

EXPERT CONTRIBUTORS

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LETTER FROM THE CONTENT COORDINATOR

Dear Readers,

As many of us still do, I was on a Zoom call recently, and the women on the call were telling me how much they enjoy the magazine. One woman said she reads it "cover to cover." It was early February, yet she proudly told me she had already read that month's issue, and even recited some of the facts she learned about last month's cover story, Ed and Xingin Yin. Another woman said she really enjoys these letters to residents. I was touched, not only that they took the time to read it, but that they made sure to tell me what they liked. Another woman (who unfortunately does not get the magazine) said, "Everyone needs a fan base." We all laughed, but isn't that right? Don't we all need a fan base? A person or group of people who understand you and celebrate all your moments, whether you're down or up. Your own personal cheering section.

I'm reminded of that as I think about this month's cover story, the Donofrio family. They are definitely supportive of each other, and they show it. When one wants to get his pilot's license at 17, everyone gets in a plane to let him fly them to another state for dinner. They pick up the slack for each other, give each other space when things aren't going their way, and volunteer at the school booster clubs to raise money for each other's passions. That's parenting, of course, but it's also showing those in your life that you're more about just words: that you really have each other's back. It's how children grow up to be confident adults.

Showing you're there for each other is sometimes so tough because it requires the hard work of actually showing up. We're so lucky to live in a community where there are abundant ways to do so, and you can find them in this very issue: a fundraiser for Safe Harbor, an art show at a local elementary school, or even a clothing donation

at a local church. That's how we, as a community, show each other that we care and we'll do what it takes to show you.

As you walk through this typically diverse month of weather events, combined with a slower-than-usual professional sports schedule, I hope you are able to find your fan hase



Me with some of my fan base at a recent Broadway show.

Heather Riley

Content Coordinator heatherriley@bestversionmedia.com



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FEEDBACK/IDEAS/SUBMISSIONS

We are always happy to hear from you! Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: heatherriley@bestversionmedia.com. Deadline for content is the 5th of every month for possible inclusion in the following month's issue, depending on space limitations.



Please be sure to 'Like' our Facebook page. We welcome your comments! You can find us on Facebook by searching for Chadds Ford Neighbors - Best Version Media.

Bringing Neighbors Together in Chadds Ford, Pocopson, Birmingham, Pennsbury and part of Thornbury Townships

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HELLO MARCH

MARCH 2025

NOW THROUGH SUNDAY, JUNE 15

Andrew Wyeth: Human Nature The Brandywine Museum of Art, 1 Hoffman's Mill Road, Chadds Ford One of artist Andrew Wyeth's many legacies is his original response to the subject of the human body.

Time: 10 AM - 4 PM, Wednesdays to Sundays Cost: \$20 adults, \$18 seniors

www.brandywine.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 6

Chadds Ford Historical Society Lecture Series

1736 Creek Road, Chadds Ford Dr. Anne E. Krulikowski, Associate Professor of History at West Chester University, will speak about Joseph Brinton's Serpentine Stone. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. Call the office to reserve your spot: 610-388-7376.

Time: 7 PM | Cost: \$10 (free for members)

www.chaddsfordhistory.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 8

Author talk: Bruce Mowday

Ace Hardware, 1150 Pocopson Road, Pocopson Join local author Bruce Mowday as he speaks about his new book, A Killer at the Door, which deals with the escape and capture of Danilo Cavilcante from a Chester County prison in 2023.

Time: 11 AM - 1 PM | Cost: Free

www.mowday.com

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

Book Discussion at the Chester County History Center

225 North High Street, West Chester Join this hybrid discussion (on Zoom or at the History Center) of All That She Carried: The Journey of Ashley's Sack, a Black Family Keepsake and Wake: The Hidden History of Women-Led Slave Revolts.

Time: 10 AM - 11 AM | Cost: Pay-as-you-wish

www.mycchc.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 13

St. Patty's Day Fundraiser for Safe Harbor

Ryan's Pub, 124 West Gay Street, West Chester Safe Harbor provides emergency food and housing to those in need.

Time: 6 PM - 8 PM

Cost: \$30 (covers buffet and two drink tickets)

www.allevents.in

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

"I Got You" Future Stars Benefit

Uptown! Knauer Performing Arts Center, 226 North High Street, West Chester This stellar event showcases the amazing talent of our future stars.

Time: 12:30 PM - 5 PM

Cost: \$24-\$47 (includes show, buffet lunch, complimentary wine, beer, and mimosas)

www.uptownwestchester.org

SATURDAY, MARCH 15

Walk to discover the waterfowl of **Western Chester County** Marsh Creek State Park, 675 Park Road, Downingtown This is an all-day event, with minimal walking. Time: 8 AM - 5 PM | Cost: Free www.westchesterbirdclub.org

THURSDAY, MARCH 20

Widener University, Communications Studies Department, Freedom Hall, Chester, PA Supernatural beings, mythology and more! Keith Dallas will discuss new cryptids and go in-depth with cryptids previously discussed. Time: 7:30 PM - 9:30 PM | Cost: \$15 https://www.simpletix.com/e/ cryptids-part-2-tickets-195725

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

The Kennett Symphony Orchestra at Longwood Gardens, Exhibition Hall

1001 Longwood Road, Kennett Square The Orchestra presents a graceful program surrounded by the majesty of the Gardens.

Time: 7:30 PM

Cost: \$55 for reserved seating www.longwoodgardens.org

FRIDAY, MARCH 28 AND **SATURDAY, MARCH 29**

Elam Spring Clothing Turnabout 2025

1073 Smithbridge Road, Glen Mills Drop off donations, Thursday, March 27 between 5 and 7PM. Shop the large selection of children's clothing, toys and other necessities.

Time: Friday, 9 AM - 7 PM, Saturday, 8:30 AM - 12 noon. | Cost: Free

https://elamumc.org/childrens_turnabout

Looking Shead: **THURSDAY, APRIL 3**

Chadds Ford Historical Society Lecture Series

1736 Creek Road, Chadds Ford Dr. Heather A. Wholly, Professor of Anthropology at West Chester University, will speak about the archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands. Coffee, tea and light refreshments will be served. Call the office to reserve your spot: 610-388-7376.

Time: 7 PM | Cost: \$10 (free for members) www.chaddsfordhistory.org

SUNDAY, APRIL 6

82nd Running of the **Brandywine Hills Point-to-Point**

Myrick Conservation Center, 1760 Unionville-Wawaset Road, West Chester Fun and exciting pony and horse steeplechase races, a parade of foxhounds, and many children's activities. Proceeds benefit the Red Clay Alliance's education and conservation programs.

Time: Gates open at 11 AM Cost: \$25 per carload www.brandywineredclay.org

IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER:

Please visit respective websites to confirm hours, prices, and pre-registration details.

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The Chadds Ford Township **Residents Association is** now accepting applications for its 2025 Scholarship Award (\$1,500). Applicants must be a high school senior and live in Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County.

The Chadds Ford Township Residents Association is a volunteer, non-profit organization located in Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania whose mission is to create a strong sense of community within the Township, support its residents and businesses, and help retain the area's unique historical quality and rural character. The Association is a non-political and non-partisan organization funded through donations and membership.

Application Requirements:

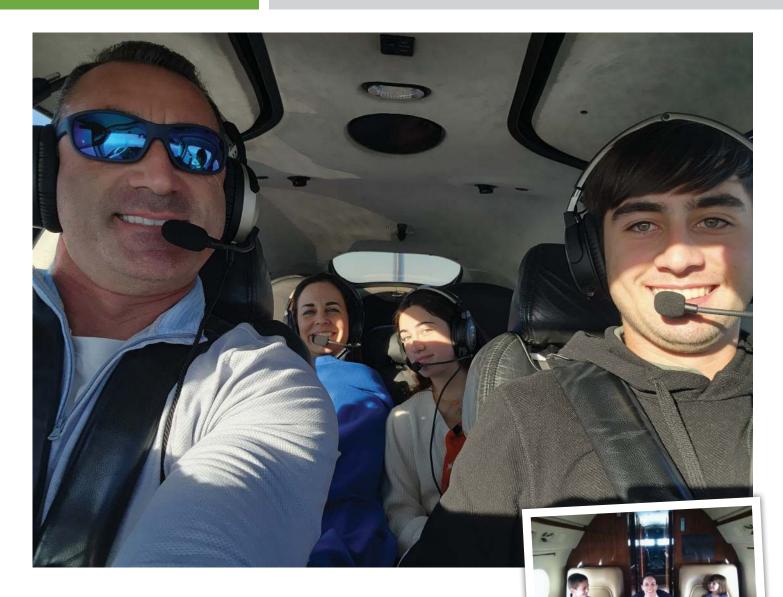
- The applicant must be in the 12th year of education and accepted into a post-12th grade educational program. Examples of programs include a fouryear college or university, community college, military academy, or vocational school.
- · Cumulative GPA must be at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale or equivalent.
- · The applicant must be a resident of Chadds Ford Township, Delaware County (includes portions of Chadds Ford 19317, West Chester 19382 or Glen Mills 19342).
- Applicants must apply on their own behalf.
- · Financial need is not a requirement.
- The Award can be used at the awardee's discretion.
- The completed application is due by March 31 of the current academic year.

Please share the handout attached with seniors that meet the qualifications as detailed above. Here is a link to the scholarship application: https://cftra. org/residents-association/annual-scholarship/









COME FLY WITH THE DONOFRIO FAMILY

■ BY HEATHER RILEY | PHOTOS BY KRISTIN ANN PHOTOS AND THE DONOFRIO FAMILY

Parents often look at their sleeping infants imagining what paths their children will take in life. For Dominic (18) and Giada (15) Donofrio, the paths seemed almost preordained.

Before she met her husband or had children, Desiree Donofrio was a private flight attendant, traveling all over the country (and even internationally to places like India and London) and becoming more and more enamored of the ability to see life from thousands of feet above the earth. She has always loved planes, and she says she's "shocked that more people aren't amazed by airplanes and travel."

In fact, it's because of the travel that led her to meet her husband, Adrian, A former police officer, Adrian grew up in California, although his parents were from Delaware. Desiree, also from Delaware, was on a flight out west when she reached out to Adrian about getting together-their parents had been friends many years before moving across the country- and they had their first date in Napa. The relationship continued to be bi-coastal, as the couple

flew back and forth to see each other whenever they could. They eventually got married and settled in Delaware.

Adrian transitioned away from law enforcement and joined Desiree's family business, Marra Homes, to work in home construction, and Desiree shifted gears from the air to the home, as well, taking a job with California Closets. Then, about eight years ago, the couple felt that Dominic and Giada needed an educational change. They had heard great things about the Unionville schools, so they came to Pennsylvania to do a tour. They were so impressed with how welcomed their children were at Hillendale Elementary, that they decided to move.







Desiree says if she could do it all over again, she might have been a pilot, which makes sense considering that is Dominic's passion. At 17, he got his pilot's license, which is the youngest you can be to get it in Pennsylvania. He says that, like his mom, he has always been fascinated with planes. He even did his first introductory flight with an instructor when he was only 10 years old.

Dominic loves to learn about how things work. So much so that his favorite class at school is Wood and Metal Technology. He loves it so much that he's taken all five levels of the class. He likes to know the engineering of how to build things. In that sense, he seems like a mix of both his mom's love of planes and his Dad's construction brain. In addition to being a commercial pilot, Dominic also wants to earn his mechanics license in aeronautics. He occasionally uses his weekend time to assist the mechanics working on and repairing the plane he flies, wanting to be as familiar with every aspect of the plane as possible. Not things most travelers think about when getting on a commercial jet.

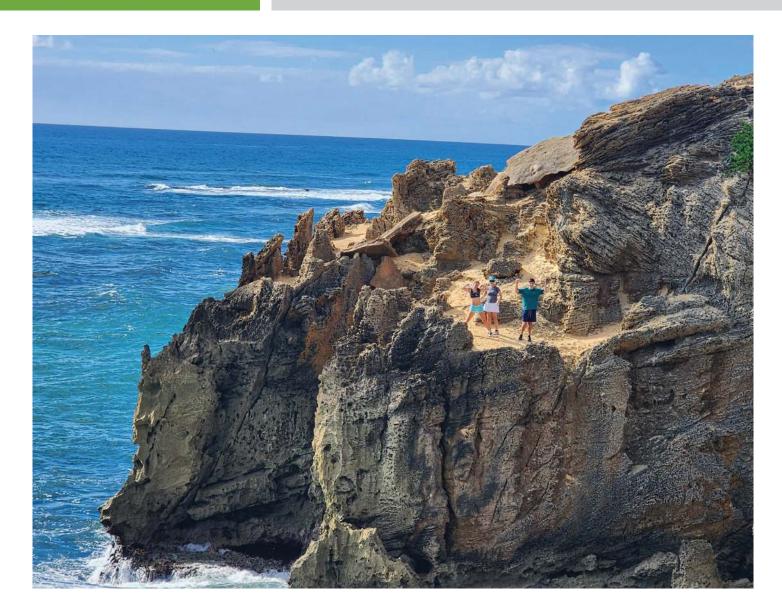
A year after getting his pilot's license, Dominic learned about an organization called "Pilots and Paws," which transports pets that have to be surrendered by their owners to facilities that can take them or even to their new, "furever" homes (www.pilotsnpaws.org). When he originally got his pilot's license, he would earn hours by flying the family to have dinner in places like Williamsburg, Virginia, and Mystic, Connecticut, but once he found Pilots and Paws, he realized that he loves flying to help people. For example, on a recent flight, he flew to Norfolk, Virginia, to pick up a dog from a military family that was being moved overseas and couldn't bring pets.

The Pilots and Paws' flights are not always rosy, however, and Dominic has had to hone his skills and make quick decisions. On one recent trip, he was flying to North Carolina to pick up a dog, only to land there and find out that a hurricane that hadn't been in his path suddenly was. He basically had to land and then take off again for home, otherwise he might have been stuck there for a week. He had to leave in the short window that the weather was cooperating. Not to worry, though: the dog made it out safely on another ride.

Dominic's goal is to one day become a commercial pilot. To that end, he has recently committed to attending Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, Florida, and is looking forward to furthering his knowledge about planes and aeronautical science.

He is still in high school, however, and he has been very involved there, on the Unionville Rowing and Track Teams.

Giada, although she loves the benefits of having a brother who is a pilot and can fly the



family to dinner in other states, does not have the pilot bug. That doesn't mean she doesn't like to travel, however. She has a long list of places she wants to visit, and much of it reflects her love of outdoor activities, like hiking and snowboarding. When the family travels to places like Turks and Caicos and Utah, it's to take advantage of the terrain and physical challenges. Closer to home, Giada is a member of the Unionville swim team. And, similar to her father's law enforcement background, she is considering a path in criminal justice.

The family says that travel is something that really binds them together. As Turks and Caicos is a favorite destination, they have an extended family trip there coming up soon. They also love hiking in Sedona and Hawaii, and when they're on these tropical vacations, they are not sit-on-the-beach people. They prefer to embrace adventure,

with activities such as scuba diving, snorkeling and parasailing. While many teenagers' bucket lists include a Taylor Swift concert in Miami, Giada's dream trips include snowboarding in Switzerland and Japan.

Since the family can't fly and travel every week, as homework needs to get done, college applications filled out, and the mortgage earned, Desiree's and Adrian's jobs focus on homes. As Desiree says, "We spend a lot of time in people's houses." Working for California Closets gives her the opportunity to help people use their spaces effectively, such as designing and implementing some of the newest trends: islands, glass and lighting. And Adrian gets to help people see their dreams come to fruition with custombuilt homes and renovations. Because of all the time they spend in other people's physical spaces, their own home is very important to the family, and they have

worked hard to establish themselves as members of the Chadds Ford community. Desiree spends a lot of time at Unionville High School, raising money to support the teams that her children are on, with the Unionville Swim Team booster, and the Unionville Rowing Board.

They also don't save all their outdoorsy activities for vacations: they take advantage of all there is to offer in Delaware and Chester Counties, taking their dogs, Coco and Leah, to Cheslen and Stroud Preserves, and even biking to Northbrook Marketplace. When they eat out, they love Sovana Bistro and 9 Prime. In fact, Desiree jokes that Dominic's hobbies are "flying and eating Lenape Pizza." They know what they like, and those comforts allow them the time and space to plan their next adventure, both in the skies and on the ground.

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FOUR SIGNS IT'S TIME TO **REPLACE YOUR SIDING**

■ BY MARK CHAPMAN

One of the questions we get asked is, How do you know when it's time to replace your siding? In this article, we explore four signs that indicate it's time to replace your siding and how doing so can benefit your home.

Signs of Aging or Damage

One of the most obvious indicators is visible deterioration, such as cracks, chips, or holes that compromise the integrity of the material. If you see the accumulation of dirt, grime, or discoloration on the surface of your siding, it shows that aging has occurred. Both are indicators that show that your siding is no longer effectively repelling the elements.

Mold or Mildew Growth

Mold and mildew thrive in damp environments and can indicate that your siding is retaining moisture, which can lead to serious structural issues over time. Mold and mildew not only pose health risks to your family but can also damage the underlying materials of your home, prompting costly repairs. If you notice any signs of growth, it's essential to act quickly.

Fading or Peeling Paint

Siding that has lost its color vibrancy or is showing signs of peeling may be failing to provide the protective barrier it was designed for. This deterioration can expose the underlying materials to the elements, leading to further damage and potential structural issues.

Warping or Buckling

Warping or buckling of siding can occur due to prolonged exposure to moisture, extreme temperature fluctuations, or improper installation. When siding begins to warp or buckle, it can create gaps that allow air and moisture to infiltrate your home, leaving it open to water damage and pests. This affects your home's energy efficiency and can lead to mold growth and further structural issues.

Choosing the Right Siding Material

Selecting the right siding material for your home is a crucial step in the replacement process. Siding is not merely a protective layer; it is an integral component of your home's aesthetic appeal. Well-maintained siding enhances the overall look of your residence, making it stand out in the neighborhood.

With many options available, it is essential to choose a material that aligns with your aesthetic preferences, budget, and maintenance requirements. At Chapman Windows Doors & Siding, we offer vinyl and fiber cement siding options. We educate customers on their choices so that they can make an informed decision.



Hiring a Professional Siding Contractor

At Chapman Windows Doors & Siding, we work with you from the beginning to the end of the project. There are many options, from material choice to style and color. Our project consultants are on hand to help you choose the right siding for your home based on the look you are trying to achieve. After that, our highly-skilled installers bring your vision to life so you are left with beautiful new siding. We offer free consultations.

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THE ROAD AHEAD:

TCHS TRAINING THE NEXT **GENERATION OF AUTO TECHNICIANS**

■ BY KAYLA MEAKIM, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST, CCIU

At the Chester County Technical College High School (TCHS)

Pennock's Bridge campus, one student is turning his family's automotive legacy into a promising career path. Dominick, a current student in the Auto Collision program, found his way to the trade through a combination of family influence and hands-on experience.

"I've always been fascinated with cars, especially working with my grandfather," Dominick shares, describing his early exposure to automotive work. His path to TCHS was further influenced by both his cousin, who studied in the Health Career Pathways, and his brother, who pursued Automotive Service at the school. Today, his brother owns an auto shop in Kennett Square, opening potential doors for future collaboration.

The Auto Collision program at TCHS, a public high school specializing in career and technical education that is owned and operated by the Chester County Intermediate Unit (CCIU), offers students comprehensive training in vehicle repair and maintenance. Through his studies, Dominick has gained valuable certifications, including an OSHA safety card, and is currently working toward his I-CAR certification.

His education extends beyond the classroom through a co-op position at 3D Collision Center, where he's thriving in a supportive environment. "3D has been, honestly, one of the best work choices I possibly ever could have chosen," he reflects. His responsibilities include performing tear-downs, writing estimates, and rebuilding vehicles.



Dominick also recognizes the growing demand for skilled technicians in the auto body industry. "It's a workforce that hasn't been doing so well recently, and it's starting to pick back up with all these newer cars," he explains. "A lot of people who have knowledge are starting to retire and they're always needing new people, so I figured why not become one of the newer, next generation of auto body technicians?"

Looking ahead, Dominick has clear goals. He plans to continue working in the field immediately after graduation, learning from experienced technicians before potentially pursuing further education at Automotive Training Center. His five-year plan includes becoming an established auto body technician.

For those considering a trade school education, Dominick's experience demonstrates the value of seizing those opportunities. His journey from working on cars with his grandfather to preparing for a professional career in auto collision repair showcases the potential for success through technical education and hands-on experience at TCHS.



Chadds Ford Elementary School Presents 76th Annual Art Show



The School Spotlight section is proudly sponsored by

Substitute Teacher Service, Inc.

■ BYJOHN MITCHELL, PUBLICITY CHAIR PHOTOS PROVIDED BY CFES ART SHOW

Chadds Ford Elementary School is excited to host its 76th Annual Art Show and Sale on Saturday, March 15, 2025, from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. This one day event affords patrons an opportunity to purchase art, jewelry, wooden items, glass designs, and more directly from more than 60 artists, creating meaningful connections between creator and buyer. There is no admission fee for this event, and all ages are welcome to attend. An updated list of artists can be found on the event's website: www.cfes.ucfsd.org.

New this year, we will host an online auction for works generously donated by our artists. The auction will be hosted on the online platform 32auctions.com. Information and links to the auction will be posted on the event's website site closer to the event. As with prior years, select items will be available for an in-person raffle at the event.

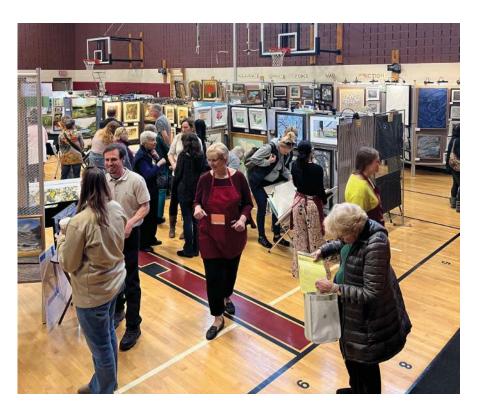
Patrons should note that each artist will control their own payment process. While some artists may offer various payment options, such as credit card, Venmo, or Apple Pay, all artists will accept cash or personal checks.

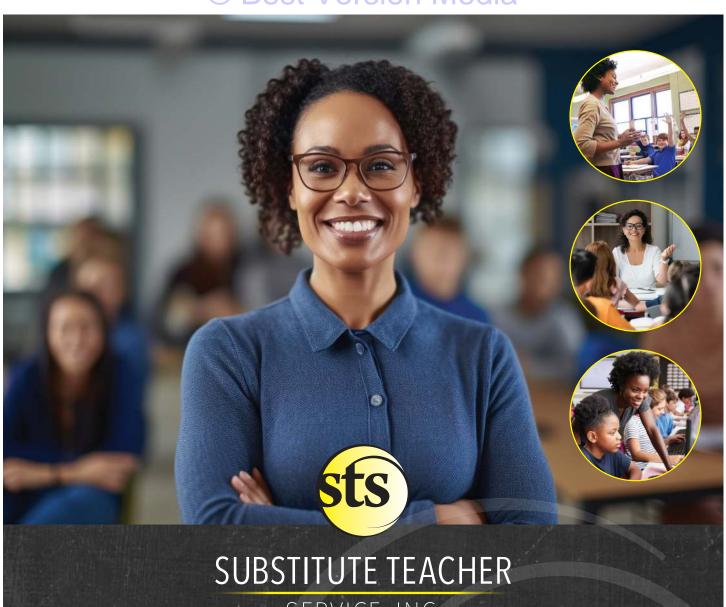


About the Annual Chadds Ford Art Show and Sale

The late Betsy Wyeth, wife of the late Andrew Wyeth, founded the Annual Chadds Ford Art Show and Sale in 1949 and remained involved while their sons Jamie and Nicholas Wyeth were students at Chadds Ford Elementary. The annual event continues to serve as the school's largest annual fundraiser. Funding continues to support enhancements to substantial enrichment opportunities, including new outdoor experiential learning structures, which will be enjoyed by many generations of Chadds Ford students to come.







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A Holistic Way to Lose Weight



BY AMY LITZ, CONTOURED MED SPA

"What is the skinny shot?"

Most of us by now have heard of the "skinny shot," or semaglutide injection, which has been proven to aid in weight loss.

By increasing the amount of glucose produced by the pancreas, and reducing the amount of glucagon produced by the liver, the stomach feels fuller longer, so we don't feel the need to eat as often. Plus, the body burns more fat.

The introduction of semaglutide is good news for those with Type-2 diabetes. Its efficacy in lowering blood sugar levels and promoting weight loss can help improve overall glycemic control and reduce the risk of diabetes-related complications such as heart disease, kidney disease, and nerve damage. Additionally, semaglutide offers a convenient once-weekly dosing option, which can improve adherence to treatment regimens compared to medications that require daily dosing. This can be particularly beneficial for patients who struggle with medication adherence or have busy lifestyles.

This is a game changer when it comes to how we approach weight loss, especially since while taking the injections, clients learn to control the size of the portions



they consume at meals. And, foods high in sugar and saturated fats could make a person nauseous, so they are foods that you will start to avoid, not only further ensuring that you will lose weight, but that you will make better choices at the table.

Newer studies are showing, as well, that the semaglutide shot also aids in reducing alcohol consumption, mostly because the medicine mutes our interest in consuming, let alone over-consuming, what we eat and drink. That's an added benefit for those of us who want to cut back on how and when we imbibe.

Some of the downsides that have been reported with the semaglutide shot are a loss of muscle mass as well as feeling "low energy," often attributed to the rapid weight loss combined with not consuming our normal calorie intake.

Because of that, a more holistic plan is to work with a nutritionist and exercise coach or personal trainer. That way, your body is getting the amount of nutrients it needs

so you can stay healthy as you lose weight, and by incorporating strength training and cardiovascular exercise, you are continuing to build muscle mass and keep your heart and other organs healthy. We currently have hundreds of people enrolled in our program.

To treat the low energy feeling that many experience, another option is to include NAD in your weight loss routine. NAD (nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide) is a coenzyme found in all living things that helps to regulate the physiological processes in our bodies. As we get older, we don't produce as much of it, which can lead to both mental and physical fatigue. NAD injections can not only increase your energy, it can aid in providing mental clarity and boost metabolism, basically slowing down the aging process.

So, to lose weight healthily, considering the option of a semaglutide injection should be paired with a NAD treatment, a nutrition plan, and an exercise regimen, that will not only aid in reducing weight in a balanced way, but will set you up for long-term success.



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CCAA Offers Two Exciting Shows in March

■ BY FRANCESCA PHILLIPS, CCAA

The Chester County Arts Association has two shows in March that reflect the diversity of artistry and creativity that CCAA is known for.





↑ E0 Omwake: Recent and Past

March 6 - April 2, 2025

Allinson Gallery, Chester County Art Association

The Chester County Art Association is proud to present *EO Omwake: Recent and Past*, a compelling exhibition that traverses the artist's diverse career, blending emotional expression, conceptual themes, and vivid explorations of everyday life. The show runs from March 6 to April 2, 2025, with an Opening Reception on *Thursday, March* 6, from 5–7 PM.

Omwake's paintings shift fluidly between representational and abstract expressionism, embracing both simplicity and complexity. His works draw from personal memories, favorite TV show imagery, and serene landscapes, while delving into universal themes like yin and yang, tranquility, and Zen-inspired minimalism. Color and shape become the core of Omwake's visual language, capturing the many shades of his inner world and philosophical reflections.

In his own words, Omwake states, "Artists give something to the world—something that can enrich people's lives. Art enlivens life and stimulates the imagination." His work is a testament to this belief, offering viewers fresh perspectives and emotional resonance.

Join us at CCAA to experience this dynamic body of work that bridges the personal and the universal, the past and the present. Admission is free and open to the public.

↑ Cary Galbraith: Simple REALISM - My Painting Journey

March 6 - April 2, 2025

Huston Gallery, Chester County Art Association

Cary Galbraith invites viewers into a world of striking clarity and painterly wonder in Simple REALISM – My Painting Journey, on view at the Huston Gallery from March 6 to April 2, 2025. This exhibition features a curated selection of oil paintings that embody Galbraith's pursuit of balance between color, contrast, and simplicity. Each piece reflects her commitment to the academic tradition of painting from life, capturing the essence of her subjects—whether still life, figure, or landscape—with a dynamic sense of atmosphere and light.

Through years of refining her technique, Galbraith has embraced a thoughtful, deliberate approach to her work, emphasizing only what is necessary to engage the viewer. Her paintings encourage quiet contemplation, inviting audiences to linger and connect with the energy and form within each canvas.

Join Cary Galbraith at the opening reception on *Thursday, March* 6, from 5 to 7 PM, and experience her journey through realism, where simplicity meets depth and every brushstroke tells a story.

Chester County Arts Association is located at 100 North Bradford Avenue, West Chester.





Roof Math: Understanding the Long-Term Costs of Your Roofing Choices

KEVIN O'DONNELL, O'DONNELL ROOFING CO

When replacing your roof, it's important to think beyond the upfront cost. What will your total investment look like over 30, 50 or even 100 years? The right choice depends on your long-term goals. If you're in your forever home, avoiding the hassle and expense of multiple roof replacements may be worth the initial investment in a longer-lasting material. But if you plan to move in the next decade, a lower upfront cost might make more sense. Let's break down the numbers.

The True Cost of an Asphalt Roof

Suppose an asphalt shingle roof costs \$15,000. The standard lifespan is 20 to 30 years, but it drops to 10 to 15 years with poor installation. Assuming quality workmanship and 2% annual inflation, your next roof replacement in 25 years would cost approximately \$24,500, bringing the total 30-year cost to \$39,500.

Over a 100-year period, if we assume that 50% of the installations were subpar, the total cost for five replacements would be approximately \$186,000 - and that's for a base-level shingle every time.

Metal Roofing: A Middle Ground

A metal roof lasts around 50 years, and on the same roof, it would cost \$38,000 to install. If you plan to stay in your home over 30 years, you might never need another replacement. By comparison, the two asphalt roofs over 30 years costing \$39,500 make metal a competitive option.

Over 100 years, you'd likely need one replacement, bringing the total cost to \$140,000 with inflation-cheaper than asphalt but still requiring one full reroofing.

Slate Roofing: The Lifetime Investment

Installing slate on the same roof would cost \$82,000, but it's a one-time investment that lasts 100+ years. Even with occasional repairs, the long-term cost remains lower than replacing an asphalt roof multiple times. It's clear that slate is the best long-term economic investment in roofing. Spending five to six times the money upfront will save significant money long term.

What's the Right Choice for You?

Ultimately, your decision comes down to your goals and how long you plan to stay in your home.







Most people won't live in the same house for 100 years, but these numbers are still worth considering. Some homes stay in the same family for generations, which could make a longer-lasting roof the smarter investment. Plus, choosing a material that lasts longer isn't just about cost, it's about reducing waste. Every time an asphalt roof is replaced, it adds to landfills, while slate and metal reduce the frequency of tear-offs.

If you're planning a roof replacement, thinking beyond just the next 20 years could help you make the best decision for your home, your finances and the environment.



THE LENNI LENAPE, WILLIAM PENN, AND THE PEACEABLE KINGDOM

■ BY KEVIN J. CAHILL, PH.D. PROFESSOR OF HISTORY. DELAWARE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

The relationship of the Lenni Lenape people and European settlers, although not without violent conflict, did adhere to William Penn's ideals of a peaceable kingdom for over a century.

The Peaceable Kingdom, whose foundation was established by the Lenni Lenape in the 1630s and continued by William Penn in 1681, was a multicultural society that encouraged shared land use, religious freedom and profitable trade.

The Lenni Lenape controlled the land that included present-day southern New York, eastern Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and northern Delaware. When the first Dutch and Swedish traders arrived in the 1630s, the Lenni Lenape granted them the right to establish trading posts that were beneficial for both groups. The Lenape provided furs, most notably beaver pelts, in return for manufactured goods including metal tools, pots, utensils, textiles and weapons.

From the 1630s until the late 17th century, the Lenape used their authority to establish a peaceful and positive relationship with the European newcomers. The only requirement was that European settlers refrain from practicing agriculture. The widespread violence and land loss that resulted from agriculture in the Chesapeake Colonies was likely the rationale for this requirement. With these few exceptions, violence between the Lenape and the Europeans was largely nonexistent, which was an anomaly in British North America. Throughout the 17th century the British Colonies were wracked by violence that was best demonstrated by the Pequot War, three Anglo Powhatan Wars, King Philips War and Bacon's Rebellion.

Lenape control over their land holdings remained intact until the establishment of Pennsylvania which occurred in 1681, when King Charles II of Great Britain granted William Penn 45,000 square miles of land to repay the 16,000-pound debt owed to the Penn family. Penn's primary goal for his



The Peaceable Kingdom and Penn's Treaty by Edward Hicks (1780–1849)

colony was to create a haven for English Quakers who were persecuted for their radical religious practices. In addition, he hoped the colony would prove beneficial to both the European settlers and the indigenous people.

The establishment of Pennsylvania occurred after the population decline of the Lenape People, which altered the balance of power in the region. As a result of disease, the Lenape population dropped from 7,500 in the Early 1600s to 3,000 in 1681. As a result of this change and the arrival of 4,000 English settlers, the Lenape no longer controlled the region.

Until the outbreak of the French and Indian War in 1754, Penn's Peaceable Kingdom remained intact. However, because Penn's efforts to honestly treat the Lenape was not strictly adhered to while he was alive and abandoned by his heirs after his death in 1718, the Lenape abandoned their homeland and

moved to present day western Pennsylvania and eastern Ohio. Thereafter, the Lenape, (now referred to as the Delawares) began attacking farms and settlements throughout the western part of the Colony.

The end of the French and Indian War did not bring an end to violence in Pennsylvania's backcountry. The best indication of this was the Paxton Boys massacre, which occurred in December of 1763. In two separate incidents, Pennsylvania settlers massacred twenty Conestoga Native Americans in present-day Lancaster County. In the second incident, the fourteen survivors of the first attack were dragged from the Lancaster jail, where they were being held for their own safety and brutally murdered in the streets of Lancaster. Pennsylvania had become a war zone, and all traces of the Peaceable Kingdom first constructed by the Lenni Lenape, and then continued by William Penn, were history.

THE INOUISITIVE SCHOLAR is proudly sponsored by TEAM TOYOTA OF GLEN MILLS



PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE PERSONIFIED

■ BY MAURA BELLEW, UCFSD | PHOTO COURTESY OF MAURA BELLEW



Unionville High School senior Eleanor "Ellie" Day has been selected as a 2025 Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation Regional Finalist!

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program awards achievement-based scholarships to high school seniors who excel in leadership, service and community impact. Since its inception, it has honored over 6,900 students with \$84 million in scholarships.

Day submitted a detailed application for the scholarship including activities, volunteer work, letters of recommendation, grades and essays. She was one of three Unionville High School students recognized as a Semifinalist. "I was honored to have qualified with lan and Stella-both phenomenal people and applicants," Day shared. "I deeply admire them and am grateful for this journey."

Selected from 105,000 applicants, Day was among 1,337 Semifinalists and is now one of 250 advancing to regional interviews in February. After these interviews are conducted in early February, 150 Regional Finalists will be designated as Coca-Cola Scholars and attend Scholars Weekend in Atlanta (April 3-6, 2025). The Foundation will also award \$3.1 million in college scholarships to these outstanding young leaders.



"We believe that identifying these young leaders throughout the country and encouraging their passion for serving others not only empowers the students but also lifts those around them," said Jane Hale Hopkins, President of the Foundation. "The Coca-Cola system is dedicated to giving back to the communities they serve, and the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is proud to be a part of that commitment."

Day applied for the scholarship to support her college education. Her ultimate goal is an MD-PhD, using the money to explore her passions for science and writing. Over the years, she has realized the deeper meaning of blending the two passions. Day hopes to use them to communicate scientific discoveries and advocate for healthcare policies for her future patients—all while "enjoying it in a totally nerdy way." She shared that her love for writing and science stems from inspiring teachers who made learning exciting. "I especially appreciate Mrs. DelDotto, Ms. Burt, Mr. Tredway, Mrs. Haitz and Mr. Lacianca for their academic and personal support," said Day. "A special thanks to Mrs. Hofmann-Reardon, my elementary gifted teacher, who first sparked my love of learning. Her continued encouragement has shaped my journey, and I couldn't be more grateful."

"This accomplishment speaks volumes about Ellie's dedication, talent, and embodiment of our Portrait of a Graduate," shared Unionville High School Principal Dr. Jenkins. "She has consistently demonstrated a thirst for knowledge, a commitment to personal growth and a passion for making a positive impact on the world. As she moves forward in this scholarship opportunity, we are incredibly proud of her achievements and excited to see what she will accomplish in the future."





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