See what's new and cool in West Chester.

Fun things to do in West Chester
Complete retail directory
**Fun Things to Do**

**Gallery Walk** Don’t miss the great art showing in downtown West Chester during Gallery Walk, a biannual event presented by the Greater West Chester Chamber of Commerce. Held the first Fridays in June and October, this longtime tradition features self-guided tours of West Chester’s eclectic galleries and several one-night exhibits held just for the event. The 2009 Fall Gallery Walk, Oct. 2 from 5 p.m. till 9 p.m., promises to appeal to serious collectors and casual observers alike. Many of the downtown’s unique shops and diverse restaurants stay open late, so be sure to stroll around and sample the experience that is West Chester.

**Shadows of West Chester Ghost Tours** The Shadows of West Chester is an annual walking tour filled with tales of ghosts, folklore, and history every Friday and Saturday night in October. Your guide will lead you on a 90-minute walk through the spooky lanes of downtown neighborhoods, where you will explore the land of the shadow people, learn of lost souls of the Underground Railroad, and hear many other stories of phantoms, apparitions and witches. This event is perfect for the entire family. The walking tour gathers at The Lincoln Room of Wilmont Mews, 28 W. Market St., every Friday and Saturday night in October. The tours begin at 8 p.m. Doors will open at 7 p.m., rain or shine. Price is $10 per person. Reservations are recommended. Call The Lincoln Room at (610) 696-2102, or visit lincolnroomwestchester.com.

**Holiday Lights Tour** Enjoy the holidays with a special dinner and a holiday light tour on December 5. The event begins with a dinner served at The Lincoln Room (28

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When love is in the air, downtown West Chester is the place to shop for that perfect piece of jewelry. Among the dozen jewelers and accessories stores is the new Big Diamond Importers & Fine Jewelry (15 W. Gay St., 610-692-7707, bigsdiamonds.com), which offers a large selection of diamonds and jewelry at wholesale prices, plus custom service, from the first consultation to the finished product. That includes full-service repair, cleaning and engraving.

To look your healthiest and best, check out Exposed Organics (128 E. Gay St., Exposedorganics.com), which provides hair and skin care products for your family. All products are made locally with all-natural and organic ingredients. The products offer the endless possibilities nature can offer to enhance your beauty.

To ensure that the men in your life look their best, you can’t do better than Main Line Custom Clothiers (6 E. Gay St., 484-905-7098, mainlinecustomclothiers.com) for formal wear, tailoring, custom shirts and quality suits. It’s the place where men will receive personal service for suits for every professional or social occasion. Getting men ready for a wedding day is a specialty. Start online, where you’ll find gift certificates and easy measuring instructions.

If you’re looking for a different kind of love, you just may find it at FastFrame (27 W. Gay St., 484-947-5154, fastframe.com), where you will discover quality craftsmanship and fast turnaround backed by a guarantee. If you don’t love the look of your finished framed artwork, FastFrame will re-craft or redesign your piece within 30 days of the sale at no additional charge.

Affordable and fashionable are the key words at Artifact Boutique for Less (200 W. Gay St., 610-431-7111, shopartifact.com), where women of all ages can find stylish skirts, tops, bathing suits and complete outfits—usually for under $75. Aside from an abundant offering of clothing, Artifact boasts a variety of gift items and accessories, including jewelry, shoes and belts.

If you’re looking for something out of the ordinary...
W. Market St.), which will be decorated for the season, followed by a guided tour in a Victorian bus through the avenues of West Chester. You will arrive at Faunbrook Manor for dessert in one of West Chester’s most elegant old mansions. From there, the tour of West Chester continues as you arrive back to downtown. Reservations required, for more information, visit lincolnroomwestchester.com or call 610-696-2102.

First Friday
Start every month off right with First Friday, when the shops are open late. It’s a perfect time for some serious retail therapy. You can find out what’s in store for any First Friday at downtownwestchester.com, where you’ll find a printable directory. It’s the best way to get caught up on what’s new in downtown.

Old-Fashioned Christmas
Old-Fashioned Christmas is held the first weekend of every December (Thursday through Sunday). The Rockwell-esque holiday celebration invites families to experience downtown during the holiday season. Children and the young at heart enjoy the arrival of Santa during the Holiday Parade, which starts at 6:45 p.m. each Friday. The parade ends with Santa lighting the Christmas tree in front of the historic courthouse. The four-day celebration features more than 40 activities, offering something for everyone to enjoy. Activities include Chester County Gilbert & Sullivan Society performances of “Trial by Jury” in the Chester County Courthouse, the YWCA Holiday House Tour, and performances by a wide variety of musicians, from gospel choirs to quartets and entertainers ranging from jugglers to dancers. The Chamber of Commerce of Greater West Chester sponsors
and coordinates the event. Keep up with the schedule at GreaterWestChester.com.

**Growers Market**
The West Chester Growers Market is a truly local market that is open every Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. May through December at the corner of Chestnut and Church streets. Only handmade or homegrown products are produced or harvested by the vendors themselves are sold. You’ll find flavorful farm produce, colorful cut flowers and bedding plants, free-range meats, oven-fresh bread, artisanal soap, locally produced cheese, homemade preserves and relishes, and a variety of fresh baked goods to satisfy any sweet tooth. Visit westchestergrowersmarket.com to see events and what’s fresh.

**Cultural Center**
Are you looking for great entertainment? Check out the list of happenings at The Cultural Center at the Chester County Historical Society. Film, art, history and music are all part of the lineup. The fall schedule includes the Listen Local series, National History Day workshop, Celebration Festival, and holiday events with Las Podas,
Breakfast with Santa, and a menorah lighting. Go to culturalcenterevents.com.

**Explore History at a Museum**


**Ride the West Chester Railroad**

West Chester has a history of railroading that started in 1832 and continued with daily train and trolley service until 1986. Today members of the West Chester Railroad Heritage Association continue the tradition by operating a weekly tourist train to Glen Mills in the Chester Creek Valley. There are a variety of seasonal train trips in the fall and special events all year. West Chester Railroad’s Market Street Station is on East Market Street near Matlack Street. For more information about the West Chester Railroad, visit westchesterrr.net.

**Gift Card**

The West Chester Business Improvement District now offers the Downtown West Chester Gift Card. This prepaid debit card is a perfect gift that can be used at more than 120 shops and restaurants. Purchase a card in any amount between $10 and $500 at Fox Chase Bank, at High and Chestnut streets. Visit downtownwestchester.com to learn more about this new program.
with a Spanish flair, try Novadades Nueva Generacion (150 E. Gay St., 484-995-9291), where you’ll find formal and fun apparel, boots, Latino DVDs and party items.

At Your Service (129 E. Gay St., 610-344-0129, atyourservicewc.com) is a place where a variety of events support local businesses and organizations. Vendor services and products are displayed in the showroom, where customers can be connected to the ideal local business. At Your Service hosts events from parties to fundraisers, and there’s a private conference room where vendors can meet with customers in a professional environment.

We’re all looking to stretch our shopping dollars, especially when it comes to shopping for the home. Twice is Nice Shoppe (126 E. Gay St., 484-887-0011, twiceisniceshoppe.com) consignment furniture shop offers quality used furniture and home decor. Besides offering gently used furniture, there are candles and handmade cards and works from local artists.

For a fun and funky shopping experience, Revue Boutique & Gallery (138 E. Gay St., 484-356-7163, revueboutiquegallery.com) is an edgy, eclectic shop that offers new T-shirts, fine handmade jewelry, consignment clothing and housewares. One of the fun finds is Smencils, gourmet scented pencils made from 100 percent recycled newspapers. Smencils are useful, have a fruity fragrance, and are great way to feel good about an everyday item. If you’re looking for one-of-a-kind apparel, there’s Alternative Apparel, which offers tights, comfy yoga pants and the softest shirts you’ll ever feel. For fun hats, check out the snappy fedoras and English driving caps, along with Catherine’s own knit goods. Prices range from $2 to $200.