

# Fairless FOCUS

## Celebrating Student Artistry

Levittown's Elaina Villanueva (left) displays her ceramic rainbow, and Amelia Villanueva presents her coil bowl during this year's 70th Annual Pennsbury District Art Show. See story on page 2.



Photo by  
Mimi Black



## A legacy of creativity at Pennsbury School District's 70th Annual Art Show

*by June Portnoy*

The Pennsbury School District marked a major milestone this May with its 70th Annual Pennsbury District Art Show at the PHS East Gymnasium in Fairless Hills. Held from May 6 through May 8, the show celebrated seven decades of student artistry with thousands of artworks from kindergarten through 12th grade, dazzling installations, and new interactive experiences that captivated students and families.

“This year’s show is extra special,” said Blair Greiner, Art Coordinator for Pennsbury School District and veteran art educator of 26 years. “We’re celebrating our 70th anniversary, and it’s been incredible to watch this event grow. What started as an ‘art fair’ has evolved into a comprehensive showcase of both 2D and 3D works, including drawings, paintings, sculptures, mixed media, photography, digital art, and even stained glass.”

One of the most talked-about features of this year’s show was the K–5 Celebration Tunnel, a glowing black-light installation featuring artwork from every student in kindergarten through 5th grade. Inside the darkened tunnel, visitors were immersed in a glowing wonderland of col-



*Kelli Morrow, art teacher at William Penn Middle School and Nicholl Strouse, art teacher at Charles Boehm Middle School at the welcome table.*  
Photos by Mimi Black



*Families walk through the K-5 Celebration Tunnel, a glowing black-light installation featuring artwork from every student in kindergarten through 5th grade.*

orful creations illuminating the walls and ceilings.

Meanwhile, students in grades 6 through 8 contributed to a stunning installation overhead with hand-drawn outlines of their hands and names arranged to form a giant “70” on the gym’s ceiling.

Another highlight was the introduction of live art demonstrations, a new initiative led by members of the National

Art Honor Society. High school students painted, sculpted, and threw pottery on wheels in the center of the gym while attendees observed the creative process firsthand.

“These demonstrations have been incredibly engaging,” Greiner shared. “Elementary school students were fascinated watching high schoolers throw clay on the pottery wheel or

*continued on pg. 18*

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**spot  
light**

## Kenderdine's Heating Oil & HVAC

*Spring allergies got you down? Your AC filter might be to blame*

Spring brings sunshine, fresh air, and for many of us, sniffles and sneezes. While you may be quick to blame blooming trees and high pollen counts, your indoor air could be part of the problem. If your AC filter hasn't been changed or cleaned recently, it might be circulating allergens instead of keeping them out.

Your HVAC system works hard to maintain a comfortable temperature, but it also plays a big role in your home's air quality. A dirty or clogged filter can't trap dust, pollen, and pet dander effectively, which means those particles stay in the air

you breathe.

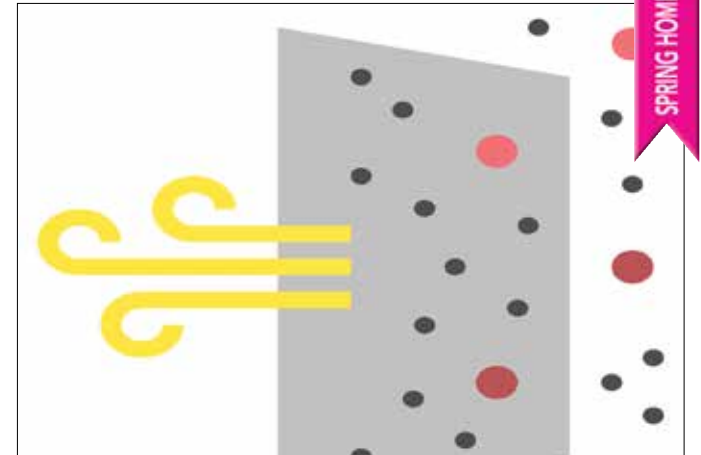
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How often should you check your AC filter? It depends on your filter type:

- **Disposable filters:** Swap them out every 1–3 months. Households with pets or allergy sufferers should lean toward the monthly mark.
- **Washable filters:** These should be cleaned every three months. After rinsing, make sure they're fully dry before putting them back in place.

Pro tip: Always give the filter rack a quick vacuum or wipe-down when you change or clean the filter; it helps keep dust from blowing back into your system.

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spot light

## RD's Total Lawn

*Rooted in faith, fueled by family: A journey from corporate to lawncare*

Ryan and Lindsay Dittes own and operate RD's Total Lawn, a local lawn care and turf management company. Going back to 2018 when the business was founded, both Ryan and Lindsay were working full-time jobs with one child at home. Ryan started mowing some lawns out of his SUV with a fold up mower just as a means of some extra money.

With steady growth over time the business was able to allow Lindsay to resign from her teaching job and stay at home to raise the kids. Last year in 2024, Ryan was able to take the leap of faith and resign from his full-time job at Coca-Cola to be able to focus full time on growing the lawn-care business. Ryan says that he is very grateful for his time in the corporate world where he learned so much. Ryan and Lindsay are excited to see what plans the Lord has in store for them as they grow their family and business.

As stated in the company name, "Total Lawn," they

primarily focus on the regular maintenance of the lawn itself with expertise in turf management. If you're someone who likes to support local and buy local here is a great company to consider.

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encourage you to check out their reputation online. Call/Text Ryan at 215-688-1622 or visit them on the web at [www.RDTotalLawn.com](http://www.RDTotalLawn.com).

## Airforce JROTC Cadet honored by the Washington Crossing Chapter SAR

On April 24, the Pennsbury High School Airforce Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFJROTC) Unit PA-20171, held its annual awards ceremony. The AFJROTC program at Pennsbury High School was the first unit of its kind established in Pennsylvania in 2017. Cadet

Kema Brown was recognized by the Washington Crossing Chapter Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) with the SAR Bronze JROTC medal, certificate and SAR challenge coin. This cadet was chosen by Aerospace Science Instructor, Retired Airforce Technical Sergeant

Chauncey Ivey, as the recipient of this award based on her superior leadership abilities, military bearing and academic excellence. Cadet Brown was selected to serve in a leadership role in the Company. This outstanding Cadet exemplifies

*continued on pg. 5*

spot light

## We Buy Any House Fast

*The 'fixer-upper' fallacy: Why selling your home shouldn't be a headache*

The traditional image of selling a house conjures up a whirlwind of repairs, renovations, and endless showings. For many homeowners with properties past their prime, this "fixer-upper" mentality becomes a barrier to entering the market. But what if there was a way to bypass the hassle and still reap the rewards of a successful sale?

Enter the innovative "Fix & Sell Solution." This approach dismantles the "fixer-upper" fallacy by prioritizing a smoother, stress-free experience for homeowners. Instead of shouldering the burden of repairs and renovations, homeowners can leverage the expertise of professionals to enhance their property's value.

These targeted improvements attract buyers and expedite the selling process, ensuring a faster turnaround and a more lucrative sale.

The Fix & Sell Solution flips the script on traditional home selling. It empowers homeowners to unlock the hidden potential of their properties without the stress of managing the process.

By eliminating upfront costs and streamlining the experience, this approach ensures a win-win for all parties involved. Homeowners can breathe a sigh of relief and pocket a bigger profit, while buyers secure a move-in ready dream home.



So ditch the outdated "fixer-upper" narrative and embrace a new era of streamlined home selling. Let the Fix & Sell Solution transform your property into a profitable

opportunity, with minimal effort and maximum return. Contact us at 800-976-SOLD (7653) or visit us online at [webuyanyhousefast.com](http://webuyanyhousefast.com).



From left: Kevin Treiber, Chapter Veteran's Committee, and Cadet Kema Brown. Photo taken by SAR member Shane Treiber.

### JROTC

*continued from pg. 4*

the high ideals and principles which motivated and sustained our patriot ancestors. Past Washington Crossing Chapter

President and Veteran Committee Chairman Bill Hampton processed the award package. Chapter Veteran's Committee member Kevin Treiber presented the award to Cadet Brown.

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# 2025 Bucks County Sports Hall of Fame Inductees

by Karen Sangillo

The Bucks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame inducted its Class of 2025 on Thursday, April 24 at Brookside Manor in Feasterville.

Inductees included Lindsay Krasna (Pennsbury, basketball, volleyball); Donna Nicholson (Pennsbury, athlete, coach, PIAA official); Joseph Paluszek (Conwell-Egan, bowling); Victoria Worthen Lang (Council Rock South, track and field); Megan Schafer Miller (Neshaminy, soccer); Carl Poff (Council Rock, wrestling); Allison Nemeth Wunsch (Neshaminy, field hockey, softball); John Kopack (Bristol, wrestling); Jesse Hellyer (Bensalem, basketball); and Sylvia Kalasz (Quakertown, athlete, coach, athletic director).

Kopack was a top wrestler for Bristol and for Millersville State Teachers' College (now Millersville University) before becoming



(L to R): Carl Poff, Lindsay Krazna, Megan Schafer Miller, Syliva Kalasz, John Kopack, Joseph Paluszek, Victoria Worthen Lang, Allison Nemeth Wunsch, Donna Nicholson, Jesse Hellyer (behind Nicholson).



Kelly Kopack Kauffman, inducted in 2022 for her field hockey career at Neshaminy, is with her father John Kopack, longtime wrestling coach at Pennsbury, inducted this year.



Lindsay Krasna (Pennsbury, basketball, volleyball) poses with Donna Nicholson (Pennsbury, athlete, coach, PIAA official).

the longtime wrestling coach at Pennsbury.

His daughter, Kelly Kopack Kauffman, was inducted in 2022 for her stellar field hockey career at Neshaminy and Duke. They join Pancho Micir (2016) and Addie Micir (2022) as the only father-daughter pairs in

the Hall of Fame.

"This is very, very special," Kopack said. "I'm thrilled to be in the same Hall of Fame as my daughter, Kelly. That's something really special for me."

Krasna set the all-time scoring record at Pennsbury

*continued on pg. 10*

spot  
light

## Rosenello's Windows, Siding and Roofing

*40 years of putting Bucks County homeowners first*

In Bucks County, where pride in homeownership runs deep, Rosenello's Windows, Siding and Roofing has stood out for four decades—not just for high-quality work, but for its unwavering commitment to customer service.

Since opening their doors 40 years ago, Rosenello's has built its reputation by focusing on what matters most: the homeowner. From Newtown to Doylestown, Yardley to Bensalem, residents across Bucks County have come to rely on Rosenello's not just for exceptional windows, siding, and roofing—but for a service experience that's honest, attentive,

and stress-free.

"At Rosenello's, we don't just install roofs or windows—we build relationships," says the team. "Every project starts with listening, and every customer deserves respect, clear communication, and follow-through."

Whether you're replacing aging siding or exploring energy-efficient window options, Rosenello's takes the time to understand your goals and make recommendations that suit your needs and budget—never with pressure, always with integrity. Their crews treat each property as if it were their



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own, and the company stands behind every job long after it's complete.

This people-first approach is why so much of Rosenello's business comes from referrals and repeat customers throughout the county. Even as the company has grown and kept pace with the latest products and technologies, one thing has never changed: their dedica-

tion to treating customers like neighbors—because they are.

As they celebrate 40 years in business, Rosenello's remains proud to serve Bucks County with the same values they started with: honesty, craftsmanship, and true customer care.

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

## NOVA's gala was out of this world

NOVA, Bucks County's comprehensive crime victim services agency, hosted more than 250 guests for its *SuperNova*, an out-of-this-world gala on Thursday, April 3, at The Fuge in Warminster. The gala

raised over \$200,000 to support NOVA's free and confidential victim services for children and adults and the continuum of violence prevention programs that NOVA brings to the com-

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Penny Ettinger (rear), Executive Director, NOVA, assists auctioneer Cate Smit (front) with the auctioning of a Nakashima table at NOVA's SuperNOVA gala. Photo: BWAGS Photography.

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## ECI Comfort *Energy-saving thermostat tips for spring*

As the days warm up, your thermostat can help you stay comfortable while keeping energy bills in check. Here are simple adjustments that can make a big difference:

### Raise the temperature when you're away

When no one is home, set your thermostat 7–10 degrees higher. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, this can lower cooling costs by up to 10%.

### Use a programmable or smart thermostat

Modern thermostats automatically adjust temperatures based on your schedule. This saves energy without the hassle of constant manual changes.

### Use ceiling fans with your AC

Fans help circulate cool air, allowing you to set your thermostat about 4 degrees higher and still feel comfortable. Remember: fans cool people, not rooms, so turn them off when you leave.

### Avoid placing heat-producing appliances near the thermostat

### ducting appliances near the thermostat

Lamps, TVs, and other electronics can cause the thermostat to register false heat readings, making your system run longer than necessary.

### Get ahead of the heat

Spring is the perfect time to develop energy-saving habits before the full summer heat arrives. These small adjustments reduce wear on your system and lower utility bills.



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efficiency before the summer heat sets in. Call us at 267-227-0995 or visit our website [www.ecicomfort.com/ac-2025](http://www.ecicomfort.com/ac-2025).

### NOVA

*continued from pg. 7*

munity each year.

The event is NOVA's largest fundraiser of the year in support of the organization's programs and services. *SuperNova* Gala guests were treated to a beer and wine bar, a four-course dinner, curated live and silent auctions, as well as entertainment by the Perkasi Jazz Band and DJ Juhas, and tours of the centrifuge and the control room. In addition, Jacqueline DeLeon, the founder of Bucks County Mama™, LLC, was in attendance as the *SuperNova* Social Chair.

Always on the cutting edge of service delivery, NOVA provides a continuum of programs to meet individual needs, including but not limited to: a 24-7 victim helpline, forensic exams in area hospitals, forensic

interviews for children who have been sexually or physically abused, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy provided in office, home or schools, legal advocacy and support through the criminal justice system. In addition, NOVA provides prevention education and professional training in schools, the community and through continuing education conferences.

"This year's gala was truly an 'out of this world' experience," said Penelope Ettinger, Executive Director of NOVA. "It was a wonderful evening and an opportunity to thank everyone who supports our mission to help victims of crime and prevent violence through education and advocacy. We are deeply grateful to our business sponsors and individual donors for making this event possible."

## "Hit To Be Fit" Day was a real hit

A day of celebrating the great sport of tennis during "May Is National Tennis Month" was a real hit. The special event, "Hit to Be Fit" Day, was held on May 10 in conjunction with more than 300 other tennis facilities and sites across the country that were playing tennis simultaneously, showcased the ease and fun of learning tennis while benefiting from a great cardio workout.



Twenty-four tennis enthusiasts, from very beginners to

accomplished players, gathered at Council Rock North High School's tennis courts to participate in Red Ball—short-court rallying that provides a great way to learn and practice the game—as well as Cardio Triples—heart-pumping match play that keeps everyone moving.

BCTA (Bucks County Tennis Association) coaches Craig Batten and Cielo Orjuela led the group through various warmup and play activities. In addition

to learning and improving their tennis games, participants enjoyed camaraderie, laughter, and giveaways at the end of the match. Kudos to Tom Engler for receiving the "Most Enthusiastic" award, which was challenging to select given all the on-court spirit.

The BCTA, which hosted the event, thanks its coaches, the USTA, and USTA Middle States for their support. And, of course, it thanks the great group of tennis enthusiasts who came out to enjoy the fun (and battle the wind).

The BCTA offers public park programs in communities throughout Bucks County with multiple five-week offerings from May through October. Don't miss the fun! To register for a program near you, visit [playtennis.usta.com/buckscounty](http://playtennis.usta.com/buckscounty).

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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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# SCORE's small business mentoring, resources help military veterans succeed

*During National Military Appreciation Month and beyond, SCORE mentors offer resources for veterans to start and grow their entrepreneurial enterprises.*

Veterans' training, resolve and fortitude to overcome challenges make them the ideal entrepreneur.

They soar as small business owners. According to research, 80 percent of the 1.7 million veteran-owned business owners consider themselves successful. The small business five-year survival rate for veterans is double that of the non-veteran population.

Data from the U.S. Small Business Administration has shown that small business owners with an established mentor have twice the success rate – 70 percent versus 35 percent – as those who do not

have a mentor.

In conjunction with National Military Appreciation Month in May, SCORE, a national non-profit organization that assists small businesses, has developed specific resources for use by its 10,000 mentors nationally in mentoring veterans.

The SCORE Veterans Small Business Resource Guide features veterans-specific resources to offer insight on developing a business plan, securing funding, starting a business, buying an existing business, buying a franchise, connecting with one of SCORE's volunteer mentors, and gaining a better understanding of



business through webinars and workshops.

"Volunteering at SCORE is my way of showing appreciation to those who helped and guided me during my career while sharing my background and experience to help entrepreneurs succeed," said SCORE Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President Ed Coleman. "While I enjoy working with all SCORE

clients, as a U.S. Army veteran, I particularly enjoy working with veterans to translate their military experience into entrepreneurship. Helping clients realize their dreams is very gratifying and the essence of the SCORE mission."

SCORE Bucks County Chapter

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## Sports Hall of Fame

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with 1,292 points. She went on to play at Cornell, then professionally in Israel.

"It's such an honor to be here," she said. "The players I played with in high school sports and beyond are a big part of who I am, and to be here and connected to my roots is really special."

Lang was a pole vaulter, winning the PIAA indoor title in 2009 for the Golden Hawks. She competed at Princeton, winning numerous Ivy League titles.

"It's really amazing that people are recognizing me for things I did in high school and college," she said. "I'm very thankful to the committee for that recognition and the opportunity to relive the good old days and also to remember all

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## Sports Hall of Fame

*continued from pg. 10*

the growth I had from sports."

Miller set the Neshaminy record for career goals (102) and assists (78) and was the Gatorade Pennsylvania Player of the Year in 2014. She was a member of Penn State's first-ever NCAA championship team (2015).

"It was an experience of a lifetime," Miller said. "Everyone asks me if I liked high school or college better, but they were so different; it's hard to choose. But I loved both and I'm very happy to be here."

Donna Nicholson excelled in field hockey, basketball and softball at Pennsbury. She returned to her alma mater to coach girls basketball and track. She was a PIAA field hockey official for 38 years and was named the Field Hockey Official of the Year in 1995.

"Being a graduate of Pennsbury and being able to come back to Pennsbury as a teacher meant the world to me," she said. "It was such an amazing opportunity to give back and to impart some of the values that I learned at Pennsbury to student-athletes at Pennsbury."

Paluszek set the Philadelphia Catholic League record in 1998 with a 218.6 average. After graduating from Wichita State, he joined the Professional Bowlers Association in 2005, winning five PBA titles.

"This is an ultimate gratification for many years of dedication," said Paluszek, who owns Bowlero and Joe's Pro Shop in Feasterville. "It's a testament to the people who supported me and gave me the confidence to go on for so long."

Poff was another three-sport athlete, competing in wrestling, soccer and cross country at Council Rock. He was the head coach at Lock Haven from 1990-2002 and is a member of

the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.

"It's a tremendous honor to be recognized by your local community," he said. "I have nothing but good memories about my experience in Bucks County and Council Rock. It's a special night for me."

Wunsch was the goaltender for Neshaminy's field hockey team, starting for three seasons and setting a program record for shutouts (35). She was all-state first team in field hockey and softball.

She played both sports at Princeton.

"They were all wonderful years, both at Neshaminy and Princeton," she said. "I was so fortunate to have fantastic people around me; so many great coaches, so many great teammates."

For more information about the Bucks County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame or to make a nomination, go to [www.buckscountysportshof.com](http://www.buckscountysportshof.com).

## SCORE

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Co-Chair Leah Cianfrani said mentors continually expand their knowledge base to better assist veterans on their entrepreneurial journey.

"Military transitioning from active duty have different needs than civilians in terms of starting a business," said Cianfrani. "It's wonderful to have veterans' resources at our volunteers' fingertips to aid in mentoring our service men and women."

Veterans account for about 10 percent of SCORE's client base. Veterans own 10 percent

of small businesses and 14 percent of franchises. Since franchisors have a defined plan of what the business should entail, veterans represent the perfect franchisee given their ability to effectively execute plans as intended.

Nationally, veterans own nearly 2 million businesses, employing more than 5 million Americans, and generating more than \$1 trillion in annual income. Of those, 40 percent of veteran-owned businesses generate more than \$500,000 in annual revenue.

To learn more about SCORE, request a mentor or volunteer to be one, visit [score.org](http://score.org).

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# Empower Wheels Car Clinic provides free car maintenance

## Services to families in need

On Saturday, May 3, Drive And Thrive hosted its most recent Empower Wheels Car Clinic at Koller Automotive in Bensalem, providing free vehicle maintenance to individuals and families facing financial and personal hardship. Thanks to the generous partnership of

Koller Automotive, 15 vehicles received vital services including oil changes, fluid top-offs, and other general maintenance completely free of charge.

Throughout the event, participants enjoyed a festive Cinco de Mayo-themed nacho bar while their vehicles were being serviced. Once maintenance was complete, each car received a complimentary hand wash, courtesy of dedicated

volunteers. Drive And Thrive exists to serve those whose transportation needs are critical to their wellbeing, and this clinic was no exception. Attendees included women and



Maryanne, a single parent of two children with multiple disabilities, is grateful to Drive and Thrive, the only resource she found to help with car repairs so she can take her children to their many doctor appointments.

their children who recently fled domestic violence, grandparents raising grandchildren on fixed incomes, and individuals managing serious medical challenges.

One participant, Maryanne of North Wales, shared, "I am a single parent of two children with multiple disabilities. Drive and Thrive is the only resource I have found to help with car repairs. I take my children to so many doctor appointments and therapies at CHOP and Nemours that having a car is essential to help them get the care they need to flourish. Thank you so much Drive and Thrive for making sure my car is safe so I can keep my focus on helping my children and supporting them. I am so grateful you saw a need and took action caring for the community."

While applications for the Empower Wheels Car Clinic are currently closed for this quarter, individuals in need of urgent assistance may still apply for our Critical Repair Program or Fuel/Lift Assistance Program by visiting [www.comedriveandthrive.org](http://www.comedriveandthrive.org).

Together, we're driving change—one vehicle, one family, one story at a time.



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Please call 215.295.7725 to make a reservation as there is limited seating.

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# Bucks County Community College receives \$400,000

*to build Healthcare Pipeline through new Pre-Apprenticeship Program*

Officials at Bucks County Community College are proud to announce that the college has been awarded \$400,000 through the PA Department of Labor and Industry to develop and implement a new Healthcare Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

Bucks will partner with Drexel University, District 1199C, Bucks County Workforce and Economic Development

Board, regional hospitals, and local medical practices to create a career-aligned registered pre-apprenticeship program. Bucks will provide free training and job placement services for two inaugural cohorts, graduating 24 pre-apprentices over the next year and a half. Graduates of the 12-week pre-apprenticeship program will receive recognized certifications in EKG tech, certified phlebotomy

technician, CPR for healthcare providers, mental health first aid for fire/EMS, and child abuse recognition and reporting training, as well as a college certificate of completion and a pre-apprenticeship certificate.

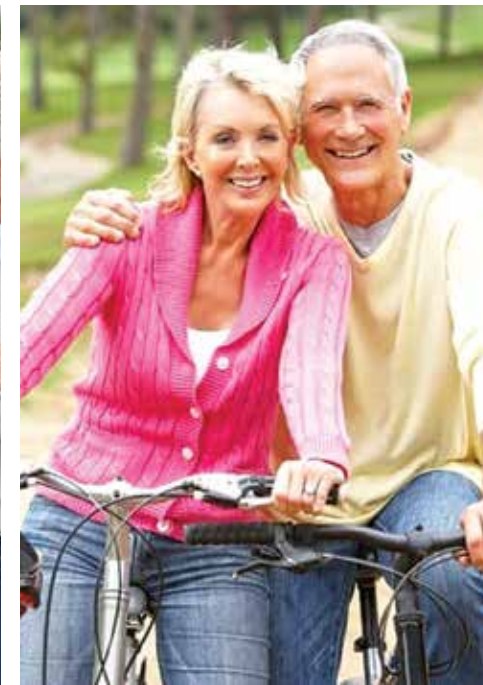
"We have received overwhelming support from the healthcare industry for this pre-apprenticeship program," said Bucks President & CEO Patrick M. Jones. "Given the

success of our pre-apprenticeships in other sectors, we are thrilled to be able to offer the education and training necessary for area residents to launch their allied health careers with jobs that are in high demand and pay family-sustaining wages."

The PA Department of Labor and Industry grant will afford Bucks' Center for Workforce Development the opportunity to venture further into the healthcare sector and build upon the success Bucks has had in building pre-apprenticeships in manufacturing and the building trades. The state funding will enable the college to have a greater reach in the Southeastern Pennsylvania region resulting in providing increased enrollment and pathways to high-paying jobs and apprenticeships that are in high demand.

The free 12-week career training programs will likely begin in early 2026 and be held Monday-Friday, 8:30 am-3 pm in the college's Center for Advanced Technologies (CAT) on the Epstein Campus at Lower Bucks in Bristol. The CAT is a brand-new, state-of-the-art facility offering job seekers access to high-quality career training programs. Students will also have the opportunity to work with Drexel University, District 1199C, regional hospitals, employers, and apprenticeship programs in the industry.

For more information about this program, contact Associate Vice President for Workforce Development Susan Herring at 267-685-4827 or [susan.herring@bucks.edu](mailto:susan.herring@bucks.edu).



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# Bucks County Opportunity Council Celebrates Economic Self-Sufficiency Graduation 2025

The Bucks County Opportunity Council (BCOC) hosted the 2025 Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Graduation on April 30 at The Warrington Country Club. This year's celebration honored 18 graduates, bringing the program's total to 1131 people in 420 households.

Bucks County Commissioner Bob Harvie kicked off the evening by welcoming all the guests and commending the BCOC ES Program for many years of contributing to the improvement of the lives of Bucks County residents. BCOC's CEO Erin Lukoss then presented the annual Champion of Self-Sufficiency award to Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick. The award honors a business, partner, or community member for their role in the success of the ES program. Kyle Melander, Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick's representative, accepted the Self-Sufficiency Champion award on behalf of the congressman and shared a video of Fitzpatrick congratulating the graduates on their accomplishments. He spoke about the importance of the ES program and its impact within Bucks County, which was why they were driven to help BCOC receive congressionally directed funding.

The ES Program is a highly successful program that provides one-on-one coaching and resources to those living in poverty who commit to working toward economic self-sufficiency. The graduates have worked, mostly for several years, on an intense, structured plan to become financially self-sufficient.

Nearly every graduate reflected on the program as a life-changing experience. Each



BCOC 2025 ES Graduates

of their coaches provided help and support, and gratitude was a consistent theme throughout the event. The coaches and the program break the stigma often associated with asking for help. One graduate shared that through a difficult life, full of more downs than ups, her mantra was always "everything is temporary." She got through, one moment at a time, convinced that things could be better. Being a part of the ES program, she was able to break the cycle of generational poverty that she had experienced. Her words, "I know my kids will have a better life" had an incredibly emotional impact on the over 200 guests.

The 2025 class began the program with an average starting income of \$19,687. In the 31 months' time it took for the group to graduate, they increased their income to an average of \$65,948, that is an increase of \$46,261. The key to success has been acquiring the additional education and training necessary to earn a living wage. All 18 graduates have improved their position within their company or gained new employment since beginning the program.

In her closing remarks, Lukoss said, "At BCOC, we know that economic mobility starts with stability. You can't dream about the future when you're worried about getting through the week. That's why our programs are designed to meet people where they are, with the resources they need to move forward. What does economic mobility really mean here? It means having the choice to live where you want to live. It means freedom to leave a job that isn't working for you to pursue something better. And it means dignity, the kind that comes from knowing you can care for yourself and your family without fear. That's the heart of what we're working toward every day."

Graduation is based on ten benchmarks recognized nationally as standards of self-sufficiency: Full employment; free of all subsidies (food stamps, cash assistance, housing subsidies); balanced household budget; resides in safe, affordable housing; reliable transportation; health insurance coverage for all family members; checking and savings account; acceptable credit rating or approved Credit Repair Plan;

completed education/training program (if needed); and basic employment skills such as interviewing and resume preparation.

To learn more about all the BCOC does, visit our website [bcoc.org](http://bcoc.org)

BCOC is the leading economic mobility non-profit organization in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, dedicated to ending poverty by connecting people with the resources they need to thrive.

BCOC has five major program areas: Housing, Food, Weatherization, Volunteer Income Tax Preparation (VITA) and the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ES) Program. Housing includes street outreach, rental and move in aid, and utility shut-off prevention. Food services supply food directly to families through a network of 75 food pantries and distribution sites. Weatherization services help families in reducing their energy costs. VITA provides free income tax preparation assistance. The ES Program assists individuals and families to leave poverty permanently through case management, education, and employment.

*continued on pg. 27*

# Pennsbury Manor adopts new rescue horse: Norway

*Norway, a former racing horse, joins Pennsbury from a Colorado "kill pen"*

Pennsbury Manor, William Penn's reconstructed estate on the Delaware River in Bucks County, welcomes Norway, a recently rescued racing horse, to its educational barnyard.

Norway Hanover, is a retired Trotter for the Standardbred harness racing industry, who raced across the US and Canada. These horses often end up in cramped and unhealthy "kill pens" until they can be auctioned for slaughter. Norway was rescued by the Standardbred Retirement Foundation from a kill pen in Colorado.

Norway has now found a forever home at Pennsbury Manor. After a period of rehabilitation to improve his physical condition, he joined Pennsbury in late March. At 16 years old, Norway is a handsome horse who brings a calm and gentle demeanor, making him an ideal addition to the historic site's educational programs centered around historical animal husbandry, which represent farm life during William Penn's time on the property. Many local children will have the chance to interact with Norway during his life at Pennsbury.

"Norway joins Pennsbury's existing herd, which includes Arnie the horse, the oxen team, sheep, and geese," said Carole Cunliffe, Animal Curator at Pennsbury Manor. "Under the care of our dedicated team, he is already getting along famously with all his barnyard companions, including the barn cat. Norway will play a crucial role in teaching visiting students and families about the types of animals that historically would have been at Pennsbury Manor during the 17th century—a perfect representative of the estate's historical authenticity."

Pennsbury recently said farewell to TC, a beloved 31-year-old mare, who recently passed away.

Considered a senior horse, Norway's care comes with costs, including hoof care, targeted nutrition, and regular

veterinary check-ups. Pennsbury is currently seeking financial support for Norway's care to ensure that he enjoys a long healthy life on the estate.

Learn more at: [www.pennsburymanor.org/support/sponsor-an-animal](http://www.pennsburymanor.org/support/sponsor-an-animal).



Photo: Pennsbury Manor

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Levittown's Charlotte McClure sits by her sunset silhouette artwork on display. Photos by Mimi Black



Levittown's Emma Bristol participates in the live art demonstration, showcasing her watercolor painting.



Fairless Hill's Sydney Spickler presents her relief cityscape.



Levittown's Joshua Leidy displays his ceramic paintbrush.

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### Annual Art Show

*continued from pg. 2*

work on oil paintings; it was magical. It's really meaningful for younger students to see older peers in action. They start to imagine themselves in those shoes."

Throughout the gymnasium, artwork was thoughtfully selected and displayed by Pennsbury's team of art teachers. Each piece represents the best of what students created over the school year, from early elementary drawings to Advanced Placement portfolios.

For AP art students, dedicated panels featured multiple pieces of their artwork, presented under personalized, laser-cut nameplates, a professional touch that showcased their yearlong artistic endeavors.

"It's hard to quantify the number of pieces in the show; there are thousands," said Greiner, "but each one is meaningful. Some high school students may have multiple pieces displayed, and every single one was selected to represent their strongest work."

*continued on pg. 25*



## spot light PrimoHoagies Langhorne

*Celebrate big moments with PrimoHoagies Langhorne Catering*

Graduation parties, baby showers, bridal showers, and milestone celebrations deserve food that's just as memorable as the occasion. At PrimoHoagies Langhorne, we bring the flavor and quality you love to your special event with catering options that are fresh, convenient, and crowd-pleasing.

Our award-winning hoagies, made with premium meats and cheeses on our signature seeded rolls, are the perfect centerpiece for your celebration. Choose from our extensive menu of Italian classics, including the ever-popular turkey & cheese, Italian, roast beef & provolone, and more. Whether you're hosting an intimate gathering or a large party, we offer customizable tray and box options to fit your needs.

Looking for something beyond sandwiches? We've got you covered with a variety of side trays, including our famous Primo pasta salad, antipasto

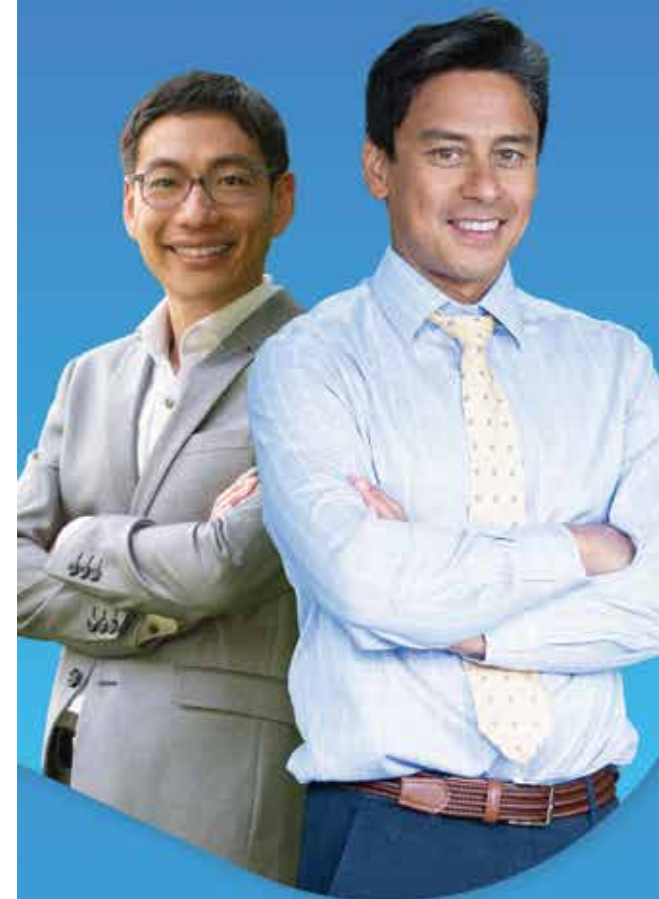
trays, and cookie platters that satisfy every sweet tooth. Plus, we offer convenient set-up options so you can focus on enjoying the moment instead of stressing about the food.

Located right in Langhorne, our team is dedicated to making your event seamless from start to finish. With reliable pickup or delivery and a friendly staff ready to help you plan the perfect spread, PrimoHoagies Langhorne is your go-to for catering done right.

Let us help you celebrate life's biggest moments with food everyone will talk about — for all the right reasons. Contact PrimoHoagies Langhorne today to place your catering order and make your event Primo-perfect.

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).

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## Capital Health

*Capital Health first in Mercer and Bucks Counties to offer minimally invasive treatment option for stress urinary incontinence*

Capital Health Center for Incontinence and Pelvic Health is the first and only practice in Mercer County, New Jersey and Bucks County, Pennsylvania to offer Bulkamid, a safe and effective minimally invasive option for treating stress urinary incontinence (SUI).

Capital Health has been designated as a Bulkamid Center of Excellence in recognition

of their staff's experience, expertise with the procedure, the quality of positive patient outcomes, and their commitment to improving the patient experience.

Bulkamid is approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

To help alleviate SUI symptoms, Dr. Donald DeBrakeleer, director of Urogynecology at Capital Health, and his team

at Capital Health Center for incontinence and pelvic health inject a soft, water-based gel into the urethral wall to support the urethra's closing mechanism and provide better control of urination. Administering the gel is a simple process involving just three to four small injections that take about 15 minutes to complete under local anesthesia or light sedation. Bulkamid is clinically proven to provide safe and effective symptom relief for at least seven years.

Capital Health Center for Incontinence and Pelvic Health follows national guidelines and best practices to accurately diagnose and treat conditions



Donald DeBrakeleer, DO

and help patients experiencing bladder, bowel, pelvic pain or sexual health issues.

To learn more, visit [capital-health.org/pelvichealth](http://capital-health.org/pelvichealth) or call 609-303-4474 to schedule an appointment.

## Partners in planting: Celebrating our latest grant-funded projects

Bucks Beautiful is proud to announce the recipients of our latest round of grants, awarded to support impactful beautification and reforestation projects across our community. These deserving organizations share our vision for a greener, more vibrant Bucks County, and we're honored to help bring their projects to life. Through their efforts, new trees will take root, neglected spaces will bloom, and our shared environment will flourish for generations to come.

**Bucks County Civil War Museum & Library.** Flower beds beautifying the Museum & Library entrance and the 104th monument honoring soldiers in the heart of Doylestown Borough.

**Buckingham Township.** Replace approximately sixty trees that have died at Holicong Park.

**County of Bucks Employee**

**Volunteers.** Employee volunteer planting project to reinvigorate the main entrance of the Bucks County Administration Building.

**Doylestown Township Environmental Advisory Council** - Expansion of Native Demonstration Garden at Central Park.

**Network of Victim Assistance (NOVA).** Commemorative arbor restoration in memorial garden at Core Creek Park.

**TJS Distributors.** 10 native trees to replace those lost due to storm damage at Tinicum Park.

**Town & Country Players.** Revitalization of historic theater's grounds with new garden beds and seasonal planters.

**Washington Crossing Historic Park.** Rehabilitation and expansion of the Thompson-Neely Kitchen Garden.

Bucks Beautiful has been

*continued on pg. 22*

## Eye Associates of Bucks County

*Personalized patient care*

At Eye Associates of Bucks County (EABC), we help patients maintain their eye health through comprehensive eye exams. Our highly trained physicians utilize the latest technology to examine your vision as well as monitor and treat other eye conditions. We consider your unique medical history at every step, so you can rest assured you're receiving the best personalized care!

### The Importance of Regular Eye Exams:

Did you know that half of all blindness or severe vision loss cases can be prevented through early detection? Or that many eye conditions have little or even no symptoms?

The good news is that yearly eye exams from our knowledgeable physicians can help you stay on top of your eye health. Here at EABC, we specialize in the following types of eye exams:

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We believe our patients are best served by having access to state-of-the-art technology to provide the best vision outcome. EABC is well-respected and trusted throughout the community by both patients and doctors alike. We have a reputation for delivering the highest quality care in a professional and compassionate environment.

At Eye Associates of Bucks County, we understand the importance of vision in your life. Whether restoring,

preserving, or improving sight, our skilled team is dedicated to helping you achieve your best vision' so you can live your best life.

### See What Our Patients Have To Say:

*Dr. Pendse performed cataract surgery on both my eyes. He was very attentive to all follow-up care and my many questions. Whenever an out-of-the-ordinary problem arose, he*

*would be sure to see me in an expeditious manner. The staff is thorough and caring. I would definitely recommend them. – Barry G.*

If you would like to be involved with making an informed decision about your eye health, call Eye Associates of Bucks County at 833-921-6200 or visit [www.centerforeyes.com](http://www.centerforeyes.com) to schedule an appointment



Dr. Sagun Pendse, Eye Associates of Bucks County

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## Friends Village

As we approach the halfway point of 2025, there's no slowing down at Friends Village! With the arrival of warmer days, residents have been embracing the outdoors—most recently by gathering to plant and share joy in the garden. The coming weeks promise even more opportunities to connect and celebrate, from our table at the Senior Games Kickoff on May 28 at Bucks County Community College to Welcome Day on June 8, where we'll be sharing small gifts and big smiles with our community.

As we continue to celebrate Older Americans Month this May, we proudly embrace this year's theme: Flip the Script on Aging. This theme challenges outdated narratives and encourages a fresh perspective on what it means to grow older. Rather than seeing aging as a time of decline, we highlight the strength, wisdom, and valuable contributions that older adults bring to our families, communities, and society. Throughout the month, we are engaging in events and

conversations that honor the diverse experiences of older Americans. By flipping the script, we aim to reshape attitudes and celebrate aging as a dynamic, enriching, and purposeful stage of life.

And speaking of milestones—our Friends For All Time Gala on October 11 is fast approaching! This special event will celebrate 125 years since Paxson Hall first opened its doors. Built in 1900 by Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Edward Paxson and gifted to the Bucks Quarterly Meeting of Quakers, Paxson Hall has provided a warm, welcoming home for older adults ever since.

In preparation for its next century, we're embarking on an important renovation to replace Paxson Hall's aging heating and cooling systems and install a fire suppression system for added safety. These upgrades not only improve comfort and



security but will also make the building more energy-efficient and environmentally friendly. At Friends Village, we're committed to being an active part of the community and a valuable resource to those around us. After all, Friends

### Planting

*continued from pg. 20*

providing Community Grants since 1991 to encourage non-profit organizations, schools, garden clubs and local municipalities to host public garden

Village isn't just part of the neighborhood—it is a neighbor.

For more information on Friends Village, or to take a tour, contact Barbara Heverly at 215-968-3346 extension 108 or by email at [info@friends-village.org](mailto:info@friends-village.org)

or tree plantings. The grant award is a 50/50 cash match up to a maximum of \$5,000 per year. Funds may be used for the purchase of annuals, perennials, bulbs, shrubs, trees, mulch and garden related materials. We highly encourage the use of native plant materials whenever possible. Please request an application by emailing [info@bucksbeautiful.org](mailto:info@bucksbeautiful.org). While submissions are accepted anytime, the deadline for fall is August 31, 2025 and for spring is March 31, 2026.

Generous donations, community partnerships and our growing membership program allow us to coordinate events, projects and educational programs to continue enhancing Bucks County. To become a member, or contribute to our cause, please visit [www.bucksbeautiful.org](http://www.bucksbeautiful.org) or call 215-340-3639. Thank you for helping us grow!

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## One Day Bath's TubcuT<sup>®</sup> *From tub to walk-in shower*

One Day Bath offers two options for revitalizing your bathroom: The TubcuT<sup>®</sup>, which is a custom-modification to convert your tub to a walk-in shower; and we also offer a traditional tub-to-shower conversion, which is a specially designed acrylic shower system that includes a shower surround and fold-down seats.

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**Tuesday, May 27 at 7 pm, “Meeting the Mushrooms: An Intro to the Fascinating World of Fungi” will be the featured program at the monthly meeting of the Trevoise Horticultural Society at the Bensalem Senior Center, 1850 Byberry Rd in Bensalem. This program was originally scheduled for May 20.** Guest speaker, Christian Kustra will cover the basics of mycology, the study of fungi. He will explain how mushrooms grow, how to identify wild mushrooms and what purpose they serve in nature. All meetings are open to the public; all are welcome. \$5 to observe. For further information, please contact 856-866-9163, visit [www.trevosegardeners.org](http://www.trevosegardeners.org) or follow us on Facebook.

**Saturday, May 31, 10 am, at the LMT Administrative building, 1100 Edgewood Rd. in Yardley,** Mike Weilbacher, noted naturalist, environmentalist, educator, and author will present “Microplastics, The Invisible Pollutant”. He will discuss microplastics, found everywhere from the bottom of the sea to our blood. Learn the surprising ways they spread through our environment and what we can do about it. This free FREE event is sponsored by the LMT Environmental Advisory Council with the participation of the Yardley Refillery. For more information, contact: Dominique Mitchell at [eacbucks@gmail.com](mailto:eacbucks@gmail.com).

**Saturday, May 31, noon–4 PM, Langhorne Council for the Arts will host The Arts in the Garden Tour.** Artists and musicians will add to the enjoyment of natural beauty in five private and public gardens in Langhorne Borough and Langhorne Manor. Several stops on this self-guided tour also include open artist studios! Artwork on display (and some for purchase) will include photography, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, tiles, jewelry, and quilts. Musicians will include harpists, blues, folk, indie, jazz, and pop. A full schedule, and tickets to purchase, will be posted on [www.LanghorneArts.org](http://www.LanghorneArts.org). Tickets (cash or check) are \$25 for adults, \$10 for students, free for children under 6 years old, and can also be purchased at all the garden locations.

**Tuesday, June 3, 6 pm, the Free Library of Northampton Township, 25 Upper Holland Rd. in Richboro,** welcomes the renowned author of “Ghost Soldiers”, Hampton Sides, as he discusses his new book, “Wide Wide Sea: Imperial Ambition, First Contact, and the Fateful Final Voyage of Captain James Cook”. Register at [newtownbookshop.com](http://newtownbookshop.com).

**Saturday, June 7, 10 am–2 pm, Tour the beautiful mansion at Summerseat’s Traditional Patriot’s Day Event, 130 Legion Ave. in Morrisville.** Fun for all the family! Raffle baskets, flea market, Summerseat hot dogs, baked goods and children’s games. For more information, call 215-801-0753. Also, visit the Facebook page for updated information at: [www.facebook.com/summerseatbuckscounty](http://www.facebook.com/summerseatbuckscounty).

**Saturday, June 7, 1 to 2 pm, The Friends of the Doylestown Library presents “Past & Present Voices: Oboe and Violin in Concert” in The Backyard—the outdoor extension of the Doylestown Library, 150 S. Pine St. in Doylestown.** This event is free. Arianna Kallian and

Anna Majcherczyk will perform a program of duets by composers from the eighteenth century to present day including Bennett, Boismortier, Casal, Fine and Ginastera. Please preregister for the event by emailing [friendsofdoylestownlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofdoylestownlibrary@gmail.com). Chairs will be provided while available, or feel free to bring your own fold-up. In case of rain, the event will take place in the Pearl Buck room.

**Saturday, June 7, 7:30 pm, Centennial Singers Spring Concert, “Singers Arise in Song” at Log College Middle School, 730 Norristown Rd. in Warminster.** Come join us for a variety of music including classical, folk, jazz, choral, spiritual, show tunes, and of course, patriotic numbers. Free cookie buffet and awesome raffle baskets. The concert is free, but donations are welcome. For more information, visit [www.centennialsingerswarminster.com](http://www.centennialsingerswarminster.com) and on Facebook @centennialsingerswarminster.

**Sunday, June 8, 11 am–4 pm (rain or shine), the 30th Annual Bucks Beautiful Kitchen & Garden Tour is taking place.** Explore stunning homes and lush gardens in Doylestown, Richboro, and New Hope. Early bird tickets are just \$45 through May 31! Proceeds support community greening projects across Bucks County. For tickets and information, visit [www.bucksbeautiful.org](http://www.bucksbeautiful.org).

**Sunday, June 8, 3 pm, the Bryn Athyn Orchestra will present its Spring Concert at the Mitchell Performing Arts Center in Bryn Athyn.** The program features Mahler’s Symphony No. 1; Mozart’s Overture to Don Giovanni and Symphony No. 38. Tickets \$27/advance, \$30/door. Students: \$15 (buy one get one free). Children under 12 are free. Seniors over 60: \$25. Tickets can be purchased online at [baorchestra.org](http://baorchestra.org) or at the door.

**Friday, June 13, 5 pm–8 pm, the 2nd Friday Food Truck Rally will take place at Playwicki Farm, 2350 Bridgetown Pike, Feasterville-Trevoise.** Enjoy food trucks, children’s activities, vendors, a DJ, and a beer/cocktail garden. For more information, visit [www.playwickifarm.org](http://www.playwickifarm.org).

**Thursday, June 19 to Sunday, June 22, Newtown Arts Company presents Kate Hamill’s acclaimed adaptation of “Pride and Prejudice” at the historic Newtown Theatre, located at 120 North State St. in Newtown.** Get ready for a bold, witty, and delightfully offbeat take on a literary favorite. Tickets are on sale now at [newtownac.booktix.com](http://newtownac.booktix.com).

**Saturday June 21, 1–6 pm, Four Lanes End Garden Club proudly presents its Flower Show, “A Cavalcade of America” at the Richardson House (Langhorne Community Memorial Association Building), 102 West Maple Ave. in Langhorne.** The theme and design classes reflect the dreams, courage, initiative, and achievements of those that shaped our American history. Visitors will have the opportunity to see judged floral designs as well as horticulture specimens of numerous types. It is open and free to the public, A raffle table will also be on display. For additional information, contact Chris Foster at 215-350-6038.

**Saturday, June 28, 11 am to 3 pm, Bowman’s Hill Wildflower Preserve, 1635 River Road in New Hope, is hosting its 4th annual Preserve @ Play family day.** This year’s theme, Wee Wonders, celebrates the smallest creatures and the big impact they have on our thriving ecosystem. Pre-registration for Preserve @ Play is strongly encouraged. Registration is \$10 per group up to 6 guests with free admission for Preserve members and ACCESS Card holders. Guest passes are not usable for Preserve @ Play. Register today and learn more at [www.bhwp.org](http://www.bhwp.org).

**Saturday, June 28, the Riverside Symphonia hosts its annual Concert Under the Stars at Tinicum Park in Bucks County, along the picturesque Delaware River.** Gates open at 6 pm, inviting attendees to bring blankets, lawn chairs, and picnic baskets to enjoy a relaxing evening on the expansive park lawn. At 8 pm, the Riverside Symphonia will perform patriotic favorites, popular classics, and American standards, all leading up to the highly anticipated fireworks spectacular. Tickets are available at [www.riversidesymphonia.org](http://www.riversidesymphonia.org).

[riversidesymphonia.org](http://riversidesymphonia.org), by phone at 609-397-7300, or at select local outlets. For more information, contact Vickie Lupisella at Riverside Symphonia, 4 South Union St., Lambertville, NJ 08530, call 609-397-7300, or email [info@riversidesymphonia.org](mailto:info@riversidesymphonia.org).

**Monday, July 14, beginning at 10 am, the Feasterville Business Association’s 34th Charity Golf Outing will be held at the Spring Mill Country Club, located at 80 Jacksonville Road in Ivyland.** The public is invited to participate, and entries are now being accepted. For additional information about participating as a golfer and/or sponsorship opportunities, contact Mike Wielehowski, golf committee chairperson at [info@feastervillebiz.org](mailto:info@feastervillebiz.org). For details or to register visit [www.feastervillebiz.org](http://www.feastervillebiz.org).

**Saturday, October 4, 2025, The Central Bucks High School Class of 1958 from Doylestown will be holding its 67th Reunion at the Plumsteadville Inn.** For more information contact [drsmith524@verizon.net](mailto:drsmith524@verizon.net).

#### Annual Art Show

*continued from pg. 18*

Greiner emphasized that the show isn’t just about showcasing talent; it’s also about empowering students. “This is a confidence booster. Every student whose work is on display walks away with pride. They feel seen and validated for their creative or innovative strengths, which sometimes don’t get highlighted

in other areas.”

Each evening, families from across the district flocked to the show, filling the gym with excitement and pride. Parents snapped photos, pointed to their child’s artwork, and created lasting memories together. Commemorative 70th-anniversary t-shirts were available for purchase, adding to the celebratory spirit.

“This is one of the only K–12

events in our district that brings everyone together like this,” said Greiner. “So, it’s not just an art show; it’s a community experience. We’re proud that this tradition unifies our students, staff, and families in such a meaningful way.”

The future of the Pennsbury Art Show is as bright as the glow-in-the-dark tunnel it presented this year. Plans are already underway to expand

the district’s unique stained glass program with the addition of fused glass next year, a rare offering among local schools.

Reflecting on the event’s success, Greiner noted, “All the feedback we’ve received has been overwhelmingly positive. People leave smiling. Kids feel proud. Families are inspired. These are core memories being made, and that’s what makes it all worthwhile.”

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## Opportunity Council

*continued from pg. 16*

For 60 years, the Opportunity Council has served low-income families in Bucks County by helping them to stabilize when in crisis, garner resources to achieve a livable wage, gain additional education and training, and work towards economic self-sufficiency.



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