Town Tours & Village Walks (continued)

13 OCTOBER 8 THURSDAY 4:30 to 6:00 PM

Adaptive Reuse – Where the Past Meets the Future in the Heart of Chester County!

Come walk in the footsteps of the Thomas Vickers Family who were renowned Quaker potters, abolitionists, and farmers. Learn how the historic circa 1770 house and bank barn are being preserved by Regal Builders, see actual examples of the Vickers 18th century pottery created on site, and enjoy a display of vintage clay pipes like those once made there. Then, take a hayride through history to explore the neighboring farm where the original part of the house is circa 1750, built by early Quaker settlers - the Mendenhall family.

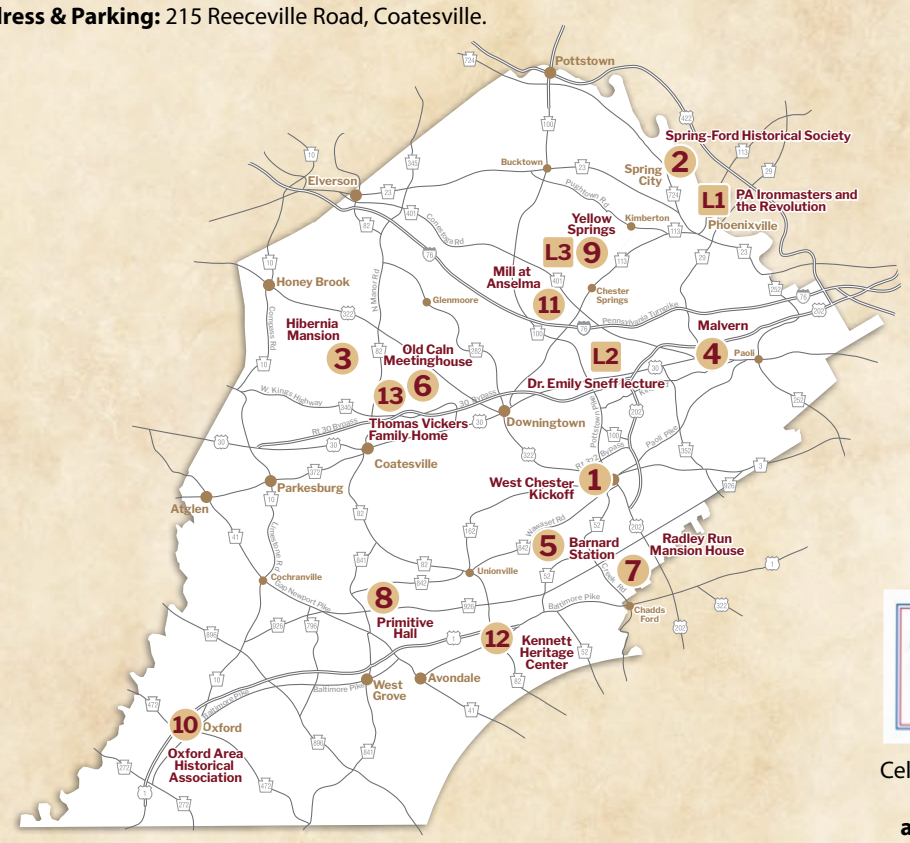
Address & Parking: 215 Reeceville Road, Coatesville.

L3 OCTOBER 15 THURSDAY 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Lecture: Historic Yellow Springs

Join us as we learn about herbal medicine during the Revolutionary War from an expert perspective! Explore the impact of trade blockades on early American medicine and hear about how medical advancements during the war impacted American medicine for centuries to come!

Address & Parking: Parking is at Historic Yellow Springs is at 1709 Art School Road. As needed, additional parking is available in the field across from 1657 Art School Road and in the West Pikeland Township Lot at 1645 Art School Rd. All are a short walk from the event location at 1701 Art School Road.



Chester County, PA

America 250 PA Chester County

Celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary in 2026!
america250chesco.org

Town Tours & Village Walks

13 Tours for 13 Colonies

2026

Town Tours & Village Walks is a series of free summer strolls through historic neighborhoods, hamlets, and villages to learn about their role in Chester County, both in the past and today!

Each tour is designed to inform, entertain, and increase awareness of Chester County's rich heritage and historic landscape. A number of our sites offer a good selection of restaurants and shops to enjoy after your tour.

This year you can explore Chester County's heritage on Thursday evenings, April 30th–October 15th.

Kickoff celebration

The kickoff celebration will be April 30th at the Thomas U. Walter Historic Chester County Courthouse, followed by a tour.

Tour times

Tours generally last 50 minutes and begin at 5:30 pm with the last tour leaving at 7:00 pm.

Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence

July 4th, 2026, is the 250th anniversary of the Continental Congress declaring the independence of the American colonies from Great Britain. Throughout the year, Chester County will commemorate and celebrate the anniversary with a variety of community events and programs. The 2026 Town Tours and Village Walks program welcomes you to join us as we celebrate with an expanded season. The program, 13 Tours for the 13 Colonies, focuses on places, people, and events in Chester County that molded and defined the complex tapestry of history that shaped our nation.

Chester County, one of the three original Pennsylvania counties created by its founder William Penn, has a long and vibrant history. Established by Penn in 1682, the County offered rich soil for agriculture, flowing water to power mills, timber, and iron ore to support the growth of the colonial population. With its proximity to Philadelphia, an extensive road network developed, connecting the county to local and regional markets for its goods and raw materials. By the time of the Declaration of Independence, in 1776, the economy, the villages, farms, mills, and iron furnaces of Chester County were creating the foundation for the cultural and economic centers that we know today.

Town Tours & Village Walks

13 Tours for 13 Colonies

For more information

Chester County Planning Commission
chescoplanning.org
ccplanning@chesco.org
610-344-6285

Please note

Sites are handicapped limited access—please contact the Chester County Planning Commission for specific needs.

As an attendee of this event, you agree to the release of photos that may be taken and used on our website, social media sites, and publications.

Rain or shine. Schedule changes or cancellation due to severe weather will be posted by 2:00 pm at: chescoplanning.org

Supported by

- Chester County Board of Commissioners
- Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
- Chester County Historic Preservation Network
- Chester County History Center
- Chester County Planning Commission

The Planning Commission is pleased to support the 2026 Town Tours & Village Walks and thanks the many partners and volunteers who make the program an annual success, as we welcome this summer's participants in learning about the county's heritage.

Landscapes

How We APPRECIATE

GOAL: Preserve the historic resources and landscapes that define our cultural heritage to inspire the future through tangible connections to our shared past.

Town Tours & Village Walks 2026

- Chester County Board of Commissioners
- Chester County Conference & Visitors Bureau
- Chester County Historic Preservation Network
- Chester County History Center
- Chester County Planning Commission
  601 Westtown Road, Suite 270
  West Chester, PA 19380
  chescoplanning.org

2026

Town Tours & Village Walks

• FREE TOURS •

13 Tours for 13 Colonies

Chester County, Pennsylvania

chescoplanning.org

Town Tours & Village Walks Chester County, PA 2026

1 APRIL 30 THURSDAY 5:30 kickoff, followed by tour

Welcome to the Chester County Town Tours Kickoff – West Chester Borough

Join us at the Thomas U. Walter Historic Chester County Courthouse for the 32nd Annual Town Tours & Village Walks located at 2 N. High Street in West Chester. Enter through East Market Street. Doors open at 5:00pm and the formal program begins at 5:30pm. Downtown walking tours will follow and focus on everything from Lenape lands, Quaker farmsteads, the Turk's Head Tavern, the American Revolution, our county seat, religion, education, people, business, and architecture, plus contemporary events and lifestyles. Music by the Lenape Brass.

Address & Parking: Garages at 20 S. High St.,14 E. Chestnut St. (Enter on Walnut), 220 W. Market St (limited free parking), metered/kiosk lots at 100 block S. High, 200 block W. Miner, 50 block W. Chestnut and street parking by FLOWBIRD/kiosk.

L1 MAY 7 THURSDAY 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Lecture: Pennsylvania Ironmasters and the Revolution

Join us as we explore the critically important role the iron furnaces of southeastern Pennsylvania played in supplying George Washington's troops with ammunition, cannons, and guns. The talk will focus on the people and key manufacturing sites that contributed to the success of the American Revolution.

Address: Schuylkill River Heritage Center, 2 North Main Street, Phoenixville.

2 MAY 14 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Spring-Ford Area Historical Society

Spring City has a long fascinating history with Chester County. From its early founders building grist mills along the Schuylkill River, to stove making, iron & steel manufacturing and being one of the most active locations along the Schuylkill Canal amongst many other important buildings. Explore these areas along the tour route and learn about one of Chester County's historic gems.

Address & Parking: Spring City Borough parking lot located at Main Street & Yost Ave.

3 MAY 21 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Woven in History: A Textile Collection at Hibernia Mansion

Celebrate America's 250th anniversary through fabric and design. *Woven in History* features Hibernia's own textile collection alongside special loaned textiles, showcasing how craftsmanship, style, and storytelling have shaped American life. Join us for a festive program that highlights the threads connecting history, artistry, and tradition.

Address & Parking: 1 Park Road, Coatesville. Large parking lot adjacent to the mansion.

4 JUNE 4 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Women & Minorities in Malvern

Malvern's identity was shaped by its women and minorities. Our tour will highlight just some of the many contributions of Black and female Malvernites since the 1800s, affecting our libraries, homes, banks, and a myriad of businesses. We'll learn more about the effective women's social groups and our industrious Black businessmen over the years.

Address & Parking: Starting point will be the Samuel and M. Elizabeth Burke Park at 21 S Warren Ave, Malvern. The west/left end of the western East Side Flats (233 E King St), parking lot at E King St and Church St, parking lot on E King at Channing (directly next to 101 E King), the Burke Park lot at 21 S Warren Ave, McGuigan Hall lot at 1 E First Ave.

5 JUNE 11 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Barnard Station – Pocopson Township

Tour the historic Barnard homestead, an Underground Railroad station currently being restored by the Friends of Barnard Station, a 501(c)(3). The tour will present the abolitionist efforts of the Barnard family to end slavery and help secure "the Blessings of Liberty" for all people. Additionally, the program will provide insights into 19th Century Pocopson history, agriculture and industry in the township, and the free Black population that called Pocopson home.

Address & Parking: 650 South Wawaset Rd, West Chester. For GPS use 664 South Wawaset Rd, W Chester 19382. Visitor parking for the event will be directly across the street, in the back lot of the Chester County Pocopson Home.

6 JUNE 18 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Caln Township Historical Commission – 300th Anniversary of Old Quaker Meetinghouse

For 300 years (1726-2026) the Old Caln Meetinghouse has stood as a silent witness to our evolving nation, welcoming generations of Chester County Quakers from Caln Township and providing peace during periods of existential conflict. This tour will share the legacies of those who frequented the Caln Meetinghouse – contextualizing daily life on the grounds of this 300-year-old landmark.

Address & Parking: 901 Caln Meetinghouse Rd., Coatesville. The Township will be closing a section of Caln Meetinghouse Road to provide street parking for those attending the Town Tour. Flaggers will be provided to ensure safe access to parking areas along the roadway.

7 JULY 16 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

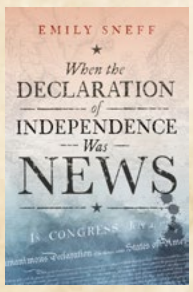
Radley Run Mansion House: A Journey Through Time

The 250-year-old Mansion House was in the path of soldiers marching to the Battle of Brandywine during the Revolutionary War. The Mansion House has served many purposes over the years, from a farmhouse, to an Underground Railroad Station, to a foxhunting base. Today it remains a landmark for the Radley Run community for its beauty and educational value.

Address & Parking: 1100 Country Club Road, West Chester. Parking available in front of the Mansion or in the lot across the street.

L2 JULY 23 THURSDAY 5:30 to 7:00 PM

Lecture: When the Declaration of Independence Was News



Dr. Emily Sneff, an early American historian and leading expert on the Declaration of Independence, will present her book, *When the Declaration of Independence Was News*. It explores how the Declaration was communicated to people in the new nation and around the Atlantic world and reveals the stories of the many people involved in the process of declaring independence, from printers to soldiers to diplomats to translators.

Address & Parking: Struble Room, Chester County Library & District Center, Exton, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton. Additional free parking in the Exton Mall Garage, across from the library.

8 AUGUST 6 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Primitive Hall, Ancestral Home of the Pennock Family

Primitive Hall, built by Irish immigrant Joseph Pennock in 1738, is a house museum that showcases 18th-century architecture and provides insights into the lives of early Chester County residents. Visitors will learn about the history of this prominent Quaker family and the Hall's 20th-century restoration.

Address & Parking: Primitive Hall, 830 North Chatham Road, West Grove (North Chatham Road is Route 841. The Hall is located on Route 841, between Routes 842 and 926, in West Marlborough Township. Parking will be on the lawn on the south and west sides of the Hall. The ground is level.

9 AUGUST 20 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Historic Yellow Springs

Celebrate America250 and discover the story of the American Revolution from a whole new perspective -- literally! As part of America250, this tour invites visitors to experience the American Revolution from an often-overlooked vantage point: the critical medical infrastructure that sustained the Continental Army.

Address & Parking: See L3 (October 15 event) for address and parking information (on other side above map).

10 SEPTEMBER 17 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Oxford Area Historical Association

The Oxford Area Historical Association invites you on a road journey of Dickey Family history in Oxford and the surrounding townships. For more than two centuries, the Dickey family made major contributions to the growth of southwestern Chester County. Onward from 1730, when the first Dickey arrived, they pioneered the use of improved farming methods, developed manufacturing centers, promoted modern transportation facilities, founded schools, a university, and led a host of social reform movements. Five members of the family became clergy, giving guidance to their neighbors. They set high standards for themselves as community leaders.

This self-driving tour will guide you by Dickey homes and farms, mills, schools, Lincoln University and enterprises.

Address: Driving tour starts at Oxford Area Historical Association, 119 S. Fifth Street, Oxford.

11 SEPTEMBER 24 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

The Mill at Anselma

Step inside The Mill at Anselma, a historic water-powered grist mill built around 1747 that once served local farmers in Chester County, known as the "breadbasket" of colonial America. Visitors will explore the history of the mill and its owners, see how early milling technology worked, and learn how mills supported local communities and the Revolutionary-era food supply.

Address & Parking: 1730 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs. Follow the parking signs to the large field to the right.

12 OCTOBER 1 THURSDAY first tour 5:30, last tour 7:00

Kennett Square – A Hotbed of Social Reform

Kennett Square earned a lasting reputation as a center of social reform. Since the founding of the Anti-Slavery Movement in 1833, citizens of Kennett have been among its supporters. After the abolition of slavery, many redirected their energies toward women's suffrage and the temperance movement, continuing the town's legacy as a hub of progressive change.

Address & Parking: Municipal parking garage,120 E Linden Street, Kennett Square. The tour will start on the walkway outside the parking garage.

(continues to map panel)