

BUCKS COUNTY

Designer House & Gardens

2019 Information Packet

44th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens
Peppermint Farm

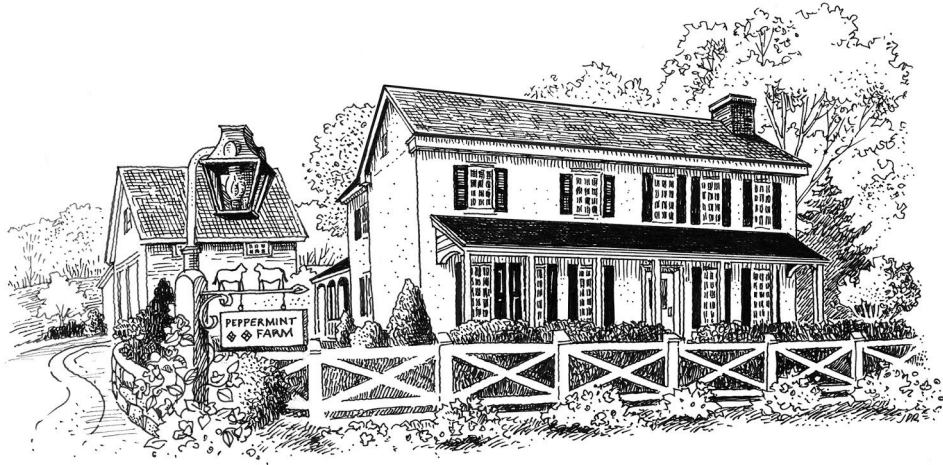


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Overview

Peppermint Farm is the 44th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens presented by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA). Proceeds from the Designer House benefit Doylestown Hospital and the mission of the VIA.

Tour more than 25 design areas throughout the houses, cottage, and gardens. End the day with a beverage or sandwich at the Peppermint Café. Shop designer décor throughout the property and at the six boutiques.

Location

2613 Hilltown Pike, Perkasie, PA 18944

Tour Dates & Times

Sunday, April 28 through Sunday, May 26, 2019

Mon – Wed	10 am – 4 pm
Thursday	10 am – 7 pm
Fri - Sat	10 am – 4 pm
Sunday	Noon – 4 pm

Ticket Prices & Ticket Purchase Locations

Prices

\$30 advance sales (before April 28) and seniors 62+

\$35 at the door - Beginning April 28

\$250 Lifetime Ticket – allows entrance to this and all future Bucks County Designer Houses

House is not handicapped accessible

Ticket Purchase Locations

Tickets may be purchased online at BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org

Beginning March 1, 2019 advance tickets will also be available for purchase at the following locations:

Buckingham

Good Stuff Thrift

Chalfont

Bucks County Antique Gallery

Byers' Choice

Doylestown

Bucks Country Gardens

C. Ferry Home

Doylestown Hospital – Gift Shop *

Good Stuff Thrift

Mt. Lake Pool & Patio *

Pine Run Retirement Community

Rutherford's Camera Shop

The Doylestown Bookshop

Dublin

Simons Fine Art Gallery & Boutique

Furlong

Furlong Lamp & Lighting

Lahaska

Peddler's Village Information Desk

New Hope

Kurfiss Sotheby's International Realty

Perkasie

Bishop Estate Vineyard and Winery

Pearl S. Buck International

Richboro

Fireside Flowers

Southampton

Oskar Huber Furniture & Design

Warminster

Health Connections at ShopRite *

Warrington

The Cornerstone Club at the Health & Wellness Center

* Tickets at these locations are available through May 27.

Please note: all tickets are non-refundable.

Special Events

Opening Weekend Gala – April 26 - 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Join us at the nearby Pearl S. Buck Estate for a lavish gala to celebrate the opening of the 44th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens. The gala will be catered by Jamie Hollander Gourmet. Entertainment will be provided by The Chatterband.

This is a night to celebrate, enjoy good food, and dance with friends and family. All gala attendees will receive tickets to tour the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens at their leisure when the house opens for tours April 28 – May 26, 2019. Champagne Reception guests will also have the opportunity to tour the historic Pearl S. Buck House.

Champagne Reception will take place from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. Black tie optional.

Tickets start at \$165 per person; and reserved tables of ten are available; reservations are required.

Tickets are available at BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org or by calling 215.345.2191.

Seminars

Several interesting and informative seminars will be offered throughout the tour period including Pearl S. Buck historical topics on Mondays. Additionally, a variety of interior design and gardening topics will be presented at Friday Forums. A full list of dates, times, topics and speakers is available at BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org/seminars.

April 29 – Selecting Wine: What Should I Know?

Presented by Kevin Bishop, Owner Bishop Estate Vineyard and Winery

Choosing a wine involves more than red v white. Understand the essential elements involved in making a good selection.

May 3 – Friday Forum – The Elements of Design

Presented by Lisa Lazarus & Robert Belchic, Lisa Lazarus Interiors, LLC & A Room With a View

Identify the elements of design and the benefits of working with a professional designer who knows how to identify those elements and achieve the best results.

May 6 – Sherlock Homes Looks at Peppermint Farm

Presented by Jeffrey Marshall, Bucks County Heritage Conservancy President

A careful examination of the house structure provides information that is not recorded in deeds or diaries. Let's look for clues!

May 10 – Friday Forum – Latest Trends in Kitchens & Baths

Presented by Jere Bradwell, J. Bradwells Home Kitchen & Design

Learn about the latest trends in kitchens and bathrooms to help create a perfect balance of function and beauty.

May 13 – Legends of Hilltown Township

Presented by Bill Stahl, Hilltown Historical Society President

Heroes and highlights of Hilltown Township—who did what and when?

May 17 – Friday Forum – Artful Details

Presented by Richard Stuckmeyer & Lydia DeSimone, LeRoux Interiors, Inc.

Styling your home with paintings, sculptures or family treasures to create a very personal and joyful space.

May 20 – The Friendly Home and People of Bucks County

Presented by Sandy Weikel, Pearl S. Buck International

A cultural icon, Pearl S. Buck shared her vision with those around her. Learn first-hand what she has to say.

May 24 – Friday Forum – Landscaping In Small Spaces

Presented by Liz Gular & Amy Sanchez-Hamilton, Bucks Country Gardens
Bigger doesn't always mean better when it comes to living or garden areas. Downsized, eco-efficient spaces are on the rise.

Meet the Design Team- Thursday May 9, 4:00-6:00 pm

Join us for a casual evening to meet the entire 2019 Design Team. Discuss with them the inspiration for their work, the challenges they faced and their approach to design.
This event is complimentary with a House tour ticket or 2019 Guidebook.

Wellness Wednesdays Community Health Fair by Doylestown Hospital

Wednesday, May 8 & May 22, 11:00 am -1:00 pm

Join Doylestown Health professionals for FREE cholesterol and glucose screenings, health information, giveaways and more! The Doylestown Health tent will be on the grounds of the Designer House, and all are invited to visit us before or after their house tour. Stop by for free health and wellness information, screenings, exercise tips, or to talk with expert clinicians from Doylestown Health. This event is FREE and open to the public. For more information, visit DoylestownHealth.org/Dialogue or call 215.345.2121.

Salute to the Troops, May 26 & 27

FREE House Tours for Military Members/Veterans and ½ Price Entry for one Companion

Design Team

Bromm's Lullaby Farm
Bucks Country Gardens
C. Ferry Home
Casa Double L Interior Design
DC Interiors, LLC
Design Home Interiors
Domani Design Studio
House Dressing
J. Bradwell's Home Kitchen and Design
Jane Ramsey Fine Art
Linda Daly ASID Interior Design

Lisa Lazarus Interiors, LLC and A Room With a View
Lori's Funky Junk Decor
Lotus and Lilac Design Studio
Margaret Pook Interior Design LLC
Oskar Huber Furniture & Design
Propato Landscaping LLC
Stage Coach Services Design
Sweetpeas
The Faux Studio
Tile Gallerie

Boutiques

Aspiring Artists of the Earth
Bishop Estate Vineyard and Winery
Bretherick's Home and Garden Decor
L'Aromapothicaire

Olive Oil Etcetera
The Saddlery and Boutique at Fox Heath

Sponsors & Supporters

Honorary Chair

Joan B. and Donald E. Parlee M.D.

Gold Sponsors

Johnson & Johnson
SEI Investments

Peppermint Farm History

Peppermint Farm, located in Hilltown Township, is situated in a historical area. The property is located on the east side of what was known as "The old Bethlehem Road" (the Minsi Indian Trail). Now identified as Hilltown Pike, the trail was used to travel from Philadelphia to the Durham iron mines.

William Penn met the Indian Chiefs of the Delaware Nations in 1683 in "Perkasie Indian Town," later known as Hilltown Village. Settlers, mostly Welsh Baptists with a few Huguenots and English Quakers, arrived in the area around 1700. The Mennonites came in 1727 and the Germans immigrated shortly thereafter.

A search of the property deeds reveals that the 32-acre parcel of land, now known as Peppermint Farm, has transacted 15 times. The farm is a fragment of the great Vastine (nee Vandoestine) tract of 500 acres purchased in 1721 by Abraham Vastine, a grandson of Abraham Vastine who immigrated with his three children in 1690. One-hundred-one acres were bequeathed to his two sons, Benjamin and John, in 1740. Benjamin died leaving a widow and four children and in 1770 his 52 acres were sold to Andrew Armstrong for a sum of 240 pounds.

Eleven years later, Andrew sold the land to his brother, James Armstrong, for 255 pounds. James, the operator of the local tavern that he purchased in 1770, married Abraham's daughter. James also collected taxes for the County but he kept the money. The County sued him and he lost the tavern in 1786-87 but managed to hang onto the house which he had purchased in 1781. James died in 1790 and his Executor sold the 52 acres to Benjamin Morris.

Morris owned the land for 27 years before selling it to Abner Spencer in 1818 for a sum of \$1,841. The deed records the farm as 53 acres rather than 52. Twenty years later Spencer sold 37 acres in two separate transactions of 19 acres and 18 acres to Frederick Treffinger, an immigrant from Germany. Treffinger was a blacksmith and he built the first house on his acreage in 1851.

Ten years later he sold the 37 acres, along with the buildings, to his son for \$3,400. Frederick Jr. continued to live there for 20 years before selling to Enos Myers on April 2, 1881. The Myers family made the farm their home for 28 years. In 1909 Enos's widow, Mary Myers transacted the property to Albert Myers who resided there for 27 years. Upon Albert's passing, his wife, Emma, sold the property to Wilmer Rosenberger in October 1936.

Wilmer and Rachal Rosenberger enjoyed residing on the farm for 13 years. The Rosenbergers sold the farm to Walter Moore III who transacted it seven months later to Elmer Harlam. They lived there less than two years before selling the 32 acres to Homer Waller for \$12,000.

In 1956, Homer and Helen Waller sold the farm to Florence and Gerald Simons for \$24,000. Arriving to fields of peppermint growing on the acreage, they were the first owners to name the property "Peppermint Farm". Gerald made his livelihood in the construction business. He enjoyed living on the farm for 20 years until his passing. Florence, 92 years of age, continues to own the farm. She is delighted to present her home as the 2019 Bucks County Designer House & Gardens.

About the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA)

The saga of 14 women who founded the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown on April 26, 1895 is remarkable. Who could have predicted the spirit, ingenuity, and tenacity of these nineteenth-century women or the results of their efforts?

The impetus of this organization was dusty Doylestown streets which they saw as not only a nuisance but as a health hazard. Their pleas to clean up the streets went unanswered and they decided to take matters into their own hands. They collected donations and purchased a horse-drawn sprinkler to dampen the offending dust and also bought trash receptacles to free the streets of garbage and debris. This established their mission: To enhance the quality of life in Central Bucks County through service and education.

In 1916, they established a Visiting Nurse Service using a \$500 donation and matching funds; this paid for Miss Clementine Johnstone's initial year's salary. During the 1918 flu epidemic, Nurse Norma Munsey used a bicycle for

transportation and made 741 house calls in one month, charging just 10-15 cents per visit. In less critical times, she cycled through town and tossed candies to youngsters on her route.

During World War I, the VIA women assisted the Red Cross by rolling bandages and performing other services. Out of this alliance emerged a well-baby clinic and emergency center. Keenly aware that Doylestown area women had to travel to Abington or Philadelphia for birthing, the VIA established the first Doylestown Emergency Hospital in 1923 at a house at the corner of Oakland Avenue and Pine Street. Members performed all non-medical duties including cooking, canning food, cleaning and laundry. The story goes that the cook would call upstairs to patients asking "Would pork chops be all right for dinner tonight?"

The first hospital outgrew its quarters and, in 1939, a 25-bed facility was built for \$50,000. Expanded three times, the hospital was accredited by the American Hospital Association in 1953 and, in 1969, a professional administrator was hired. The current hospital on the West State Street campus was completed in 1975 on property purchased from Delaware Valley College.

Doylestown Hospital is known as the only community hospital in the United States to be founded and governed by a women's organization. To this day, VIA members serve as Doylestown Hospital's Chairman of the Board and chair key committees alongside hospital administration. The VIA also established and oversees Pine Run Retirement Community and Pine Run at Lakeview. Their influence is reflected in all aspects of management, development, physical appearance and patient relations. It is no wonder this hospital is imbued with a sense of humanity that raises it above the ordinary.

The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown was the first women's organization established in Bucks County. Today, membership has grown to more than 300 women. Going beyond health-related initiatives, they also offer one-time grants to local non-profit organizations, educational scholarships for outstanding high school seniors pursuing health-related careers, and scholarships for women seeking professional occupations. Its Welfare Committee provides confidential aid and emergency support to local families and individuals in need.

In 1954, original member Miss Sarah James bequeathed the 17-room Federal-style residence at 132 North Main Street, Doylestown and all its contents to the VIA. The home is on the National Register of Historic Places and is where the organization meets. For more information about the VIA of Doylestown, including how to become a member, please visit VIA-Doylestown.org or call (215) 345-2347.

2019 Proceeds Benefit

The mission of the VIA is to enhance the health and welfare of Central Bucks County and surrounding communities. To fulfill the objectives of its mission, the organization governs the VIA Health System which includes Doylestown Hospital and the Pine Run Retirement Community. The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens is the largest yearly fundraiser sponsored by the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown.

Doylestown Health – Our 2019 Cause

The Village Improvement Association of Doylestown (VIA) founded Doylestown Hospital in 1923 to meet the healthcare needs of the Doylestown community. Under the continued governance and stewardship of the VIA and throughout its 95-year history, Doylestown Hospital has maintained its patient-first philosophy to meet the growing needs of individuals and families in our community.

Established as an emergency and maternity hospital, Doylestown Hospital has expanded its clinical services, invested in cutting-edge technologies and developed wide-ranging health programs. Today, Doylestown Health is an award-winning, nationally-recognized, comprehensive regional healthcare system. Among many awards and accolades, Doylestown Hospital was named one of the nation's 50 Top Cardiovascular Hospitals by IBM Watson Health™ for the second time in twenty years. It is the only hospital in Pennsylvania and New Jersey represented on this year's list.

To continue these advancements and build for its second century of healthcare excellence, Doylestown Health recently launched One Vision: The Campaign for Doylestown Health, its most ambitious fundraising effort to date.

Proceeds from this year's 2019 Bucks County Designer House will join with other philanthropic investments through the One Vision campaign to fund a wide range of transformative initiatives and priorities that include the capital construction projects currently underway. The phased renovations to existing structures and construction of new facilities will advance Doylestown Health's holistic model of care, improving the health of individuals and our community at every stage of life.

The VIA of Doylestown proudly supports One Vision and is grateful for the support of the community in our efforts to make this vision a reality.

"Doylestown Health is steadfast in its commitment to continue to serve as a beacon for health and wellness while providing the highest level of clinical care in facilities commensurate with our expertise. The reason we are as great as we are is that we refuse to believe we are as great as we can be.

Jim Brexler, President & CEO, Doylestown Health

Community Response Fund

Founded in 1995, this fund provides financial assistance to projects that enhance quality of life in the community. Grants are awarded on a one-time basis to an agency or individual targeting community needs including health, economic and social issues. Previous grants have been awarded to the St. Vincent DePaul Society, the Lord's Pantry, Women Build, Central Bucks Family YMCA and many other organizations requesting grants for a specific community program.

Welfare Fund

This fund provides monies for food, clothing, medication, rent, utility bills, transportation and many other emergency needs to members of the community. Committee members are available 365 days a year to respond to needs.

Scholarship Fund

The VIA provides educational scholarships for exceptional high school seniors pursuing health-related careers and to women in need. Established in 1997, the Women's Scholarship fund supports training and education for eligible women to become self-supporting by assisting them to secure employment or upgrade their skills to improve work opportunities. Past recipients have attended technical and trade schools, Bucks County Community College, Montgomery County Community College, Temple University, Gwynned-Mercy College, and Drexel University.

James-Lorah Memorial Home

The Village Improvement Association also maintains and preserves the James-Lorah Memorial Home, located across from the Doylestown courthouse. The James-Lorah Memorial Home is the headquarters of the VIA and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places

This home was built in 1844 by Judge Henry Chapman, the grandfather of the famous Henry Mercer. He owned and lived in the house until 1869 when he sold it to Dr. Oliver James, who lived there until his death. After that, his daughter, Sarah, who had married the Reverend Doctor George Lorah, and her sister Martha used the home as a summer vacation house. Sarah was a charter member of the VIA from its organization in 1895. Upon her death in 1954, Miss James bequeathed to the VIA the 17-room residence, its contents and a trust fund for maintenance. The house and the newer, attached auditorium are now used by the VIA for monthly and other organization meetings and are open to the public for tours and community events.

History of the Bucks County Designer House & Gardens

From the beginning to now

In 1971, the VIA held the first Bucks County Designer House at Wheelbarrow Hill in Holicong. The second was in 1976 at Darlington House in Doylestown and the third in 1978 at Red Stone Farm in Danboro. Beginning in 1979, with the Hendrie House in Doylestown, the VIA has held a yearly designer house. Additional information is available at BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org. This is the 44th Bucks County Designer House & Gardens.

An All-Volunteer Effort

The Bucks County Designer House & Gardens is an all-volunteer effort. This year approximately 80 members of the Village Improvement Association of Doylestown serve on the Designer House committee. When the house opens, hundreds of volunteers from the hospital, service organizations, and the general public give their time to staff the house during the month. Without strong community support, this would be a daunting task. The committee is grateful for all volunteers who find the time to donate hours to this worthwhile cause.

Selection of a House

The Designer House Chair and Vice-Chair, along with several VIA officers, visit and evaluate available properties. Realtors often suggest properties that may be suitable and, at times, homeowners offer their property for a several-month period during which the transformation and house tours take place. Many factors are considered in selecting a house including location, historic interest, accessibility, and function space, parking and unique architectural and landscape characteristics.

Designer Selection

Letters are sent to interior designers and landscapers inviting them to an open house to preview the property. Interior designers are asked to submit a design board, sketch, and written description of their first area choice and to select two other alternative choices. The committee endeavors to match the designer and design area, realizing that it is not always possible to give everyone his/her first choice. Landscapers request their preferred areas and are assigned according to availability.

When the House Closes

The house reverts back to the owners who then enjoy the newly painted surfaces and any designer accessory that they may have purchased or, if the house is for sale, the realtor continues to market the designer enhanced property.

Additional information

Contacts

Website: BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org

Email: contact@buckscountydesignerhouse.org

Telephone: 215-345-2191

Publicity Contacts:

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Websites

Bucks County Designer House & Gardens BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org

Village Improvement Association of Doylestown VIA-Doylestown.org

Doylestown Health doylestownhealth.org

Style Sheet

Event Name: "Bucks County Designer House & Gardens" – note the use of an ampersand.

Designer House Logo -

buckscountydesignerhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/BCDH_LogoLockup-copy-300x101.jpg

Organization Name: "Village Improvement Association of Doylestown" or VIA"

VIA Logo: http://www.buckscountydesignerhouse.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/VIA_Logo-for-VIA-website.jpg