To the residents of Chester County:

I am pleased to present to the citizens of Chester County our 18th Annual Report Summary for the Fiscal Year ended 2022. The information contained in this Summary is a condensed overview of the County of Chester’s audited 2022 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) and presents select information about the County’s revenues, spending, and demographics in an informal, easy to understand format.

The Office of the Controller has prepared the Annual Report Summary to help taxpayers understand the financial position of County government and how their tax dollars are being spent. It remains as important as ever for taxpayers to have a clear understanding of the financial pressures facing government. Transparency remains our highest priority.

Please explore this and other resources (such as those on https://www.chesco.org/), and contact your elected officials to express your views on the direction of our nation, state and county.

This Annual Report Summary is unaudited and excludes many material disclosures, financial statements, schedules and notes to the financial statements found in the County’s ACFR. Readers desiring more detailed financial information can obtain in the full document on the County’s website at https://www.chesco.org/206/Controller under “Reports & Forms” “ACFR & Annual Report Summary”.

I hope that you find this report informative. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me at (610) 344-6155 or controllerdept@chesco.org.

Sincerely,

Margaret Reif
Controller, County of Chester
Welcome to Chester County!

The County of Chester, one of Pennsylvania’s original three counties, was named by William Penn in 1682. It is located in southeastern Pennsylvania, in the scenic Brandywine Valley approximately 30 miles west of Philadelphia.

In the late 17th century, there was significant Welsh emigration to Pennsylvania. In approximately 1684, William Penn granted 40,000 acres to a group of Welsh Quakers to be constituted as a separate county. The Welsh Tract’s boundaries were established in 1687, but by the 1690s the land had already been partitioned among different counties, despite appeals from the Welsh settlers, and the Tract never gained self-government. Today the area is now part of Montgomery, Chester, and Delaware counties. Many towns in the area still bear Welsh names: such as Tredyffrin, Uwchlan, and Berwyn.

In 1784 the original county seat, the City of Chester, was moved to a more centralized location known as the village of Turk’s Head, and in 1788, was renamed “West Chester”. Chester County originally included what is now Delaware County, parts of Lancaster County and Berks County.

Today, Chester County has 73 political subdivisions, consisting of one third-class city (Coatesville), 15 boroughs and 57 townships. Our County covers 782 square miles which includes about 244 square miles of preserved open space as well as some of the most productive agricultural land found in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Today our approximate population is 545,823. Our employment base continues to grow (as it has for the last thirty-plus years) as suburban development continues, industry and agriculture thrive, and high technology businesses grow along its Route 202 corridor.

Chester County also continues to benefit from being one of the highest-ranked median income regions as well as having many of the best public school systems found in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Photo credits: Elaine Deutsch - pgs 14 (EMS Vehicles), 15 (West Chester Library), 17 (Mercer Mill Road) and 18 (Cheney & Lincoln Universities). Tacie Himelright (New Bolton Center, pg 18)
The County’s Financial Position

Chester County’s financial position remains very strong and is able to maintain sufficient net financial resources to protect against shortfalls. The County continues to have a diverse tax base with the top ten taxpayers representing only 2.5 percent of the total assessed values.

The County’s AAA/Aaa debt ratings were reaffirmed in 2022, for the 14th consecutive year, from the three rating agencies: Standard & Poor’s, Fitch Ratings, and Moody Investors Services, Inc. Chester County is one of a handful of counties in the United States, and the only county in Pennsylvania (as of 2022), to have AAA/Aaa bond ratings from all three major rating agencies. The AAA/Aaa rating has and will continue to result in lower debt service on County debt, saving taxpayers money.

The County’s fund balance policy establishes the objective to maintain an unrestricted fund balance, in the General Fund, of not less than two months of the subsequent year’s budgeted expenditures. Included in the unrestricted fund balance will be a Working Capital Reserve. Ten percent of subsequent year’s General Fund budgeted expenditures will be assigned as Working Capital.

In 2022, the County had $20.5 million in the working capital reserve, which represents 10 percent of the 2023 expenditure budget. The General Fund’s unassigned fund balance is $48.2 million, and assigned fund balance is $28.5 million totaling to $76.7 million, which represents approximately 51.8 percent or 6.2 months of General Fund expenditures.

Because of the County’s strong financial position, it is able to issue general obligation notes and bonds to help fund the County’s Capital Improvement and Open Space Projects at the lowest rates of interest available to county government.

Your Real Estate Dollars

In 2022, on average, Chester County residents paid $3,576 in taxes per $100,000 of their home’s assessed value. Of that assessment, only 12.7%, or $455, were County taxes. The pie chart to the right illustrates how your local real estate taxes are typically used.

County real estate taxes funded 33.2% or $186.9 million of the County’s activities for 2022. 66.8% or $375.4 million of the County’s spending was funded by Commonwealth and federal grants, charges for services, and interest from investments.
### Financial Position

The net position figure represents the amount that the County owns versus the amount owed.

The accounting policies of the County of Chester conform to generally accepted accounting principles applicable to governments.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>(expressed in thousands)</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Assets</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$227,241</td>
<td>$280,922</td>
<td>$325,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,421</td>
<td>11,472</td>
<td>1,232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>47,806</td>
<td>48,998</td>
<td>64,526</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital assets</td>
<td>396,593</td>
<td>429,932</td>
<td>435,494</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>2,490</td>
<td>2,310</td>
<td>2,340</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td>675,551</td>
<td>773,634</td>
<td>828,722</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **Deferred outflows of resources** |       |       |       |
| Def. outflows of resources      | 46,869 | 50,560 | 99,614 |
| **Total deferred outflows**     | 46,869 | 50,560 | 99,614 |

| **Liabilities**                |       |       |       |
| Accounts payable               | 55,833 | 50,786 | 44,633 |
| Other liabilities              | 8,078 | 7,231 | 8,152 |
| Long-term liabilities          | 676,125 | 725,321 | 866,571 |
| **Total liabilities**          | 740,036 | 783,338 | 919,356 |

| **Deferred inflows of resources** |       |       |       |
| Def. inflows of resources       | 37,975 | 58,352 | 11,801 |
| **Total deferred inflows**      | 37,975 | 58,352 | 11,801 |

| **Net Position**                | $55,591  | $17,496 | $2,821 |

*Negative net position is due to the cumulative effect of debt used to finance capital assets titled to others. Grants were provided to land conservancies for open space and to municipalities for park development and community development projects.*
### Financial Summary

**Dollars In:** Revenue includes all amounts of money received by a government from external sources during its fiscal year, net of refunds and other correcting transactions, other than issuance of debt, sale of investments, and agency or private trust transactions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program revenues:</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charges for services</td>
<td>$64,066</td>
<td>$69,129</td>
<td>$86,241</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating grants and contributions</td>
<td>262,168</td>
<td>269,938</td>
<td>269,021</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capital grants and contributions</td>
<td>3,475</td>
<td>7,698</td>
<td>4,253</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**General Revenues:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Taxes</th>
<th>170,406</th>
<th>182,523</th>
<th>186,918</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Investment earnings</td>
<td>2,244</td>
<td>885</td>
<td>3,328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>17,093</td>
<td>14,346</td>
<td>12,513</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Revenues**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$519,452</td>
<td>$544,519</td>
<td>$562,274</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Dollars Out:** Expenditure includes all amounts of money paid out by a government during its fiscal year - net of recoveries and other correcting transactions - other than for retirement of debt, purchase of investment securities, extension of loans, and agency or private trust transactions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General government</th>
<th>$73,736</th>
<th>$42,140</th>
<th>$52,373</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Judicial government</td>
<td>47,937</td>
<td>45,963</td>
<td>54,751</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public safety</td>
<td>53,650</td>
<td>36,867</td>
<td>35,843</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corrections</td>
<td>48,422</td>
<td>46,799</td>
<td>55,123</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public works</td>
<td>1,908</td>
<td>2,783</td>
<td>2,065</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human services</td>
<td>230,776</td>
<td>280,064</td>
<td>290,222</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Culture &amp; recreation</td>
<td>16,318</td>
<td>18,114</td>
<td>20,726</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservation &amp; development</td>
<td>13,615</td>
<td>8,847</td>
<td>12,463</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest on long-term debt</td>
<td>24,943</td>
<td>24,846</td>
<td>24,032</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total Expenses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$511,305</td>
<td>$506,423</td>
<td>$547,598</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(expressed in thousands)

**General Government** – Services provided by the County for the benefit of the public and the governmental body as a whole, including the administrative departments such as the Office of the Controller, Commissioners, Treasurer, and Recorder of Deeds.

**Judicial Government** – Services provided by the County to the courts including the Court of Common Pleas and the following row offices: District Attorney, Clerk of Courts, Register of Wills/Clerk of the Orphans’ Court, Prothonotary, Coroner, and Sheriff.

**Public Safety** – Services provided by the County for the safety and security of the public including emergency management, the 911 communications system, hazardous materials response, and emergency medical services.

**Corrections** – Services used to support the prison, Adult and Juvenile Probation and other correctional programs.

**Public Works** – Services for maintaining and rehabilitating the 95 County-owned bridges.

**Human Services** – Services with the purpose of promoting the general health and well being of the community as a whole, including public health, the human services funds, and the Pocopson Home, a long-term nursing facility.

**Culture & Recreation** – Services to provide County residents opportunities and facilities for cultural and recreational programs including libraries and parks.

**Conservation & Development** – Programs provided by the County to achieve a satisfactory living environment for the community as a whole including: planning, water resources, agricultural development, and soil conservation.
The Office of the Coroner is an independent agency serving the citizens by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning jurisdictional deaths which have occurred within Chester County. They determine the cause and manner of death, the identity of the decedent, and provide notification to the legal next of kin.

Sophia Garcia-Jackson MS, D-ABMDI  
Coroner  
610-344-6165  
coroneroffice@chesco.org

The Office of the Clerk of Courts manages all paperwork for all criminal cases in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas. The Clerk’s office also assesses fines, costs and restitution and collects the fees in conjunction with the Adult Probation and Parole Departments. The Clerk of Courts staffs all criminal, juvenile and dependency hearings held in the Chester County Court of Common Pleas.

Yolanda Van de Krol  
Clerk of Courts  
610-344-6135  
cclerk@chesco.org

The Office of the Controller supervises the fiscal affairs of Chester County. The Controller maintains accounting records, processes accounts payable, manages payroll and retirement disbursements, and is responsible for the internal audit function. The Controller also prepares the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Margaret Reif  
Controller  
610-344-6155  
ccontrollerdept@chesco.org

The Office of the Coroner is an independent agency serving the citizens by investigating the facts and circumstances concerning jurisdictional deaths which have occurred within Chester County. They determine the cause and manner of death, the identity of the decedent, and provide notification to the legal next of kin.
The District Attorney is the chief law enforcement officer for the County. The core functions of the Office of the District Attorney is to investigate, prosecute, and prevent crimes. It is the District Attorney’s duty to uphold and defend the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Constitution of the United States of America.

Deb Ryan
District Attorney
610-344-6801

The Office of the Prothonotary acts as the chief clerk and record keeper for the civil and family divisions of the Court of Common Pleas. Work is generated from the court and through filings such as divorces, name changes, custody cases, Protection from Abuse orders, mental health hearings, medical malpractice cases, judgments & liens, as well as passport applications.

Debbie Bookman
Prothonotary
610-344-6300
dbookman@chesco.org

The Office of the Recorder of Deeds is an important interface between taxpayers, real estate professionals and County government, and is responsible for the public repository of real estate records, military discharges, commissions and official documents.

Diane O’Dwyer
Recorder of Deeds, Acting
610-344-6330
rodinfo@chesco.org

The Office of the Register of Wills/Clerk of Orphans’ Court provides estate administration, marriage licenses, adoption, and guardianship filing services to individuals and the courts. The Register of Wills has jurisdiction over the probate of wills, granting of letters and is the agent for the collection of state inheritance tax.

Michele Vaughn
Register of Wills/Clerk of the Orphans’ Court
610-344-6335
rwills@chesco.org

The Office of the Sheriff provides security services, efficient notification of civil actions, Protection from Abuse orders, gun permits, background investigation services to the public as well as Sheriff sales. It also provides transportation and custody services for adult and juvenile prisoners.

Fredda L. Maddox
Sheriff
610-344-6850
fmaddox@chesco.org

The Office of the Treasurer serves to receive, record and deposit County funds resulting from payment of taxes, payment due on the sale of various state and county licenses, funds collected in the performance of public services, other state-related revenues, and payment of judgments and fines. The Treasurer’s Office issues licenses for hunting, fishing, pistol permits, and dog ownership.

Patricia Maisano
Treasurer
610-344-6370
treasurerdept@chesco.org
Quick Facts....

Population

Chester County’s 2022 population estimate was 545,823. This is an increase of 2.1% from 2021 and an increase of 6.7% from ten years prior.
The median age of County residents in 2021 was 41.3 years old, was slightly lower than in 2020.
The most substantial increase again in 2021, was in the 65 and over population with a 4.6% growth.

Housing

The average Chester County household size decreased slightly to approximately 2.4 people. In 2021, 96.8% of all housing units in Chester County were occupied, of which 74.5% were owner occupied.
The median monthly rent in 2021 in the County increased to $1,536. This is higher than the Commonwealth median of $1,036 and the national median of $1,191.
The average value of owner occupied housing increased to $420,300 with 67.9% of owners have a mortgage.
Decreasing from prior years, 60.6% of the housing in Chester County are single-family homes with 73.4% of all types of housing units having three or more bedrooms. The median number of rooms per dwelling stayed consistent at 7 rooms.
Chester County preserves its history with 23.3% of our homes built before 1959.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Built</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2000 or later</td>
<td>50,987</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980-1999</td>
<td>63,189</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960-1979</td>
<td>47,527</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1959 or earlier</td>
<td>49,111</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Education

Education continues to be a priority for Chester County residents.
- There are 15 charter school and 14 public school districts in Chester County.
- Chester County is home to eight universities and colleges (see page 18).
- 52.1% of County adult residents have a Bachelor’s or higher degrees, which is much higher than the national average of 32.4%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>High School Graduate</th>
<th>Bachelors or Higher</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chester Cty</td>
<td>94.4%</td>
<td>52.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>91.5%</td>
<td>32.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>89.2%</td>
<td>32.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data and statistics presented in this publication is the most current available at time of printing.
Business and Transportation

A first class county demands a first class transit system. Being a world leader in the cultivated mushroom industry, a leader in agricultural, and a transportation hub for many manufacturers and distributors, Chester County’s roads and transportation options are vital to attracting and retaining businesses.

Multimodal transportation networks provide options for all travel modes - vehicular, bicycle, pedestrian, public transit, and freight - and are essential to maintaining communities that support public health and provide accessible transportation options for all.

Chester County’s transportation system continues to evolve for the County to attract new residents, workers, and businesses and to foster strong, sustainable economic development.

Income

In 2021, 85.4% of employed County civilian residents were employed in private industry. 8.8% were governmental workers, 5.7% were self-employed, and .1% were unpaid family workers.

Decreasing significantly in 2021, 61.2% of County residents drove alone to their employment. This is below the national average of 67.8% and the Pennsylvania average of 66.8%.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Ave Income</th>
<th>$75K or more</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chester Cty</td>
<td>$109,601</td>
<td>67.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PA</td>
<td>$68,957</td>
<td>46.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>$69,717</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employment and Health Insurance Coverage

In 2021, Chester County continued its low unemployment rate trend with an average rate of 4.4 percent.

Along with low unemployment comes a high number of residents that are covered by health insurance. Dipping slightly in 2021, 97.0% of Chester County residents had health insurance coverage, with the majority covered under private health insurance.

See page 13 for information on medical, dental, and prescription discount cards.

Did You Know?

Chester County has chosen to remain a 3rd Class county. The class helps regulate how many elected official are needed and fees are levied. A 3rd class county has a population that is between 225,000 and 500,000 residents as of the most current census. The County population was approximately 545,823 residents in 2022.

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau, PA Department of Labor, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
Guide to County Services

We encourage you to visit our website www.chesco.org for additional resources.

Agriculture Development Council ......................................... 610-344-6285
Community & Economic Development .................................................. 610-344-6900
Conservation District ........................................................................ 610-925-4920
County General Operator ........................................ 610-344-6000 / 1-800-682-1100
Domestic Relations ........................................................................ 610-344-6215
Election/Voter Service ............................................................ 610-344-6410
Jury Service Center ........................................................................ 610-344-6174
Parks & Recreation ........................................................................ 610-344-6415
Veterans’ Affairs ........................................................................ 610-344-6375
Human Services ........................................................................... 610-344-6640
Local Social Services Information .................................................. 211
Aging Services ............................................................................... 610-344-6350
Elder Abuse ................................................................................. 800-564-7000
Pocopson Nursing Home ........................................................... 610-793-1212
Child Abuse Report Line ......................................................... 610-344-5800 / 800-932-0313
Children, Youth & Families ......................................................... 610-344-5800
Crime Victim Center ................................................................... 610-692-7420
Drug and Alcohol ........................................................................ 610-344-6620
Mental Health / Intellectual & Develop. Disabilities .............. 610-344-6265
Domestic Violence 24 Hour Hotline .......................................... 888-711-6270
Drug/Alcohol Crisis .................................................................... 911
Mental Health Crisis ................................................................... 988
Mental Health 24 Hour Crisis Hotline ........................................... 1-877-918-2100 / 610-280-3270
Rape Crisis Center ........................................................................ 610-692-7420
Suicide Prevention Lifeline ........................................................ 800-273-8255
Poison Control ............................................................................... 800-772-7112

Pennsylvania State Hotlines
Suspected Welfare Fraud .............................................................. 800-932-0582
Elder Abuse Unit .......................................................................... 866-623-2137
Consumer Protection .................................................................... 800-441-2555

511PA is Pennsylvania’s official travel information service. Call (511 or 1-877-511-7366), visit www.511PA.com, or use the 511PA mobile app for reliable, current traffic and weather information, as well as links to other transportation services.
The human services provided by the County are, in large part, funded by grants received from the Commonwealth and federal government.

In 2022, human services, including the geriatric center, made up 53.0% of the County expenditures.

**Department of Aging:** The primary goals of the department are to develop, coordinate and support comprehensive community based services which assist persons age 60 and older to remain independent and self-sufficient in the community.

**Children, Youth & Family (CYF):** The mission of CYF is to utilize high-quality, comprehensive social services that strengthen the family's ability to provide for the safety and well-being of each child.

**Community Development:** The Chester County Department of Community Development provides housing, neighborhood improvement, and social services to citizens so that they have the opportunity to successfully live in a safe, stable, and desirable community.

**Drug & Alcohol:** Drug & Alcohol provides effective, high quality alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention, intervention, and treatment services for the citizens of Chester County in order to prevent the onset of substance abuse and addiction wherever possible and, where it does exist, to mitigate its effects on individuals, families, and communities.

**Geriatric Center:** Pocopson Home is Chester County’s short and long term healthcare facility. The Home offers both short and long term medical and nursing services, placing emphasis on rehabilitation for the purpose of returning residents to their homes and community environment.

**Health Department:** The Chester County Health Department provides personal and environmental health services to residents and visitors so that they may grow, live and work in healthy and safe communities.

**Human Services:** Department of Human Services protects vulnerable children and adults, promoting independence and well-being for the visitors and citizens of Chester County so that they may lead stable, safe, and fulfilling lives.

**Managed Behavioral Health Care (MBHC):** MBHC provides services to all eligible County residents in a coordinated and collaborative manner. To best meet our residents’ needs, the department ensures that decisions are made on a sound planning basis, measures are put in place to maintain high quality services, and the statutes and regulations are followed consistently by and between the different services comprising the human services system.

**Mental Health/Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (MH/IDD):** Every Chester County citizen experiencing mental illness or developmental disabilities may access services and natural supports that foster recovery and integration into a greater community where they are valued and enjoy fulfilling lives.

**Workforce Development Fund:** To serve as the local entity, responsible for the strategic planning and promotion of an effective workforce development system in Chester County, that responds to the regional labor market needs and produce workers better equipped to compete in the global economy and to continue to be perceived as a destination of choice and a desirable place to invest, live work and raise a family.
Peer Support and Teen Talk Lines

Our Peer Support & Teen Talk Lines provide live call lines, called warm lines, where teens and adults can speak or text anonymously with a peer about any issues or problems without fear of judgement. Sometimes you may feel isolated or feel like you have no one to talk to. Peer Support & Teen Talk Lines are manned by a team of dedicated certified peer specialists and teen volunteers.

This means that the adults and teens answering the phones have lived experience and can provide an empathetic, listening ear to any issue you may be facing. You don’t have to face things alone. You can talk to someone who understands anonymously.

For more information please go to https://www.accessservices.org/ or call 855-852-8336 or text 484-362-9515 (teens), call 855-715-8255 or Text 267-225-7785 (adults)
Over 80% of calls made to 9-1-1 come from mobile phone, giving dispatchers very little information about you other than a phone number and general information regarding your location.

With the mobile app - Smart911 - you can provide first responders the critical information you want them to know in any kind of emergency, including your addresses, medical information, home information, description of pets and vehicles, and emergency contacts. You can provide as much or as little information as you like.

Smart911 is a national service so your profile is visible to any participating 9-1-1 center nationwide.

You can also choose to sign up for notifications regarding weather, traffic and other emergencies including gas leaks, missing persons or other incidents that may impact you safety.

With Smart911, at-risk individuals can sign up and share their needs requirements with emergency managers, helping them to better prepare for and identify residents in need of assistance during a disaster.

Thousands of communities across the country rely on Smart911 to better protect at-risk residents. Don’t get left behind and sign up for Smart911’s access and functional needs registry.

Sign up today at [https://www.smart911.com/](https://www.smart911.com/)

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**Fighting the Opioid and Heroin Epidemic**

The Chester County Commissioners, District Attorney, the Department of Drug & Alcohol Services, and the Health Department hosts its annual Color 5K run through the streets of West Chester every year.

In the seven years that the Color 5K has taken place, more than $200,000 has been raised to fund efforts in hospital emergency rooms that have supported the COPE (Community Outreach and Prevention Education) Program. Cooperatively developed, this program addresses all aspects of substance abuse addiction. It provides one-to-one support for overdose survivors and their families and friends; provides overdose prevention information and outreach to first responders, hospital staff, family members and friends; and importantly, provides expedited admission into detox and a review of all treatment options for overdose survivors who agree to treatment.

For more information on the annual Color 5K Run, please visit our website at [https://chesco.org/color5k](https://chesco.org/color5k). Please see that previous link for any changes to the 2023 run.
Chester County Library System is more than books. Do you want to start a business, but don’t know how? Our library system has resources that can direct you.
Do you want to start or join a book club? Do you need an idea for a new book to read? Just check out the library’s website for clubs, reading & discussion ideas, or the resources on how to start a book club of your own.

**Activities & Events:**
Many different events and activities that take place in Chester County Libraries every week. With 18 different libraries spread across the county, it is easy to find something fun near you.

- Events for younger children include storytelling sessions, Crafty Fridays, and book bingo.
- Events for young adults include historical lectures, clubs, and different teen programs that incorporate a wide range of activities, including summer events to keep kids active all summer long.
- Events for adults include book clubs, writing workshops, English conversation groups, genealogy workshops, bridge, and yoga.
- Events for all ages include film screenings and trivia nights.
- **Museum Passes** are available for a variety of museums, parks, theaters, and zoos. All you have to do is reserve your tickets at the Library or online through [https://chescolibraries.org/using-library/museum-passes](https://chescolibraries.org/using-library/museum-passes)

All events can be found on the Chester County Library system’s calendar of events.

**Education & Business:**
The Chester County Library offers a variety of educational opportunities for all ages.

- The Business Center has a range of services and resources to help those in need of top-notch, authoritative information.
- Looking for a job? The Library offers guidance and help with resumes and interviewing.
- Need a room for a meeting? The Library’s have rooms and the equipment you need to hold successful meetings.
- Get one-on-one computer help, learn a Microsoft program, or learn to use your eReader.

- Aprende inglés básico en un ambiente divertido y solidario (Learn basic English in a fun and supportive environment).
Books & Movies & Research:
Books and other reading materials are the backbone of any library.

- Did you know you can have books and movies transferred from branch to branch?
- Do you want to use your iPhone or Android to read? You can check out an eBook to read on a variety of electronic devices.
- The Chester County Library System also gives its residents access to many different research databases that have magazines, pictures and more. If our Libraries don’t have what you need, Pennsylvania Online World of Electronic Resources (POWER Library) most likely will.
- The Reference Staff is available to help. If you would like one-on-one time with a librarian to begin a research project, search our catalog, learn more about downloading eBooks, or have other information needs, consider signing up for a Book a Librarian appointment.

What are you waiting for? Come and check out our Library system. All you need is a library card.

Chester County Library & District Center, 450 Exton Square Parkway, Exton
Atglen Public Library, 413 Valley Avenue, Atglen
Avon Grove Public Library, 117 Rose Hill Avenue, West Grove
Chester Springs Library, 1685-A Art School Road, Chester Springs
Coatesville Library, 501 East Lincoln Highway, Coatesville
Downingtown Library, 330 East Lancaster Avenue, Downingtown
Easttown Library, 720 First Avenue, Berwyn
Henrietta Hankin Library, 215 Windgate Drive, Chester Springs
Honey Brook Library, 687 Compass Road, Honey Brook
Kennett Library, 216 East State Street, Kennett Square
Malvern Library, 1 East First Avenue, Malvern
Oxford Library, 48 Second Street, Oxford
Paoli Library, 18 Darby Road, Paoli
Parkesburg Library, 105 West Street, Parkesburg
Phoenixville Library, 183 Second Avenue, Phoenixville
Spring City Library, 245 Broad Street, Spring City
Tredyffrin Library, 582 Upper Gulph Road, Strafford-Wayne
West Chester Library, 415 North Church Street, West Chester
Small Town, Big Films

The West Chester Film Festival presents short films that are 30 minutes or less from around the world.

During the weekend we will show over 50 films at our West Chester Film Festival, from 2 minute comedies to 30 minute dramas and everything in between.

West Chester Film Festival, our West Chester Family Film Festival, and our West Chester Young Filmmaker Film Festival.

Join us for a weekend every April for the annual West Chester Film Festival. Submissions are juried by a panel of industry professionals and winners chosen according to content, innovation and technical execution.

Every year we hold informative and free filmmaker workshops and a Filmmaker Meet & Greet on Saturday afternoon of the Festival weekend. The Festival ends on Sunday with more screenings and our not-to-be-missed Closing Night Party where we award the top films in each genre with the coveted “Chester”!

Open Space Preservation

Chester County’s Open Space Preservation Program, administered by the Department of Parks + Preservation, uses funds allocated by the Commissioners to help keep farmers on the land, to provide safe and accessible places for children and families to play, and to protect the woods and wildlife that make Chester County special.

In 2022, Chester County preserved 809 acres in partnership with non-profit land trusts and municipalities, preserved 584 acres of open space and completed several park and trail improvement projects. The County’s funding programs enabled the achievement of a significant milestone - more than 30 percent of Chester County’s land is now permanently preserved, totaling approximately 148,000 acres.

The amount of land permanently preserved throughout Chester County adds an invaluable resource to our citizens and our community.

Longwood Gardens

Longwood Gardens is the living legacy of Pierre S. du Pont bringing joy and inspiration to everyone through the beauty of nature, conservation, and learning.

Longwood Gardens is a botanical garden that consists of over 1,077 acres of gardens, woodlands, and meadows in Kennett Square.

It is one of the premier horticultural display gardens in the United States and is open to visitors year-round to enjoy native and exotic plants and horticulture (both indoor and outdoor), events and performances, seasonal and themed attractions, as well as educational lectures, courses, and workshops.

When visiting Longwood Gardens, you are immersed not only in the breathtaking surroundings but in a rich history as well. The traditions and elegance of the gardens have evolved over decades to create the magnificence we have today. Step back in time to learn about these important cultural events and their contributions.

Source: Chester County Open Space
Higher Education
Chester County has a long history with education dating back to 1837 and is currently home to 8 colleges and universities.

- Cheyney University
  - Established February 1837
  - Approximately 706 Students
  - The oldest African-American institution of higher learning in the US.
- Delaware County Community College
  - Established March 1, 1967
  - Approximately 9,989 Students
  - 4 of 7 Campuses in Chester County: Downingtown, Exton, Phoenixville, West Grove
- Immaculata University
  - Established 1920
  - Approximately 2,500 Students
  - It was the first Catholic college for women in the Philadelphia area
- Lincoln University
  - Established April 29, 1854
  - Approximately 1,824 Students
  - Founded as a school for the education of African Americans.
- Penn State Great Valley Campus
  - Established 1963
  - Approximately 2,950 Students
  - The first permanent college campus in the United States located within a corporate business park.

...a Great Place to

- University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine’s New Bolton Center
  - Established 1964 (Penn Vet 1884)
  - Approximately 6,200 patients per year
  - World-renowned for its large animal hospital and research centers.
- University of Valley Forge
  - Established 1939
  - Approximately 1,130 Students
  - Formerly Valley Forge Christian College began as a summer Bible School
- West Chester University
  - Established 1871
  - Approximately 17,669 Students
  - Frederick Douglass gave his very last public lecture at WCU

Top 10 Chester County Employers

Vanguard Group ..............................................20,000
QVC, Inc. ..........................................................2,400
Chester County Hospital ................................. 2,300
Main Line Health System ................................. 2,300
County of Chester ............................................. 2,124
Giant Food Stores, LLC .................................. 2,100
PA System of Higher Education ...................... 2,100
Downingtown Area School District ................. 1,674
West Chester Area School District ................. 1,507
Chester County Intermediate Unit .................. 1,115

Source: Comprehensive Annual Financial Report

Know Your Numbers
Chester County continues to earn national awards for both its financial reporting and budgeting: 41 years for the Controller prepared audited Annual Comprehensive Financial Report and 32 years for the Finance prepared, Commissioner approved, Annual Budget. Please visit the County’s website at [https://chesco.org/](https://chesco.org/) to view or download these documents.
Waste, Fraud, & Abuse Hotline
Report waste, fraud, and mismanagement of our county tax dollars

610-344-5912

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO REPORT:
✓ Suspected theft or misuse of County property or cash
✓ False reporting of hours worked
✓ Submission of illegitimate vendor invoices
✓ Falsification or misrepresentation of expense reimbursements
✓ Mismanagement of tax dollars
✓ Spending in excess of what is reasonable and necessary
✓ Violations of the County’s purchasing policy
✓ Other suspected fraud or abuse

YOU CAN HELP SAVE MONEY TOO!
We would love to hear your ideas to improve efficiency and save the County mon-

• Fraud investigations are opened within 24 hours of receiving fraud tips.
• Status reports can be provided regarding your tip. Just provide your full name with your submission.
• You can submit fraud tips anonymously either by voice mail, e-mail or ground mail.
• If you choose to remain anonymous, be assured that your complaint will receive the same attention as all tips we receive.
• As we have no way of tracing the source of anonymous tips, status reports can’t be provided on tips submitted anonymously.
• Fraud & Abuse Hotline extends only to Chester County government resources and activities.

Include as much detailed information as possible in your tip.

FRAUD & ABUSE HOTLINE CONTACT INFORMATION:

Contact us via E-mail: ControllerInfo@chesco.org or http://chesco.org/FormCenter/Controller-13/

Mail your tip to:
Fraud Hotline
Office of the Controller
313 West Market Street, Suite 6302

Telephone: 610-344-5912

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!