary refuses to operate from a position of fear. "I think our future is bright," he says.

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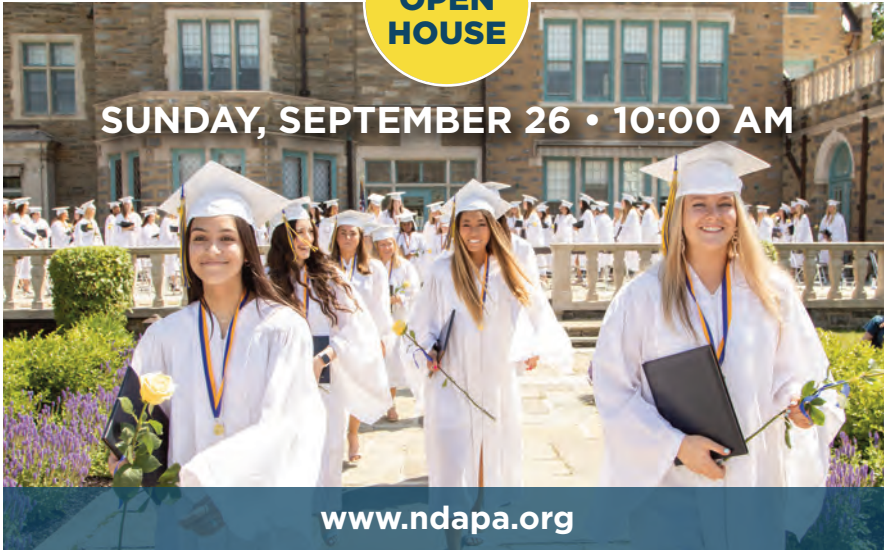


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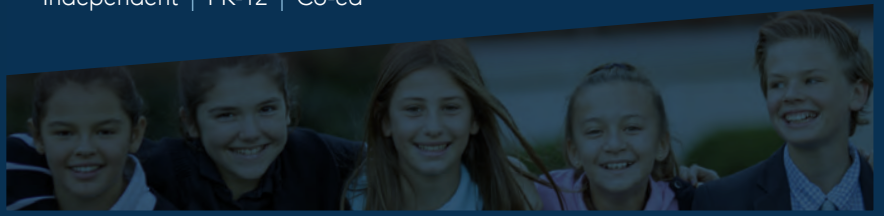
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(From left) Mike Tollin with Phillies great Dick Allen, *Arli\$\$* star Robert Wuhl and basketball icon World B. Free.



which he was a consulting producer. He also has production credits for the dramatic series *Smallville* and *One Tree Hill*, along with seven seasons of *Arli\$\$*, the popular HBO comedy about a sports agent.

As for *The Last Dance*, it proved that sports documentaries can pass what Tollin calls “the watercooler litmus test.” With COVID-19 ravaging the country and no live sports on the air, each episode was treated like the big game. “We created a frenzy,” he says.

**A**t Haverford High School, Mike Tollin played basketball, though he never did his father’s athletic legacy proud. A two-handed set shooter from Chester High School, Sol Tollin averaged nearly 20 points a game in basketball’s pre-three-point-shot era. He was also a crafty left-handed baseball pitcher. Both talents landed him in the Haverford College Athletic Hall of Fame. Interestingly, Tollin and his father were both elected to the Philadelphia Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 2009. For Tollin, it was for his media career, not athletics.

Growing up, Tollin would grapple with his older brother, Larry, for the *Philadelphia Bulletin* and its heralded sports section. They also engaged in fierce backyard games, initiating many a bloody nose. Tollin started at Oberlin College in Ohio, largely because of its liberal arts focus on sport and society—“the grandeur of sports, more so than could be found in just playing them,” he says.

Sophomore year, Tollin transferred to Stanford University, where he was a sports columnist for *The Stanford Daily* and the play-by-play radio announcer for Cardinal basketball. He and three friends—the self-named “four donkeys”—ran KZSU

“  
**PROTECTIVE OF HIMSELF  
 AROUND FELLOW MEDIA  
 TYPES, MIKE TOLLIN HAS  
 SURVIVED THE “CAULDRON  
 WITHOUT BLEMISHES,”  
 EVEN IF THE LAST DANCE  
 MADE THE COALS RED-HOT.**

Stanford basketball operations, crafting black blazers for themselves modeled after the mainstream media’s Olympic blazers. They even called for the firing of Stanford’s football coach, stirring controversy. “We had about as much fun as you can have,” remembers Tollin. “I didn’t have the pipes for broadcasting. But I loved writing, and I loved sports.”

At Stanford, he found the mentors he needed. “The longer you stay [in one career], the less likely you’ll be to get out of it,” says Tollin, noting the advice one gave him. “That was 1977. Now, 44 years later, I’m still in it.”

Across his lifetime, Tollin has received advice from many sources, including Hank Aaron. The late baseball legend and friend always spoke about being the tortoise, not the hare. “He never hit 50 home runs in one season, but he still became the home-run king,” Tollin says.

Tollin credits his success to his team and an ability to keep multiple balls in the air. He’s a decade in as the cofounder of Mandalay Sports Media in Los Angeles, which he started with Peter Guber. The company’s focus is feature films, scripted and unscripted TV series, and documentaries. “Sports have become the ultimate pop culture,” says Tollin. “One

time, it wasn’t. It used to be called ghetto programming.”

**T**hree days after his Stanford graduation in 1977, Tollin secured his first job as a writer and producer for Berl Rotfeld, an early television pioneer and a family friend. The Rotfeld TV series *Greatest Sports Legends* was headquartered above an Italian restaurant on City Line Avenue. There, Tollin earned \$130 a week, plus gas for his 1968 Oldsmobile. With 80-hour weeks as common as an empty tank, he was making a “cool \$2 an hour.” It didn’t matter. He found a place to live across from Haverford College on Lancaster Avenue and quickly began researching baseball legend Ted Williams for his first show.

Tollin grew up with Rotfeld’s son, Steve, a three-time Emmy-winning television producer and writer. “[We were] best friends from pre-consciousness on,” Rotfeld jests. “We spent a lot of time together—practically the first 17 years together, every day.”

Rotfeld now has his own self-named media production company in Bryn Mawr, though Tollin actually worked for his father before he did. In the late 1970s and early ’80s, there weren’t many TV production studios outside Los Angeles and New York, and hardly anyone was doing sports programming. So Rotfeld went to law school after college. “There was no ESPN, no FOX Sports Network—only *ABC’s Wide World of Sports*, a couple syndicated shows and NFL Films,” Rotfeld recalls. “There were live sports, but not today’s 24-hour inundation.”

At *Greatest Sports Legends*, Tollin’s signature moment was convincing a recalcitrant Wilt Chamberlain to be on the show. Decades later, he’d nab the likes

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF MIKE TOLLIN

of Jordan and Jeter for bigger projects. “It all illustrates how far I’ve come—and how far I haven’t come,” Tollin says. “But my appetite [for sports] has never dimmed, nor my love for sports, the currency it provides or its backbone for relationships. I have my Philly guys, my Stanford guys, my L.A. guys, my New York guys. Sports have been a constant drumbeat for me.”

Rotfeld still texts Tollin daily, and they attend games together on both coasts. “We haven’t strayed far from our passions and boyhoods,” he says. “In quiet moments, I look at the texts, and we could’ve written them when we were 16. We’ve grown older, but we’re still kids.”

From City Line Avenue, Tollin went on to Major League Baseball Productions. In 1980, he and then-wife Robbie moved to Los Angeles, where he wrote a script for Vin Scully, the voice of baseball, when sports documentaries were first coming in vogue. That year, he was also a writer for the official World Series film chronicling the Phillies first-ever world championship. That was the first time he worked with the late David Montgomery, who rose from the ticket office to become the team’s chairman, minority owner and president. “Michael and David had a remarkable friendship,” says Lyn Montgomery, David’s widow. “They had a lot in common, including the ability to make people feel special. They both had incredible passion and drive, but neither seemed like they were that driven.”

During the season, baseball executives have long business days followed by night games, sometimes on the West Coast. “One night, Michael called David, and it was well after midnight,” Lyn says. “David did fall asleep while Michael was talking. It was a story they enjoyed telling for many years.”

In 1982, Tollin formed Halcyon Days Productions and was awarded exclusive rights to the fledgling United States Football League. Ten years later, he cofounded Tollin/Robbins Productions and had a 15-year run with partner Brian Robbins before going it on his own. He established Mandalay Sports Media in 2012.

And the work never ends. There’s the Disney Plus hockey movie *Great Scott*, plus documentaries on the 2008 gold-medal-winning U.S. basketball team and NFL quarterback Drew Brees and his relationship with longtime coach and “quarterback whisperer” Tom House. Other projects in active development include a scripted comedy series starring

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**MAIN LINE TODAY**

boxer Mike Tyson. And there's a new six-part series in the works for The Discovery Channel called *Justice USA*, which has nothing to do with sports. "It's nice to have a niche, but it's also nice to have the ability and freedom to go beyond," Tollin says. "I don't say I can do whatever I want—but I can try. And then the universe tells me what I can do."

Sometimes projects move at glacial speeds, and Tollin insists that he turns down most of what he's presented. He's also had great experiences with projects that never came to be. "Opportunity often emerges from the ashes," Tollin says, "as does a greater respect for humanity and the dignity, passion and challenge of it all that makes it churn on for years."

**T**ollin has had a documentary in the works on friend Dick Allen for 20 years. Recently, the project has taken on greater interest and scope ahead of Allen's likely induction into the National Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum in 2022. Allen, who played twice for the Phillies, was set to be on the Golden Days Era Committee ballot for the Class of 2021, until a pandemic-induced rescheduling of baseball's Dec. 6 winter meetings. Sadly, the much-embattled and misunderstood Allen died a day later at 78.

The news prompted a call to Tollin from a Paramount Pictures executive, who offered a boardroom pitch about a black baseball player who'd just died—one who'd experienced racism during his career then continually fell short of election into the Hall of Fame. "Did you ever hear of Dick Allen?" Tollin was asked.

"I said, 'Who put you up to this?' We first became friends in 1977 and shared the first of many beers," Tollin recounts.

So began discussions about a potential feature film, with a likely release in late 2022 or the start of baseball season in 2023. "It seems like forever away, but it's already been forever," says Tollin. "There's such a huge gap between the public perception and the man himself. He was kind, lovable, affable—an independent guy who definitely marched to the beat of his own drummer, and a guy ahead of his time. But most thought he was angry and sullen."

Months before Allen's death, the Phillies honored him by retiring his No. 15 jersey at Citizens Bank Park. David Montgomery will be getting the Buck O'Neil Lifetime Achievement Award posthumously at the Hall of Fame induction ceremonies

Sept. 8. “I’d love to go, and I’d love to be in Cooperstown (N.Y.) next summer for Dick,” says Tollin. “We’re hoping the movie concludes with his Hall of Fame induction.”

An active philanthropist, Tollin is a founding board member of Children Now, Common Sense Media and Hank Aaron’s Chasing the Dream Foundation. He’s also the founder of PACE, which devotes resources to kids’ charities. PACE just invested in the graduating class from Philly’s Northeast High School, working with Philadelphia Futures to find and guide 20 students through college admittance and application for financial aid.

Another of Tollin’s longtime Philly friends is Pat Croce, who rose to executive ranks with the Sixers much like Montgomery did in his time with the Phillies. Croce reveals that Tollin watched his latest Emmy presentation alone on Zoom—though he did have Ollie, his chocolate Lab, by his side. “Most of us are buried in frenzied activity and end up spinning around,” says Croce. “But Michael always keeps one foot in the peaceful hub of the wheel and the other in the hub of performance. Because of that, he doesn’t suffer, nor does he cause anyone else to suffer.”

Croce believes Tollin’s body of work transcends the concept of winning in sports by emphasizing the character of its participants. “He shares a passion with everyone,” says Croce. “He can find commonality in anyone and anything. His questions feel harmless, but they’re intense. And he gets his answer. He knows who he is, and that’s a difference—because most people don’t know who they are.”

In early May, Tollin and his 22-year-old son, Lucas, were at Citizens Bank Park for the Phillies’ four-game sweep of the Brewers. He and Lucas share a dream of buying and operating a minor league team “somewhere in the mountains.” Of all the sports, Tollin prefers baseball. “It was great to be back in a ballpark, drinking a beer, eating a hot dog and seeing some wins,” he says. “It was the official reopening of life for me. A ballpark has always been the happiest place on earth for Lucas and me.”

At a recent dinner with his ex-wife, Tollin and Lucas were screaming away at the TV during a Phillies game. “She turns and says, ‘Some things never change.’ I said, ‘But aren’t you glad they haven’t?’” says Tollin. “We care so much that it’s still relevant—and it’s still beautiful.” **MLT**



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Greater Philadelphia area, (856) 534-2605, chiccosmetique.com  
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#### FUZION

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Services: hair care, skincare, body treatments, waxing, makeup.

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312 E. King St., Malvern, (610) 644-4122, graziaspa.com  
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401 City Ave., Suite 109, Bala Cynwyd, (610) 668-5373  
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564 W. Lancaster Ave., Haverford, (610) 526-1638  
Services: hair care.

#### HEAD TO TOE HEALTHY SPA

711 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (610) 225-7228, headtothealthyspa.com  
Services: nail care, skincare, waxing, body treatments, spray tanning.

#### HEADBANGERS SALON

18 Berkley Road, Devon, (484) 581-7051, headbangers-salon.com  
Services: hair care and coloring.

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377 W. Lancaster Ave., Haverford, (484) 416-3235, illuminatesalonspa.com  
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Services: hair care, nail care, waxing.

#### JUDE PLUM CO.

821 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 527-1770, judeplum.com  
Services: hair care, waxing, nail care, skincare, makeup, wigs and hair pieces, body treatments.

#### KIKI'S SALON CHÂTEAU

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Services: hair care, waxing, nail care.

#### LA DIFFERENCE SALON & DAY SPA

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Services: hair care, nail care.

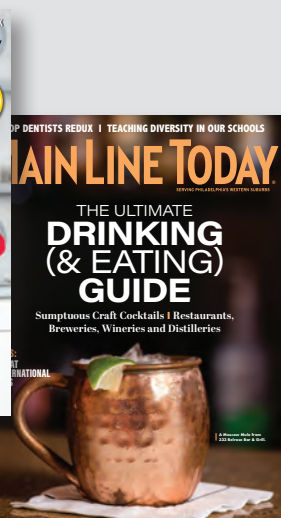
#### L'ALLI HAIR LOUNGE

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**NICHOLAS ANTHONY SALON & DAY SPA**

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**NICHOLAS SEBASTIAN SALON SPA**

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**PAGEBOY HAIR**

12 W. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, (610) 645-0600, pageboyhair.com Services: hair care.

**PETER'S SALON & EUROPEAN SPA**

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**PLATINUM HAIR SALON**

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4893 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, (610) 356-6565; 167 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (484) 654-0500; privosalonandstylebar.com Services: hair care, nail care.

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**SALON 31**

31 Rittenhouse Place, Ardmore, (610) 642-8600, salon-31.com Services: hair care.

**SALON 555**

555 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn, (610) 647-5655, salon-555.com Services: hair care.

**SALON A**

912 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 527-3315, thesalonabrynmawr.com Services: hair care, nail care, makeup.

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375 W. Lincoln Hwy., Exton, (610) 363-8220; 1150 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, (610) 338-0733; salondesante.com Services: hair care, waxing, makeup.

**SALON DIGIAN**

930 E. Boot Road, Suite 250, West Chester, (484) 887-0150, salondigian.com Services: hair care, nail care, waxing.

**SALON DI MODA**

846 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 525-4123, salondimodabrynmawr.com Services: hair care, nail care, makeup.

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**TANTRA HAIR SALON & DAY SPA**

180 Town Center Road, King of Prussia, (610) 768-9087, tantrasalon.com Services: hair care, skincare, massage, waxing.

**TOPPERS SPA/SALON**

745 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (610) 989-9660, toppersspa.com Services: hair care, body treatments, nail care, skincare, waxing, makeup, facials, spray tanning.

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# EPICURE

QUICK BITE P.76 | DINING GUIDE P.77

REVIEW

## TAKE YOUR PICK

**MEDIA'S ICONIC TOWNE HOUSE IS RESHAPED INTO FIVE UNIQUE DINING SPACES.**

**STORY AND PHOTOS BY ED WILLIAMS**

**D**'Ignazio's Towne House had been a familiar fixture in Media for 65 years. Once known for family dining and hosting milestone events, the community fixture fell on hard times and eventually closed in 2015. Four years later, a native Irishman swooped in to resurrect and reshape the tired structure into five innovative, themed dining destinations. "The whole place took two years," says Brian McLaughlin of Letterkenny Hospitality Group. "It would've been done much quicker, but we had contractor issues, design changes and, of course, COVID."

Corporate chef Shane Diggins provides the strategic culinary vision, while James O'Hara and Shawn Moore serve as executive chefs for the individual restaurants. The "cocktail lab" is an innovative concept unlike anything in the area. "It's a space for our bar team to geek out and pour their love and passion into everything they do behind the





scenes,” says McLaughlin. “Bartending is an ever-evolving profession—especially with handcrafted cocktails. We’re making everything we can in-house, including all our liqueurs, infusions and bitters.”

While each area’s ambience is distinct, a cohesive hospitality holds it all together, and there are subtle reminders of the original location throughout. “We reached out to our social media audience and requested photos to be sent in of the old Towne House to bring a bit of the past into the present and make sure the place isn’t forgotten,” says McLaughlin.

Here’s what to expect at each spot.

**THE SHEBEEN.** This lively take on a traditional Irish pub stocks an astonishing 330 bourbons and whiskeys behind its comfy 15-seat bar. The original tiled fireplace anchors the dining room, which features draped booths and soft lighting. **Menu highlights:** Overnight Guinness Short Ribs, McDonnells Chicken Curry, ham-and-potato

*continued on page 74*



**DETAILS**

**THE TOWNE HOUSE** 117 Veterans Square, Media, (484) 445-2041, [townehousepa.com](http://townehousepa.com) **COST:** The specialty cocktails might be a dollar or two more than other nearby venues, but food prices are reasonable. **ATMOSPHERE:** A vibe for every mood. **HOURS:** 11:30 a.m.-midnight Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-midnight Saturday and Sunday. **ATTIRE:** Smart casual. **EXTRAS:** The “Traveling Old Fashioned” tableside experience at the Colony Club is a must for adventurous drinkers. The outdoor lounge on the second floor is ideal for sunsets. Did we mention whiskey flights at the Shebeen?



(Previous page) Peel-and-eat shrimp with Old Bay seasoning. (Clockwise from opposite page) Lollipop lamb chops; a Shebeen Burger topped with Irish bacon, crispy onions and melted cheddar; a whiskey flight at the Shebeen; stacked watermelon caprese salad; the Colony Club's casual elegance; a house-infused brown-butter-washed bourbon selection from the "Traveling Old Fashioned" tableside experience; oysters on the half shell.





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EPICURE | REVIEW  
continued from page 72

A mojito



croquettes. **Drink highlights:** French 75, Irish coffee, a classic gin martini.

**THE COLONY CLUB.** Just to the left of the Shebeen entrance, a dimly lit stairwell leads to this elegant speakeasy-inspired space. Grid-style mahogany shelving adds intimacy, while sparkling chandeliers, inspired wall murals and vibrantly colored seating add pop. The bar is petite but sexy, with amber backlighting and spirits aplenty. Currently open Friday and Saturday only. **Menu highlights:** Glazed pork belly, tuna tartare, raw oysters. **Drink highlights:** A trio of Spanish-style gin and tonics.

**IDLEWILD.** Named after a local Victorian Age "summer cottage," this festive open-air restaurant is framed by playfully decorated walls. It's contemporary and sleek, with lush greenery and a 25-seat bar topped with white acrylic. Live music during the week. **Menu highlights:** Peel-and-eat shrimp, crispy fried chicken thighs, the Idlewild Cheeseburger. **Drink highlights:** Pimm's Cup, Jungle Bird, the Paloma.

**TOWNE HALL.** A multipurpose event space with a stage, plenty of natural light and comfortable seating.

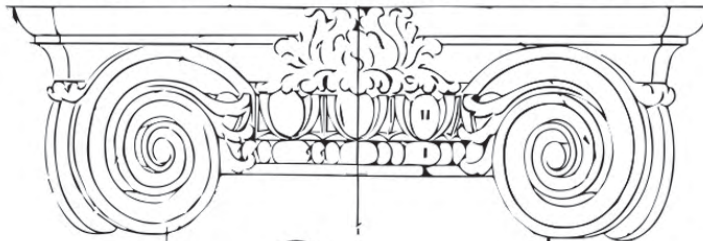
**TOWNE HOUSE.** Premium steaks and seafood and fine wines will be the headliners at this rustic yet sophisticated fine-dining hub with an open cast-iron fireplace. Slated to open before the end of the year. **MLT**



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# THIRD TIME'S A CHARM

Pumping life into the former Landmark Restaurant location, partners Justin Weathers and Joseph Monnich recently introduced a third **Stove & Tap** location to a prime corner of downtown West Chester. With help from architect Niko Kotopoulos of Nest Studios, the duo completely reworked the interior, giving it a rustic Americana vibe with contrasting woods, Pennsylvania-inspired decor, a stylish 46-foot bar, and high- and low-top seating. “Large windows bring in beautiful light during the daytime, so we wanted to capitalize on that lightness in the design,” says Weathers.



S&T’s menu leans toward modern gastropub fare. Favorites include the deviled eggs and double-patty Stove Burger. Among the pizzas, the pepperoni with jalapeños and Calabrian chili honey is a real standout.

Libations run the gamut, with seasonals featuring fresh juices and house-made mixes keeping things interesting. Twelve

taps pour local and national brews, and the well-curated wine list should keep oenophiles happy.

Downstairs, the GBU (Good, Bad, Ugly) club—a fun take on a dive bar, with music, comedy and more—is set to open later this year. **158 W. Gay St., West Chester, (917) 555-1234, stoveandtap.com. —E.W.**

ED WILLIAMS

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## Chester County

### AMERICAN

#### Black Powder Tavern

Located near Valley Forge National Historical Park, this historic tavern, through various incarnations, has served as a meeting place for those looking to enjoy delicious comfort food and drink. 1164 Valley Forge Road, Wayne, (610) 293-9333, [blackpowdertavern.com](http://blackpowdertavern.com). \$

#### Bloom Southern Kitchen

Bringing a fresh concept to the old Eagle Tavern, Bloom exudes ambition and heart with Low Country-inspired dishes like shrimp and grits, Cheervine-braised boneless short ribs, and chicken and waffles. 123 Pottstown Pike, Chester Springs, (484) 359-4144, [bloomsouthernkitchen.com](http://bloomsouthernkitchen.com). \$\$

#### Cedar Hollow Inn

Chef Stephen Guisepppe of the Culinary Institute of America adds personal flair and imagination to a delectable menu of American Continental dishes. Daily chef's specials are creative, unpredictable and inspired. 2455 Yellow Springs Road, Malvern, (610) 296-9006, [cedarhollowinn.com](http://cedarhollowinn.com). \$\$

#### Duling-Kurtz House

An 1830 farmhouse sets the mood for a candlelit dining experience. The menu features rack of lamb, Chateaubriand for two, and seafood. 146 S. Whitford Road, Exton, (610) 524-1830, [dulingkurtz.com](http://dulingkurtz.com). \$\$\$

#### Epicurean Garage

Chef Lee Krasley reclaims his culinary territory in the western suburbs with local farm-grown comfort food like poutine, burgers, cayenne-honey-dipped fried chicken and waffles, and his famous meatloaf. 570 Simpson Drive, Chester Springs, (610) 615-5189, [epicureangarage.com](http://epicureangarage.com). \$

#### Four Dogs Tavern

This old favorite keeps the crowds coming with its well-executed comfort food and lively outdoor patio. 1300 W. Strasburg Road, West Chester, (610) 692-4367, [thefourdogstavern.com](http://thefourdogstavern.com). \$\$

#### General Warren

An exceptional fine dining experience, this historic B&B also offers quaint lodging in elegant guest suites restored to their 18th-century charm. The General Warren also hosts weddings, private parties and corporate events. 9 Old Lancaster Road, Malvern, (610) 296-3637, [generalwarren.com](http://generalwarren.com). \$\$\$

#### Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant

Consistent, family-friendly American cuisine and award-winning beer are the calling cards of this growing regional chain. Various locations, [ironhillbrewery.com](http://ironhillbrewery.com). \$\$

#### Jimmy's BBQ

Mouthwatering authentic barbecue. 309 Lancaster Ave., Malvern, (610) 879-8805, [jimmysbbq.com](http://jimmysbbq.com). BYOB \$

#### Ludwig's Grill & Oyster Bar

Oysters of many varieties are among the offerings at this elegant mainstay. Also look for land-based fare like duck, prime sirloin steak and beef short rib. 2904 Conestoga Road, Glenmoore, (610) 458-5336, [ludwigsoysterbar.com](http://ludwigsoysterbar.com). \$\$\$

#### Mae's

Chef/owner Josh Taggart's impeccable culinary credentials and impassioned perfectionism fuel the inventive, locally sourced cuisine at this rustic and deservingly popular BYOB. 39 W. Gay St., West Chester, (484) 887-0062, [maeswc.com](http://maeswc.com). BYOB \$\$

#### Malvern Buttery

A unique eatery and coffeehouse combination, the Buttery offers rustic sandwiches, fresh salads, great coffee and more. 233 E. King St., Malvern, (610) 296-2534, [malvernbuttery.com](http://malvernbuttery.com). \$

#### MeatBall U

Dan Shea honors his stepfather's recipe with colossal beef, chicken, sausage and vegetarian meatballs, plus other Italian favorites. 30 S. High St., West Chester, (484) 394-8400, [meatballu.com](http://meatballu.com). \$

#### McKenzie Brew House

This local brewery chain specializes in award-winning handcrafted beer, sassy American cuisine and a family-friendly atmosphere. Various locations, [mckenziebrewhouse.com](http://mckenziebrewhouse.com). \$\$

#### Nick Filet

Great Valley High School grad Nick Kline's budding franchise ups the ante on quick-service cuisine, heaping fresh filet mignon onto a Kaiser roll. 111 E. Lancaster Ave., Paoli, (484) 318-8545; 313 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (484) 580-8400; [nickfilet.com](http://nickfilet.com). \$

#### Nook & Kranny Kafe

The kitchen at this cozy cottage serves enticing all-day breakfast fare. Lunch specials range from pork barbecue to a buttery Monte Cristo. 847 Valley Forge Road, Phoenixville, (610) 933-5393, [nookandkrannykafe.com](http://nookandkrannykafe.com). \$

#### Portabellos

Classic dishes and a homey setting complement a refreshingly old-school approach to cooking. 108 W. State St., Kennett Square, (610) 925-4984, [portabellosofkennettsquare.com](http://portabellosofkennettsquare.com). BYOB \$\$

#### Righteous Tap House

Tucked away in a quiet residential area, this unexpected hot spot offers a selection of well-executed bar fare with a decadent twist. 1548 Shadyside Road, West Chester, (484) 593-0850, [righteousaphouse.com](http://righteousaphouse.com). \$\$

#### Ron's Original Bar & Grille

Specialties include filet mignon, crab cakes, and slow-roasted beef and pork sandwiches. The bar offers an award-winning beer list. 74 E. Uwchlan Ave., Exton, (610) 594-9900, [ronsoriginal.com](http://ronsoriginal.com). \$

#### Roots Cafe

At this farm-sourced eatery, the food is as honest as the menu's freshly sourced philosophy. 133 E. Gay St., West Chester, (610) 455-0100, [rootscafewc.com](http://rootscafewc.com). BYOB \$\$

#### Sedona Taphouse

A large patio, well-executed Southwest Arizona cuisine and over 250 brews give this classy franchise an indie feel. 131 Bridge St., Phoenixville, (484) 302-5714; 44 W. Gay St., Suite 1, West Chester, (610) 738-5104; [sedonataphouse.com](http://sedonataphouse.com). \$\$

#### Slow Hand

Retro vibes abound at this two-story gem, which serves an ever-revolving locally sourced selection of elevated bar food. Highlights include Nashville hot wings and slider-like Belly Bombers. 30 N. Church St., West Chester, (484) 999-8638, [slowhand-wc.com](http://slowhand-wc.com). \$\$

#### The Social Downingtown

Executive chef Dan Funk oversees the same tried-and-true New Orleans-inspired menu at this West Chester institution's second location. Signature dishes include pistachio-crust chicken fingers, pot-roast fries and andouille meatloaf. 541 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, (484) 593-4113, [socialon30.com](http://socialon30.com). \$\$

#### Split Rail Tavern

A hip, welcoming gastro-pub staffed by an eager young team serving carefully crafted cuisine and libations. 15 N. Walnut St., West Chester, (484) 999-8805, [splitrailtavern.com](http://splitrailtavern.com). \$\$

#### Steel City Coffeehouse

This casual live music hub excels at a creative selection of flatbreads. 203 Bridge St., Phoenixville, (484) 924-8425, [steelcitycoffeehouse.com](http://steelcitycoffeehouse.com). BYOB \$

#### Stottsville Inn

The kitchen at this restored circa-1858 stayover destination offers a creative spin on chicken wings (charred), steaks, seafood, pan pizza and other comforting standbys. 3512 Strasburg Road, Coatesville, (484) 718-5121, [stottsvilleinn.com](http://stottsvilleinn.com). \$\$

#### Suburban Restaurant & Beer Garden

Two concepts find success at this busy spot. On one side, there's a beer garden; on the other, creative upscale farm-to-table cuisine. 570 Wellington Square, Exton, (610) 458-2337, [suburbanbg.com](http://suburbanbg.com). \$\$

#### TJ's Restaurant & Drinkery

Now under new ownership, TJ's remains a cheery beer-centric saloon offering favorites like the chicken-and-waffle sandwich and slow-braised short-rib tacos. 35 Paoli Plaza, Paoli, (610) 725-0100, [tjsbeer.com](http://tjsbeer.com). \$\$

#### Wrong Crowd Beer

Wrong Crowd's 5,000-square-foot brewing facility also features a kitchen that turns out artisan pizzas, lump-crab nachos, pilsner-brined wings and other tasty pub fare. 342 Hannum Ave., West Chester, (484) 983-3003, [wrongcrowdbeer.com](http://wrongcrowdbeer.com). \$

#### Verbena BYOB

Seasoned chef Scott Morozin's cozy 36-seat eatery showcases his considerable talents in the kitchen. The creamless mushroom soup and vodka-cured Ora King salmon are punchy and flavorful, as are second-course options like Bristol Bay scallops. 102 State St., (484) 732-7932, Kennett Square, [verbenabyob.com](http://verbenabyob.com). BYOB \$\$

## ASIAN

#### Bua Loy

Chef Bualoy Phengmisouk serves authentic Laotian and Thai dishes that are as flavorful as they are affordable. Standouts include the tapioca noodles, satays, curries and stir-fries. 300 W. Lancaster Ave., Devon, (610) 341-8162, [bualoycuisine.com](http://bualoycuisine.com). BYOB \$\$

#### Momma Wong

Chef Hongbin Luo offers superior dim sum and tried-and-true favorites like General Tso's chicken. For the adventurous, authentic dishes include pork intestines and pig kidney. 268 Eagleview Blvd., Exton, (484) 713-8888, [bestmamawong.com](http://bestmamawong.com). BYOB \$\$

#### Nui Nui Kitchen

Nui Kullana's revamped Asian fusion eatery offers poke bowls, Pad Thai, curry dishes and standouts like General Tso's Chilean sea bass. 301 Bridge St., Phoenixville, (484) 302-5141, [nuiukitchen.com](http://nuiukitchen.com). BYOB \$

#### Oori

Ramen (with braised pork belly, chicken or kelp) and other trendy Korean-inspired dishes shine here. Be sure to try the double-fried chicken wings, served in sauce or dry rubbed. 2228 Pottstown Pike, Pottstown, (484) 985-8071, [orieats.com](http://orieats.com). \$

#### Veekoo Asian Cuisine

Grab a seat at the sushi bar, or try any of the Chinese, Thai and Japanese specialties. 564 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn, (484) 318-7655, [veekoosiancuisine.com](http://veekoosiancuisine.com). BYOB \$\$

## EUROPEAN

■ **Andiaro**

Reservations are a must at this acclaimed spot, where an open kitchen reveals sumptuous offerings like guinea hen, decadent pastas, and delicate Pocono trout. 106 W. Gay St., West Chester, (484) 887-0919, [andiaro.com](http://andiaro.com). **BYOB \$\$\$**

■ **Anthony's Cucina Fresca**

Chef Danilo Angelucci and his wife, Katherine, preside over a welcoming trattoria that serves delicious antipasto, tempting meat-and-cheese boards, handmade pizza, build-your-own pastas, and hearty entrées like veal, filet mignon and baked salmon. 78 W. Lancaster Ave., Downingtown, (610) 873-5544, [anthonyscucinafresca.com](http://anthonyscucinafresca.com). **\$\$**

■ **Avola Kitchen + Bar**

Highlights from Avola's well-crafted menu include the undeniably Greek Shrimp Saganaki and gnocchetti with tender braised lamb in a rich red-wine-and-caper sauce. 625 N. Morehall Road, Malvern, (484) 328-8584, [avolakitchenandbar.com](http://avolakitchenandbar.com). **\$**

■ **Dolce Zola**

Pastas are the real standout here. Especially good are the angel hair and tonnarelli, with hearty sauces like ragu, Bolognese, bacon-flecked carbonara and jalapeño-infused puttanesca. 134 E. Gay St., West Chester, (484) 887-0760, [dolcezola.com](http://dolcezola.com). **BYOB \$\$\$**

■ **Hearth Kitchen**

Bryan Sikora's latest stellar contribution to the suburban culinary scene boasts playfully upscale standouts like ricotta gnocchi and chopped-clam-and-bacon toast. 847 E. Baltimore Pike, Kennett Square, (484) 732-8320, [hearthkennettsquare.com](http://hearthkennettsquare.com). **\$\$**

■ **La Fava Restaurant and Bar**

One of Glen Mills' more recent culinary entrants offers a menu of authentic Mediterranean-accented dishes like chargrilled Spanish octopus tendrils, grilled langostino and some of the best pastas around. 1102 Baltimore Pike, Glen Mills, (484) 840-8603, [lafavaglenmills.com](http://lafavaglenmills.com). **\$\$**

■ **La Verona**

Among the menu standouts at this Kennett favorite are antipasti classics like bruschetta and mussels marinara, along with escargot and other French staples. The house-made pastas are exemplary. 114 State St., Kennett Square, (610) 444-2244, [laveronapa.com](http://laveronapa.com). **\$\$**

■ **Limoncello**

Both popular locations specialize in rustic and rich Southern Italian cuisine, with a vast and diverse menu and a lively bar scene. 499 E. Uwchlan Ave., Chester Springs, (610) 524-3112, 9 N. Walnut St., West Chester, (610) 436-6230; [limoncellorestaurant.com](http://limoncellorestaurant.com). **\$\$**

■ **Malvern Pizza**

A casual spot serving traditional and specialty pies, plus strombolis, burgers, sandwiches and salads. 19 E. King St., Malvern, (610) 644-8888, [malvernpizza.com](http://malvernpizza.com). **\$**

■ **Opa Taverna**

At this prime corner spot, the Mediterranean coastline is evoked in everything from the citrusy hummus to the gyro platters. The lamb chops shine, as does the fish—much of it flown in from Greece. 40 E. Gay St., West Chester, (610) 696-4100, [opatavernaphilly.com](http://opatavernaphilly.com). **BYOB \$**

■ **Tiramisu**

This low-key 65-seat eatery delivers Roman-Jewish cuisine with a twist. 720 Lancaster Ave., Berwyn, (610) 906-3299, [tiramisuberwyn.com](http://tiramisuberwyn.com). **\$\$**

■ **Vickers Restaurant**

Serving traditional Continental cuisine with a French influence, Vickers offers tableside cooking and flambé in a historic landmark. 192 E. Welsh Pool Road, Exton, (610) 363-7998, [vickersrestaurant.com](http://vickersrestaurant.com). **\$\$**

## LATIN AMERICAN

■ **Más Mexicali Cantina**

Mexican favorites dominate the menu at this vast corner eatery, with an expansive rooftop dining-and-drinking area in warm months. 102 E. Market St., West Chester, (610) 918-6280, [masmexicali.com](http://masmexicali.com). **\$**

## Delaware County

## AMERICAN

■ **118 North**

This popular live music venue has upgraded its menu with poutine-inspired fries, savory burgers, grilled swordfish and more. 118 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne, (610) 971-2628, [118northwayne.com](http://118northwayne.com). **\$\$**

■ **333 Belrose Bar & Grill**

Carlo deMarco's seasonal, sophisticated New American cuisine is made with the best local products and ingredients. 333 Belrose Lane, Radnor, (610) 293-1000, [333belrose.com](http://333belrose.com). **\$\$**

■ **Avenue Kitchen**

The menu at this hip eatery trends toward simpler fare and uncomplicated ingredients, yet it still delivers a polished, chic ambiance. 509 Wilmington West Chester Pike, Glen Mills, (484) 800-8070, [avekitchen.com](http://avekitchen.com). **\$**

■ **Autograph Brasserie**

Offering quality ingredients and an upscale bar scene, this Marty Grims creation succeeds equally in celebrating pop culture and first-rate cuisine. 503 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (610) 964-2588, [autographbrasserie.com](http://autographbrasserie.com). **\$\$\$**

■ **Brick & Brew**

The handiwork of Havertownie Tom Kane and beer-and-spirits aficionado Mike Grubb, Brick & Brew doesn't skimp on its impressively executed pub fare. Various locations, [bricknbrewpub.com](http://bricknbrewpub.com). **\$**

■ **Firepoint Grill**

Showcasing an open kitchen with a wood-fired grill, Firepoint offers an eclectic menu filled with rich, natural flavors, fresh cocktails, seasonal craft beers and a diverse wine selection—all in a warm, inviting atmosphere. 3739 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, (484) 428-3093, [firepointgrill.com](http://firepointgrill.com). **\$\$**

■ **The Gables at Chadds Ford**

The Gables' redesigned menu spotlights fresh, local, seasonal ingredients. Stop by for happy hour and try the award-winning sangria. 423 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, (610) 388-7700, [thegablesatchaddsford.com](http://thegablesatchaddsford.com). **\$\$**

■ **Glenmorgan Bar & Grill**

Located in the Radnor Hotel, Glenmorgan has a contemporary atmosphere perfect for enjoying classic cocktails, spirited American cuisine and monthly chef's specials. 593 E. Lancaster Ave., St. Davids, (610) 341-3188, [glenmorgan.com](http://glenmorgan.com). **\$\$**

■ **Harvest Seasonal Grill & Wine Bar**

Prolific restaurateur Dave Magrogan's farm-to-table concept features an organic seasonal menu, with most items under 500 calories. Various locations, [harvestseasonalgrill.com](http://harvestseasonalgrill.com). **\$\$**

■ **Meghan's Restaurant Breakfast and Lunch**

All salads—including the egg, tuna, and popular chicken salad—are made on the premises. Pies, cakes and muffins are baked fresh daily. 1117 Smithbridge Road, (610) 459-3022, [facebook.com/meghanspa](http://facebook.com/meghanspa). **\$**

■ **The Original Thunderbird**

Celebrating its 63rd year in business, the family-owned Thunderbird offers an extensive menu, including cheesesteak egg rolls, stromboli bites, chicken piccata, hoagies, wraps, breakfast pizzas and sandwiches, and more. 2323 West Chester Pike, Broomall, (610) 356-8869, [theoriginalthunderbird.com](http://theoriginalthunderbird.com). **\$**

■ **OSO Sweet**

This homey surprise in the Chadds Ford Barn Shops is the promising debut venture for talented young pastry chef Tess Wofford, whose versatility is evident in her mastery of everything from cookies and scones to pizzas and breakfast pastries. 1609 Baltimore Pike, Suite 500, Chadds Ford, (610) 880-8118, [ososweet.shop](http://ososweet.shop). **\$**

■ **Pinnochio's Restaurant**

Recognized as the first pizzeria in Delaware County, this family-owned restaurant sets the standard for fresh homemade pies. 131 E. Baltimore Ave., Media, (610) 566-7767, [pinpizza.com](http://pinpizza.com). **\$**

■ **Rosalie**

The latest from the White Dog Cafe folks is an authentic yet sophisticated Italian gem in the Wayne Hotel. The menu makes the most of quality ingredients, excellent preparations and a shared dining experience—and the fresh pasta is to die for. 139 E. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (610) 977-0600, [rosaliewayne.com](http://rosaliewayne.com). **\$\$**

■ **Rye BYOB**

Rye's carefully crafted cuisine should ensure its longevity in Media's crowded dining scene. Highlights include fresh seafood and pasta, plus a surf-and-turf combo with a crab cake and New York strip. 112 W. State St., Media, [ryebyob.com](http://ryebyob.com). **BYOB \$\$\$**

■ **Sophie's BBQ**

Sophie's owner Gregg Herman presides over two large reverse-flow smokers, and he prides himself on his marinades. The menu features dry-rub chicken, baby-back ribs, Louisiana hot links (made on-site) and pulled-pork shoulder. 64 Rittenhouse Place, Ardmore, (610) 642-0100, [sophiesbbq.com](http://sophiesbbq.com). **\$\$**

■ **Sterling Pig Brewery**

This open, airy spot with two locations offers wood-fired pizzas, hearty signature barbecue and eight rotating taps. 609 W. State St., Media, (484) 444-2526; 113 W. Market St., West Chester, (484) 999-8026; [sterlingpig.com](http://sterlingpig.com). **\$\$**

■ **Tap 24**

Gastro-pub cuisine, 24 rotating craft beers, craft cocktails and more make this a great place to get together with friends and family. 36 W. State St., Media, (484) 442-8839, [tap24media.com](http://tap24media.com). **\$\$**

■ **Tavola Restaurant + Bar**

Springfield Country Club's stylish American eatery is open to the public seven days a week. It offers a spacious dining room and an outdoor patio with a fire pit. 400 W. Sproul Road, Springfield, (610) 543-2100, [tavolas.com](http://tavolas.com). **\$\$**

■ **White Dog Cafe**

Consistent execution, a sustainable mindset, local ingredients and a lively atmosphere have all come to define this highly regarded—and busy—eatery. Various locations, [whitedog.com](http://whitedog.com). **\$\$**

## ASIAN

■ **Asiana Garden**

Exceptional Thai cuisine prepared by experienced chefs. 232 W. Wayne Ave., Wayne, (610) 293-7500, [asianagarden.us](http://asianagarden.us). **BYOB \$**

■ **Azie**

Pan-Asian favorites get an upscale twist in Azie's modern setting. 217 W. State St., Media, (610) 566-4750, [azie-restaurant.com](http://azie-restaurant.com); 789 E. Lancaster Ave., Villanova, (610) 527-5700; [azieonmain.com](http://azieonmain.com). **\$\$**

■ **DanDan**

Kevin and Catherina Huang bring their Center City concept to the suburbs, offering authentic Szechuan-Taiwanese cuisine. 214 Sugartown Road, (484) 580-8558, [dandanrestaurant.com](http://dandanrestaurant.com). **\$**

■ **Margaret Kuo's**

This Main Line mainstay has long been known for its exceptional Chinese and Japanese cuisine and first-rate service. Various locations, [margaretkuo.com](http://margaretkuo.com). **BYOB \$\$\$**

### Pho Street

Delicious street food that takes its inspiration from the Nam Dinh markets of Vietnam, served in a no-frills atmosphere. 1001 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 527-1413; 204 Baltimore Pike, Springfield, (610) 544-3934; phostreet.com. **BYOB \$**

## EUROPEAN

### A Taste of Britain Café

Enjoy afternoon tea, served all day. Or choose from a selection of homemade sandwiches, desserts and more. 503 W. Lancaster Ave., Wayne, (610) 971-0390, atobritain.com. **BYOB \$**

### Antica

Affordable and authentic, Antica brings regional Italian flair to the Brandywine Valley. 1623 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, (484) 770-8631, anticapa.com. **BYOB \$\$**

### Alessandro's Wood-Fired Italian & Bar

Formerly Ardé, Alessandro's is an ideal spot for Neapolitan pies and pasta. 133 N. Wayne Ave., Wayne, (484) 580-6786. **\$**

### Cornerstone Bistro & Artisanal Market

The market offers local cheeses, gift baskets and hard-to-find beers and wines. The restaurant, with its 14-seat chef's counter, offers finesse from start to finish. 1 West Ave., (610) 688-1888, cornerstonewayne.com. **\$\$\$**

### Estia Greek Taverna

Estia impresses with two dining rooms, a relaxing bar and exceptional updates of traditional Greek fare. 222 N. Radnor-Chester Road, Radnor, (484) 581-7124, estiataverna.com. **\$**

### Fellini Café

Gourmet Italian food in a relaxed, casual environment. 3541 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, (610) 353-6131, fellinicafeofnewtownsquare.com; 2 Waterview Road, West Chester, (484) 999-8407, fellinicafeofwc.com. **BYOB \$\$**

### La Belle Epoque Bistro

Enjoy specialties like French onion soup, crêpes and seasonal entrées. The bar offers craft cocktails and a selection of wines. 38 W. State St., Media, (610) 566-6808, labellebistro.com. **\$**

### La Padella

Nick and Kayla Amoroso's welcoming neighborhood restaurant and bar specializes in modernized Italian-American classics like thick-cut veal Parmesan and bone-in Marsala. 100 State Road, Media, (484) 445-4445, lapadellamedia.com. **\$**

### Pepperoncini

A charming spot offering Italian favorites like fried ravioli and chicken Parmesan, plus sumptuous seafood dishes. 25 S. Eagle Road, Havertown, (484) 454-5995, pepperoncinihavertown.com. **BYOB \$\$**

### Teca Newtown Square

This Delaware County version of the West Chester favorite specializes in Neapolitan pizzas and hand-spun pastas. 191 S. Newtown Street Road, Newtown Square, (484) 420-4010, tecanewtownsquare.com. **\$**

## INTERNATIONAL

### Byrsa Bistro

Ahmed and Christine Chraga wow diners with traditional paella, chicken tagine, seafood linguini, cavatelli and lamb. 128 Glen Mills Road, Glen Mills, (610) 444-3277; 127 State St., Kennett Square, (610) 444-5050; byrsabistro.com. **\$**

### Shere-E-Punjab

The diverse menu at this sophisticated local chain offers an authentic and flavorful take on the cuisine of India. Various locations, shere-e-punjab.com. **\$**

## LATIN AMERICAN

### Agave

The well-executed traditional dishes at this low-key gem include creamy guacamole, octopus ceviche, tacos, enchiladas and burritos. 1620 Baltimore Pike, Chadds Ford, (484) 770-8345, agavebyo.com. **BYOB \$\$**

### Diego's Cantina & Tequila Bar

This Tex-Mex-style eatery features a late-night menu Friday and Saturday, plus drink specials, a great beer menu and over 60 tequilas. 214 W. State St., Media, (484) 442-8741, diegos-cantina.com. **\$**

### Dos Gringos Mexican Kitchen

Tasty basics like enchiladas and tacos are standouts, along with grilled ahi tuna, tilapia, Mexican-inspired pork chops and more. 113 S. Olive St., Media, (610) 565-7794, dosgringosmedia.com. **BYOB \$**

# Montgomery County

## AMERICAN

### J. Alexander's Restaurant

A contemporary American restaurant known for its wood-fired cuisine, J. Alexander's offers a wide selection of classics, including prime rib, steaks, fresh seafood, sandwiches, and entrée salads. 256 Mall Blvd., King of Prussia, (484) 322-2000, jalexanders.com. **\$\$\$**

### Bodega by La Cabra Brewing

La Cabra's latest venture excels at wood-fired eats like brisket, baby-back ribs and wings, all of which pair perfectly with a rotating selection of unique brews. 810 Glenbrook Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 526-2337, bodegabylacabra.com. **\$**

### The Grog Grill

This popular bar and restaurant features high-quality food and an extensive wine, liquor and beer selection. 863 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 527-5870, thegroggrill.com. **\$**

### Jasper's Westside

The second iteration of Jasper's Backyard offers the same cool vibe and elevated bar food. 101 Ford St., West Conshohocken, (484) 368-3529, jasperswestside.com. **\$**

### Local Wine & Kitchen

With its citified feel and inventive menu tailored for shareable dining, the Local is a foodie favorite. 39 W. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, (610) 896-4740, localwineandkitchen.com. **\$**

### Lola's Garden

This chic and breezy open-air eatery offers a modern American menu that's focused and seasonal, with ample vegan, vegetarian, gluten-free and kids' options. 51 St. Georges Road, Ardmore, (484) 412-8011, lolasgardenrestaurant.com. **\$**

### Lunch Box

This tiny eatery dishes up simple breakfast and lunch items like pancakes and chicken salad. 951 Youngs Ford Road, Gladwyne, (610) 642-9608. **BYOB \$**

### Ripplewood Whiskey & Craft

This speakeasy-inspired tavern offers impeccably crafted comfort fare, including pretzeled Parker House rolls with truffle butter, fries awash in a decadently cheesy sea of fontina-cheddar and brisket chunks, and a heavenly charred octopus. 29 E. Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, (610) 486-7477, ripplewoodbar.com. **\$**

### Ryan Christopher's

This neighborhood favorite offers American bistro fare. 245 Woodbine Ave., Narberth, (610) 664-9282, ryanchristophersbyob.com. **BYOB \$\$**

### Tin Lizard Brewing Company

A two-story barbecue joint and microbrewery offering small-batch brews and smokehouse specialties. 1000 W. Lancaster Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 525-1100, tinlizardbrewingco.com. **\$**

### Tired Hands Brewing Company and Fermentaria

The focus may be on award-winning beer, but the sandwiches, cheeses and charcuterie are also noteworthy. Fermentaria elevates the menu. 16 Ardmore Ave., Ardmore, (610) 896-7621; 35 Cricket Terrace, Ardmore, (484) 413-2983; tiredhands.com. **\$**

## ASIAN

### Coco Thai Bistro

At Coco, orchids, philodendron, lavender and daisies abound. The menu is equally colorful, thanks to standout dishes like spicy quinoa, shrimp and crab served with Massaman curry. 231 Haverford Ave., Narberth, (610) 667-7634, cocobistro.com. **BYOB \$**

### Songsan Korean BBQ

This intimate nook has just 12 tables, where diners prepare their own combo platters of short ribs, spicy chicken, pork belly and beef brisket on an electric grill. 66 Rittenhouse Place, Ardmore, (610) 642-3184. **BYOB \$\$**

## EUROPEAN

### The Bercy

Joe Monnich and Justin Weathers' French-style brasserie offers an approachable bistro menu. 7 Lancaster Ave., Ardmore, (610) 589-0500, thebercy.com. **\$\$\$**

### Citron & Rose Tavern & Market

Glatt kosher meets gourmet at this sleek spot, which puts a modern spin on Eastern European Jewish classics. 261 Montgomery Ave., Bala Cynwyd, (610) 257-7577, citronrossetavern.com. **\$**

### Lourdias Greek Taverna

The consistently excellent fare at this family-owned institution includes classic Greek dishes like gyros, moussaka, souvlaki, fresh seafood and more. 50 N. Bryn Mawr Ave., Bryn Mawr, (610) 520-0288, lourdasgreekrestaurant.com. **BYOB \$\$**

### Savona Restaurant

This well-heeled establishment continues to excel at classic Riviera-inspired dining. Signature dishes include the Scottish salmon. 100 Old Gulph Road, Gulph Mills, (610) 520-1200, savonarestaurant.com. **\$\$\$**

### ZaGaFen

Kosher cuisine and cocktails, with sublime fish dishes, pastas, grilled pizzas and more. 370 Montgomery Ave., Merion Station, (610) 667-7777, zagafen.com. **\$**

## INTERNATIONAL

### Saffron Indian Kitchen

Blended spices are the true stars at Saffron, which offers an exceptional array of nouveau and traditional Indian cuisine. Various locations, saffronophilly.com. **\$**

## LATIN AMERICAN

### Coyote Crossing

This Conshy institution features authentic Mexican food and the best mezzal bar in the Philadelphia region. 800 Spring Mill Ave., (610) 825-3000, coyotecrossing.com. **\$** **MLT**



# ENDLESS SUMMER

Now that a busy season of carnivals, picnics, barbecues, fireworks and live music has brought us all out of masked hibernation, we'll never take the simple joys of events like July's Malvern Fire Company Annual Fair for granted again.

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— MAIN LINE TODAY'S —  
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**S U M M I T**

MAIN LINE TODAY IS EXCITED TO PRESENT THE  
POWER WOMEN SUMMIT AND NETWORKING EVENT.

Join us as we recognize outstanding women of the Main Line and western suburbs who are leaders in their respective fields. The recipients of this honor are featured in the October issue of Main Line Today.

This incredibly popular event has hosted leaders of local and national importance.  
This year's special guest and keynote speaker: **Victoria Wyeth** (below center).



**Get your tickets today.**

**EVENT DETAILS**

Wednesday, October 20, 2021, 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Drexelbrook Catering & Special Event Center

\$75 per person | \$650 for a table of 10

Estimated attendance: 350-450

Includes sit-down lunch

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## **TAGUE DESIGN SHOWROOM**

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