



Summer 2010 Calendar of Events for Children, Individuals and Families

GREATER COATESVILLE AND CHESTER COUNTY AREAS
UPDATED - August 22, 2010

Calendar of Events Sections:

Special Activities: Upcoming activities listed by day over the next several months.

Weekly Activities: Activities held regularly each week or month.

Summer Day Trip Destination Sites: Free admission opportunities for family visits.

Information About Services for Individuals and Families: Ongoing resources.

Employment-Related Information: Ongoing resources.

Activities are believed correct at the time of insertion but are subject to change without notice.

Participants are encouraged

to use contact information to confirm times and dates to avoid disappointment.

Information on submission of events is provided on the last page of this Calendar.

Suggestions on how this effort might be improved are encouraged by e-mailing bps461@msn.com.

Special Activities

Through October 1 (Friday)

Human Nature Photography Exhibit. The Gallery, Penn State Great Valley, 30 East Swedesford Road, Malvern. 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

A collection of 40 photographs by writer and photographer Brian H. Peterson, chief curator at the James A. Michener Art Museum, Doylestown, documents his personal and symbolic explorations of aging, illness, and transcendence. Further information is available at www.sgps.psu.edu/peterson.

August 23 (Monday)

Parkinson's Support Group. Concord Room, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., with exercise at 1:45 p.m.

The group will play Wii and experience how technology can provide a challenging and fun way to stay as healthy and active as possible.

Free activity. Further information is available from Judy Shaffer, independent living social worker, at jshaffer@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6259.

August 23 (Monday)

Meet the Churches – Charity Christian Fellowship. Chapel, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 7 p.m.

Emmanuel Esh will speak during this sixth of seven weekly presentations about various churches.

Free activity. Further information is available from Chet Yoder, director of pastoral care, at (717) 355-6203 or at cyoder@gardenspotvillage.org.

August 24 (Tuesday)

Financial Strategies for Today's Economy. PA CareerLink, 250 East Harmony Street, Coatesville. 10 a.m. to noon.

A new workshop will feature discussions about budgeting, health insurance options and rolling over 401(k) investments.

Free activity. Further information and registration is available at (610) 384-9393.

August 24 (Tuesday)

Concert on the Square. Eagleview Town Center, 540 Wellington Square, Eagleview (Exton). 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Tuesday evening summer concerts feature Among the Oak & Ash, with guest Chris Riffle.

Free Activity. Further information is available at www.hankingroup.com/CommercialCorpEagleview-Events.php.

August 25 (Wednesday)

Artwork Discusstion. Westminster Place Apartments, 320 West 1st Ave, Parkesburg. 9:45 a.m.

Congressman Joseph Pitts will provide a discussion on his art work on display at Westminster Place.

Free activity. Further information is available from Lin Pleiman, supportive services coordinator, at (610) 857-4272.

August 25 (Wednesday)

Home Repair Programs. Tabernacle Baptist Church, 819 Coates Street, Coatesville. 6 p.m.

Good Works and the Housing Partnership of Chester County will present this sixth in a series of *Help Yourself, Help Your Neighbor* classes to assist Chester County residents in establishing financial stability.

Free activity. Further information is available from Yasheeka Oakley at yOakley@chesco.org or at (610) 344-6900, or at http://dsf.chesco.org/ccdcd/lib/ccdcd/fom_mni-series_poster.pdf.

August 25 (Wednesday)

Car & Motorcycle Cruise-In. The Family Center of Gap, 835 Houston Run Drive, Gap. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

All cars, from classics to low-riders, are welcome to this rain date event.

Free activity. Further information is available at (717) 442-2300.

August 25 (Wednesday)

Summer Carillon Concert. Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge National Park, Route 23, Valley Forge. 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Robin Austin, Princeton University carillonneur will perform in this final in a series of weekly outdoor concerts featuring the carillon, the heaviest of all musical instruments that is housed in the National Patriots Bell Tower and Carillon.

Free activity. Further information is available at <http://209.200.101.38/?t=c&cid=4> or at (610) 783-0120.

August 26 (Thursday)

Back to School Day. Coatesville Center for Community Health, 1001 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. 10 a.m. to noon; vaccines 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Several free activities will occur for children and families including:

Free Vaccines. Chester County Health Department will administer all recommended vaccines for children five to 18 years, including Tdap, chicken pox, HPV for ages nine and up and meningitis for ages 11 and up. Advance registration is required at (610) 380-7111 x16.

Back Packs and Supplies. The first 200 children will receive these school items.

Health and money management information, health insurance enrollment, and physical fitness activities will be available.

Free activity. Further information is available from Kathryn Spurlock at (610) 380-7111 x16 or at ccch@comcast.net.

August 27 (Friday)

Dementia Care the Right Way. The Devon Senior Living, 445 North Valley Forge Road, Devon. 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The final in a series of *Underneath the Alzheimer's* educational events for families and healthcare professionals. Six continuing education units (CEUs) will be available for social workers.

Free activity, including refreshments, with reservations required at (610) 594-0200.

August 27 (Friday)

Furry Fliers. Lower Parking Lot, Springon Manor Farm, 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore. 7:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

A family hike will locate bats on their nightly hunt for insects, along with learning to attract bats to yards for a natural bug killer.

Free activity, with pre-registration required at www.chesco.org/ccparks or at (610) 344-6415.

August 28 and 29 (Saturday-Sunday)

Skirmish at Hibernia Forge. Hibernia Park, 1 Park Road, Wagontown (Coatesville). 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday.

A battle re-enactment between the Union and Confederate infantry and artillery, visits to military camps, small arms and artillery firing demonstration, tour of the Hibernia Museum, food and Civil War item shopping will be available.

Free activity with a \$10 per car parking fee, charges for some items, and \$2 fee for an optional Saturday night candle light tour. Further information is available at www.97thPVI.org.

August 28 (Saturday)

Phoenixville Bike Day. Bridge Street, between Main and Gay Streets, Phoenixville. Noon to 6 p.m.

Motorcycles, including vintage and racing bikes, live bands, food and merchandise vendors will be on hand during this event.

Free activity with charges for personal items. Further information is available at (610) 608-4067, info@phoenixvillebikeday.com or www.phoenixvillebikeday.com.

August 28 (Saturday)

Back-to-School Cleanup Day. City Hall, 1 City Hall Plaza, Coatesville. 8:30 a.m. to noon.

A community cleanup day will be held with participants meeting at City Hall.

Free activity. Further information is available at MatthewBaker19320@gmail.com.

August 28 (Saturday)

Welcome Home Veterans Celebration.

Building 5, Coatesville Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 1400 Blackhorse Hill Road, Coatesville. 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.; picnic 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and families of currently deployed service members will join together for a host of activities, including live music, face painting, magic shows, a U.S. Flag hot air balloon launch if weather permits, and food. Information on programs and benefits also will be available.

Free activity, with reservations at (610) 384-7711 x5160 or at vhacoawelcomehome@va.gov. A downloadable poster and registration form is available at http://dsf.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2010/welcome_home_invitation_letter.pdf.

August 28 (Saturday)

Family Night Hike. Pavilion 1, Warwick County Park, 382 County Park Road, Pottstown. 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

A family hike will discover creatures and critters that are out at night, and explore the forest of today and when charcoal was produced at the site in the 1800s.

Free activity, with pre-registration required at www.chesco.org/ccparks or at (610) 344-6415.

August 29 (Sunday)

Quakers and the Revolutionary War. 1107 East Baltimore Pike at Kendal Drive, Kennett Square. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Author Bruce Mowday will discuss the Quakers who became involved in the Revolutionary War and what happened during the Brandywine Battle of September 11, 1777.

Free activity. Further information about the series is available at www.kennettfriends.org/misc_docs/old-kennett-tricen-lecture-series.pdf.

August 29 (Sunday)

Gospel Concert. Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church, 314 Church Street, Avondale. 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Jerrod Coates and Friends will be in concert with Andrea Smith and Amanda of Genesis AME Zion and Mt. Tabor Church Choir also featured.

Free activity with free will offering. Further information is available at (610) 268-3270.

August 30 (Monday)

Meet the Churches – New Order Amish.

Chapel, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 7 p.m.

Ben Lapp will speak during this final of seven weekly presentations about various churches.

Free activity. Further information is available from Chet Yoder, director of pastoral care, at (717) 355-6203 or at cyoder@gardenspotvillage.org.

August 31 (Tuesday)

Concert on the Square. Eagleview Town Center, 540 Wellington Square, Eagleview (Exton). 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Rain date Thursday, September 2.

Final Tuesday evening summer concerts feature Entrain, with fireworks to follow.

Free Activity. Further information is available at www.hankingroup.com/CommercialCorpEagleview-Events.php.

September 1 (Wednesday)

Living With Loss Support Group. Village Square Board Room, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.

The group will discuss drawing inspiration from a cross-cultural focus on grief.

Free activity. Further information is available from Karen Horning, director of social services, at khorning@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6010.

September 1 (Wednesday)

Jobs Fair. McCall Meeting and Conference Center, 201 Lynn Blvd., Upper Darby. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

A 7th Congressional District jobs fair to connect potential employees and employers in the manufacturing, customer and health services, elder and child care, adult education and other sectors will be hosted by Congressman Joe Sestak. Information also will be provided on job training, resume building and other job-seeking resources.

Free activity with registration requested at www.sestak.house.gov/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=1110&catid=4.

September 1 (Wednesday)

Family Finances 101. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A certified financial advisor will address all types of financial questions, including budgeting, saving, paying down debt, insurance, and starting a retirement plan with only \$5 to spare.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

September 1 (Wednesday)

Employment Opportunities and Training.

Episcopal Church of the Trinity, 323 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. 7 p.m.

Chester County PA CareerLink, Chester County Opportunity Industrialization Center, and Legal Aid of Southeast Pennsylvania will present this seventh in a series of *Help Yourself, Help Your Neighbor* classes to assist Chester County residents in establishing financial stability.

Free activity. Further information is available from Yasheeka Oakley at yOakley@chesco.org or at (610) 344-6900, or at http://dsf.chesco.org/ccdcd/lib/ccdcd/fom_mini-series_poster.pdf.

September 2 (Thursday)

Swingin Summer Thursdays -

Reggae. Gay Street between High and Matlack Streets, West Chester. 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Three Legged Fox and INITY highlight this final monthly first Thursdays event, featuring music, food, clowns, artists, jugglers and other family fun.

Free activity, with charges for some individual items. Further information is available at parksandcrecreation@west-chester.com or at (610) 436-9010.

September 7 (Tuesday)

Parents with Special Cares. Village Square Board Room, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Bill Hartman and Michael Whiteman from MMA (formerly Mennonite Mutual Aid) will speak on estate planning for those having special concerns for their adult children or grandchildren with mental, emotional, learning or physical health conditions.

Free activity. Further information is available from Karen Horning, director of social ser-

vices, at khorning@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6010.

September 8 (Wednesday)

Back to Financial Basics. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A financial counselor will discuss the very basics of banking, check writing, savings and credit.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

September 8 (Wednesday)

Home Weatherization Options. Bethel AME Church, 671 South 1st Avenue, South Coatesville. 6 p.m.

Housing Development Corporation of Lancaster County will present this eighth in a series of *Help Yourself, Help Your Neighbor* classes to assist Chester County residents in establishing financial stability.

Free activity. Further information is available from Yasheeka Oakley at yOakley@chesco.org or at (610) 344-6900, or at http://dsf.chesco.org/ccdcd/lib/ccdcd/fom_mini-series_poster.pdf.

September 9 (Thursday)

Low Vision Support Group. Social Services Conference, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Heidi Wert, low vision adjustment counselor, will demonstrate the latest in portable and standard low vision technology.

Free activity. Further information is available from Judy Shaffer, independent living social worker, at jshaffer@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6259.

September 10 - 12 (Friday to Sunday)

International Combined Driving Event and Autumn Celebration. The Laurels at Landhope grounds, 8/10 mile west of Woodview Road and Route 41, West Grove. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

International combined driving event for horse and drivers, with other activities such as an art show and boutique shopping; children's fun and games and terrier races on Saturday and Sunday; and Chester County Antique Car Club Show and Barbone Street Dixieland Band on Sunday.

Free activities with \$5 per car parking fee. Further information is available at (610) 486-0710 or at www.laurelscde.org.

September 10 (Friday)

Health Screenings. Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester. Noon to 4 p.m.

Chester County Health Department, in recognition of National Cholesterol Education Month, will be offering screenings for anemia, blood sugar with a one to two-hour fast preferred, blood pressure and cholesterol.

Screenings provide an opportunity to learn more about the risk factors for cardiovascular disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and anemia, with health professionals also offering information on healthy eating and regular physical activity.

Free activity for all but non-fasting cholesterol screening that measures total and HDL cholesterol levels and requires a \$15 fee and an appointment.

Further information and appointments are available at (610) 344-6490 or cchd@chesco.org.

September 11 (Saturday)

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal. New Garden Township Maintenance Building, 8934 Gap Newport Road, Landenberg. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chester County Solid Waste Authority will conduct this fourth in a series of five disposal activities for specific items, with no computers being accepted at this site.

The final disposal date is Saturday, October 9 at West Chester.

Free activity. Further information in regard to specific items that may be recycled is available at www.chestercountyswa.org/HHW.asp or at (610) 273-3771.

September 11 (Saturday)

Document Shredding. National Penn Bank, 304 South Henderson Road, King of Prussia. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mobile shredding truck for personal documents will be on hand, with additional Chester County area visits scheduled for September 18, 22 and 25 and October 16.

Free activity. Further information and additional locations are available at www.nationalpenn.com/shredyourstuff.

September 11 (Saturday)

Kid's Expo. United Sports Training Center, 1426 Marshallton-Thorndale Road, Downingtown. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kid's Expo and open house for Lil' Kickers, a non-competitive child development soccer pro-

gram, will feature free Lil' Kicker classes, inflatables, food and other activities.

Free activity. Further information is available at (610) 466-7100, bercolani@unitedsports.net, or www.unitedsports.net/events/kidsfest.

September 11 - 12 (Saturday and Sunday)

45th Chadds Ford Days. 1736 North Creek Road, Chadds Ford. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Annual activity commemorates the anniversary of the Revolutionary War Battle of the Brandywine on September 11, 1777, and features crafters, fine artists, antique cars, live entertainment, local restaurants, the colonial tavern, kids games, rides and other family fun.

Free activity with fees for some items. Further information is available at www.chaddsfordhistory.org/events/cfd/ChaddsFordDays.htm or at (610) 388-7376.

September 11 (Saturday)

Phoenixville Blues Festival. Reeves Park, 3rd Avenue and South Main Street, Phoenixville. 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The Steel City Blues Society will host Slim Bob and the New Electrics, The Porkroll Project, Beacoup Blue, Paul Michael and the Blues Recruits, Sister Blue, Ben Arnold and Hotlanta.

Free activity, with fees for optional food and vendor items. Further information is available at www.pvilleblues.org.

September 12 (Sunday)

Sunday in the Park. Riverfront Park, College Drive, Pottstown. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Families can listen to the sounds of Bill Haley Jr. and the Satellites during this final in a spring and summer park music series.

Free activity. Further information is available from erika@galleryonhigh.com or actone19464@aol.com.

September 13 (Monday)

Alzheimer Caregivers Support Group..

Concord Room, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Barbara Reed will provide a special presentation on *A Caregiver's Journey*.

Free activity, with respite care being available upon request from Joanne Morton, adult day services, at (717) 355-6076.

September 13 (Monday)

Build a Better Credit Report. Phoenixville Area Children's Learning Center, Franklin Commons, 600 Franklin Avenue, Phoenixville. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Workshop by Open Hearth of Spring City will explain how the credit system works, how to establish good credit and fix issues.

Free activity, with dinner and childcare provided. Further information is available from Pat Tindell at pacl1@aol.com or at (610) 983-4646.

September 13 (Monday)

Computer Identify Theft Protection. Struble Room, Chester County Library, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Techniques to guard against identify theft from an individual's computer will be discussed.

Free activity. Further information is available at www.extonpccouncil.org/firstmeeting.html.

September 13 (Monday)

Homosexuality and the Church. Chapel, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 7 p.m.

John Freeman, president of Harvest USA, will present this first in a three-part Monday night workshop on biblical teaching about homosexuality, care for families impacted by homosexuality, and making churches safe places for strugglers.

Free activity. Further information is available from Chet Yoder, director of pastoral care, at cyoder@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6203 or.

September 14 (Tuesday)

Budgeting and Money Management. Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 222 North Walnut Street, West Chester. 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Delaware Valley will present *Show Me My Money: Budgeting and Money Management*, a workshop to develop budgeting and savings goals to help avoid common financial pitfalls. Also presented on September 16.

Free activity, with required registration with Christine Zaccarelli at czaccarelli@lasp.org or at (610) 436-4510.

September 14 (Tuesday)

Money Management for Teens. Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square, 211 South Broad Street, Kennett Square. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This is the first in a series of four Fall financial seminars conducted by Open Hearth Inc., a Spring City non-profit organization.

This workshop will help teens recognize how successful individuals set and reach financial goals, whether it be in purchase of a car or guitar, development of an education plan, or simply buying day-to-day items.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 444-5255.

September 15 (Wednesday)

Low-Income Heating Emergency Assistance (LiHEAP) Programs. Greater Deliverance Church, 800 South 1st Avenue, South Coatesville. 10 a.m.

The Chester County Assistance Office will present this final in a series of *Help Yourself, Help Your Neighbor* classes to assist Chester County residents in establishing financial stability.

Free activity. Further information is available from Yasheaka Oakley at yoakley@chesco.org or at (610) 344-6900, or at http://dsf.chesco.org/ccdcd/lib/ccdcd/fom_mni-series_poster.pdf.

September 15 (Wednesday)

Budgeting and Debt Reduction. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A financial advisor will demonstrate how to create a budget and workable spending plan based on today's needs, including a seven-step process to gain control of finances and become debt free.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

September 16 (Thursday)

Budgeting and Money Management. Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania, 222 North Walnut Street, West Chester. 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Consumer Credit Counseling Service of the Delaware Valley will present *Show Me My Money: Budgeting and Money Management*, a workshop to develop budgeting and savings goals to help avoid common financial pitfalls.

Free activity, with registration with Christine Zaccarelli at czaccarelli@lasp.org or at (610) 436-4510.

September 18 (Saturday)

Changing Your Brain for the Better. Frederick Mennonite Community, 2849 Big Road (Route 73), Frederick. 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Barbara Dively, executive director of the Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania, will provide information on how one can re-program the brain, practical ways to keep the brain fit while increasing memory and processing speed, and helping someone who may

have traumatic brain injury or age-related cognitive decline.

Free activity including breakfast brunch, with registration required with Jan Morris at (610) 754-7878 x109 by Monday, September 13.

September 18 (Saturday)

Document Shredding. National Penn Bank, 793 Main Street, Royersford. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mobile shredding truck for personal documents will be on hand, with additional Chester County area visits scheduled for September 22 and 25 and October 16.

Free activity. Further information and additional locations are available at www.nationalpenn.com/shredyourstuff.

September 18 (Saturday)

Poetry Reading and Discussion Group.

Community Room, Westminster Place Apartments, 320 West 1st Avenue, Parkersburg. 10 a.m.

Poetry lovers can bring their favorite poems for reading and discussion or enjoy those provided by others in this Parkersburg Free Library-sponsored activity.

Free activity. Further information is available from Jeffrey Bullock at (484) 320-0567.

September 18 (Saturday)

Harvest Time. Historic Village, Hopewell Furnace, Hopewell Road and Shed Road, Douglassville (Elverson). Use directions on website at www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm due to road construction. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors may learn some of the seasonal activities that occurred during the autumn at the village. Activities coincide with the park's apple picking season, with visitors invited to pick apples from the orchard, watch the farm animals, learn about a historic craft and stir the apple butter.

Free activity, with fee for apples picked. Further information is available at www.nps.gov/ner/customcf/apps/eventcalendar/events/hofuevent59425484.html or at (610) 582-8773.

September 18 (Saturday)

Amateur Star Party. Model Airplane Field, Valley Creek Road, Valley Forge National Historical Park, King of Prussia. 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers hold a stargazing event monthly. Participants can use a variety of telescopes and binoculars to look for planets, moons, constellations, nebulae, galaxies, star clusters, comets, meteors, satel-

lites, double stars and more. DVAA members will provide assistance to beginners.

Free activity for entire families, except pets, with children required to be accompanied by an adult at all times. Further information, including a schedule of monthly dates, times, and directions to the field, is available at www.dvaa.org/StarParties/StarParty10.pdf.

September 18 (Saturday)

Sky Tour. Athletic Fields, Anson B. Nixon Park, North Walnut Road, Kennett Square. Sunset.

Chester County Astronomical Society will share telescopes, binoculars and member knowledge with individuals and families as it hosts an orientation to the stars and planets with the help of a green laser light.

Free activity. Further information is available from Don Knabb at dknabb00@comcast.net or at (610) 444-1416.

September 18 (Saturday)

Star Party. Lower Parking Lot, Marsh Creek State Park, Eagle (Downingtown). 6:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Chesmont Astronomical Society hosts this monthly viewing of skies, planets, star clusters and galaxies, using member telescopes and live view star cameras. Activities challenge participants of all ages.

Free activity. Further information and weather checks are available at www.chesmontastro.org.

September 19 (Sunday)

Chester County Restaurant Festival. Gay and High Streets, Downtown West Chester. Noon to 5:30 p.m. Rain date: Sunday, September 26.

Over 50 restaurants, more than 100 artists and crafters, and three stage areas for live music will highlight this event.

Free activity, with charges for food and individual items. Further information is available at (610) 692-7574

September 19 (Sunday)

Radnor Fall Festival. North Wayne Avenue, Wayne. 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Activities for the entire family, including magic, face painting, dog show, artwork, food, music and the Valley Forge Military Academy Marching Band.

Free activity. Further information is available at www.radnorfallfestival.com or at (610) 687-8988.

September 20 (Monday)

Homosexuality and the Church. Chapel, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 7 p.m.

John Freeman, president of Harvest USA, will present this second in a three-part Monday night workshop on biblical teaching about homosexuality, care for families impacted by homosexuality, and making churches safe places for strugglers.

Free activity. Further information is available from Chet Yoder, director of pastoral care, at cyoder@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6203 or.

September 20 (Monday)

Phoenixville Etruscan Majolica. Phoenixville Public Library, 183 Second Avenue, Phoenixville. 7 p.m.

Jack Ertell of the Historical Society of the Phoenixville Area will kick off the library's Fall Speakers and Events Series with a presentation on Phoenixville Etruscan Majolica. This pottery was made in several European countries and parts of the United States, with Phoenixville being a major producer in the late 19th century. The area's product was noted particularly for its vivid colors and unique designs.

Free activity, with reservations required at mpinto@ccls.org or at (610) 933-3013 x32.

September 22 (Wednesday)

Document Shredding. National Penn Bank, National Penn, 1830 East. High Street, Pottstown. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mobile shredding truck for business documents will be on hand, with additional Chester County consumer visits scheduled for September 25 and October 16.

Free activity. Further information and additional locations are available at www.nationalpenn.com/shredyourstuff.

September 22 (Wednesday)

Historic Hike. Bucktoe Creek Preserve, including Chandler Mill Bridge, 432 Sharp Road, Kennett Square. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

A Land Conservancy for Southern Chester County hike will traverse historic sites surround the Chandler Mill Bridge on the Bucktoe Creek Preserve that is part of the proposed Red Clay Creek Historic District, including the Bridge and Gregg House, listed on the National Register, runs of an African-American Cemetery, historic church ruins, Chandler Mill Dam and Mill Race, along with meadows and woodlands.

Free activity, including refreshments afterward. Further information and required registration is available at www.thelandconservancyforscc.org/education-events.

September 22 (Wednesday)

Career Explorations: Getting the Job You Want. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

An employment specialist will focus on evaluation of skills and finding a job that will pay the bills. Resume writing, a review of costs of living and salaries that can be expected also will be discussed.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

September 24 (Friday)

Healthy Babies, Health Families Open House. Coatesville Center for Community Health, 1001 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. 10 a.m. to noon.

Expectant mothers will learn about preparing for pregnancy, women's health issues, proper diet, and boosting a baby's brain power during this event that will include information from several organizations and a presentation by the Paoli Hospital Perinatal Education unit.

Free activity, including free food and drawings. Free car seat checks will be available by registering with Charles Vilotti at (610) 363-8701. Further information is available from Katie O'Neill at (610) 363-6164 or at community@coadgroup.com.

September 25 (Saturday)

Document Shredding. National Penn Bank, 103 South Jennersville Road, West Grove (Jennersville). 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mobile shredding truck for household documents will be on hand, with an additional-Chester County area consumer visit scheduled for October 16.

Free activity. Further information and additional locations are available at www.nationalpenn.com/shredyourstuff.

September 25 (Saturday)

Family Fall Fest. Anson B. Nixon Park, 100 Waterworks Drive, Kennett Square. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Music, food and activities for the family.

Free activity. Further information is available at kappa@kennett.net or at (610) 444-1416.

September 25 (Saturday)

Fall Festival. Bridge Academy Community Center, 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Games, crafts, food, face painting and other activities for kids.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

September 25 (Saturday)

Community Autumn Festival. Mt. Tabor AME Zion Church, 314 Church Street, Avondale. 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Pie Bake-Off registration 10:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m.; Celebrity judging at noon.

Music, dancing, Kids Zone, Celebrity Cove, Fry Corner, information area, pie and hot dog eating contests, vendors and book bag raffles. Community challenge is provided for registering 100 pies for judging.

Free activity with fees for some items. Further information is available from Senee Oates at senee723@gmail.com or at (302) 757-1956.

September 25 (Saturday)

FallFest 2010. Family Center of Gap, 835 Houston Run Drive at Brackbill Road, Gap. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Activities for all ages, including a scarecrow building, pumpkin carve, pottery mobile, inflatables, a community art project, and fall carnival games. Two movies will be shown, one at 11:30 a.m. and the second at 1p.m.

Free activity with charges for optional individual items. Further information is available at www.gapfamilycenter.org/fallfest.php or at (717) 442-2300.

September 25 (Saturday)

Fall Festival. Parkhouse, 1600 Black Rock Road, Royersford. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Annual event at this adult care facility includes games, family activities, music and exhibits.

Free activity with charges for some optional items. Further information is available from Marebeth Conard at mconard@montcopa.org or (610) 792-2326.

September 27 (Monday)

Parkinson's Support Group. Concord Room, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 2 p.m. to 3 p.m., with exercise at 1:45 p.m.

Ruth Johnson, a local expert on Parkinson's caregiving, will discuss that topic with persons with Parkinson's and their caregivers, family and friends.

Free activity. Further information is available from Judy Shaffer, independent living social worker, at jshaffer@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6259.

September 27 (Monday)

Homosexuality and the Church. Chapel, Garden Spot Village, 433 South Kinzer Avenue, New Holland. 7 p.m.

John Freeman, president of Harvest USA, will present this final segment of a three-part Monday night workshop on biblical teaching about homosexuality, care for families impacted by homosexuality, and making churches safe places for strugglers.

Free activity. Further information is available from Chet Yoder, director of pastoral care, at cyoder@gardenspotvillage.org or at (717) 355-6203 or.

September 28 (Tuesday)

Career Explorations. Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square, 211 South Broad Street, Kennett Square. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This is the second in a series of Fall financial seminars conducted by Open Hearth Inc., a Spring City non-profit organization.

This activity will provide adults with information about a variety of career alternatives for this ever-changing job market.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 444-5255.

September 29 (Wednesday)

Building a Better Credit Report. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will learn how the credit system works, how to establish good credit quickly and repair issues that went wrong.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

September 30 (Thursday)

Financial Growth. Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Avenue, Phoenixville. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This third of four finance-focused programs, sponsored by The Pledging Tree Foundation, will focus on retooling skills, staying competitive in a job and experiencing financial growth. The final session will be held November 18. Participants will be entered into a drawing for a free month's of groceries, up to \$400.

Free activity, including child care. Further information and registration is available at www.thepledgingtree.org.

September 30 (Thursday)

Managing ADHD Through Exercise. Auditorium, Bayard Rustin High School, 1100 Shiloh Road, West Chester. 7 p.m.

Robert Tudisco, attorney, writer, director of the Edge Foundation, parent and marathon runner, will discuss how he uses running to manage his ADHD symptoms and medication plan, discussing recent research demonstrating connections between exercise and brain function. The presentation has been developed for parents, adults with ADHD, teachers, coaches, fitness instructors and high school and college students, with two Act 48 education units being available.

\$10 fee with scholarships available. Further information is available at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/118539 or at (610) 429-4060.

October 1 - 3 (Friday Through Sunday)
Unionville Community Fair and Farm Show. 101 East Street Road, Kennett Square. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 10 a.m. to evening on Sunday.

Annual event is said to have the largest display of community agricultural products, handcrafts and arts in Chester County, with petting zoos, livestock shows, local food, contests, a parade and live music among the high-lights.

Free activity with fees for some items. Further information is available at www.ucfairinc.org.

October 2 (Saturday)
Community Yard Sale. East Goshen Township, West Chester. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Residents may contact the Township Office to have a sign placed one week prior to the event at the entrance to your neighborhood. Neighborhood also will be designated on a map, copies of which will be available at the Township Office. Resident not having a yard suitable for the event, but who would like to participate should contact Township Offices for details.

Free participation. Further information is available at (610) 692-7171 from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays or at www.eastgoshentownship.org/eventsview.php?id=86.

October 2 (Saturday)
Fall Harvest Festival. Newlin Grist Mill, 219 South Cheyney Road, Glen Mills. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tours of the Grist Mill and Miller's House, colonial crafts, demonstrations, an operating bake over, the smokehouse and blacksmith shop, colonial music and dance, hay rides, and food and musical entertainment will highlight this event.

Free activity with fees for some items. Further information is available at (610) 459-2359

or at info@newlingristmill.org, with details of last year's event at www.newlingristmill.org.

October 2 (Saturday)
Paoli Blues Fest. Paoli Village Shops, 41 Paoli Plaza, Malvern Federal Savings Bank at 42 East Lancaster Avenue, and 16 Paoli Shopping Center, Paoli. Noon to 6 p.m.

Music and fun for the family, including three downtown stages with

Free activity with \$5 parking fee. Further information is available at www.paolibluesfest.com/about.html.

October 2 - 3 (Saturday and Sunday)
The Calm Before The Storm. Historic Village, Hopewell Furnace, Hopewell Road and Shed Road, Douglassville (Elverson). Use directions on website at www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm due to road construction. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors will experience the Hopewell Furnace of October 1860 as life goes on unchanged outwardly, but village residents and Hopewell company managers worry about the gathering clouds of the Civil War and what it will mean to the iron plantation.

Free activity. Further information is available at (610) 582-8773 or at www.nps.gov/ner/customcf/apps/eventcalendar/events/hofuevent94888094.html.

October 3 (Sunday)
37th Annual Marshalton Triathlon. 1305 West Strasburg Road, West Chester. 8 a.m. to late afternoon.

Male and female racers will bicycle, canoe and run in various competitive categories of this 10-mile race. Music and food for onlookers.

Free activity for supporters with fees for food. Further information is available at www.marshaltontriathlon.com or at info@marshaltontriathlon.com

October 6 (Wednesday)
Investment 101: Let Money Work for You. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A financial advisor will discuss investment strategies and planning.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

October 9 (Saturday)

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal.

Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Chester County Solid Waste Authority will conduct this final 2010 disposal activity for specific items, including computers.

Free activity with up to three computers accepted. Further information in regard to specific items that may be recycled is available at www.chestercountyswa.org/HHW.asp or at (610) 273-3771.

October 9 (Saturday)

Annual Schuylkill River Festival. Riverfront Park, College Drive, Pottstown.

Music, food, an art show and educational activities will highlight this family event, to include children's play, wildlife exhibits, horse and carriage rides, Montgomery Community College open house, recreational opportunities including bicycling, fishing, kayaking and canoeing, and geocache, native American dancing and displays, and community, environmental and cultural exhibits.

Free activity, with fees for some items. Further information is available at (610) 718-1847 or at www.mc3.edu/schuylkill-river-festival.

October 12 (Tuesday)

Home Purchase: Meet a Realtor®. Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square, 211 South Broad Street, Kennett Square. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This is the third in a series of four Fall financial seminars conducted by Open Hearth Inc., a Spring City non-profit organization.

A Realtor® will describe how it works in buying a home, including finding and working with Realtors®, mortgage officers and others.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 444-5255.

October 13 (Wednesday)

Home Purchase Process – Part I: Financing.

Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A mortgage specialist will discuss financial readiness in purchasing a home, including credit and mortgage eligibility.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthisc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

October 16 (Saturday)

Document Shredding. National Penn Bank, 702 Main Street, Phoenixville. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mobile shredding truck for household documents.

Free activity. Further information and additional locations are available at www.nationalpenn.com/shredyourstuff.

October 16 (Saturday)

Star Party. Lower Parking Lot, Marsh Creek State Park, Eagle (Downingtown). 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Chesmont Astronomical Society hosts this monthly viewing of skies, planets, star clusters and galaxies, using member telescopes and live view star cameras. Activities challenge participants of all ages.

Free activity. Further information and weather checks are available at www.chesmontastro.org.

October 16 (Saturday)

Amateur Star Party. Model Airplane Field, Valley Creek Road, Valley Forge National Historical Park, King of Prussia. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers hold a stargazing event monthly. Participants can use a variety of telescopes and binoculars to look for planets, moons, constellations, nebulae, galaxies, star clusters, comets, meteors, satellites, double stars and more. DVAA members will provide assistance to beginners.

Free activity for entire families, except pets, with children required to be accompanied by an adult at all times. Further information, including a schedule of monthly dates, times, and directions to the field, is available at www.dvaa.org/StarParties/StarParty10.pdf.

October 20 (Wednesday)

Family Finances 101. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A certified financial advisor will address all types of financial questions, including budgeting, saving, paying down debt, insurance, and starting a retirement plan with only \$5 to spare.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthisc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

October 26 (Tuesday)

Home Purchase: Financing. Presbyterian Church of Kennett Square, 211 South Broad Street, Kennett Square. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

This is the final in a series of Fall financial seminars conducted by Open Hearth Inc., a Spring City non-profit organization.

A mortgage specialist will discuss financial readiness in purchasing a home, including credit and mortgage eligibility.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 444-5255.

October 27 (Wednesday)

Home Purchase Process – Part II: Meet a Realtor®. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Participants will become familiar with the home buying process and how to find and work with realtors, mortgage officers and others.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

November 3 (Wednesday)

Finances for Women. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A financial coach will address financial questions for women, including budgeting, investment, retirement planning and individual concerns.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

November 10 (Wednesday)

Holiday Spending. Exton Mall Community Room, 260 Exton Square Parkway, Exton (between Boscov's and Sears). 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

A certified financial advisor will discuss how to undertake holiday shopping without waking up with a debt headache in January.

Free activity with no product selling. Registration is required at (610) 792-9282 x201 or at debbie.openhearth@verizon.net; the full workshop schedule is available at www.openhearthinc.org/images/ws_sf_2010.pdf.

November 13 (Saturday)

Amateur Star Party. Model Airplane Field, Valley Creek Road, Valley Forge National Historical Park, King of Prussia. 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Delaware Valley Amateur Astronomers hold a stargazing event monthly. Participants can use a variety of telescopes and binoculars to look for planets, moons, constellations, nebulae, galaxies, star clusters, comets, meteors, satellites, double stars and more. DVAA members will provide assistance to beginners.

Free activity for entire families, except pets, with children required to be accompanied by an adult at all times. Further information, including a schedule of monthly dates, times, and directions to the field, is available at www.dvaa.org/StarParties/StarParty10.pdf.

November 18 (Thursday)

Financial Stability. Franklin Commons, 400 Franklin Avenue, Phoenixville. 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

This last of four finance-focused programs, sponsored by The Pledging Tree Foundation, will focus on establishing emergency funds, investing in retirement and creating an estate plan. Participants will be entered into a drawing for a free month's of groceries, up to \$400.

Free activity, including child care. Further information and registration is available at www.thepledgingtree.org.

December 4 (Saturday)

Coatesville Christmas Parade. East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. Parade lineup starts at 9 a.m.

Annual event features a large line of non-profit and commercial floats and marchers.

Free activity. Further information is available at (610) 384-2677 or at www.coatesvillechristmasparade.com.

December 4 (Saturday)

Iron Plantation Christmas. Hopewell Furnace, Hopewell Road and Shed Road, Douglassville (Elverson). Use directions on website at www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm due to road construction. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors will be able to glimpse holiday activities over the course of 100 years, with the "Belsnickel" giving out treats or punishments to children he judges deserve them.

Free activity. Further information is available at (610) 582-8773 or at www.nps.gov/ner/customcf/apps/eventcalendar/events/hofuevent51945765.html.

Weekly Activities

Sundays

Sports Fellowship. Youth With a Mission (YWAM) Community Center, 752 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Game of the Week television viewing and a meal for the homeless and boarding house community, together with a worship service for the community following the fellowship.

Free activity hosted by Breakout Restoration Ministries. Ministries wishing to participate with donations or volunteers may contact Pastors Allen Smith at (484) 356-6434 or Sharon Comfort at (484) 467-4938.

Rejoicing Spirits, a ministry that reaches out to enrich the spiritual lives of persons with developmental disabilities, together with their families, friends and other supportive community members, holds special Sunday worship services at various locations.

The ministry is designed to acquaint and educate congregations about individuals with developmental disabilities, resulting in an accepting atmosphere. Services typically include lots of music and joyous singing, along with brief, meaningful messages conducted in a shush-free environment.

Services are held once a month at the following times and locations:

Exton – St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 104 South Village Avenue, (610) 363-6264, 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month.

Media – Reformation Evangelical Lutheran Church, 102 West Rose Tree Road, (610) 891-0600, 4 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month.

Pottstown – St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 East High Street, (610) 326-2810, 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month.

Gilbertsville – New Hanover Lutheran Church, 2941 Lutheran Road, (610) 326-1335, 3 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month.

West Chester – Calvary Lutheran Church, 730 South New Street, (610) 696-2475, 4 p.m. on the 3rd Sunday of each month.

Attendees are encouraged to call churches in advance to confirm dates and times. Further information about Rejoicing Spirits and other national sites may be obtained at (610) 363-6264, at info@rejoicingspirits.org, or at www.rejoicingspirits.org

Mondays

Chess Club. Coatesville Area Public Library, 501 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville. 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Ages five to 18 can learn to play tournament chess.

Free activity with no registration required. Further information is available at (610) 384-4115.

Various Arts. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Art Partners Studio will coordinate different artistic projects for third through sixth graders.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Elementary School Ballet. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

First through sixth grade girls will learn the basics of ballet, with local performances.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Middle School Drop-in Program. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Food, games, art projects, other activities, and a devotional will be provided for middle school students.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Conversational Spanish Gatherings. Bayard Taylor Memorial Library, 216 East State Street, Kennett Square. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Area English and Spanish-speaking residents come together to talk and learn each other's language.

Free activity. Further information is available from Milly Caez at (610) 444-2702.

Tuesdays

Girls Mentoring. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mentoring and a Bible study will be provided for high school girls.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

(Fourth Tuesdays)

Phoenixville Spinners. Community Room, Phoenixville Public Library, 183 Second Avenue, Phoenixville. 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Fiber spinning group demonstrates the ancient art of turning fiber into yarn.

Free activity. Further information is available from Jean Munson at

jeanmunson@verizon.net or Winnie Spoons at (610) 933-1375.

T.I.M.S. New Life in Christ Fellowship, 1 South 5th Avenue, Coatesville. 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Training Introspection Mentoring Service (T.I.M.S.) provides youth ages seven through 17 with positive peer group involvement, hands-on skill development, knowledge of African-American culture, and a relationship with Christian men and women as role models.

It teaches youth what it means to be men and women spiritually, culturally, socially and physically, addresses goal-setting, etiquette, career planning and community service, and acknowledges and honors a young man's or woman's growth and changes.

Students must participate on a regular basis and parents or guardians must complete an application.

Free activity, including dinner. Further information is available from Alphonso Newsuan at anewsuan@nlicf.org or Roberta Showell at rshowell@nlicf.org or (610) 384-3344 x109.

Children's Homework Club. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Pre-K through second graders receive assistance with homework and crafts, play games, and have snacks and other activities.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Brandywine Query. Café Lindo, 109 South Broad Street, Kennett Square. 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Network of adult singles over 35 years of age designed to create community.

Further information is available at brandywinequery@hotmail.com.

Wednesdays (Through August)

Hibernia Wednesday Hiking Club. Hatfield House, Hibernia Park, 119 Hatfield House Road, Coatesville. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Hikers can enjoy a three-mile hike along a mostly-wooded gravel path, with plant identification included. Participants should bring water and wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Walks also are held on Saturdays.

Free activity, with registration required at www.chesco.org/ccparks or at (610) 344-6415.

(Second Wednesday of Month)

Free Seniors Legal Clinic. Room 130, Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester. 9 a.m. to noon.

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP) provides assistance to seniors for a variety of matters, including public and private housing, consumer issues, bankruptcy, public welfare, Social Security Disability (SSD) and Social Security Income (SSI), unemployment compensation, simple estate planning, living wills, durable power of attorney for healthcare, general power of attorney, and other matters.

Further information and appointments are available at (610) 344-6350.

LASP also operates a toll-free legal helpline for income-eligible Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Bucks counties residents from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays. Information is available at (877) 429-5994.

Mom's Club. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Lunch, fellowship and a Bible study are provided for moms, along with childcare.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Girls Life Skills. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Middle and high school girls will work on different projects, from sewing and scrapbooking to balancing a checkbook, along with a Bible study.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Wood Chips. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Middle and high school boys will learn the art of wood working, along with a Bible study.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

Elementary School Drop-in. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Third through sixth graders receive homework help, work with computers, play games, and participate in a Bible study.

Free activity. Further information and registration available at (610) 466-9505 or at jordan.crans@gmail.com.

First and Third Wednesdays of Month Single Adult Ministry (SAM). Christian Life Center, 125 Saginaw Road, New London Twp, PA 19352. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

Gatherings for single adults, including teachings on current Christian topics with some group discussion. Gatherings also held outside of regular meetings.

Free activity; may be fee for materials. Additional information is available at www.nlpcfamily.com/NLPC-Web/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=165, at singles@clcfamily.net or at (610) 869-2140.

Thursdays

(Second and Fourth Thursdays of Month)

Career Guidance Over Coffee. Gryphon Café, 105 West Lancaster Avenue, Wayne. 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.

Women's Resource Network coordinates this informal group for women, led by a human resources professional, to hone networking skills and meet other persons in the area.

\$5 suggested donation. Further information and registration is available at (610) 687-6391

Mr. Jack's Kid's Club. Camp at Old Mill, Brandamore (Coatesville). 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Bus picks up Coatesville area children, Pre-K to 12th grades, at 4 p.m. at various locations and transports them to the Camp for Bible study, snacks and fun in their own age groups. They are returned to the same locations by 6 p.m.

Free activity. Further information and registration available from Josh and Jordan Crans, BACC directors, at (610) 466-9505 or at info@thebridgeacademy.org.

Chess Club for Kids. Chester County Library, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton. 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Youth ages six and up can learn to play chess, join in a pick-up game, or receive coaching. Use personal boards or the Library will have a few available.

Free activity. No registration or regular attendance required. Further information is available at (610) 280-2630.

Young Life Teen Night. Bridge Academy Community Center (BACC), 570 Olive Street, Coatesville. 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Free Admission Opportunities for Family Day Trips

Pack a picnic lunch, load the family in the car, and take a free admission day trip to these or a combination of sites. Information is compiled from a range of resources and is believed to be accurate at the time of posting. It is subject to change without notice. Participants are encouraged to use contact data provided to confirm current information. Many sites, although free, appreciate donations.

High schoolers have games, skits, a devotional and fun time with friends. Includes a short Bible study and a focus on developing a mentoring relationship.

Free activity. Further information and registration available from Josh and Jordan Crans, BACC directors, at (610) 466-9505 or at info@thebridgeacademy.org.

(Third Thursdays of Month)

Individual Career Consultations. Women's Resource Center, 113 West Wayne Avenue, Wayne. 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Women can meet one-on-one for a half hour with a career counselor to help choose a career, review a resume, obtain a mock interview, or receive other career assistance.

Free activity. Further information and registration is available at (610) 687-6391

Civil Air Patrol - Chester County Composite Squadron. Chester County Airport, 1 Earhart Drive, Coatesville. 7 p.m. – 9 p.m.

An official auxiliary of the United State Air Force. Provides rescue/relief, leadership and aerospace education opportunities, including flying, at local, regional and national levels for youth 12 to 18 years of age and adults.

Fees for membership and some activities. For further information contact Capt. C. Gerth at cgerth@verizon.net or at (484) 919-7783, or www.gocivilairpatrol.com or www.capsquadron1008.org.

Saturdays

(Through August)

Hibernia Saturday Hiking Club. Hatfield House, Hibernia Park, 119 Hatfield House Road, Coatesville. 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Hikers can enjoy a three-mile hike along a mostly-wooded gravel path, with plant identification included. Participants should bring water and wear comfortable clothing and shoes. Walks also are held on Wednesdays.

Free activity, with registration required at www.chesco.org/ccparks or at (610) 344-6415.

Various sites also have special events at various times during the year that may be posted on their websites.

Chester County Parks - Five Chester County Parks provide a wealth of opportunities for families, many of them free. Over 5,000 acres of parkland include areas for bicycling, birding, camping, boating, visits to historic buildings,

gardens, farm animals, fishing, equestrian ring and trails, hiking, fitness and interpretive trails, picnic pavilions and playgrounds including horse shoe pits, softball and volleyball, and educational programs. Parks include:

- Hibernia, 1 Park Road, Wagontown.
- Nottingham. 150 Park Road, Nottingham.
- Warwick, 382 County Park Road, Pottstown.
- Springton Manor Farm, 860 Springton Road, Glenmoore
- Black Rock Sanctuary, 953 Black Rock Road, Phoenixville.

Park events information is available at <http://dsf.chesco.org/ccparks/cwp/view.asp?a=1551&q=640601> or at (610) 344-6415.

Local Parks – Nearly 100 municipal parks, along with location maps, are listed in the guide, *Municipal Parks of Chester County*, available at <http://dsf.chesco.org/openspace/lib/openspace/pdfs/MuniPrkBrochure.pdf>.

Pennsylvania State Parks – Pennsylvania Department of Natural Resources and Conservation maintains 13 state parks, a preserve and a nature center in the Greater Philadelphia area. Admission is free, with charges for some activities. www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks. (888) PA-PARKS (727-2752). Calendar of events: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Park – Hopewell Road and Shed Road, Douglassville (Elverson). Use directions on website at www.nps.gov/hofu/index.htm due to road construction. Hopewell Furnace is an early American industrial community that operated from 1771 to 1883. The cold-blast iron furnace and accompanying community has been restored to the way it looked during the 1830s and 1840s, when the furnace was at its height of activity. History includes the Bethesda Church, the apple orchard, charcoal, the Furnace's water wheel and iron ore mines, its role in the American Revolution, and African-Americans, miners and women at the Furnace. The site is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through September 11 with demonstrations and living history programs. Check the website for information about other times of the year and other activities. www.nps.gov/hofu. (610) 582-8773.

Valley Forge National Historic Park – Route 23, Valley Forge. Valley Forge was the site of the 1777-78 American Revolution winter encampment of the Continental Army. Eighteen miles of trails, including six miles of paved

multi-purpose trail, winds through the park, in addition to a ten-mile, self-guided automobile tour. Buildings are open different hours. www.nps.gov/vafo. (610) 783-1099.

Other National Parks – Many national parks and historic sites are maintained by the National Parks Service in Pennsylvania and adjoining states, with some providing free admission. www.nps.gov.

Free lifetime admission to recreation areas managed by five federal agencies also is available to all persons with permanent disabilities. Further information on Access Pass is available at www.store.usgs.gov/pass/access.html.

Nature Preserves – Natural Lands Trust maintains 18 nature preserves in Chester and adjoining counties that include agriculture, forest and other natural landscapes properties. They are open from sunrise to sunset. www.natlands.org/preserves. (610) 353-5587.

Chester County-Related Sites

Glass Blowing Demonstrations – 1333 Lenape Road, West Chester. View a video story of Irish glassblower Simon Pearce and learn about the art of glass blowing during demonstrations from 10:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays through Sundays. www.simonpearce.com/category/about+us/see+us/west+chester.do. (610) 793-0949.

Historic Yellow Springs - 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs. The history of Yellow Springs village spans nearly 300 years, with archaeological evidence suggesting that Native Americans first used the iron rich "yellow" spring water thousands of years ago. In the 18th century, the fashionable spa village attracted visitors seeking healing waters and social interaction and, during the American Revolution, George Washington commissioned the first military hospital in North America in the village. The village later became home to the Chester Springs Soldiers' Orphan School for children of Civil War soldiers, the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts Country School and headquarters of Good News Productions, a film studio in Yellow Springs that created over 400 films including the sci-fi original *The Blob*. Today, Historic Yellow Springs, Inc., has preserved many of these original structures and educates visitors about its unique past. Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays, with the grounds open from dawn to dusk every day. www.yellowsprings.org. (610) 827-7414.

Herr's Factory Tours - 20 Herr Drive, Nottingham. One-hour snack food factory tours from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Monday - Thursday and 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Friday (production may not be occurring on Fridays). By appointment.
www.herrs.com/SnackFactoryTours/ScheduleTour.html. (800) 637-6225.

Panoramic View Picnic Area - Lanchester Sanitary Landfill Overlook, 7224 Division Highway, Narvon. Rising 80 feet above the highest point of the Welsh Mountains, two binocular stations help provide a 360-degree panoramic view of the Conestoga and Brandywine Valleys. Picnicking, bird watching, kite and radio-controlled glider flying, and other activities available. Open 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays only from May through October.
www.chestercountyswa.org/scenic_overlook.asp. (610) 273-3771.

Wendell August Forge Tours - Main Street at Exton, 103 Woodcutter Street, Exton. Artisans handcraft metal giftware in the historic Ashbridge barn, with guests able to witness first hand how each piece of the company's metal giftware is created one-at-a-time by hand. Aspiring craftsmen, young and old, can take a turn at being an artisan in the interactive hand hammering room. Workshop tours are available from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.
www.wendellaugust.com/location/exton_pa. (610) 363-2426.

Underground Railroad Exhibit - Chester County Visitors Center, 300 Greenwood Road, Kennett Square. Located in the Chester County Visitors Center at the entrance of Longwood Gardens, visitors can see the Underground Railroad exhibit, including a replica of Henry "Box" Brown's box and the "slave dress" that helps preserve some of the history of one of the greatest concentrations of Underground Railroad stations in the nation. Box was a 19th century Virginia slave who escaped to freedom by arranging to have himself mailed to Philadelphia abolitionists in a dry goods container. The display also tells the history of the former Longwood Progressive Meeting of Friends. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., except Sundays noon to 5 p.m. Kennett Underground Heritage Tours also available for a fee.
www.undergroundrr.kennett.net. (610) 347-2237.

Nearby Counties

Christian C. Sanderson Museum - 1755 Creek Road (Old Route 100), Chadds Ford. Collection of items represents a man's life and a nation's history from Chadds Ford, including American Revolution history to Civil War memorabilia. Open noon to 4 p.m. Saturdays

and Sundays from March through November.
www.sandersonmuseum.org. (610) 388-6545.

Historic Newtown Square - Over 100 historical sites are scattered throughout Newtown Township, some dating back over 300 years, with 42 of them having markers. Two are open to the public from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday afternoons in July and August. The Paper Mill House Museum at 2 Paper Mill Road, a residence to workers of numerous local mills along the Darby Creek, is home to the archives and historical documents of Newtown Township. Square Tavern, located at Goshen and Newtown Street Roads, was home to America's first internationally known artist, Benjamin West (1738-1820), who lived there during part of his childhood. Other sites includes the 1715 Old St. David's Church, burial place of American Revolution Gen. "Mad" Anthony Wayne, the 1797 Federal School House, the 1842 Octagonal Schoolhouse, and the 1860 Bartram Bridge.
www.historicnewtownsquare.org/museum (610) 975-0290.

Landscape Arboretum at Temple University-Ambler - 580 Meetinghouse Road, Ambler. Established as the Pennsylvania School of Horticulture for Women in 1910, the 187-acre campus provides a mix of natural and designed landscapes. Self-guided tours are available from dawn to dusk daily.
www.ambler.temple.edu/arboretum/gardens.htm. (267) 468-8400.

Newlin Grist Mill - 219 South Cheyney Road, Glen Mills. 8 a.m. to dusk. The only operating 18th century grist mill in Pennsylvania, other historic buildings, and the 150-acre park that is a refuge for plants, animals, and birds, is dedicated to environmental appreciation and historical preservation. Free admission to park; fee for tours of historic structures. Further information is available at (610) 459-2359, at info@newlingristmill.org or at www.newlingristmill.org.

Pennsylvania Veterans Museum - Media Armory, 12 East State Street, Media. Exhibits, documentary films and lesson plans educate the public about the experiences of United States veterans and the sacrifices they made during times of war. Open noon to 5 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays.
www.paveteransmuseum.org. (610) 566-0788.

Philadelphia Museum of Art - 26th Street and Benjamin Franklin Parkway, Philadelphia (main Building); or the Perelman Building, Fairmount and Pennsylvania Avenues. Exhib-

its and collections of more than 225,000 objects from throughout the world. First Sunday of the month is "Pay Whatever You Want Day" from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. www.philamuseum.org. (215) 763-8100.

Scott Arboretum – 500 College Avenue, Swarthmore. More than 110 acres, 5,000 different ornamental plants, walking trails and a horticultural library are available on the Swarthmore College campus grounds. The library contains over 1,300 garden-related books; hundreds of magazines, catalogs, newsletter; and a collection of brochures from gardens worldwide. The Arboretum is open from dawn to dusk daily and the offices and library are open from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. www.scottarboretum.org. (610)-328-8025.

Thomas Massey House (1696) – Springhouse and Lawrence Roads, Broomall. Home of an originally indentured servant. Restored from demolition to much of its original fabric, the house is furnished with appropriate late 17th and 18th century furniture. Open from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. Sundays from May through October, except holiday weekends. www.thomasmasseyhouse.org. (610) 353-3644.

Villanova University Arboretum and Art Gallery – 800 East Lancaster Avenue, Villanova. The campus has been designated an arboretum with the public welcome to enjoy two,

one-mile self-guided walking tours. The Gallery of Art, located in the Connelly Center, generally is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays during the summer. Hours can be checked by telephone.

www.artgallery.villanova.edu. (610) 519-4612.

Delaware State

Delaware Art Museum - 2301 Kentmere Parkway, Wilmington, DE. A private, non-profit museum best known for its large collection of British Pre-Raphaelite art, works by Wilmington-native Howard Pyle and fellow American illustrators, and urban landscapes by John Sloan and his circle. Free admission on Sundays, 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. www.delart.org. (866) 232-3714.

Delaware Center for Horticulture – 1810 North Dupont Street, Wilmington, DE. Gardens are accessible during daylight hours and the horticulture library and gallery are open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. www.dehort.org.

Military Families

Blue Star Families, the National Endowment for the Arts, and more than 850 museums throughout the nation are offering free admission to military personnel and their families from Memorial Day through Labor Day 2010. www.arts.gov/national/bluestarmuseums/index.php. museums@bluestarfam.org.

Information About Services For Individuals and Families

Free E-Newsletters

- *E-Update*, a free weekly e-letter published by Casey Jones, Transformation Initiative, shares information about workshops, seminars, events and other activities affecting families. Subscribe by sending an e-mail request to bps461@msn.com.
- *Kaleidoscope*, a free weekly e-letter, published by Life Transforming Ministries of Coatesville, shares additional information about church and ministry-related activities in Chester County. Interested persons may sign up at www.quietrevolution.org (submit your e-mail address via the box in the top left corner of the page).

Assistance Web Sites

- *Here to Help*, hosted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to assist residents in learning about programs available to aid in difficult economic times. Information is avail-

able on employment, family services, housing, seniors, economic development and education at www.heretohelp.pa.gov.

- *ReferWeb*, is maintained by Chester County to aid in identifying health and human services providers for county residents at www.referweb.net/chesco.
- *Free Help Book II Services Resource Guide*. Open Hearth of Spring City, a private, non-profit organization serving Chester and portions of Montgomery counties, has published a free updated *Help Book II* reference guide that lists more than 260 health and human services agencies and programs. Although focus of the guide is on services in the Greater Phoenixville, Spring City and Royersford areas, many organizations listed also serve other parts of Chester County. The project, sponsored by the Phoenixville Community Health Foundation, in-

cluded printing of more than 40,000 copies of the guide in English that were mailed to every household in the service area and are being made available at various community organizations there, together with 2,000 Spanish versions that are being made available to the Latino population.

Individuals and organizations in the service area may obtain a copy from Open Hearth at 101 North Main Street - Suite A-1, Spring City. The guide also is available for viewing on-line at

www.openhearthinc.org/index.php/helpbookii.

- ***Where to Turn for Community Services and Organization Networking.***

The Tri-County Community Network publishes an online guide for community services in the Chester, Montgomery and Berks counties area, centered around Pottstown. It is available for viewing and reproduction at

www.tcnetwork.info/UserFiles/2008_new_where_to_turn_guide.pdf.

In addition, the Network also sponsors First Call, a free, confidential information and referral service that assists telephone callers with general information and referrals to community agencies providing non-emergency services, benefits and other needs. The service is available from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays at (610) 705-3301, with after hours voicemail also available.

It also holds a monthly networking meeting for area organizations from 8:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on the third Tuesday of the month, from September to June.

- ***Phoenixville Community Events Calendar*** for the Phoenixville area is hosted by the Phoenixville Public Library. Organizations are able to submit free listings.

The calendar will become part of the library's re-designed website. The address is www.guesswhatscoming.org.

- ***Coatesville Weed and Seed Program Web Site*** highlights community programs making an impact. It is located at www.coatesvillehappenings.org.

- ***Free Brochures for Food and Meal Programs.*** The Chester County Food Bank has published two brochures that highlight food and meal programs available in the county.

Chester County Food Cupboards and Discount Food Purchase Programs provides more than three dozen locations and *Hot Meal Programs in Chester County* details

nearly 20 sites.

Downloadable copies of the brochures for display and distribution are at:

http://chestercountyfoodbank.org/pdf_files/Food_Cupboard_Brochure_7-23-09.pdf

and at

http://chestercountyfoodbank.org/pdf_files/Hot_Meal_Program_Brochure_7-23-09.pdf.

- ***Highway Safety Web Site.*** PennDOT has unveiled a new highway safety web site in time for the summer driving season covering topics from motorcycles to DUI. It is part of the agency's goal to save at least 100 lives on Pennsylvania highways each year.

Tips are offered on aggressive driving, bicycles/pedestrians, child passenger safety, heavy trucks, engineering infrastructure, impaired driving, mature drivers, motorcycle and school bus safety, seat belts, work zones and young drivers. Each area is highlighted as part of an interactive quiz that allows motorists to test their highway safety knowledge.

The web site, www.DriveSafePA.org, also contains educational resources, including videos, radio public service announcements and traffic safety brochures along with information on recently enacted traffic safety laws such as "Steer Clear" and wiper and headlights statutes.

Community Gardens Development

Assistance. Community Gardens of Chester County, a community non-profit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life of low-income residents through community gardening and greening, continues to provide free assistance to groups and garden volunteers in coming together to produce food and an aesthetically-pleasing, healthy environment throughout Chester County.

The group has aided development since 1999 of 60 neighborhood-based projects involving community vegetable gardens, including those engaging youth, that are contained in a small space or on an entire lot, greening projects to beautify neighborhoods with trees, shrubs and flowers planted in garden beds and window boxes, tire urns and other containers, and kitchen gardens created by individuals working together to help each other build small vegetable gardens outside their back doors.

Gardens reflect the neighbors and neighborhoods that create them during spring, summer or fall planting seasons. The organization's staff and volunteers provide assistance in garden design, planting instructions and initial garden supplies, based on individual development plans.

Further information is available from Susan Goldsworthy, director, at gardenscc@gmail.com or at (484) 888-4101, or at www.gardenscc.org.

Free Community Cancer Education

Programs. Chester County Health Department is providing educational programs on risk factors associated with cancer and methods of prevention at work sites, schools, and community and faith-based settings.

The Pennsylvania Department of Health estimates that more than 60 percent of cancer deaths could be prevented with early detection and modifying risk factors.

Some of the cancers discussed as part of the programs include colorectal, a leading cancer killer among both men and women, ovarian that causes more deaths in women than any other gynecologic cancer because it usually is not diagnosed until late stages, and prostate, the second leading cause of cancer deaths among men, particularly African Americans who have a higher risk.

Additional information, including scheduling, is available from Danielle Borden, public health educator, at (610) 344-6243.

Free Lead Poisoning Screenings, Check Kits and Education Programs.

Chester County Health Department is seeking to overcome the county's status of having the second-lowest lead screening rate in Pennsylvania with free lead level screenings for young children and pregnant women, do-it-yourself lead check kits to test for lead in homes and other locations, and lead poison prevention education programs for individuals and organizations dealing with children.

A major risk factor for lead exposure is spending time in buildings constructed prior to 1978, with more than 60% of homes in the county being built before that date. Symptoms of lead poisoning, such as irritable moods, learning and behavioral difficulties, fatigue, appetite and weight loss, abdominal pain, vomiting and constipation, often mimic other conditions and don't show up until lead levels are dangerously high.

Parents, services providers and day care centers can check paint, toys, dishes, play areas and soil with the free kit. Programs to educate organizations and staff, along with other free services are available from Lindsay Himes at lhimes@chesco.org or at (610) 344-6778. Downloadable posters in English are available at <http://dsf.chesco.org/health/lib/health/lead/1eadfreeeng.pdf> and in Spanish at <http://dsf.chesco.org/health/lib/health/lead/1eadfreesp.pdf>.

Emergency Alerts to Your Cell Phone.

Emergency management agencies in Chester, Bucks, Delaware, Montgomery and Philadelphia counties has activated a ReadyNotifyPA system that helps local officials in Southeastern Pennsylvania send emergency text alerts of severe weather, homeland security and other emergencies to an individual cell phone, pager, Blackberry, PDA and/or e-mail accounts.

There is no charge to sign up for ReadyNotifyPA, with an individual being able to choose the type of alerts received. A wireless carrier may charge a fee to obtain messages on cell phones or wireless devices. Individuals can contact their carriers to determine how much such messages may cost.

An individual may activate and deactivate the service at any time. It is particularly helpful as an alerting device for persons in charge of groups of children or adults both within homes and facilities and involved in outside activities. Additional information and sign-up is available at www.readynotifypa.org.

Registry to Aid Persons With Special Needs in an Emergency.

Chester, Bucks and Montgomery counties have developed a secure, web-based Special Needs Registry to better identify to emergency responders persons of special needs who are most at risk during a disaster.

Chester County Emergency Services defines the special needs population as those "who cannot receive, understand or act upon emergency protective orders" including but not limited to those who are deaf, blind, bedridden, mentally impaired, without radio or television.

Persons within this population can be registered with County Emergency Services so emergency responders can better plan to serve them in a disaster or other emergencies.

Further information and registration is available online at: dsf.chesco.org/des/cwp/view.asp?a=3&q=637542.

Shared Housing Program for Women. The HomeShare Alliance, a collaborative effort of Home of the Sparrow and the YWCA of Chester County, helps match low income women in shared housing environments that will provide affordable housing for women and extra income for persons who would like to share their homes for financial, security or safe companionship purposes. An application process includes references, a criminal background check, and a child abuse clearance, if applicable.

Additional information is available at www.homeofthesparrow.org/homeshare.html.

Free Pre-School Program for Three and Four-Year-Olds.

Pottstown and Owen J. Roberts school districts are providing free Pre-K programs for district children who were three and four-year-olds by September 1, 2009, and live in families earning 300% or less of the federal poverty levels (for example, a family of four earning up to \$66,150 annually).

The space-available program operates daily at Warwick Child Care Centers. Interested families may contact Michelle Fritz at Pottstown at (610) 323-1601 or Tana Rinehart at Owen J. Roberts at (610) 326-4522.

Free YMCA Memberships for 7th Graders.

Three area YMCA associations are offering free memberships for 7th graders, with current 7th graders being eligible through August 31, prior to entering the eighth grade.

The YMCA of the Brandywine Valley, with centers in Coatesville, Kennett Square, West Chester, Jennersville, Cochranville, and Elverston; Upper Main Line YMCA with centers at Berwyn, Lionville and Eagleview; and the YMCA of Philadelphia and Vicinity that includes centers in Media and Ardmore, are participating in the activity that is part of a national focus on healthy lifestyles for youth.

Further information is available at www.ymcabwv.org/7GI/index.html, www.umly.org, and www.rockyrunymca.org, or at the local YMCAs.

Free Breastfeeding Classes

The La Leche League holds monthly meetings during which a continuous series of four classes provide mother-to-mother support, encouragement, information and education about breastfeeding.

Chester County groups include evenings in Downingtown and Exton-Lionville and mornings in Glenmoore-Elverston, Kimberton and West Chester.

Classes include *The Advantages of Breastfeeding*, *Baby Arrives: The Family and the Breastfed Baby*, *The Art of Breastfeeding and Avoiding Difficulties*, and *Starting Solids, Weaning and Family Nutrition*.

Further information and schedules are available at <http://beanmom.com/laleche/#dtn>.

In 2009, Acting Surgeon General Steven Galson, in highlighting the 25th anniversary of the Surgeon General's Workshop on Breastfeeding and Lactation, said that "(b)reast milk is the best source of infant nutrition." The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also says it is "committed to increasing breastfeeding rates throughout the United States and to promoting and supporting opti-

mal breastfeeding practices toward the ultimate goal of improving the public's health".

As a result of the H1N1 pandemic, the CDC also has issued guidelines for nursing mothers that can be found at www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/infantfeeding.htm.

Free Texting Information Service for Pregnant Women and New Moms.

National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition has developed a public-private partnership to provide pregnant women and new moms with information they need to take care of their own health and give babies the right start in life.

Text4baby is a free mobile education service to promote maternal and child health. Women who sign up for the free service will receive free health text messages each week, timed to their due date and for up to a year after the baby's birth. Enrollment is available by texting BABY (or BEBE for information in Spanish) to 511411. Further information is available at www.text4baby.org.

Free Lifeline Cell Phone Service for Low-Income Persons

Low-income households may qualify for a free cell phone and up to 68 minutes of free airtime per month under a federal SafeLink Wireless program.

Persons receiving federal public housing assistance/Section 8, food stamps, Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Supplemental Security Income (SSI), National School Lunch, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Medicaid, or State Blind Pension may already qualify.

Others may be accepted if total household income is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines, for example \$14,621 annually for an individual and \$29,768 for a family of four.

Further information and application is available at www.safelinkwireless.com.

Toll-Free Legal Helpline for Low-Income Persons.

Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania (LASP) operates a toll-free legal helpline for income-eligible Chester, Montgomery, Delaware and Bucks counties residents from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. weekdays at (877) 429-5994.

Further information is available at www.lasp.org.

Angel Food Ministries Food Distribution – Monthly.

Several area churches and faith-based organizations serve as host sites for the monthly Angel Food distribution program, a non-profit, non-denominational ministry that

serves over 500,000 families monthly in 35 states.

High quality food packs, consisting of both fresh and frozen items said to have an average retail value of \$60, is sold for \$30 to any individual or family, regardless of income. Generally, one unit of food assists in feeding a family of four for approximately one week or a single senior citizen for almost a month. Additional specialty boxes also are available. There is no limit to the number of boxes one can order.

Orders are made in advance and then picked up on one Saturday each month at various locations, including Sandy Hill Community Church, Coatesville; The Family Center of Gap; Angelfood of West Chester; Avondale Presbyterian Church; Grace Assembly of God, Spring City; and Calvary Christian Center and Wesleyan Christian Church, Pottstown.

Monthly menus, policies at the different food pickup locations including signups, ordering, payment methods that may include debit cards and food stamps, and pickup dates, and other information is available at

www.angelfoodministries.com/hosts.asp.

Free County Public Transportation Guide

An online public transportation guide that provides information about taxi, bus, and SEPTA-ADA paratransit services, along with paratransit and medical-related travel in Chester County is available at

<http://dsf.chesco.org/planning/lib/planning/pdf/pubtrnen.pdf>.

Free Renter's Toolkit

Residential Living Options of West Chester has produced an online Renter's Toolkit to assist the disabled and others in understanding laws and procedures involving rental leases.

The non-profit organization is dedicated to assisting people with disabilities and their families in the pursuit of self-determined housing by providing creative options, education, and community collaboration.

The Toolkit, which includes topics on *Before You Sign A Lease*, *After You Sign A Lease*, *Rental Glossary*, *Reasonable Accommodate Sample Letter* and *Reasonable Modification Sample Letter*, is available at

www.residentiallivingoptions.org/RentersToolkit/tabid/73/Default.aspx.

Helping Children with Learning and Behavioral Challenges as They Go Back to School.

The Mental Health Association in Pennsylvania (MHAPA) has published a list of seven items, including free resource materials, to help families of children with learning and behavioral challenges as they go back to school.

The list, designed to help make a child's school year experience happier and more successful is available at

www.pachildrensnews.org/News/news_072809_02.htm.

National Drug Use and Health Report

A new report, Results from the 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health National Findings, has been published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. It is available at

<http://oas.samhsa.gov/nsduh/2k8nsduh/2k8Results.cfm>.

Free Parent Reference Internet Portal

Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has created a Parent Portal to provide easy access to health care information for families at various stages of life.

The web site is designed to be a consolidated CDC source for information to help parents raise healthy kids and provide a safe home and community. It also serves as a resource for information about diseases and conditions, as well as information on developmental milestones and schedules. The web site is at

www.cdc.gov/parents.

Free Suicide Prevention Training

Certified members of the Chester County Youth Suicide Prevention Task Force offer group trainings to lay persons on suicide prevention techniques.

Hour-long QPR (Question...Persuade.... Refer) classes that teach a life-saving technique to apply when someone is feeling suicidal, are available to schools, businesses and other community groups.

Further information is available at www.ccysp.org and scheduling is available at (610) 363-6164 or (610) 334-5359.

Free Teen Prescription Drug Prevention Toolkit

National Council on Patient Information and Education (NCPPIE) has introduced a new online toolkit for *Maximizing Your Role as a Teen Influencer: What You Can Do to Help Prevent Teen Prescription Drug Abuse*.

This resource includes a complete workshop module, handouts and instructions, as well as real-life scenarios, information about warning signs and symptoms, common myths about teen prescription drug abuse, brochures and sample promotional materials.

Federal reports indicate that prescription drugs – easily accessed in a family medicine cabinet -- are now abused more than cocaine, heroin, ecstasy and methamphetamines combined, with one in five teens having abused

prescription drugs, one in three saying there is "nothing wrong" in using them "every once and a while." and nearly 2,500 teens abusing them every day for the first time.

Prescription drugs used for improper purposes can increase blood pressure or heart rates, damage brain and other organs, result in overdose, poisonings, addictions, breathing disruptions, seizures and death. Additional risks occur when mixing multiple drugs or combining them with alcohol.

The downloadable toolkit is available at www.talkaboutrx.org/maximizing_role.jsp.

Literature in both English and Spanish also is available at www.talkaboutrx.org/not_worth_the_risk.jsp.

Persons Who Are Struggling

Websites with local Christian program locators are available for persons going through struggles related to the death of a loved one, separation and divorce, and all types of hurts, habits and other struggles, including addictions:

- www.griefshare.org
- www.divorce.org
- www.celebraterecovery.com

Free Program to Help Families Address Addiction Problems

Pennsylvania Recovery Organization–Achieving Community Together (PRO-ACT) is hosting monthly Family Program gatherings to assist individuals and families recognize and address addiction problems in a spouse, parent, child or other loved one.

The information and support programs, facilitated by trained volunteers who have been in the same situation, are held for two hours on one evening a week for three consecutive weeks. Program locations are at:

- **Chester County** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays in Room 336 of the Government Services Center, 601 Westtown Road, West Chester.
- **Delaware County** – 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on the first three Tuesdays at Holcomb Behavioral Health Services, 126 East Baltimore Pike, Media.
- **Montgomery County** – 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the first three Wednesdays at Creative Health, 11 Robinson Street, Pottstown.

Sessions are confidential, using only first names. Further information and registration is available at (800) 221-6333 or at info@proact.org.

Free Training Manual for Brain Injury Survivors and Families

The Acquired Brain Injury Network of Pennsylvania (ABIN-PA) has published a training manual, *Building a New Life After Brain Injury: Peer to Peer Training by Survivors and Families for Survivors, Families and Friends* to encourage brain injury survivors to identify their unique abilities, develop new interests, and create a confident new life.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention notes that traumatic brain injury "are often missed or misdiagnosed in older adults". ABIN-PA also reports that brain injuries often are misunderstood within the general population. It says a brain injury means a "brain function was damaged by an event that decreased oxygen or blood to the brain. All brain injury is acquired (ABI) but some injuries result from physical trauma (TBI). These events are so common that people take them for granted, never realizing problems accumulate. Eventually, damage may equal a disability. Any brain injury requires attention. Use caution to prevent a 'second hit'.

Potential causes of brain injury, according to ABIN-PA, can include alcoholism, anesthesia, aneurysm, a beating or a punch, bicycle crash, blow to the head, brain infection, brain radiation, surgery or tumor, cardiac arrest or surgery, a drug reaction, electric shock, explosion, gunshot, falling, high fever, impact, lightning, motor vehicle crash, near drowning or suffocation, poisoning, shaking, skateboarding or skiing crash, a stroke or whiplash.

A downloadable copy of the manual is available at [www.abin-pa.org/Presentations/Manual for S & F Final 2009.08.23.pdf](http://www.abin-pa.org/Presentations/Manual_for_S_&_F_Final_2009.08.23.pdf). Additional information about acquired brain injury, including downloadable brochures to assist in identifying these situations, is available at www.abin-pa.org and at www.cdc.gov/TraumaticBrainInjury/tbi_concussion.html.

Area Gas Prices. Prices at gas stations in your area or where you are traveling, updated three times a day by actual transactions (significant change still may occur after posting). Available by county or zip code.

In periods of significant price fluctuations, prices can vary as much as 20-cents per gallon some days within relatively short distances, particularly if one is traveling. www.motortrend.com/gas_prices/31/pennsylvania/index.html.

Energy Savings Information for Churches

ENERGY STAR, a joint program of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the federal Department of Energy, provides free information on how churches can save money by investing in energy efficiency.

The departments said that most congregations can cut energy costs by up to 30% by investing strategically in efficient equipment, facility upgrades and maintenance.

With free, unbiased information and technical support from ENERGY STAR, congregations can more easily improve stewardship of both church energy budget dollars and the earth by reducing energy waste and energy costs, while protecting the environment, the agencies note.

Information on the initiative is available at www.energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=small_busines_sb_congregations.

Free Electricity Monitor Use

Patrons at Honey Brook Community Library and Bayard Taylor Memorial Library in Kennett Square now can check out a Kill A Watt™ Electricity Monitor to see how much electricity home appliances use and where money might be saved.

The device is easy-to-use and includes a spreadsheet for recording purposes. Further

information is available at the libraries at 687 Compass Road (Route 10), Honey Brook, (610) 273-3303, or at 216 East State Street, Kennett Square, (610) 444-2702.

Free Cakes for Kids.

Birthday cakes are provided by Sweet-Dreams.org through a volunteer effort at no cost to children who otherwise may not receive one. Referrals of children in need may be made by churches, teachers, community members, parents and others. The organization formerly was Free Cakes for Kids.

Volunteer bakers and donated supplies are welcome. No special talents are needed, only a love for baking and a passion of heart to help bring a little sunshine into a child's day.

Additional local information is available at www.sweetdreams.org.

Requests for cakes may be made to Emily Parker at eparker.37@gmail.com or (443) 350-6853.

Employment-Related Information

Support Groups for Unemployed and Underemployed

Several networking/support groups (open to everyone) are available at area churches for persons who are unemployed or underemployed:

- **Exton** – Career Transition Group meets from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at United Methodist Church of the Resurrection (UMCR), 181 Sharp Lane, Exton. Assistance includes one-on-one confidential mentoring with volunteer career counselors, resume writing, interview coaching, networking, and a prayer partner. Further information is available from Danny Van Deventer at (610) 458-8143 or (205) 914-5004 or at ctministries@umcr.org.
- **Downingtown** (Lionville/Exton) -- Barnabas Group meets from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 a.m. Mondays at Calvary Fellowship Church, 95 West Devon Drive (rear entrance) at Route 113. This activity includes a short Bible study, networking opportunities and periodic special presenters. Additional information is available at http://www.calvary-fellowship.org/cgi-bin/gx.cgi/AppLogic+FTContentServer?page_name=FaithHighway/10000/8000/579CA/prayer&projectid=18579.
- **Manheim** -- Career Network (C3N) meets from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Mondays in Room 112 at LCBC (Lancaster County Bible

Church), 2392 Mount Joy Road, Manheim with networking opportunities and workshops. Additional information is available at www.lcbcchurch.com/careernetwork.

- **New London Township**– Weathering the Storm group meets from 6:45 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. every other Thursday at the New London Presbyterian Church 1986 Newark Road (Route 896), Lincoln University, with a speaker and networking. Further information is available from Beth McDonough at mcdono@verizon.net or at (302) 894-9223 or at www.nlpcfamily.com/NLPC-Web/DesktopDefault.aspx?tabid=170.
- **Area Affiliates of Joseph's People** meet during the month:
 - **Upper Uwchlan Township** -- 7 p.m. on the first and third Mondays at the School Education Center, St. Elizabeth's Catholic Church, 100 Fellowship Road, Chester Springs. Further information is available at (610) 321-1200 or at longtobefree2@hotmail.com.
 - **Media** -- 7 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays at Hassler Chapel, Media Presbyterian Church, 30 East Baltimore Pike. Further information is available at (610) 566-3944.
 - **Downingtown** -- 7:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Tuesdays, at St. Joseph's Parish, 338 Manor Avenue

(Route 322), in the parish meeting room behind the school at the back of the property.

- **Springfield** -- 7 p.m. on the third Tuesdays at St. Francis Church Parish Rectory, 136 Saxer Avenue. Further information is available at (610) 543-0848.
- **Wayne** -- Employment Guidance Group (EGG) at 7 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays in the Quiet Room, St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 South Valley Forge Road, Malvern. Further information is available from George Vosburgh at gvosburgh@aol.com or at (610) 688-7947.
- **West Chester** -- 7:30 p.m. on the first and third Wednesdays at Saints Peter and Paul Church, 1325 Boot Road, West Chester. Further information is available at (610) 692-2216.

Additional information is available at www.josephspeople.org.

Free Services to Aid Youth Job/Career Preparation. Two free services to assist Chester County youth in realizing their full career potential are being offered in West Chester and Kennett Square.

West Chester -- The House of Original Dreams (H.O.O.D.) is serving federally eligible youth ages 16 to 21 at facilities at 530 East Union Street.

The T.E.A.M. at the HOOD offers assistance with GED preparation, job readiness training including adult mentoring and supportive services, career counseling, and college preparation including assistance in completing college applications and financial aid research. Free transportation is available from the Coatesville and Phoenixville areas and transportation assistance is available from other areas of the county.

Additional information is available at (610) 344-4225, at teamthehood@live.com or at www.thehoodonline.org.

Kennett Square -- PathStone Corporation, formerly known as Rural Opportunities, Inc. (ROI) is offering a free after-school program in career awareness and job readiness for in-school youth ages 14 through 18 who live in Chester County. The goal of the program is to assist young people in making informed decisions about education and career path opportunities.

The program is held from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. weekdays at PathStone offices at 421 McFarlan Road - Suite E through June 2010. Partici-

pants must meet federal eligibility requirements.

Additional information is available from Kecia L. McMillian, youth training and employment manager, at (610) 925 5600 or at kcmillian@pathstone.org.

Free Green Jobs Training. Chester County OIC, 790 East Market Street, West Chester.

Chester County Opportunities Industrialization Center (OIC) is conducting orientation sessions for persons interested in being certified in green jobs weatherization.

The first session was held recently at PA CareerLink in Coatesville with some 60 persons learning the "soft skills" associated with the program. Technical training for some of the attendees will be held later this month at Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology in Lancaster.

This is an ongoing program to recruit weatherization installers, crew chiefs and energy auditors for a federal program designed to help reduce heating costs for low-income families and others. Installer positions are available immediately.

Training vouchers are provided on a first-come, first-served basis, with no income eligibility requirements. A second orientation session will be held in the near future.

Additional information is available at or at (610) 692-2344.

A downloadable information poster is available at <http://dsf.chesco.org/wib/lib/wib/pdf/2009/weatherizationflyer.pdf>.

Where Will the Jobs Be?

Chester County Workforce Investment Board (WIB) is providing information on anticipated increases and decreases in job opportunities in various segments of the marketplace at <http://dsf.chesco.org/wib/cwp/view.asp?A=3&Q=637052>.

The site also reports activity WIB is undertaking in regard to the smart energy, agriculture, innovative technology, bioscience, and the healthcare industries. The county has received \$230,000 in funding to continue efforts in these areas, along with \$715,000 for worker training in these segments of the jobs market.

Free Careers Exploration Web Site.

ExploreYourFuture.org is a website that provides assistance in exploring careers in health care, engineering and bio-tech. The site includes videotapes of different career fields and a gifts-careers matching program that assists persons in looking to the future as they plan potential jobs. The site is being expanded regularly.

Free Guide to Scholarships for Minorities

The DFW International Community Alliance publishes a free *Guide to Scholarships for Minorities and New Americans* that includes information on available scholarships and applying for college. The document is available at www.dfwinternational.org/resource_center/Scholarship_Guide.pdf.

On-the-Job Training Funds Available to Employers.

An On-the-Job Training Program that will reimburse employers for up to 50% of a new employee's salary while in training, up to \$6,000, is available through PA CareerLink®-Chester County.

Occupations with growth potential that result in permanent, full-time employment for qualifying employees are eligible for consideration.

Further information is available at the Chester County CareerLink office at 250 Harmony Street, Coatesville, or at (610) 384-9393.

Veterans Employment Website.

Federal Office of Personnel Management has unveiled a new main source website for veterans employment in the federal Civil Service and for hiring officials.

www.fedshirevets.gov, a collaboration of OPM, the Departments of Defense, Labor, Veterans Affairs, and Homeland Security, and other Federal agencies, is designed to provide consistent and accurate information, useful training and other resources for veterans, transitioning service members, their families, federal human relations professionals and hiring managers.

Free Computer Use Tutoring and Classes.

Volunteers are providing one-hour, one-on-one computer tutoring sessions at the Phoenixville Library, 183 Second Avenue, Phoenixville, and at the Chester County Library at 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton.

At Phoenixville, sessions are held at 7:30 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, and 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Saturdays.

In addition, a one-hour Job Searching Online lecture/demonstration is held at 7 p.m. on the first Monday and at 1:30 p.m. the first Thursday of the month; a one-hour, hands-on Finding Stuff on the Web class is available at 7 p.m. the second Monday and 1:30 p.m. the second Thursday of the month; a one-hour hands-on Introduction to E-Mail class is provided at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday and at 1:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month; and a two-hour, hands-on Computer and Internet Basics class is offered at 7 p.m. on the fourth Monday and at 1:30 p.m. the fourth Thursday of the month.

Free activities. Further information and registration is available from the Phoenixville reference librarian at (610) 933-3013 x32.

At Exton, volunteer tutors provide two hours of assistance for persons who have never used a computer, with the program concentrating on using the equipment and basic skills for using the Internet and Yahoo e-mail.

Appointments, based on tutor availability, can be made at (610) 280-2666.

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Information is designed to highlight activities within the broader community that can help enhance Christian principles relative to development of healthy child, individual and family relationships.

Recipients are encouraged to print and post this Calendar to employee and public bulletin boards for benefit of others.

Activities included in this publication are gathered from various submissions and other sources. No representation is made as to their accuracy or value.

Organizations wishing to submit information for consideration in future updates should provide brief descriptions **in the specific format contained in this publication** and e-mail them to bps461@msn.com. All necessary information must be provided, including dates along with actual days of the week, name of the event, physical location, sponsor, times for each day of any multiple-day events, a brief description, any fees that will be charged, and whom to contact for information or registration, including appropriate web sites.

Information is selected on a subjective basis, with organization collaborations being given preference. Activities primarily for internal fundraising purposes normally will not be included unless they are deemed to have high family application.

Timing of any future updates are dependent on volume and other considerations. Persons wishing to be included in future e-mailings of updates, should request inclusion by e-mailing bps461@msn.com.