



Contact: Fran Feldman Walish fwalish@eightmarketing.com
610-667-2400

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CHESTER SPRINGS VILLAGES AND THE GREEN BETWEEN LAUNCH CHESTER SPRINGS SURROUNDS

CHESTER SPRINGS, PA – June 17 – Chester Springs Villages and its 20 attractions, environmental organizations and neighborhood partners have come together under a unifying message, proclaiming the area as **Chester Springs Surrounds: *Natural Charm.***

The announcement was made today by Heather Reiffer, executive director of The Mill at Anselma and Rob Lukens, executive director of Historic Yellow Springs, the co-coordinators of the project.

Today's launch also included the publication of a guide to **Chester Springs Surrounds** and a portal to the area: www.ChesterSpringsSurrounds.org. This project was made possible through a grant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Department of Community and Economic Development.

Chester Springs Surrounds encompasses the green space bounded by Pottstown to the North, Exton to the South, Phoenixville to the East and Elverson to the West. Defining the area are French Creek and Pickering Creek, surrounded by small clusters of state parks, natural preserves, historical attractions and family destinations. **Chester Springs Surrounds** is just a 15-minute drive from Valley Forge National Historic Park and 30 miles from downtown Philadelphia.

More...

Chester Springs Surrounds/2

“**Chester Springs Surrounds** is all about the simple pleasures and is a place where people can take time out from a hectic schedule to relax and unwind,” said Reiffer. “Whether it’s going hiking or fishing or even just taking a hayride to a pumpkin patch, it’s all here in the Surrounds.”

“The history in this region dates back to the 1700’s and was part of our country’s industrial heritage,” said Lukens. “From an 18th century water powered flour mill to a Revolutionary War military hospital, **Chester Springs Surrounds** has remained true to its historical roots.”

Much of the scenic beauty and lands that encompass **Chester Springs Surrounds** are under the protection and care of land preservationists, namely the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust, Green Valleys Association and the Natural Land Trust.

Both Reiffer and Lukens noted that **Chester Springs Surrounds** is not just a trip to the past. The destination also features wineries, a farmers and artisans market and art workshops.

For more information, visit **Chester Springs Surrounds** online at www.ChesterSpringsSurrounds.org.

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EDITORS NOTE: A list of attractions and partners is attached to this release.

Chester Springs Surrounds Attractions & Partners/2

Crow's Nest Preserve

Crow's Nest Preserve is a Natural Lands Trust site that includes nearly seven miles of trails that traverse 600 acres of protected woodlands and meadows along French Creek.

Address: 201 Piersol Road, Elverson, PA 19520

Phone: (610) 286-7955

Website: www.natlands.org/preserves

French Creek State Park

Experience the joys and beauty of open lands, protected by a community-based land trust. For an active outdoor experience and to make the most of your visit, head to the French Creek State Park Visitors Center.

Address: 843 Park Rd. Elverson, PA 19520

Phone: (610) 933-7577

Website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/frenchcreek.aspx

Historic Yellow Springs

Once a Revolutionary War hospital, spa town, and Civil War Soldiers' Orphan School, Historic Yellow Springs holds events and programs to share the village's rich history of nearly 300 years.

Address: 1685 Art School Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: (610) 827-7414

Website: www.yellowsprings.org

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site

Operating from 1771-1883, Hopewell and other "iron plantations" laid the foundation for the transformation of the United States into an industrial giant. The park's 848 acres and historic structures illustrate the business, technology and lifestyle of our growing nation.

Address: 2 Mark Bird Lane, Elverson, PA 19520

Phone: (610) 582-8773

Website: www.nps.gov/hofu

Ludwig's Corner Horse Show Association

Dedicated to promoting equestrian events and preserving open space in Chester County, the Association is the host to seasonal events including horse and dog shows and cycling, culminating in the annual three-day Labor Day Horse Show and County Fair.

Address: Route 100, just north of Route 401, Glenmoore, PA 19343

Phone: 610-458-3344

Website: www.ludwigshorseshow.org

Chester Springs Surrounds Attractions & Partners/3

Marsh Creek State Park

Marsh Creek State Park, located one and a half miles from the village of Eagle has over 1100 acres of land and a 535-acre lake for recreation and conservation activities. Activities include hiking, biking, horseback riding, picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing and hunting.

Address: 675 Park Road, Downingtown, PA 19335

Phone: (610) 458-5119

Website: www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateParks/parks/marshcreek.aspx

Maysie's Farm Conservation Center

A working organic vegetable farm and nonprofit, educational organization demonstrating and advocating for Community Supported Agriculture and a local, sustainable food system.

Address: 15 St. Andrew's Lane, Glenmoore, PA 19343

Phone: (610) 458-8129

Website: www.maysiesfarm.org

The Mill at Anselma

Explore Chester County's rich industrial and agricultural past at the Mill at Anselma, a National Historic Landmark and operating grist mill. Visitors enjoy family-friendly tours and monthly flour milling demonstrations at this intact 18th-century water-powered flour mill.

Address: 1730 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: (610) 827-1906

Website: www.anselmamill.org

St. Peters Village

Scenic and historic St. Peters Village is a rare example of a late 19th century industrial company village, and an ideal starting point for riverside hiking.

Address: St. Peters Road, Warwick Township, PA 19470

Phone: (610) 469-2600

Warwick County Park

Featuring 538 acres and encompassing portions of French Creek, Warwick County Park offers numerous trails and meadows that offer bountiful opportunities for hiking, biking, horseback riding and bird watching.

Address: 382 County Park Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone: (610) 469-1916

Website: www.dsfc.chesco.org/ccparks/cwp/view.asp?A=1550&Q=616458

Chester Springs Surrounds Attractions & Partners/3

Welkinweir

A 197-acre oasis of natural beauty, Welkinweir features a historic estate home, arboretum, and nature sanctuary demonstrating sustainability and environmental stewardship. Welkinweir is also the home of Green Valleys Association.

Address: 1368 Prizer Road, Pottstown, PA 19465

Phone: (610) 469-7543

Website: www.greenvalleys.org/welkinweir.asp

LAND PRESERVATION & ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust

Protecting more than 8,250 acres of land, the Trust's mission is to preserve and protect endangered land and natural resources in the northern Chester County watersheds, for now and for future generations.

Phone: (610) 933-7577

Website: www.frenchandpickering.org

Green Valleys Association

Founded in 1964, GVA oversees 155 square miles of all five of Chester County's northern and eastern Schuylkill River watersheds.

Phone: (610) 469-4900

Website: www.greenvalleys.org

Natural Lands Trust

The region's largest non-profit conservation organization preserves and cares for natural lands throughout eastern Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey.

Phone: (610) 353-5587

Website: www.natlands.org

Chester Springs Surrounds Attractions & Partners/5

NEIGHBORHOOD PARTNERS

J. Maki Winery

J. Maki Winery is a 32-acre vineyard is the home of America's signature champagne -- the only American winery honored with the gold medal for champagne in Paris, France. The winery specializes in dry table wines: Chardonnay, Viognier, Gewurztraminer, Bordeaux varietals, Pinot Noir, five champagnes and an award winning IceWine.

Address: 200 Grove Road, Elverson, PA 19520

Phone: (610) 286-7754

Website: www.jmakiwinery.com

Kimberton Whole Foods

A healthy and organic grocery store carrying a large selection of organic items as well as local offerings.

Address: 2140 Kimberton Road, Kimberton, PA 19442

Phone: (610) 935-1444

Website: www.kimbertonwholefoods.com

Olde Mill Race Wines

A family-run vineyard and winery located in Chester County on the banks of Pickering Creek, where grapes are processed in the Winery located in a old carriage barn on the property. The Winery is open for sales and tours May – December each year.

Address: 1439 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: (888) 655-WINE

Website: www.clovermillfarm.com

Yellow Springs Farm

A native plants nursery featuring more than 200 species of native trees, shrubs, grasses and wildflowers.

Address: 1165 Yellow Springs Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425

Phone: (610) 827-2014

Website: www.yellowspringsfarm.com