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CHESTNUT HILL, MOUNT AIRY & GERMANTOWN NEIGHBORHOOD GUIDE
The Sites, Restaurants & More Of Three Historic Northwest Philadelphia Neighborhoods

PHILADELPHIA, September 14, 2018 – Diverse and historic, Chestnut Hill, Germantown and Mount Airy are urban neighborhoods in northwest Philadelphia, seven to 14 miles from Philadelphia’s City Hall. Each enclave has a distinctive style representing its communities’ past and present. All are worth day trips, and, getting there is a cinch via SEPTA, Philadelphia’s public transportation system. Check bus and regional rail schedules at septa.org before heading off to explore these neighborhoods.

Chestnut Hill (via the Chestnut Hill East/West train lines or the #23 Bus):

With a higher elevation than the rest of the city, Chestnut Hill, a National Register Historic District, was once a vacation spot for those who wanted to escape the summer heat of the lower-lying parts of the city. Today, the village-like neighborhood includes historic and modern mansions hidden behind the eclectic shops and renowned eateries of cobblestoned Germantown Avenue.

Restaurants/Cafes/Markets:

- **Barry’s Buns** – At the Market at the Fareway, Barry’s offers made-from-scratch cinnamon rolls, liege waffles and six flavors of sticky buns, including walnut, walnut raisin and apple crumb. Butter and crumb cakes and *stroopwafel* round out the small but delicious menu. 8229 Germantown Avenue, (267) 521-2867, barrysuns.com
- **Biryani Bowl** – Tucked off the beaten path in a standalone brick building, this dine-in or takeout spot spices up Chestnut Hill with arguably some of the best and most affordable Indian cuisine in the city. Highlights include samosas, chicken tikka masala and biryani rice bowls with meat or tofu. 219 E. Willow Grove Avenue, (215) 967-1159, biryaniowlpa.com
- **Bredenbeck’s Bakery & Ice Cream Parlor** – Open since 1889, this charming shop scores big with locals who adore its cakes, cupcakes, pies and ice cream. Throughout the year, Bredenbeck’s lets customers get in on the action through events and workshops, such as cake decorating and gingerbread making. 8126 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-7374, bredenbecks.com
- **Cake Restaurant** – Expanded from its bakery beginnings, this conservatory-based bring-your-own-bottle (BYOB) spot serves sweet and savory French-influenced fare for breakfast, lunch, dinner and Sunday brunch. Guests can ease the wait for salmon Niçoise salads, beef bourguignon, turkey tartines and croque monsieurs with a delectable treat from the pastry case. 8501 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-6887, cakeofchestnuthill.com
- **Chestnut Hill Brewing Company** – At the flagship of the Market at the Fareway, Hillers enjoy a variety of craft beers and tasty traditional and specialty pizzas in a beautifully designed, open-air seating area outfitted with a ping-pong table and plants. 8229 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-0300, chestnuthillbrewingcompany.com

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- **Chestnut Hill Cheese Shop** – This charming storefront has purveyed gourmet foods and hard-to-find cheeses for a half century. The well-loved spot is known for its cheese-of-the-month club, gift baskets—and samples. 8509 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-2211, chcheeseshop.com
- **Chestnut Hill Coffee Company** – Something’s always brewing at this upscale espresso bar. Whatever blend it is, those lucky beans have been roasted in-house, allowing for the optimal java shot. 8620 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-8600, chestnuthillcoffee.com
- **CinCin** – Serving cuisine described as “Chinese kissed by French,” this Chestnut Hill fixture has been the go-to for families and couples for the past 20-some years. What they order: moo shu pork, General Tso’s chicken or a more adventurous fish special. 7838 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-8800, cincinrestaurantphiladelphia.com
- **El Poquito** – Hillers fill the indoor booths and outdoor courtyard of this fun and contemporary cantina and tequila bar. Most popular on the menu: fresh-juice margaritas and spicy fish tacos. Taco Tuesdays bring crowds for dollar tacos and drink specials. 8201 Germantown Avenue, (267) 766-5372, elpoquito.com
- **Iron Hill Brewery & Restaurant** – With several rotating beers brewed in-house, a high-capacity space and more than 85 items on the menu, there is always plenty of goodness to choose from at Iron Hill, a locally based chain of brewpubs. It’s no wonder the seats are filled by the open windows on warm days, where patrons feast on mussels and burgers while people-watching and enjoying a cold one. 8400 Germantown Avenue, (215) 948-5600, ironhillbrewery.com
- **Louie’s Little Hut** – A surfer ethos meets luncheonette hours in a sunny spot known for waffle sandwiches and a cream cheese-topped cheesesteak. 8419 Germantown, Avenue, (267) 766-5044, louies-little-hut.business.site
- **Market at the Fareway** – A smaller version of Center City’s famed Reading Terminal Market, this year-round indoor market stands behind the Chestnut Hill Hotel. More than a dozen stalls offer produce, beef, chicken, fish, loads of prepared foods—hummus, sushi, lobster rolls, chocolates and other fresh foods. Winston Road between Germantown Avenue & Mermaid Lane, (215) 733-9599, marketatthefareway.com
- **McNally’s Tavern** – Home of the iconic, salami-topped cheesesteak sandwich known as the Schmitter®, this circa 1921 pub is the go-to spot for both sandwiches and homemade soups, along with delicious chocolate cake. Established in 1921, this well-known Chestnut Hill landmark is a local favorite. 8634 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-9736, mcnallystavern.com
- **Mermaid Inn** – Rhythm, blues, jazz, rock and poetry are on the menu at the corner of Mermaid Lane and Germantown Avenue, home of a funky and eclectic well-kept secret among folks who find meaning in music. Despite its name, this place is a tavern and live performance venue, not a spot to spend the night. 7673 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-9797, themermaidinn.net
- **Mica** – Guests are in for a treat at this elegant and modern American BYOB with a seasonal menu that changes daily and is available a la carte or as a six-course tasting. An intimate outdoor patio provides an ideal setting to dine in warm weather. 8609 Germantown Avenue, (267) 335-3912, micarestaurant.com
- **The Night Kitchen** – This green-certified cafe and bakery features from-scratch bakery items, specialty cakes and wedding cakes. Eco-conscious foodies appreciate that the staff grows its own herbs and vegetables for the dishes and recycles via rain harvesting and composting of food scraps. 7725 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-9235, nightkitchenbakery.com
- **Osaka** – Nestled at the top of the Hill, Osaka caters to sushi-lovers with umami nigiri, sashimi, and specialties like the Great Tuna Roll, spicy tuna topped with seared albacore, garlic, scallions and ponzu. 8605 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-5900, osakapa.com

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- **Paris Bistro & Jazz Café** – What neighborhood doesn't require its own sparkling Left Bank brasserie to serve escargots, coq au vin, ratatouille and crêpes suzette? Belowground, Paris' cafe seats 52 people for live jazz. 8229 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-6200, parisbistro.net
- **Tavern on the Hill** – When a shopping or sightseeing trip to the neighborhood comes to an end and a pint or two is required, this cozy spot delivers. It's also a great place to order comforting pub fare, particularly its popular roast beef sandwich. 8636 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-9948, tavernonthehill.biz
- **Top of the Hill Cafe** – Born from Top of the Hill Farm Market, which has been providing fresh local produce to the community for four decades, the cafe sells soups, salads, sandwiches and hot entrees that are prepared daily on the premises. Patrons can choose to dine in or take their meals to go. 184 E. Evergreen Avenue, (215) 248-6009, tothcafe.com
- **Weavers Way Co-op: Chestnut Hill** – This beloved co-op market offers all-natural groceries, local and organic meat and produce, an expanded bulk section, a large prepared foods section and a discount for members. 8424 Germantown Avenue, (215) 843-2350, weaversway.coop

Shops:

- **Artisans on the Avenue** – This shop stocks its shelves with clothing from small U.S. and local designers, jewelry from local artists, accessories from around the world and gifts that are just right. 8440 Germantown Avenue, (215) 381-0582, artisansontheavenue.com
- **Caleb Meyer** – Fine handcrafted jewelry, designed and forged on premises, combines with fine American glass, pottery and wood to furnish the stock-and-trade of this elegant gift gallery. 8520 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-9250, calebmeyer.com
- **Greendesign** – Eco-friendliness is the name of the game at this playfully serene home and children's shop known for its organic cotton onesies, handmade cards, carved wood bowls and utilitarian housewares. 8434 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-0700, shopgreendesign.com
- **Hideaway Music** – This shop promises and delivers "better living through vinyl." Original LPs from classic and contemporary rock to jazz and blues, along with turntables, concert posters and releases by today's artists (also available on CD), draw music lovers from all over. 8612 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-4434, hideawaymusic.org
- **The Hill Company** – In the neighborhood known as "Philadelphia's Garden District," this shop offers wicker settees, durable picnic sets and Big Green Eggs, among other patio and garden essentials. 8040 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-7600, hill-company.com
- **Host Interiors** – Classic modern furnishings by Mitchell Gold + Bob Williams are staples in this elegant yet approachable shelter store, which offers design services and get-there-fast sample sales. 7908 Germantown Avenue, (215) 967-1196, hostinteriors.com
- **Isabella Sparrow** – Ethereal yet rustic vintage-y home goods, many made of repurposed farmhouse finds, soothe the soul and update the house to give a comforting country edge to city homes. 8511 Germantown Avenue, (717) 327-7285, isabellasparrow.com
- **Mango** – Born of a 1980s Boho beach business, this women's clothing boutique approaches all-age fashions from a colorful, casual bent, with a style philosophy that clothes should be comfortable and stylish. 8442 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-9299, mangophilly.com
- **The Philadelphia Print Shop Ltd.** – Fans of "Antiques Roadshow" might recognize a face or two behind the desks of this well-established repository of historic maps, books and original prints, many relating to the region and dating from the 15th through 19th centuries. 8441 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-4750, philaprintshop.com

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- **Quelque Chose** – Pink and green and printed all over, this Lilly Pulitzer-packed shop, known for its vast boat tote selection, is vibrant proof that acolytes of *The Preppy Handbook* still patronize the Hill. 8437 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-6022, quelquechose.com
- **Robertson's Florist** – One of the city's elder florists outdoes itself arrangement after arrangement, offering all manner of flowers, but also elegant home accessories, especially during the holidays. 8501 Germantown Avenue, (800) 242-6002, robertsonsfowers.com
- **Noble Goods** – On point women's clothing is the point of this casually trendy boutique, formerly known as Roots Inc. Otology, Splendid, Emerson Fry and Maison Scotch are among the labels. 8436 Germantown Avenue, (267) 385-5753
- **Style Camp** – This mother-daughter shop specializes in easy, on-trend styles. Chic jersey dresses, French scarves, western accessories and tooled leather bags are among the must-haves for laid-back fashion plates. 9 W. Highland Avenue, (215) 242-3108, style-camp.com
- **Villavillekula** – In a children's shop named after Pippi Longstocking's home, owner Beth Milley stocks fanciful, mostly handmade clothing and accessories for wee ones. 8419 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-0200, pippisvillavillekula.com
- **Windfall Gallery** – This collection represents 250+ artists from fair-trade groups around the world. Ornate necklaces, carvings, pottery and singing bowls are among the objects seeking a stylish and kind home. 7944 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-6303, windfallgallery.com

Attractions:

- **Morris Arboretum** – Quaker siblings John and Lydia Morris purchased 92 rolling acres on the edge of Chestnut Hill in 1887, transforming a summer estate into a landscape dedicated to natural beauty and knowledge. The official Arboretum of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania belongs to the University of Pennsylvania, and it's a place for visitors to enjoy gardens, meadows, sculptures, ponds and trees. 100 E. Northwestern Avenue, (215) 247-5777, morrisarboretum.org
- **Pastorius Park** – Established in 1915 and maintained by the Fairmount Park Commission, this 16-acre park is breathtaking in all seasons. Visitors can walk their dogs among the old trees and around the pond in the center of the park, take the family for a picnic and enjoy concerts in the open-air amphitheater. W. Abington Avenue & Roanoke Street, phila.gov
- **Wissahickon Valley Park** – Bordering Chestnut Hill and Germantown to the south, 1,800 wooded acres include the lovely Wissahickon Creek, 50 miles of hiking and walking trails and Pastorius Park, a favorite refuge for picnics and summer concerts. Valley Green Road, (215) 247-0417, fow.org
- **Woodmere Art Museum** – An elegant stone mansion is now home to more than 6,000 works of art, with an emphasis on realist art and outdoor sculpture from the 19th century through the present day. Artists represented here include Edward Redfield, Violet Oakley and Benjamin West. 9201 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-0476, woodmereartmuseum.org

Germantown & Mount Airy (via the Chestnut Hill East/West train lines or the #23 Bus):

In addition to its elegant examples of 18th- and 19th-century architecture, Mount Airy is known for its community of artists, independent bookstores, cozy coffee shops and green space. Just east of Mount Airy, one of the oldest settlements in Philadelphia, Germantown has a relaxed, backyard feel along with its significant historic resources.

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Restaurants/Cafes/Markets:

- **Bacio** – Regulars know it's worth the wait for a table at this traditional Italian-American open-kitchen BYOB, known for antipasto and "Grandma's" lasagna. 311 W. Mount Pleasant Avenue, (215) 248-2740
- **Charlie Gray's Rib Crib** – Open Thursday through Saturday, this popular destination has been sating neighbors and the rest of the city's eaters with down home ribs, brisket and white bread since 1968. 6333 Germantown Avenue, (215) 438-6793
- **Chef Ken's** – A reputation for done-right Southern soul food—beef ribs, mac and cheese, collards—brought Anthony Bourdain through the door, just like it brings loyal patrons in for filling, satisfying dinners. 7135 Germantown Avenue, (215) 713-8899
- **Cooperman's Deli** – This much-anticipated Jewish delicatessen fills a void in Mount Airy with homemade dishes like (and even better than) Bubbie makes: brisket, chicken soup, corned beef crêpes and loads more. 7060 Germantown Avenue, (267) 297-5295
- **Earth Bread + Brewery** – Emblematic of the Mount Airy ethos, this hangout pours onsite-brewed beers from four taps and rarely repeats a recipe. Seven more taps rotate mostly local brews; there's also Pennsylvania wine on draught, house-made soda and kombucha—and great flatbread pizzas. 7136 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-6666, earthbreadbrewery.com
- **Frosted Fox Cake Shop** – Basic chocolate chip cookies and over-the-top layer cakes are the specialty of this couple-owned bakery, a monogrammed cupcake-lover's Pinterest board come to life. 6511 Germantown Avenue, (267) 900-5453, frostedfoxcakeshop.com
- **High Point Cafes** – The popularity of the made-to-order crêpes and house-roasted coffee necessitated two West Mount Airy locations for this Bohemian bakery/coffee shop. 602 Carpenter Lane, (215) 849-5153; Allen Lane Station, 7210 Cresheim Road, (215) 248-1900, highpointcafe.us.com
- **Jansen** – Chef David Jansen brings white tablecloth dining and New American fare to the historic Cresheim Cottage. Menu highlights include East and West Coast oysters, jumbo lump crab cocktail and grilled lamb loin with herbes de Provence, toasted Israeli cous cous and cucumber salad with tzatziki. 7402 Germantown Avenue, (267) 335-5041, jansenmtairy.com
- **The Juice Room** – This sunny spot uses raw vegetables and fruit to create mango lassis and ginger juices, immune boosters, acai smoothies and more. 7127 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-1122, thejuiceroom.com
- **K & J Caribbean American Diner** – One large platter of jerk chicken with rice, peas and cabbage is enough food to keep one family's taste buds tingling in spicy bliss from lunch through dinner at this no-frills Germantown Jamaican spot. 5603 Greene Street, (215) 849-0242
- **McMenamin's Tavern** – Locals convene here in force to catch Phillies, Flyers, Eagles and Sixers games, to eat what some consider the best wings in the city and to drink the local and international beers on tap. 7170 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-9920
- **Nonna's Pizza Tavern** – Two kinds of Jersey tomato sauce top the square and round pies at this recently relocated and expanded spot—as do other local ingredients: mushrooms, Lancaster bacon. For the full Philadelphia experience, diners opt for the roast pork pizza with roasted red peppers, broccoli rabe and sharp provolone. 7200 Germantown Avenue, (267) 385-5872
- **Rose Petals Cafe & Lounge** – Jania and Desmin Daniels preside over the rose petals- and whipped cream-topped strawberry waffles in this cozy refuge, where breakfast and lunch are served six days a week. Other reasons to visit: free Wi-Fi, a child-centered entertainment room, croque monsieurs, salads and tropical smoothies. 322 W. Cheltenham Avenue, (267) 388-1150, rosepetalscafe.com

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- **Tata Cafe** – Coffee lovers are enjoying this relative newcomer to the neighborhood, embracing the welcoming space as a central meeting point to relax in armchairs and enjoy panini, pastries or a hot cup of Joe. 7201 Germantown Avenue, (215) 753-8282
- **Trattoria Moma** – Chef and owner Bledar Istrefi offers his take on traditional and modern Italian cuisine at this intimate BYOB. Diners enjoy mozzarella di bufala, orechiette with homemade fennel chicken sausage and grilled branzino. 7131 Germantown Avenue, (215) 248-1100
- **Tiffin** – Locals bring their own beer or wine to this petite location of this small chain of impeccable Indian restaurants. Regulars swear by the chicken tikka masala, saag paneer and lamb biryani, although many opt for takeout or delivery. 7105 Emlen Street, (215) 242-3656, tiffin.com
- **Trolley Car Diner** – Just beyond the Chestnut Hill border, a circa 1952 trolley has become a family-favorite for stuffed French toast, milkshakes, burgers, meatloaf, chicken croquettes and hot fudge sundaes. 7619 Germantown Avenue, (215) 753-1500, trolleycardiner.com
- **Uncle Bobbie's Coffee & Books** – CNN commentator and Temple professor Marc Lamont Hill created this thoughtful, heart-of-the-neighborhood hangout as: a bookstore with works for children and by ancient philosophers, a living room, a La Colombe coffee bar and a cozy restaurant. The spot takes its name from Lamont Hill's favorite uncle, who nurtured his love of reading. 5445 Germantown Avenue, (215) 403-7058, unclebobbies.com
- **Valley Green Inn** – Across a gravel path from Wissahickon Creek, this 19th-century hotel now serves as both resting and refreshment point for partakers in Fairmount Park and simple yet elegant venue for lunch, brunch and dinner, including on holidays. Valley Green Road at Wissahickon Road, (215) 247-1730, valleygreeninn.com
- **Weavers Way Co-op: Mt. Airy** – This co-op location is the original, opening its doors in 1973. Shoppers find a full-service natural grocer on the first floor and one of the largest bulk departments in the region upstairs; a separate store across the street houses personal care and pet care departments. 559 Carpenter Lane, (215) 843-2350, weaversway.coop

Shops:

- **Big Blue Marble Bookstore** – At this independently owned bookshop, patrons browse the diverse selection of progressive and multicultural titles or bring the kids in for weekly story time. 551 Carpenter Lane, (215) 844-1870, bigbluemarblebooks.com
- **Cultured Couture Vintage** – Erik Honesty's boutique is best known for its stock of designer vintage menswear: well-priced Hermes scarves, ties, coats and shirts, Louis Vuitton and Gucci luggage, select women's pieces and Honesty's line of royalty-inspired, *sui generis* capes—along with art shows and panel discussions. 6379 Germantown Avenue, culturedcouturegallery.com
- **Majeki's Stained Glass** – Craftsman and restorer Mark Kidd, Sr. runs this circa 1990 studio and gallery, where work ranges from fanciful doors to artsy brooches. 7212 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-1586, majekistainedglassworks.com
- **The Nesting House** – Families pop into the flagship outpost of a small chain of eco-conscious boutiques for babies and small children to score new and gently used clothing, toys, books and furniture—or to exchange the ones that their little ones have outgrown for cash or store credit. 606 Carpenter Lane, (215) 438-1600, thenestinghouse.net
- **October Gallery: Main Art Gallery** – October's gallerists have connected people to African-American creative and visual expression since 1985. Every November, the annual Philadelphia International Art Expo presents an array of masks, sculptures and canvas works by artists from across the African Diaspora. 6353 Greene Street, (215) 352-3114, octobergallery.com

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- **Perfectly Flawless Boutique** – More than just edgy jumpsuits, rompers, bodysuits and going-out wear, Crystal Jackson’s boutique doubles as a one-stop shop for beauty. The airy and welcoming Germantown space offers manicures onsite, full makeup by aesthetician Sade Johnson and Brianna King’s **Epiphany Beauty Salon** for beautiful braids, extensions or affordable wash and curls. 5312 Germantown Avenue, (814) 232-0805, perfectlyflawlessboutique.com
- **Philadelphia Electric Wheels** – This spot sells electric bikes, folding bikes and kits to convert regular bikes into electric ones. And for those who like to pedal old school, it also carries traditional bikes, sans motors. 7153 Sprague Street, (215) 821-9266, phillyew.com
- **Rothe Florists** – Whether for a wedding, birthday or just because, this four-generation family-owned business has been creating beautiful floral arrangements for Philadelphians for more than a century. 7148 Germantown Avenue, (215) 247-0832, rotheflorists.com

Arts & Attractions:

- **Allens Lane Art Center** – A theater plus exhibition space, workshop, arts school and summer camp serves as a community go-to for all manner of creative discoveries. 601 W. Allens Lane, (215) 248-0546, allenslane.org
- **Awbury Arboretum** – Horticulturalist William Saunders designed this onetime site of a British encampment as an English-style estate in 1852. The 55-acre property, now a free and public arboretum, offers meadows, wetlands, trails, birds, greenhouses, a community garden and working farm. 1 Awbury Road, (215) 849-2855, awbury.org
- **Cliveden of the National Trust** – This 18th-century mansion, a National Historic Landmark, is both an important Battle of Germantown site and a repository of history about northern plantations. Artifacts and tours help guests learn about slavery, from colonial through abolitionist times. 6401 Germantown Avenue, (215) 848-1777, cliveden.org
- **The Colored Girls Museum** – The inimitable Vashti DuBois presides over (and lives in) this art-filled residence dedicated to the experiences, history and vitality of the “ordinary Black girl.” Open by appointment and on select Sundays, the house’s exhibit-filled rooms feel both sacred and homey. It’s an essential visit for all manner of art lovers. 4613 Newhall Street, (267) 630-4438, thecoloredgirlsmuseum.com
- **Johnson House Historic Site** – Though marked by musket and cannon balls from the Battle of Germantown, this stone home, also a National Historic Landmark, is best known as a rare, surviving station of the Underground Railroad. The house’s 19th-century Quaker owners were part of a network of protectors of Africans fleeing enslavement; tours detail the lives of the former residents, brave Underground Railroad memorialist William Still and other abolitionists. 6306 Germantown Avenue, (215) 438-1768, johnsonhouse.org
- **Mt. Airy Art Garage** – This community-driven, professionally run arts hub, now housed in an interim space, shows the diverse, can-do spirit of the neighborhood with mural projects, classes, gatherings and exhibitions. 6622 Germantown Avenue, (215) 242-5074, mtairyartgarage.org
- **Wyck** – This National Historic Landmark includes a house, garden and farm owned for nine generations (1690-1973) by the Quaker Wistar/Haines family. In 1777, during the Battle of Germantown, the house served as a field hospital for British troops. Today, the 2.5-acre estate remains vital to the neighborhood via horticulture, educational programs, a weekly farmers market and community festivals. 6026 Germantown Avenue, (215) 848-1690, wyck.org

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