

# FAIRLESS FOCUS

Late March 2025  
Vol. 13 No. 3

O'ROURKE MEDIA GROUP

*Empowering a  
Child's Passion!*

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Fallsington student Odin stands between Michele and Gene Rice, co-founders of Plant a Seed, a nonprofit that makes it possible for him to pursue his passion and interest outside of school. Read more on page 2.

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**SPRING  
HOME &  
GARDEN**  
EDITION



# Local youth receives scholarship to pursue karate passion

Eleven year old Odin from Fallsington met with the Plant a Seed (PAS) staff to request a scholarship to pursue his passion for Karate. PAS found a wonderful place to fuel his passion. Odin will be participating, multiple times a week, at Action Karate in Fairless Hills where he will be guided by Sensei Joe and Sensei Cam.

These two amazing men are already supporting another PAS scholarship recipient.

The PAS Foundation provides annual scholarships for children ages 10 to 18, to pursue passions and interests outside of school. They connect young people from low-income households to life-altering athletic, artistic, musical and creative

activities led by positive role models. Based in Yardley, the PAS Foundation serves the greater Philadelphia region and South Jersey.

To learn more about the PAS Foundation, and how to apply for a scholarship, please visit our website at [www.plantaseedfoundation.org](http://www.plantaseedfoundation.org).

# Falls Township bidding two traffic improvement projects

By summer, two Falls Township intersections will be upgraded with an improved traffic signal and an improved pedestrian walkway.

During a recent Falls Supervisors meeting, the board authorized advertisement for bids to undertake a pedestrian crosswalk enhancement project at New Falls Road and Vermillion Drive; and a traffic signal improvement project at Trenton Road and North Olds Boulevard.

Remington & Vernick Engineers Project Manager Derrick Kennedy said construction would begin on the pedestrian crosswalk on approximately May 5 and continue for about three months. The anticipated timeline for the traffic signal upgrade at Trenton Road and North Olds Boulevard is expected to begin on or about April 21 and continue for approximately five months, according to Kennedy.

In terms of the pedestrian crosswalk at New Falls Road and Vermillion Drive, the project entails

adding a push button-activated pedestrian warning system using rectangular rapid flashing beacons. Existing pavement markings and signage will also be improved in association with the pedestrian signal installation.

"I'm excited to see this project. It's been a long time coming," Supervisor Jeff Boraski said, adding that the board began considering the project at the start of his first term on the board, which began nearly 12 years ago and will conclude at year's end. "It's a good way to end my 12-year career."

Supervisor Vice Chairperson

Erin Mullen, who ran Monday's meeting, thanked Boraski for his persistence.

The other project includes a full traffic signal replacement and modernization at the intersection of Trenton Road and North Olds Boulevard, including associated roadway improvements and ADA ramps. The project will be funded by a Green Light Go grant, with a 20 percent township match.

"I look forward to seeing it getting done," Supervisor Brian Galloway said, noting concerns with children crossing the roadway before and after school. "It really needs this."

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## RD's Total Lawn

We want to introduce you to a local family-owned business in RD's Total Lawn. The Dittes family started their lawncare business back in 2018 as a side hustle. Ryan and Lindsay have been blessed with three beautiful children and reside and operate the business locally right in Langhorne.

Initially Ryan started the family business just mowing a handful of lawns on the side so his wife, Lindsay, could take an extended maternity leave with their second child. Over the years the company has been fortunate to grow thanks to awesome customers and hard-working dedicated employees. Lindsay is now at home with the three kids and helps support the office while Ryan and team run the day-to-

day operations in the business.

At RD's Total Lawn, they strive to be best in class with communication and integrity and be your local company for your lawncare needs. Their specific focus of work is on the Total Lawn!

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*The Dittes Family*

ming, edging, and blowing off property.

\*They are running a promotion of 25% off your first fertilizer treatment now through April 7. Use coupon code "SPRING" when calling in or online. \*

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encourage you to check out their reputation online and would love the opportunity to earn your business! Support Local and buy local at RD's Total Lawn!

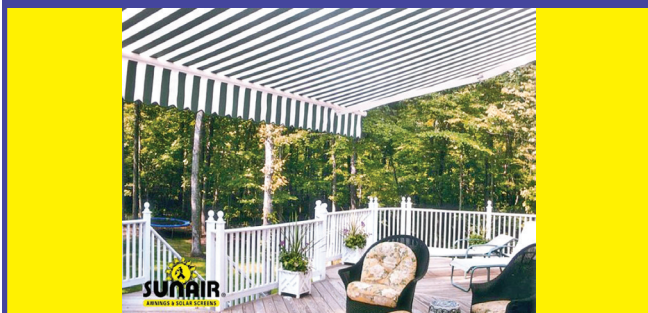
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## Falls Supervisors seek recycling grant

If you could spend \$6,300, but know that you would recoup another \$50,000 or more why wouldn't you do it?

During a recent meeting, the Falls Township Supervisors approved a grant writing proposal that's expected to substantially pay the Township much more than its initial investment. The forward-thinking board approved a proposal from F.X. Browne, Inc./Bogia Engineering, Inc. for completion of the Township's annual Act 101 recycling grant application for 2024.

Falls receives more than \$50,000 each year from the grant. The 2022 grant yielded \$108,141.54.

Grant amounts are based on total tonnage for residential

and commercial properties. F.X. Browne, Inc., as part of its proposal, will obtain valid documentation needed for the application.

The company has submitted the township's grant applications for more than 20 years.

Residents and businesses are encouraged to recycle as much material as possible. Every little bit helps increase the amount of potential grant funds.

Haulers make it even easier to recycle with single-stream recycling, which allows for paper, plastic, and cans to be co-mingled in the same container. Recycling materials can be placed in any receptacle, provided it's marked as being recycled and not mistaken for trash.



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For homeowners looking to sell quickly without making repairs or dealing with open houses, we offer a fair cash purchase. This allows you to

move on without the stress of showings, negotiations, or unexpected expenses. Unlike other companies that make low offers, we base our cash purchases on fair market value, ensuring you get a deal that works for you.

If your home needs updates but you do not want to spend money on repairs, our Fix & Sell Program might be a better fit. Through this program, we handle the renovations upfront, list the home at a higher price, and help you walk away with a greater profit.

For those facing foreclosure, overdue taxes, or financial hardship, we offer foreclosure and tax relief solutions that can help protect your equity and prevent the long-term financial damage of losing a home.

We also assist with relocation and downsizing, making transitions easier for homeowners who need to move



quickly or want a simpler living arrangement. Our in-house team of real estate professionals can guide you through the process, whether that means buying a new home, listing your current property, or providing the support you need to move forward.

At We Buy Any House Fast,

we do not rely on a single approach. Every homeowner's situation is different, which is why we offer flexible, personalized solutions instead of just quick cash offers. If you are considering selling your home but are unsure of the best path forward, contact us today at [www.webuyanyhousefast.com](http://www.webuyanyhousefast.com).

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# Rosenello's Windows, Siding & Roofing

For four decades, Rosenello's Windows, Siding and Roofing has been a trusted name in the home improvement industry. As the company celebrates 40 years

in business, it reflects on its journey from humble beginnings to becoming a household name for high-quality craftsmanship in windows, siding, and roofing.

While Rosenello's is widely recognized for its exceptional window installations, roofing has always been at the heart of its legacy. "Roofing is how we

started," says the team. "It's the foundation of our company's reputation for reliability and expertise."

Over the years, their roofing services have evolved to include modern techniques, premium materials, and innovative solutions that provide homeowners with long-lasting protection and peace of mind. From replacing aging shingles to installing energy-efficient roofs, Rosenello's takes pride in offering personalized solutions tailored to each client's needs.



Their commitment to excellence has not only earned them the loyalty of their customers but also fueled their growth into a full-service provider of windows, siding, and exterior renovations.

As they mark their 40th anniversary, Rosenello's is proud to celebrate its rich history while continuing to innovate for the future. With deep roots in the community and a steadfast dedication to quality, they remain the go-to choice for homeowners looking to enhance and protect their homes.

For more information, call 215-244-3993 or visit [rosenelloswindows.com](http://rosenelloswindows.com).

## Adventures in spring gardening

Jennifer Finelli,  
Bucks Beautiful

After a chilly winter, March has graced us with some warmer days. As a gardener, the warmer weather serves as a siren call to head back into the yard and begin preparing for the upcoming spring and summer. There are a few considerations you might want to make before diving right in, as March and early April can be a

great time to take a pause for some solid planning.

Although it's tempting to start your spring clean-up as soon as the first warm day occurs, it can often be helpful to delay some of the cleaning until a few weeks after the last frost. This way, you can be fairly certain that most pollinators have safely emerged from their winter habitats among your leaves and stems. We gain great value from having our native

pollinators present. They are essential to the reproduction of most flowering plants and they significantly impact the yield of our garden, especially those of us trying to grow vegetables. Beyond the specific benefits they bring to our own gardens, they contribute to a balanced ecosystem- keep nuisance pests in check and feed our native birds.

While you're waiting for your spring clean-up window,

some things to consider for your vegetable gardens are some good companion plants. If you're trying to grow tomatoes, peppers, beans, herbs or carrots, companion plants can be a great way to enhance that crop. There are several resources available to guide you through the plant-pairing process. Some plants simply grow well together, but the addition of, say, nasturtium to

*continued on pg. 7*

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## Spring gardening

*continued from pg. 6*

tomato plants not only adds visual appeal, but also has an added benefit of pest control. This early spring window is a great opportunity to literally map out your planting blueprint so you can hit the soil running. A good pencil sketch can help keep track of your planting or there are some go-to apps for those who want to go more "high-tech."

As we experienced last summer, water can be unpredictable. We can find ourselves vacillating between excess water management and only weeks later, battling drought. As there's really no predicting Mother Nature, one thing we can try to be more cognizant of is using plants and trees that are more acclimated to our climate. Our native trees, shrubs and perennials tend to be less fussy and more able to handle longer periods of dry

weather. If you're planning some new trees for shade, privacy or overall ecological benefit, consider planting a native species. Many of our local nurseries in Bucks offer native tree options. It's also important to consider the soil and sun conditions. Is the area where you're planting often wet? Is it full sun or partial shade? Planting the right plant or tree in the right space can make a huge difference to the plant's longevity and the overall return you get on your investment.

Lastly, many folks are avid bird fans with a growing number of our Townships and Borough in Bucks becoming designated Bird Towns. The type of bird you're trying to attract may factor into your plant and tree selection. You also might want to consider birdhouses, and early spring is a great time to do so. It's

always best to do a bit of research beforehand. Some birdhouses might be attractive to people, but are they functional and attractive to birds? Using an educational resource like your local extension website or a wildlife organization can give you research-backed information. If you're doing any research on trees, plants, or attracting wildlife, using a .edu or .org website is your best strategy. Happy spring gardening, Bucks County!

Bucks Beautiful is a grass-roots non-profit that funds community garden projects, tree plantings, events and educational programs to develop sustainable and attractive landscapes fostering a healthier environment. To become a member, or contribute to the cause, please call 215-340-3639 or visit [bucksbeautiful.org](http://bucksbeautiful.org)

## Tucker Chiropractic Center hosting free workshop

The Tucker Chiropractic and Wellness Center, located at 402 Middletown Blvd, Suite 210 in Langhorne, hosts a free virtual trigger point workshop.

Online attendees will learn how to apply these techniques in the comfort of their own home.

Have a partner ready if you'd like, as this application is interactive. According to Dr. Tucker, the trigger point technique is great for achy joints and muscles.

Visit the link: [www.DrDavidTucker.com/TriggerPointWorkshop](http://www.DrDavidTucker.com/TriggerPointWorkshop).

Anyone with further questions should call 215-750-8006 to register for a free consultation.

The Center is located right behind the United Artists Movie Theater in Penns Square, at Oxford Valley Mall. Plenty of free parking is available.

Directions can be found on the website, [www.DrDavidTucker.com](http://www.DrDavidTucker.com).

## Spring Home & Garden 2



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# ECI Comfort

## 4 ways to landscape around your HVAC system

As you plan your spring garden, don't forget about your HVAC system! Thoughtful landscaping can improve your unit's efficiency, protect it from the elements, and enhance your yard's overall aesthetic. With the right approach, you can seamlessly blend function and beauty in your outdoor space. Here are four ways to landscape around your HVAC unit:

### Incorporate Plant Life

Adding greenery around your HVAC unit can improve energy efficiency and create a more inviting outdoor space. Evergreen shrubs like cedar, cypress, spruce, or boxwood provide

year-round coverage and require little maintenance. Be sure to avoid thorny plants or flowers that attract bees, as they can be hazardous for both residents and HVAC technicians. To maintain proper airflow, keep at least three feet of space between the plants and the unit.

### Enhance Privacy

If you'd like to conceal your HVAC system, a fence or trellis is a great option. A trellis with climbing vines such as clematis or jasmine adds a decorative touch, while a lattice fence provides partial coverage without restricting airflow. Just be sure to leave the top of the unit open for ventilation.

### Protect Against the Elements

Strong winds, rain, and snow can take a toll on your HVAC system over time. Planting sturdy evergreen trees nearby can act as a natural



shield, helping to protect your unit while maintaining proper airflow. This not only extends the life of your system, but also integrates it more naturally into your landscape.

### Opt for Low-Maintenance Solutions

For a simple and stylish solution, consider a gravel garden around your HVAC unit. Gravel prevents weed growth, allows for proper drainage, and adds a sleek, modern touch to your

yard. It's an easy way to keep your outdoor space looking tidy without requiring extra maintenance.

By incorporating these landscaping strategies, you can create a beautiful and functional garden while keeping your HVAC system running smoothly. Call ECI Comfort at 267-227-0995 or visit [www.ecicomfort.com/contact](http://www.ecicomfort.com/contact) for all your heating and cooling needs!

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## County of Bucks and United Way of Bucks County declare March as ALICE Awareness Month

The County of Bucks, in partnership with United Way of Bucks County, has once again proclaimed March as ALICE Awareness Month. This effort shines a light on the hardworking yet financially strained households that fall into the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) category.

"In so doing, we commend United Way of Bucks County and the work they do to ensure the security and well-being of our residents. We hope that this recognition sparks greater community involvement and

encourages collective action to address the obstacles faced by ALICE residents in our county," the proclamation, signed by the Bucks County Commissioners, states.

According to United Way, 27% of Bucks County residents are ALICE. They earn more than the Federal Poverty Level yet struggle to afford the basic cost of living. These families often live paycheck to paycheck, making too much to qualify for most assistance, but too little to weather a financial crisis.

"Too many essential workers

*continued on pg. 10*



spot  
light

## HOTWORX

### *Celebrating its grand opening celebration!*

HOTWORX 24-hour infrared fitness center opened its doors in Langhorne in January, and now they are ready to celebrate their Grand Opening with the community. HOTWORX is a one-of-a-kind fitness studio that boasts a small, intimate environment with a big community vibe offering 12 virtually instructed workout sessions designed to enhance calorie burn, flexibility, detoxification, and overall well-being.

HOTWORX is more than just a fitness studio; it is a training method with the unique combination of heat, infrared energy, and exercise known as 3D training, consistency offered by the flow of the various sessions and

cross-training by incorporating various HIIT workouts, Isometric workouts, and functional training in the FX zone.

Workouts offered include Hot Yoga, Hot Pilates, Hot Barre None, Hot Cycle and more. Each session is virtually instructed by experienced fitness professionals who guide you through the workout, encouraging you to go at your own best pace, but challenging you to grow at the same time. HOTWORX caters to all fitness levels, beginner to advanced, while cultivating a supportive environment where everyone thrives.

HOTWORX Langhorne's Grand Opening weekend begins Friday March 28 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony and wine tasting event with the Lower Bucks Chamber of Commerce, local officials, and



the community from 4 - 5 pm. The celebration will continue on Saturday March 29 from 10 am - 4 pm in the studio with vendors such as Stretch Lab of Newtown, Femme Gemnz permanent jewelry, and Go Glow Yardley. Bringing even more energy to the celebration will

be HOTWORX Virtual Instructors, Maria Barr and Allison Eversol.

For more information about HOTWORX, located at 100 N Bucks Town Dr Suite 200 in Langhorne, call 267-358-5296 or visit [www.hotworx.net/studio/langhorne-oxford-valley](http://www.hotworx.net/studio/langhorne-oxford-valley)

## Ways to Prevent and Manage Diabetes

**Wednesday, April 9, 2025 | 6 p.m.**

**Location:** Zoom Meeting



Join **ELIZABETH IOZZINO**, a registered dietitian and certified diabetes care and education specialist from the Capital Health Diabetes Education Program, to learn how to create balanced meals and understand the difference between monitoring your blood sugar with a glucometer and a continuous glucose monitor. Elizabeth will also discuss the latest diabetes technologies and how they can help guide your meal choices and times.

This event will be taking place virtually using Zoom. Register online at [capitalhealth.org/events](http://capitalhealth.org/events) and be sure to include your email address. Zoom meeting details will be provided via email 2-3 days before the program date. Registration ends 24 hours before the program date.



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# Bucks County Tennis Association

*Tennis, the “world’s healthiest sport,” keeps growing*

Several medical studies indicate tennis is the healthiest sport on Earth as it can extend lifespan by 10 years! This—along with other physical, mental, and social benefits—are factors contributing to why the lifetime sport is booming. The United States Tennis Association (USTA) has announced that tennis participation has grown for the fifth straight year. In 2024, 1 in 12 Americans played tennis, resulting in a historic 25.7 million total players.

The nonprofit Bucks County Tennis Association’s (BCTA) and the 24-plus county-wide public sites it programs have mirrored this growth with 2,200 registered participants in 2024—more than double its pre-Covid numbers. Other park and commercial programs in Bucks County have also seen increased demand for tennis.

To accommodate the sport’s growing demand, this year the USTA is offering a further \$10 million in grants for tennis facilities’ repair or expansion, and



*Tennis play is growing*

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doubling down on its efforts to provide free workshops for recruiting and developing community tennis coaches. One such workshop, sponsored by the BCTA, will be held on Sunday, April 27, at Doylestown Tennis Club. Like other public park sports, the BCTA welcomes parents, teachers, senior high school and college students as well as existing coaches to attend and learn great group strategies that

make playing tennis easy and fun. Register for the free workshop and see how to inspire your community to stay active and healthy.

The BCTA will also celebrate “May Is National Tennis Month” on May 10 with a “Hit To Be Fit” event at Council Rock North tennis courts. The fun tennis activities will include novice through advanced players and those who have never before tried the sport, ages 14 and older. Bring family members and friends to join the BCTA in this tennis celebration that is part of tennis facilities and groups across the country simultaneously participating in tennis at the same time.

Find BCTA playing, coaching, and volunteering opportunities, including its Youth Leadership Development program, by logging onto [playtennis.usta.com/buckscounty.com](http://playtennis.usta.com/buckscounty.com).

### ALICE Awareness Month

*continued from pg. 8*

in Bucks County are working full-time—sometimes juggling multiple jobs—yet still struggling to afford the basics,” said Marissa Christie, President and CEO at United Way of Bucks County. “ALICE households are typically our frontline workers, powering our community. When they are unable to remain stable and stably employed, it’s a community-wide challenge. We’re grateful to our County Commissioners for recognizing this.”

United Way of Bucks County serves thousands of ALICE families, 36% of whom are health-care workers. ALICE includes the frontline workers our community depends on every day: paramedics answering 911 calls, teacher’s aides helping children learn, and social workers assisting older residents through difficult times.

### How to Get Involved

Residents and businesses can learn more, donate, or sign up for events at [www.uwbucks.org/ALICEmonth](http://www.uwbucks.org/ALICEmonth).



# BCCC floral design program exhibit featured in Philadelphia Flower Show for the first time in program history

For the first time in the program's history, an exhibition crafted by floral design students at Bucks County Community College (BCCC) was featured in this year's Philadelphia Flower Show, marking a significant milestone for the program and its students. The exhibition, titled "Florists of the Future," took visitors on a journey to the year 3025, where flowers and design transcend tradition and push the boundaries of what is possible.

The 2025 Philadelphia Flower Show theme, "Gardens of Tomorrow," invited exhibitors to explore the future of gardening, design, and sustainability. In alignment with this forward-thinking theme, BCCC's "Florists of the Future" exhibit showcased the innovative ideas



*BCCC Floral Design Program alumna, NuRocha Hines, CFD, finalizes her portion of the "Florists of the Future" exhibit, on the final day of installation, Thursday, February 27.*

and groundbreaking concepts of the next generation of floral designers. Approximately 40 students and alumni from BCCC's floral design program as well as the program's four instructors collaborated to

create avant-garde floral compositions that reimagine the future of floristry.

The students explored ideas such as breeding

*continued on pg. 12*



*BCCC Floral Design Program alumnus, Dennis Kelley CFD, carefully constructs his portion of Bucks County Community College's inaugural Philadelphia Flower Show exhibition, "Florists of the Future."*



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## BCCC floral

*continued from pg. 11*

floral materials for futuristic aesthetics, developing revolutionary mechanics to enhance designs, and integrating sustainability into every aspect of floristry. Their work also delved into how flowers might be grown, transported, and transformed into striking, imaginative structures, bringing the “Gardens of Tomorrow” theme to life through floral artistry.

“The students poured their creativity and expertise into this project, and it’s truly a reflection of their visionary ideas about how floristry will evolve in the future,” said Renee Tucci, floral design instructor at Bucks County Community College and president-elect of the American Institute of Floral Designers (AIFD). “While this has been a team effort, I want to especially acknowledge the design guidance and leadership provided by my fellow instructors, including Ron Mulray, whose expertise has been instrumental in shaping the students’ work. We’re incredibly excited to be a part of such an iconic event and to share our work with flower lovers and industry profession-



*BCCC Floral Design Program students, Fan Zheng & Maria Salina, are one of 9 mini-teams that worked together to create Bucks County Community College’s inaugural Philadelphia Flower Show exhibition, “Florists of the Future.”*

als from across the region.”

The Philadelphia Flower Show is known for showcasing the next generation of floral artists, and BCCC’s participation in this year’s show was a testament to the talent and ambition of the students who are being trained to become leaders in the floral industry.

The Philadelphia Flower Show, the oldest and largest indoor flower show in the world, took place from March 1 to March 9 at the Pennsylv-

nia Convention Center. BCCC’s “Florists of the Future” exhibit offered a glimpse into the bold and imaginative future of floristry, and how floral design can be an integral part of tomorrow’s gardens and consumer experiences.

The BCCC Floral Design Program, which offers both certificate and degree options, is known for providing students with hands-on experience and a solid foundation in the art of floristry. As an Educational

Partner with the AIFD, BCCC’s program equips students with the skills necessary to pursue careers in event design, floral retail, and more. Students have the opportunity to become a Certified Floral Designer (CFD) by completing the comprehensive curriculum.

For more information about the Floral Design Program at Bucks County Community College, visit [bucks.edu/floraldesign](https://bucks.edu/floraldesign).



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### *Franklin Mills Flea Market & Phila Flea Markets — Your Sunday Treasure Hunt Awaits!*

Exciting news for treasure hunters, vintage lovers, and bargain shoppers—Franklin Mills Flea Market is back! Open every Sunday from April through November at Liberty Plaza, 90 Franklin Mills Blvd., just off Knights Road, next to Burger King and CVS, this market is a must-visit destination for anyone searching for unique finds and unbeatable deals.

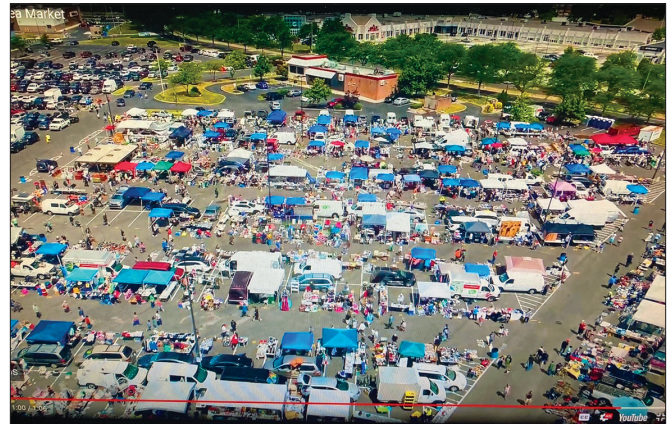
As part of the renowned Phila Flea Markets (AKA The Philly Flea), now celebrating 40 years since 1985, Franklin Mills Flea Market continues the long-standing tradition of bringing together some of the best vendors in the region. Each week, visitors can browse through a wide variety of goods, including antiques, vintage clothing, collectibles, handmade crafts, furniture, home décor, records, jewelry, and much more.

What makes this flea market truly special is the ever-changing selection—no two Sundays are ever the same. Every visit offers a new opportunity to uncover rare and one-of-a-kind treasures. Whether you're a serious collector, a casual browser, or simply enjoy the thrill of the hunt, Franklin Mills Flea Market has something for everyone.

Beyond shopping, the flea market is an experience in itself. Visitors can interact with knowledgeable vendors, hear the stories behind their unique items, and immerse themselves

in Philadelphia's vibrant flea market culture. Plus, shoppers can enjoy plenty of free parking and free admission for a stress-free experience. The market is open Sundays from 8 am to 4 pm, but early birds are always welcome!

With its welcoming atmosphere and endless variety, it's no wonder Phila Flea Markets has been a staple in the city for four decades. Don't miss your chance to explore one of the best flea markets in the region. Mark your calendar, bring your



friends, and join the hunt for hidden treasures every Sunday! For full details and vendor inquiries, visit [philaflaemarkets.org](http://philaflaemarkets.org).

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# BC Grand Families Support Group: Now in three BC locations

by June Portnoy

The BC Grand Families Support Group has become an invaluable resource for grandparents and other relatives who find themselves raising children. Founded in 2019 by New Britain resident Beth Jester, this support group provides a welcoming environment where caregivers can connect, share experiences, and gain access to essential resources that help them navigate their unique challenges.

For the first five years, this support group met at the Lenape Valley Presbyterian Church in New Britain, its Central Bucks County location, where Beth is a member.

As demand grew, the support group expanded last April, launching a Lower Bucks County chapter in Levittown at the Acts of Grace Church, led by Lisa Barnelli. By September of last year, a third chapter was established in Upper Bucks County at Calvary Souderton Church, facilitated by Carolyn Matthews. These expansions were made possible through funding from the Bucks County Opioid Settlement Funds, distributed by the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission.

According to Beth, the number of grandparents raising grandchildren in Bucks County is staggering. As of the most recent census, approximately 12,000 grandparents in Bucks County are raising their grandchildren, with around 90,000 across Pennsylvania. Many of these situations arise due to parental struggles, including addiction, incarceration, or other life-altering cir-



Beth Jester, Co-Founder/Facilitator of Central Bucks BC Grand Families Support Group (right) provides resource information at a recent event with Lisa Barnelli, Facilitator of the Lower Bucks County BC Grand Families Support Group (left), and Carolyn Matthews, Facilitator of the Upper Bucks County BC Grand Families Support Group (middle).

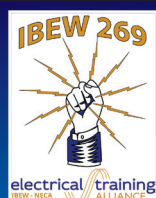
cumstances. Understanding the immense challenges these families face, Beth saw the urgent need for a support group that could provide guidance and camaraderie for those in similar situations.

"It was 100 percent clear to me that there was a huge need for this support group, and that there were people out there that had no knowledge of the things that I had learned along the way, and I

wanted to share them," Beth explains. "Selfishly, I also wanted to be among my peers. It's a lonely place to be when you first take on your grandkids."

Beth Jester and her husband John have lived in Central Bucks County for nearly four decades, raising their own children before stepping in to raise their two grandchildren. Their journey began when their

*continued on pg. 15*



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## Grand Families

*continued from pg. 14*

grandchildren, then just a few month's old and two-and-a-half years old, came into their care. As Beth searched for a local support group to help navigate this uncharted territory, she was met with a void; no such group existed in the county.

Determined to fill this gap, Beth co-founded the BC Grand Families Support Group. The group quickly took off, offering a much-needed space for grandparents and other relatives to share their experiences and gain access to vital resources.

"When I first started raising my grandchildren, I had to quit my job and go back to diaper changing, feeding, bathing, and all the things that a new parent does," Beth recalls. "You don't have baby stuff in your house anymore, and suddenly you're buying a crib, a high chair, baby food. It wasn't an average situation for someone my age."

The BC Grand Families Support Group provides a supportive community where members can share their experiences and receive guidance from peers who have faced similar challenges. Meetings include discussions led by experts on a range of relevant topics, such as trauma therapy and raising children in the digital age. The group also assists members in navigating available programs such as Medicaid and the Family Service Association, ensuring that families are aware of and able to access the necessary resources available to them.

Understanding the challenges of attending meetings, the group also provides free babysitting, offered by the nonprofit organization Along the Way, allowing caregivers to focus on the sessions without concern for childcare. Additionally, a complimentary dinner

is provided, easing the burden for attendees who often have limited time to prepare meals before heading to the meetings.

One of the most valuable aspects of the BC Grand Families Support Group is the sense of community it fosters. Many grandparents and other caregivers find themselves isolated, as their peers are often in different life stages. Raising children later in life presents unique physical, emotional, and financial challenges. The group provides a network of understanding individuals who can offer practical advice, emotional support, and friendship.

"Your peers are not doing what you're doing, and it's a lonely place because all of your time is taken up with the physical and mental caretaking of children," Beth shares. "I know what it's like to be up at night, worrying about how to navigate school systems, extra-curricular activities, and healthcare. That's why this group is so important."

Additionally, the children in these families often experience trauma, having been uprooted from their previous living situations. The support group helps caregivers learn how to best address these challenges, ensuring a smoother transition for both the children and their guardians. By sharing experiences, members gain insight into what has worked for others in similar situations, offering them reassurance and guidance.



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As demand continues to grow, Beth Jester and her team remain committed to expanding their reach and services. The group welcomes anyone raising the children of a loved one, including aunts, uncles, great-grandparents, and even close family friends who have stepped into parental roles.

All three support groups meet the same two Mondays a month from 6 to 7:30 pm. Meetings are held September through November and then again from March through May, so its next meeting will take place March 3. Registration is

required by noon on the day of each meeting to ensure adequate preparation for babysitting and meals. There is no cost to attend these support groups.

The BC Grand Families Support Group is more than just a meeting place—it is a lifeline for those navigating the challenges of raising children under unexpected circumstances. With its continued efforts, families can find the support, resources, and connections they need to thrive. For more information, inquiries can be directed to Beth Jester at [BCGrandfamilies@gmail.com](mailto:BCGrandfamilies@gmail.com).



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# The benefits of gardening conventions and garden clubs

by June Portnoy

Garden clubs offer much more than monthly meetings; they create a space for education, camaraderie, and community service. As Karen Wychock, president of the Trevoise Horticulture Society (THS), emphasizes, "Gardening is not just about tending to your backyard. It involves everyone; all cultures, all countries. No matter where you're from, there's a shared love for watching things grow."

This year's 95th Garden Club Federation of Pennsylvania (GCFP) Convention, hosted by District XI, exemplifies the depth of engagement garden clubs provide. Convention participants will include 11 districts across the state, including 11 GCFP garden clubs in Bucks and Montgomery counties. Karen, chairperson of this year's convention, describes how planning for this event has been a large undertaking, but well worth it, beginning three years ago.

Themed "A Gardening Revolution," this convention will take place from April 6-8 at the Alloy King of Prussia DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, adjacent to Valley Forge National Park. Each year, a different district leads this event, rotating responsibility across the state. This year's convention will feature approximately 16 speakers and welcome around 300 garden club members affiliated with the GCFP.

A highlight of the convention is the opportunity for members to participate in workshops and hear from guest speakers, many of whom are from the local area. Gloria Denoon from Newtown will conduct an origami paper flowers workshop, guiding participants through creating delicate

floral designs. Carrie Barron of Montgomery County will lead a session on pressing flowers in circular frames, connecting attendees with botanical preservation techniques.

Sunday evening's featured speaker, Renee Tucci, a Bucks County Community College floral design educator, will discuss how traditions transform into trends in floral design. As part of her presentation, she will create six floral designs that will be raffled off at the convention. With over 20 years of experience, Renee brings insight into both the artistry and history of floral arrangement.

Additionally, David Heller, owner of Flowers by David in Langhorne, will demonstrate floral design using positive and negative space techniques, incorporating both botanical and non-botanical elements.

Beyond floral design, the convention integrates historical education. Attendees can take trolley tours of Valley Forge National Park, and Carol Spacht of Montgomery County will appear as Martha Washington during the Monday luncheon, sharing insights into colonial-era gardening and history.

One of the most significant benefits of a gardening convention is the chance to connect with others across the state. "We rarely see people from the western side of Pennsylvania," Karen notes, "so it's always valuable to share ideas, listen to expert speakers, and come together in camaraderie." These conventions promote lifelong learning. "Anytime you attend a workshop or lecture, you gain knowledge that enriches your gardening journey," explains Karen.

Garden clubs, in general, provide year-round opportunities for education and commu-



Karen Wychock, chair of this year's 95th GCFP Convention, displays her floral arrangements from the 2024 Philadelphia Flower Show.

nity engagement. The Trevoise Horticultural Society, which meets in Bensalem, has about 65 members throughout Bucks County and beyond. Many of these members will attend the convention. "We've seen an increase in membership in the last couple of years," Karen shares. "Our meetings are open to the public, and anyone interested can join us."

One of the club's key contributions is community service. Many clubs, including THS, host free events such as flower shows and plant sales. In addition, with spring upon us, THS has begun distributing free seeds to its members thanks to a donation from Burpee Seeds in Doylestown. Additionally, garden clubs across the state will receive free seeds at the convention to encourage local gardening initiatives.

"Garden clubs aren't just about personal gardening; they're about community impact," Karen explains. "Whether you're growing on a

window sill or tending to two acres of land, there's a place for you."

For those interested in learning more, the Trevoise Horticultural Society meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the Bensalem Senior Center, and welcomes visitors to attend meetings. More information can be found at [www.trevosegardeners.org](http://www.trevosegardeners.org) or on Facebook.

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# Bucks County Community College hosts free Criminal Expungement Clinic

In an effort to help people overcome past mistakes that may block future success, Bucks County Community College is hosting a free Criminal Expungement Clinic from 11 am to 2 pm on Saturday, April 26 at the Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks County in Bristol.

Paralegal students, under the supervision of attorneys from Legal Aid of Southeast Pennsylvania, will help people determine if they are eligible to have certain prior arrests or convictions expunged or sealed from their record.

Greg Luce, Dean of the School of Business, Innovation, and Legal Studies, said it's the second year the college has hosted the free Criminal Expungement Clinic. After last

year's success at the Newtown Campus, the event is being offered at the College's Bristol location this year.

"The Expungement Clinic is a powerful example of experiential learning," noted Luce. "Our paralegal students are gaining invaluable practical experience while providing a potentially life-changing service to our community members. It's a win-win for both our students and the residents of Bucks County."

**The clinic is for individuals who:**

- have arrests without convictions; or
- have misdemeanor convictions, without new convictions, over 10 years old; or
- are over 70 years old, and

their conviction is at least 10 years old; or

passed away at least 3 years ago, and a posthumous expungement is sought.

Some convictions cannot be expunged, but may be sealed so that they are not of public record. Individuals must have paid all due fines and completed any probation to qualify for expungement. The clinic may need to refer some individuals to other legal organizations due to the location of their criminal records, such as Philadelphia or outside of Pennsylvania.

All information shared with attorneys and paralegals is confidential. Paralegals may not practice law or otherwise provide legal services directly to

the public except as permitted by law.

The Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks is located at 1304 Veterans Highway in Bristol, where there is ample free parking. Advance registration is preferred. **The registration deadline is April 4.** To register for the clinic, visit [www.bucks.edu/expunge](http://www.bucks.edu/expunge). For more information, email [legalstudies@bucks.edu](mailto:legalstudies@bucks.edu) or call 215-968-8227.



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## Burritos in Yardley

Cinco de Mayo is just around the corner, and there's no better place to celebrate in Yardley than at Burritos! This local favorite is gearing up for an unforgettable fiesta filled with delicious food and festive vibes.

Burritos is known for serving up mouthwatering, authentic Mexican cuisine, and their special Cinco de Mayo menu will not disappoint. Guests can look forward to flavorful tacos loaded with fresh ingredients, sizzling fajitas, and their famous handcrafted burritos stuffed with everything from tender grilled chicken to perfectly seasoned barbacoa. Of course, no celebration would be complete without their zesty guacamole, tangy salsa, and warm, house-made tortilla chips.

In addition to the incredible food, Burritos will be offering a selection of refreshing non-alcoholic beverages to complement the meal. From freshly made aguas frescas to classic Mexican sodas, there's something for everyone to enjoy. Don't forget to try

their signature horchata, and house-made iced tea, the perfect way to cool down while soaking in the festive atmosphere. Also, Burritos is BYOB so bring your cerveza and margarita and enjoy.

While there won't be live entertainment, Burritos will still provide a fun and welcoming environment for all guests. With festive decorations and a vibrant atmosphere, it's the perfect place to gather with friends and family to enjoy a delicious meal and celebrate the spirit of Cinco de Mayo.

Mark your calendars and make plans to join the Cinco de Mayo festivities at Burritos in Yardley. With delicious food, great drinks, and a warm, inviting atmosphere, it's the place to be on May 5th. Come hungry and get ready for a fiesta to remember!

For more information about Burritos in Yardley, located at 15 S Main St. in Yardley, call 215-493-2424 or visit [burritosyardleypa.com](http://burritosyardleypa.com).



## Explore 'Baseball and the Civil War and the Doubleday Myth'

Baseball is a game steeped in its own mythology, and perhaps none of its stories have been as distorted by time and legend as those of its origins. For generations, the tale of America's pastime being invented by Abner Doubleday in a cow pasture in Cooperstown, NY, was held up as the sport's seminal moment by the president of the National League, though Doubleday himself never made such a claim.

Author and historian Patricia Millen will reveal the true story of baseball's lineage as detailed in her groundbreaking book, "From Pastime to Passion: Baseball and the Civil War," in a presentation hosted by the Lower Makefield Historical Society on Sunday, April 27.

This free event, open to the public, will be held from 2–4 pm at the Lower Makefield Township Community Center, 1550 Oxford Valley Road, in Yardley.

Patricia Millen is a retired museum professional with over forty years experience working in museums in New Jersey and New York State. She holds a Bachelor of Science in American Studies from SUNY Albany and teaching certificates in United States and World History. She is the author of three books and dozens of articles on 19<sup>th</sup> century American history. Millen's latest book, "Images of America, Washington Crossing," was published in 2022. "From Pastime to Passion; Baseball

*continued on pg. 24*

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## PrimoHoagies Langhorne

PrimoHoagies in Langhorne is the perfect spot to grab a delicious sandwich, especially as the weather warms up and picnics become the ideal way to spend a sunny day. With spring just around the corner, the area's mild temperatures invite people to head outdoors, and PrimoHoagies makes it easy to enjoy a quality meal while soaking in the sunshine. Whether you're heading to a local park or hosting a backyard get-together, their fresh, made-to-order hoagies are the ultimate picnic food, offering a variety of options to satisfy all tastes.

With its wide selection of premium meats, cheeses, and freshly baked bread, PrimoHoagies ensures that every bite is as satisfying as the next. Whether you're a fan of classic Italian hoagies or prefer something unique, you'll find a sandwich to suit your taste. Their hoagies are perfect for sharing, making them a great choice for gatherings, especially when March Madness is in full swing. As you enjoy the excitement of the games, there's no better way to cheer on your team than with a hoagie in hand.

March Madness creates the perfect opportunity for get-togethers with friends and family, and PrimoHoagies fits right into the occasion. Instead of worrying about cooking or complicated meals, you can easily order hoagies and focus on the fun. Whether you're watching the big game at home or out in the fresh air, PrimoHoagies offers a convenient and delicious meal that's sure to please.

So, as the weather warms up, consider grabbing a PrimoHoagie and enjoying it on your next picnic or during your March Madness watch party. It's the perfect way to enjoy great food while embracing the beautiful weather.

PrimoHoagies Langhorne is located at 360 Oxford Valley Rd. in Langhorne. For more information, call 215-946-2400 or visit [www.primohoagies.com/location/Langhorne-PA](http://www.primohoagies.com/location/Langhorne-PA).



## Falls to restore, improve drainage for hockey rink

The hockey rink at Falls Township Community Park will receive a facelift as part of a restoration project aimed at improving drainage.

The rink, which was renovated in 2022 to include a new dasher board, resurfaced rink, and restored fencing, has had issues with rainwater collecting on its surface following storms.

Township Engineer Joseph Jones of Jones Engineering Associates said the upcoming improvements will address drainage issues. As part of his engineering services proposal, which the board approved 4-0, the firm will undertake surveying and preliminary analysis, engineering design, oversee bid administration, and provide inspection and construction oversight, including attendance at pre-construction meetings

and construction progress meetings.

Construction is expected to cost \$120,000 and will include repaving the rink after milling the upper surface and preparing crack seal and filler to provide a surface that drains rainfall.

In other business, the Supervisors adopted an ordinance amendment that closes parks an hour earlier. Under the change, Falls Township parks will be open from sunrise to sunset daily. The time change is aimed at curbing vandalism issues and ensuring public safety.

The sunset closure would be effective every day except for "unusual and unforeseen emergencies and approved special events," according to the ordinance.

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# HoneyBaked Ham

HoneyBaked Ham in Fairless Hills is the perfect destination for your Easter meal needs, offering a delicious and hassle-free way to celebrate the holiday. Known for its signature honey-glazed spiral-sliced ham, HoneyBaked Ham ensures your Easter feast is both flavorful and memorable. The slow-cooked ham, glazed with a sweet, tangy blend of honey and spices, is the centerpiece of any Easter gathering, and it comes in various sizes to suit your party, whether small or large.

In addition to their iconic ham, HoneyBaked Ham offers a variety of other holiday meal options. If you prefer turkey or pork ribs, these high-quality meats are also available, cooked to perfection and ready to serve. To complement your main course, you can add a range of delicious side dishes like loaded smashed potatoes, green bean casserole, macaroni and cheese, and more, ensuring a well-rounded and satisfying meal for everyone.

HoneyBaked Ham also offers a variety of desserts to sweeten your holiday celebration, including pies, cakes, and cookies. These treats are perfect for rounding off your Easter meal with something special for dessert. The best part is the convenience—by ordering in advance online, you can spend less time in the kitchen and more time with family and friends, making the most of your holiday.

The Fairless Hills location provides excellent customer service, ensuring you have a smooth and easy experience when picking up your Easter meal. Whether you're hosting a large family gathering or a smaller celebration, HoneyBaked Ham in Fairless Hills is a reliable and delicious choice for making your Easter unforgettable. Let HoneyBaked Ham take the stress out of your holiday meal planning, and enjoy a feast that everyone will love! Come see us at 636 Lincoln Highway, in Fairless Hill; call us at 215-504-1900; or order online at [www.honeybaked.com/stores/2508](http://www.honeybaked.com/stores/2508).



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## Dermatology Partners

### *The importance of annual skin cancer screenings*

By Basil Patel, MD, Dermatology Partners

Spring is around the corner—time to pack away the winter coats and soak up some sunshine! But before you dive into outdoor adventures, there's one thing you shouldn't forget: your annual skin cancer screening. It's quick, easy, and could literally save your life.

Skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S., with millions of cases diagnosed each year. The good news? When caught early, it's highly treatable. That's where we come in—at Dermatology Partners, our team is here to check your skin from head to toe and make sure everything looks good.

What can you expect during your skin check? It's a simple, thorough exam where we carefully examine your skin for any unusual spots, moles, or changes. You'll



*Dr. Basil Patel is a board-certified dermatologist and dermatopathologist with Dermatology Partners, specializing in medical and surgical dermatology and dermatopathology.*

have a chance to ask questions and point out any areas you're concerned about, and we'll guide you through every step. Our goal is to keep you comfortable and informed so you can walk out of your appointment with peace of mind.

Think of a skin check like an annual

tune-up for your skin—it's better to catch small issues before they become big problems. Even if you're a diligent sunscreen user, skin cancer can sneak up on anyone. It doesn't matter if you're fair-skinned, dark-skinned, young, or old—everyone can benefit from a screening.

And here's the best part: we offer immediate availability. No waiting months to be seen—many of our offices can get you in this week. Whether it's your first screening or just a yearly check-in, we've got you covered.

So, what are you waiting for? Protect your skin and your health by scheduling your skin cancer screening today. Call 888-818-3376 or book online at [www.dermpartners.com/patients/book-online](http://www.dermpartners.com/patients/book-online).

Your skin works hard to protect you—let's return the favor.

## Spring Community Book Sale

**Spring Community Book Sale**, Saturday, April 26, 9:15 am to 4:45 pm, and Sunday, April 27, 1:15 am to 4:45 pm. Visit the Friends of the Doylestown Library online at

[friendsofdoylestownlibrary.org](http://friendsofdoylestownlibrary.org), on Facebook at Doylestown Library Friends, or on Instagram at Dtowntofriends.



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# Eye Associates Of Bucks County

*Know the common signs of cataracts*

Cataracts are cloudy areas in the lens of the eye, older adults, particularly those over 60, are at a greater risk of developing cataracts.

Cataracts don't happen suddenly. They are a gradual process, whereby you aren't aware you're suffering from them right away. The first sign is that your vision starts to get blurry, hazy, or much less vibrant.

Then you may have difficulty driving, reading, or performing other everyday activities. Surgery is the only cure.

Cataracts affect a little more than half of all Americans who are older than 80, says the National Eye Institute – even though people can start developing them as early as age 40. Most cataracts are related to age; however, cataracts can result from an eye injury or after you have undergone surgery for glaucoma.

Cataracts are characterized by cloudy or blurred vision, but there are also a whole host of other symptoms, such as:

Sensitivity to glare and light.

Increasing difficulty with vision at night.

Need for brighter light when reading and performing other activities.

Seeing "halos" appear around lights.

Fading or yellowing of colors.

Frequent changes in eyeglass prescriptions or contact lens prescriptions.

The symptoms you may be experiencing aren't all exclusive to cataracts. They could be signs of other issues, which is why an annual exam is so important.

While you can't always prevent all instances of cataracts, there are steps you can take to reduce risk such as:

Wearing sunglasses and brimmed hats outdoors

Quitting the smoking

Eating fruits and vegetables, like spinach, collard greens, and kale

Get a dilated eye exam every two years once you hit 60.

Do you think you have cataracts? Contact Eye Associates of Bucks County if you are concerned you may be developing cataracts or need an annual exam. Contact us today to book your appointment at 1-833-921-6300.



*Dr. Bing Chiu, Comprehensive Ophthalmology, Cataracts, Glaucoma*

HEALTH

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# Capital Health

*New Capital Health location in Richboro expands access to primary care in Bucks County*

Capital Health Medical Group, a network of more than 600 physicians and other clinicians who offer primary and specialty care, has opened a new primary care office in Richboro to provide greater support for the health and well-being of residents in the Bucks County community.

The new Capital Health Primary Care in Richboro, located at 130 Almshouse Road, Suite 600,



*Andrew Davenport, MD and Debra Geiger, DO.*



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is led by Dr. Andrew Davenport and Dr. Deborah Geiger, two board certified physicians who offer services to provide care for children (ages five and older), adolescents, and adults.

Dr. Andrew Davenport is a board certified family medicine physician and treats children (ages five and older), adolescents, and adults. After receiving his medical degree from St. George's University School of Medicine in Grenada, West Indies, he completed a family medicine residency at Capital Health Medical Center – Hopewell in Pennington, New Jersey.

Dr. Debra Geiger is board certified in family medicine and sees children (ages five and older), adolescents, and adults. After receiving her medical degree from the University of Osteopathic Medicine and Health Sciences in Des Moines, Iowa, Dr. Geiger completed a family practice residency at St. Joseph's Hospital in Paterson, New Jersey. Before joining Capital Health, Dr. Geiger worked as a family practice physician in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Texas and Kansas.

To make an appointment, call 215.845.0731 or visit [capitalhealth.org/richboro](http://capitalhealth.org/richboro).

## Baseball

*continued from pg. 19*

and the Civil War," published by Heritage Press, was the first book published on the subject in 2001. Her work on the subject has been shared on the official blog of Major League Baseball.

Millen's articles on the history and evolution of baseball and the games played in prison camps during the Civil War have been published by "The Society of American Base-

ball Researchers," "Tri-County Historical Review," "McFarland Publishers," and "Major League Baseball." Patricia became interested in the subject of baseball during the Civil War while living and working in Cooperstown, NY, at the New York State Historical Association.

To learn more about this and other events, visit the Lower Makefield Historical Society at [lowermakefieldhistory.org/events](http://lowermakefieldhistory.org/events).



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# The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging

*The 42nd Bucks County Senior Games, Kick-off: May 28, Games: June 5-12*

**"Oh, the games people play" has a whole new meaning in June at the Bucks County Senior Games!**

With the kick-off on May 28, the Bucks County Senior Games' competitions begin on June 5, and end on June 12.

Open to adults 50+, the Senior Games encourage county-wide friendly competition and camaraderie. The Bucks County Area Agency on Aging and our partners—Bucks County Department of Parks & Recreation, Bucks County Community College and Bucks County Foundation for Aging—as well as many county volunteers, are bringing back participants' favorite events. This includes bocce, billiards, darts, chess, track & field, golf and more. The games are all levels of skill: You can be experienced or try something brand new. You may even win a medal! Oh, what fun they will be this year!!

Be sure to attend the Senior Games Kick-off Event on May 28. The Kick-off will feature games, live demonstrations, a free lunch (while supplies last) with friends, generously donated by Independence Blue Cross, and more. Meet our other



Senior Games sponsors and discover Bucks County's best active adult resources and activities.

The Kick-off Event is free and open to the public.

**Details:**

**Registration: March 17, 8:30 am to May 15, 11:59 pm**

Registration is \$10 to play unlimited games. (Note: Bowling and golf have an additional fee). Please also register for the free Kick-off Event.

**Kick-off Event: May 28, 11 am-1 pm**

Linksz Pavilion, Bucks County Community

College, 275 Swamp Road, Newtown, PA 18940.

Free and open to all.

**Senior Games: June 5 through June 12.**

Events take place throughout the county.

**Guide, registration information and link to the registration site can be found at:**

[www.buckscounty.gov/seniorgames](http://www.buckscounty.gov/seniorgames). Be sure to visit [www.buckscounty.gov/senior-games](http://www.buckscounty.gov/senior-games) and [www.facebook.com/bcaging](https://www.facebook.com/bcaging) for updates. You may also call 267-880-5700 #6 or email [srgames@buckscounty.org](mailto:srgames@buckscounty.org) for more information.



The 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Bucks County PA

## Senior Games June 5-12, 2025

**Registration:** March 17 - May 15

**Kick-off event:** May 28, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



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## Friends Village *Spring has sprung at Friends Village*

Friends Village is thrilled to usher in a new season of exciting programs! Whether you enjoy the outdoors or participating in enriching events, there's something for everyone this spring! Unless otherwise noted, all programs are free and will be hosted at Friends Village Styer Campus, located at 331 Lower Dolington Rd in Newtown.

On March 25, Miyo Moriuchi, a board member of the Urasenke Tankokai of Philadelphia (one of the three main schools of tea), will lead a special presentation on the Japanese Tea Ceremony.

Shikha Prashar, an Edward Jones Financial Advisor, continues her enlightening four-part financial education series with "Savvy Women, Smart Investors Take Charge of Their Financial Future" on March 27, followed by "Making it Last - Retirement Income Strategies" on April 17, and "Alzheimer's Conversations: Protecting Your Health and Wealth" on May 8.

On March 31, Britney O'Donnell from Britney O'Donnell



Garden Design, specializing in sustainable landscape design and installation, will present "Tried and True Native, Deer-Resistant Plants".

A hands-on Japanese Calligraphy (Shodou) class presented by Michelle Arnot on April 8 will allow participants to experience the harmony of ink, brush, and movement in this timeless tradition.

April will conclude with "Don't Leave a Mess When You Go", a workshop led by Susan Hoskins. On April 22, learn about the steps necessary to avoid leaving a mess for your loved ones. Topics will include designating beneficiaries, organizing important documents, managing accounts and passwords, HIPAA releases, and even decluttering.

Senior Planet returns for an engaging series of lectures and hands-on workshops covering essential digital skills! Learn about cloud storage, Google workspace, Smartphone photography, photo editing, YouTube, and more.

Sessions run from May 5 to June 18, featuring both informative lectures and interactive workshops.

These events offer a wonderful mix of cultural enrichment, financial education, and practical guidance for the spring season! For more information on any of these exciting programs and to register (required), please visit our website at [www.friends-village.org/growth](http://www.friends-village.org/growth), email [lhornyak@friends-village.org](mailto:lhornyak@friends-village.org), or call 215-968-3346 ext 200.

We look forward to welcoming you to these enriching sessions!

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[bheverly@friends-village.org](mailto:bheverly@friends-village.org)





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## FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Centers of Fairless Hills: Spelled different because they are different.

How does FYZICAL Fairless Hills stand apart from other clinics? Their unique spelling hints at a deeper difference: a commitment to personalized, efficient, and innovative care.

**Get Scheduled Quickly:** FYZICAL Fairless Hills prioritizes quick scheduling, often seeing patients the same day they call. This eliminates frustrating wait times, allowing individuals to begin their recovery promptly.

**Individual One on One Sessions:** The clinic emphasizes one-on-one sessions, ensuring therapists dedicate their full attention to each patient. This focused approach fosters better results and builds strong patient-therapist relationships.

**FYZICAL Balance Paradigm:** FYZICAL therapists are certified balance specialists, addressing gait, vestibular, dizziness, and vertigo issues. The clinic's Safety Overhead System (S.O.S.) further sets them apart. This innovative harness system provides a fall-free environment, enabling therapists to challenge patients safely and effectively.

**Unique Approach to Patient Therapy:** Beyond specialized balance care, FYZICAL Fairless Hills adopts a holistic approach. They evaluate and treat patients by looking beyond symptoms to identify the root cause of their problems. Customized treatment plans address everyone's unique needs.

**More than Balance Therapy:** While balance is a specialty, the clinic also offers traditional physical therapy services, including orthopedic, neurologic (including Parkinson's, MS and concussion), pre- and post-surgical rehabilitation, and sports rehabilitation.

Their primary goal is to empower patients to regain strength, increase range of motion, reduce pain, and

improve balance, ultimately restoring their quality of life. FYZICAL Fairless Hills understands that physical therapy is about more than just treatment; it's about rebuilding confidence and independence.

To experience their personalized care, contact FYZICAL Fairless Hills at 267-874-6000 or learn more at [www.fyzical.com/fairless-hills-pa](http://www.fyzical.com/fairless-hills-pa) and take the first step towards a healthier, stronger you.



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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS • HAPPENINGS • MARK YOUR

**Wednesday, March 26, 8 am to 4:30 pm, the Penn State Extension will offer a course to help produce growers meet food safety rules as outlined in the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA), administered by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. It will be held at the Penn State Extension Bucks County office, 576 Penns Park Rd. in Newtown.** Participants of this “Food Safety Modernization Act: Produce Grower Certification Training” will be eligible to receive a certificate from the Association of Food and Drug Officials that verifies they have completed the training. The cost of the course is \$40. For details and registration, visit [extension.psu.edu/fsma-grower-training](http://extension.psu.edu/fsma-grower-training) or call 877-345-0691.

**Friday, March 28, 7 pm at St. John the Evangelist Church, 752 Big Oak Rd. in Morrisville, Monaghan Music presents “The Word: A Gospel Opera”, in concert.** Admission to this family-friendly concert is free. General seating will be available, and all ages are welcome. Celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary with original cast members and composer Bill Monaghan. Enjoying more than 70 performances over ten years and a film, the rock opera is back once again in an intimate evening of song and Scripture. For more information, email [Willie.Monaghan@gmail.com](mailto:Willie.Monaghan@gmail.com) and visit [www.MonaghanMusic.com](http://www.MonaghanMusic.com). For more information about the “The Word: A Gospel Opera”, visit [thewordagospelopera.com](http://thewordagospelopera.com).

**Saturday, March 29, 10 am to noon, Bucks County Community College Hosts “A Nakashima Morning,” a family-friendly celebration of art, literature, and legacy, taking place in the Orangery on the Newtown Campus.** This program, sponsored by the Volta Center for Writing Arts and Bucks County Community College Libraries, is designed for all ages, offering families and community members an opportunity to explore the artistry and philosophy of the renowned woodworker George Nakashima through storytelling, poetry, and hands-on activities. The event will feature a discussion with Mira Nakashima, daughter of George Nakashima and a distinguished designer. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, email [library@bucks.edu](mailto:library@bucks.edu).

**Saturday, March 29, noon till 4:30 pm, American Legion 960 will hold its Basket Raffle at 1537 Woodbourne Rd. in Levittown in the lower level.** Sheets of 10 chances for \$5. The drawing will take place at 7 pm during the Cash Bash Event. No need to be present to win. For more information, call 215-813-0957.

**Sunday, March 30, the Doylestown Lion Club presents a Spring Bingo Bonanza at the American Legion Hall, 315 North Street in Doylestown.** Doors open at noon; the first game is at 1 pm. It will feature Longaberger® Baskets and a variety of Coach® bags plus a special silent auction. Tickets cost \$30 at the door. All proceeds support local charities. For ticket information, contact Myra at 215-348-5019. Also, visit [doylestownlions@aol.com](mailto:doylestownlions@aol.com).

**Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6, 10 am–12 pm, Art in the Park is back.** Visit us in a beautiful country setting down a long country lane in The Carriage House in Tamanend Park, 1255 Second Street Pike in Southampton. Local artists present original artwork,

unique gifts, hand painted cards and more. Start your art collection today. Free admission to the show. Cash or checks required for any purchases. Presented by The Carriage House Artists. For more information, contact 215-840-6519.

**Saturday, April 5, 2–3 pm, the Friends of the Yardley Makefield Library will hold a community program, “Don’t Leave a Mess Behind” at the Yardley-Makefield Library, 1080 Edgewood Rd. in Yardley.** This presentation, given by Susan Hoskins, offers practical information that will help you be better prepared for the time when someone else will take charge of what you leave behind. This event is free, but seating is limited. For more information, visit [www.ymfriends.org](http://www.ymfriends.org) or email [yardleyfriends@yahoo.com](mailto:yardleyfriends@yahoo.com).

**Saturday, April 12, 10 am at the LMT administrative building, 1100 Edgewood Road,** opposite the library in Yardley, the Lower Makefield Township Environmental Advisory Council will present a lecture on Rain Gardens. Geoff Goll, Chief Officer of the highly regarded Environmental Engineering firm, Princeton Hydro, will discuss the environmental benefits of a rain garden and how you can create one on your own property. For more information, contact Dominique Mitchell at [eachucks@gmail.com](mailto:eachucks@gmail.com).

**Now through Sunday, April 13, Saturdays and Sundays from 1 pm to 4 pm, the New Hope Colony Foundation for the Arts presents the “Janet Marsh Hunt’s Creative Family Tree” exhibition at 2594 River Rd. in New Hope.** Janet Marsh Hunt, a painter and gifted printmaker, was a gallerist and friend to artists for decades before her passing in 2023. As the managing partner at the Coryell Gallery in Lambertville, she mentored hundreds of artists. She was also descended from generations of prominent poets, painters, printmakers, and influential teachers at celebrated art schools. For more information about this exhibition, visit [www.newhopecolony.org](http://www.newhopecolony.org).

**Sunday, April 13, 9 am–noon, the Jesse W. Soby American Legion Post #148 will host Breakfast with the Easter Bunny at 115 West Richardson Ave. in Langhorne.** Enjoy eggs, pancakes, sausage, bacon, coffee, tea, and juice. \$8 for adults; \$4 for children; and under 4 years old is free. Come enjoy breakfast and a visit with the Easter Bunny. Don’t forget your cameras!

**Tuesday, April 15, at 7 pm at the Bensalem Senior Center, 1850 Byberry Rd. in Bensalem, the Trevoze Horticultural Society’s monthly meeting will feature the topic, “Managing Garden and Landscape Weeds”.** Guest speaker, Scott Guiser, will explain the difference in native and introduced weeds, their threat to crop production, rights-of-way and aesthetic interest. He will also describe how non-chemical control is best approached in an Integrated pest management manner and consideration of preventative, biological, mechanical, cultural and chemical options. All meetings are open to the public; a donation of \$5 is requested from non-members. For further information, please contact 856-866-9163, visit [www.trevozegardeners.org](http://www.trevozegardeners.org) or visit them on Facebook.



**Friday, April 25, 5–8:30 pm, the Northampton Township Senior Center will host its Spring Fling Shopping Event at its senior center, 165 Township Rd. in Richboro.** Come shop from local vendors and crafters offering a wide variety of handcrafted jewelry, accessories, gourmet foods, candles, home decor and much more! Admission is free. For more information call 215-357-8199. Vendors are wanted. Email [nhsc@nhtwp.org](mailto:nhsc@nhtwp.org) for an application.

**Saturday, April 26 at 9 am, the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Earth Day Trail Race will be held at 2955 Edge Hill Rd. in Huntingdon Valley.** The whole family can celebrate Earth Day Weekend on a scenic, mixed terrain course, choosing to run 10K, or walk or run 5K or 1 mile. This year, with the help of the Southampton Library, the 1-mile course will be converted into a Tale Trail, housing a Story Stroll featuring "The Very Hungry Caterpillar", which will be fun for kids and adults alike. All proceeds will benefit the Pennypack Trust's mission to protect open space and habitat. Register at [runsignup.com/Race/PA/HuntingdonValley/PERT5KTrailRunWalk](https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/HuntingdonValley/PERT5KTrailRunWalk).

**Saturday, April 26 at 2 pm, Monaghan Music presents "My Life: The Struggles, Successes, & Songs of Billy Joel", performed by local musician Bill Monaghan and his band, Some Assembly Required, at Archbishop Wood High School in the Sophia A Friedman Auditorium, 655 York Road in Warminster.** Suggested Donation \$15; general seating, and all ages are welcome. All proceeds to benefit the Michael S Monaghan Scholarship Fund at Archbishop Wood High School. For more information, email [Willie.Monaghan@gmail.com](mailto:Willie.Monaghan@gmail.com) and visit out [www.MonaghanMusic.com](http://www.MonaghanMusic.com). For more information about the Michael S Monaghan Scholarship, visit [www.monaghanmusic.com/Scholarship.html](http://www.monaghanmusic.com/Scholarship.html).

**Tuesday, April 29, 7 to 9 pm, the Pennypack Ecological Restoration Trust, 2955 Edge Hill Rd. in Huntingdon Valley,** will be showing all the photo contest entries from 2024 in its Visitor's Center and announcing the winning photos, which will be available for viewing and purchase later this year. Come celebrate images of PERT and meet the photographers. This event is free to the public. To register, visit [app.etapestry.com/cart/PennypackEcologicalRestorati/default/item.php?ref=1251.0.329462183](http://app.etapestry.com/cart/PennypackEcologicalRestorati/default/item.php?ref=1251.0.329462183)

**Friday, May 2, 1–3 pm, join the Bucks County Community College's 18th Annual Salute to Mothers Scholarship at the Tyler Formal Gardens, Bucks County Community College, 275 Swamp Rd. in Newtown.** Attendees are encouraged to wear their best Kentucky Derby themed hats; the more fanciful, the better! To order tickets or to make a donation in support of the Salute to Mothers Scholarship, visit [interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E15010&id=251](http://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E15010&id=251)

**Saturday, May 10, 1 pm, Middletown Senior Citizens Association holds its Cash Bingo fundraiser at Middletown Senior Center, 2142 Trenton Rd. in Levittown.** Doors open at noon. \$30 in advance; \$35 at the door if available. Limited to 100 players. Fee includes 10 games of Bingo (3 cards per sheet) and 4 specials. Extra cards on sale. Cash prizes, raffle baskets, 50/50 tickets, and beverages and snacks will also be available. Tickets on sale now. For more information, call 215-945-2920.

**Saturday, May 17, come see the World Famous Mark Reno "Elvis", two-time national champion, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church Hall, 89 Pinewood Dr. in Levittown.** Doors open at 6 pm; dinner begins at 6:30 pm; and the show starts at 7:30 pm. The \$35 cost includes dinner. For ticket information, call 267-980-9336.

## MABGA Junior Golf Program announces first outing on April 14th

Every year, The Middle Atlantic Blind Golf Association's (MABGA) Junior Golf Program holds monthly outings and clinics for boys and girls ages 7–21 who are blind or visually impaired. All skill levels are welcome, and their clinics are free.

This year's first clinic will be held on Saturday April 14 at Makefield Highlands Golf Club in Yardley from 10–12am. The Junior Golf Program provides each player with a PGA teacher who will give lessons at a golf course near players' houses. They also

provide golf clubs, golf balls and a golf bag free of charge.

"Our goal is to teach children golf, but also to provide a fun-filled day for the entire family," says Mike Molloy, Program

Director of the Junior Program. "Our success is measured in smiles."

The Junior golfers usually play for about two hours and then sit down to an informal

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## Junior Golf Program

*continued from pg. 29*

meal together, where families have an invaluable opportunity to network.

Ed Gibson, Head PGA Professional, Spirit Golf looks forward to working with the MABGA annually and is excited again this year to host at Makefield Highlands Golf Club. Overall the Spirit Golf Team understands that golf is a game of vision, but not just the kind you see. Supporting blind golfers proves that with passion, guidance, and determination, no obstacle is too great to overcome!"

If you are interested in learning to play golf, make new friends, have fun, and would like more information, contact Mike Molloy at 215 499-0599 or [mgmolloy@aol.com](mailto:mgmolloy@aol.com) Also visit <http://mabgajrgolf.org>

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