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Holidays Along the Main Line

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winter 2017





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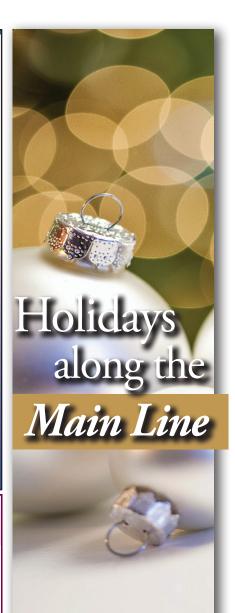




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Holidays Along the Main Line

winter 2017

DOWNTOWN ARDMORE

Vacant storefronts filling with restaurants, shops, salons

By Richard Ilgenfritz

rilgenfritz@21st-centurymedia.com @rpilgenfritz on Twitter

When Paulette Fallon had the opportunity to reopen Puns Toys that had become a staple in Bryn Mawr for over 30 years before closing, she jumped at the chance. The only question was where she should locate the business.

The answer was a no-brainer.

"Ardmore's home, I grew up in Ardmore. I went to Penn Wynne School, I went to Lower Merion [High School]," Fallon said. "Ardmore, as opposed to any other place, ... feels like home. It's a walking town. It's not even about all the new things that are sprouting up. This feels right."

Fallon, who was the manager at the Bryn Mawr Puns Toys, has taken over the business from longtime owner Joe Berardoni who sold the building he owned and retired.

"Joe quite literarily passed the torch on to me," Fallon said. "He saw that I had a love for what I was doing and for what he was doing."

The new Puns Toys is now open in what had been the former Christian Science Reading Room at 21 Rittenhouse Place.

"You walk down Ardmore Avenue, you've got the kids on the lawn in front of the library, you've



inside the new pucciManuli store.

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Holidays Along the Main Line



SUSAN GREENSPON PHOTO

On opposite corners will be a taste of France in Ardmore: The Bercy will open in the former Primavera Pizza Kitchen (left) and Delice & Chocolat shop is expanding through from their current home in the former Centofanti Tailor Shop into the corner location, the site of the now-closed Radio Shack store.

got the pool, it's like a family place ...," she said.

The new Puns Toys is not the only new business either opening or relocating in downtown Ardmore.

Carrie Kohs has moved her business pucci-Manuli from 35 Cricket Avenue to a larger space at 2 East Lancaster Avenue, the site of former Milkboy and Melodies coffee shops. The move has enabled Kohs to double the retail space and provides more room for new product categories including men's and women's gifts and home decor. That, combined with Ardmore's development boom including two luxury apartment buildings going up just down the street made the timing right, she said in a press release.

"Imagine stepping into an enchanting world of make believe and wonder, where everywhere you look there's something new, magical and remarkable to discover," Kohs said. "A shopping endeavor should be an experience of the best possible kind, especially in person. I want to justify your trip and give you something you can't get anywhere else."

But the growth in Ardmore isn't a surprise to everyone.

"I think Ardmore is just about exploding right now," said Christine Vilardo, executive director of the Ardmore Initiative. "I find it a really exciting time ... Not only the new restaurants coming in but with some of the existing businesses that are expanding into larger spaces as well as some new retail that is coming in."

According to Vilardo, at the Ardmore Initiative's office, they are seeing more people coming in to ask about purchasing commercial properties and requests from new businesses that are looking for space.

In the former Primavera Pizza Kitchen at 7 East Lancaster Avenue, work is underway on a new French restaurant, scheduled to open in early 2018, called The Bercy.

Across the street from Bercy will be the soon-

winter 2017





Sweets at Delice et Chocolat French Pastry shop in Ardmore.

to-be-expanded Delice et Chocolat shop that now occupies the former Centofanti Tailor Shop, 7 Station Road. Vilardo said the owners breaking through to the former Radio Shack building at the corner of Lancaster and Station avenues where they are planning to add grab-and-go food items and a dessert bar on weekend nights, Vilardo said.

"That's a huge and nice benefit to the neighborhood," she said.

Other businesses that have recently opened are Bounce Back Physical Therapy at 74 Rittenhouse Place, Labelle nail bar was scheduled to relocate from Rittenhouse Place to a larger spot in the former Matus Window store at the corner of Rittenhouse Place and Lancaster Avenue. Matus purchased the building across the street that was home to the longtime Main Line Office Supply and has relocated there.

"That's evidence that businesses are not just coming here and signing leases. They are buying buildings. And that's showing a commitment to their faith to Ardmore and what is going on here," she said.

In the former Fellini's Cafe at 31 E. Lancaster Ave., closed for years, Bam Bam Seoul Kitchen has recently opened. Next door, signs depict that Ripplewood Whiskey and Craft is coming.



Delice et Chocolat Owners Antoine Amrani Angela Chang and Joseph Amrani. winter 2017

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Inside the new Black Moth Tattoo and Gallery

At 54 East Lancaster, the former Firinji has been rebranded as Marokko, with authentic Moroccan and Mediterranean Cuisine.

Black Moth Tattoo and Gallery has opened at 18 E. Lancaster Ave. and Pala'a Latin American Seafood has opened at 18 W. Lancaster Ave.

Robyn Axner-Davis has opened the Ardmore Grooming Station, a full-service pet grooming boutique, in the former site of the Unleashed Pet Spa across from the Ardmore train station.

"I am extremely proud to be part of the Ardmore business community and to bring one of the finest pet grooming boutiques to the Main Line," said Axner-Davis, owner, in a press release. "As a dog owner for the past 18 years of the Bichon Frise breed, which require professional grooming services, I know the challenges pet owners face trying to find a first-rate pet stylist who not only does a great job grooming your pet, but is reliably stable, and has your pet's safety and best interest at all times. This is what we bring to the table at Ardmore Grooming Station. Clients love our spacious, clean, crate-free facility, our personalized scheduling system (yes, a live voice) that doesn't require pets to be left at the shop more than a couple of hours, and especially our pet stylists and their caring grooming approach."

With the Dranoff project finally underway on the former Cricket Parking lot, Vilardo was asked about the parking status for the Ardmore shopping district.

"The fear of the situation was way worse than the reality," Vilardo said. "The township manager regularly is going out and counting available spaces in the lots and there is parking available."

As a side note, Vilardo said with the Dranoff project underway she believes that is helping show other businesses and property brokers that Ardmore is on the move. "It's not a coincidence that people are trying to buy buildings here," she said.

Ardmore Initiative is working on a market study with an analysis of the district's retail mix. In the coming months, late this year or early next, Vilardo said they expect to release the study that will show what kind of business mix Ardmore needs and how they hope to get there.

This will be the first study of its type that has been done for the Ardmore business district in at least the past decade.

"That plan said Ardmore should bring in restaurants, home accessories and home décor and that was what we've done," Vilardo said. "And now it's time to say, 'what are the next steps?'"

winter 2017

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Holidays Begin in Bryn Mawr

Friday, December 1stTree Lighting and **Saturday, December 2nd**Holiday festivities.

Friday night (7:00pm) at the Gazebo includes singers from Sacred Heart Academy Bryn Mawr, Santa's Arrival on a Bryn Mawr Fire Company truck, Tree Lighting Ceremony, and Reception with Santa and Mrs. Claus

Saturday starts out with Santa visits at Bryn Mawr Trust (9:00am). More details: https://goo.gl/UMmaJt



Holidays in Ardmore

Santa's Arrival

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Friday, November 24, 6PM

Small Business Saturday

Saturday, November 25th

Cricket Cringle

Friday, Dec. 1, 5-9PM Saturday, Dec 2, 10-6PM

Free Parking

Saturday, Dec 2,9,16 & 23

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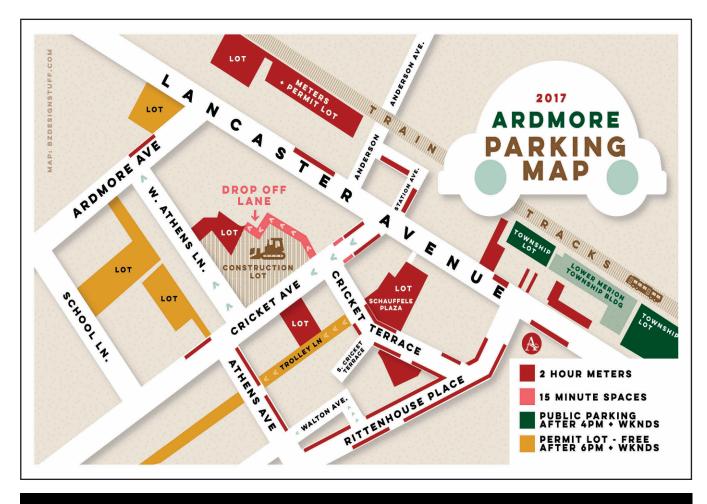
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Santa's Arrival

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2017

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Saturday, November 25

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12/5 Steve Earle & The Dukes

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7:30pm Tickets: http://bit.ly/SteveE-arleAMH

12/7 Marty Stuart & His Fabulous Superlatives

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12/8 + 12/9 Everyone Orchestra

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8pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/EONight1

12/10 Ars Nova Presents: Nels Cline / Larry Ochs / Gerald Cleaver Trio

Named on Rolling Stone's "Top 100 Guitarists of All Time," and lead guitarist of Wilco.

8pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/NelsCline-TrioAMH

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Rockabilly trio from Dallas, TX known for their hit song "Psychobilly Freakout."

8pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/RevHorton-HeatAMH

12/16 Beru Revue: 21st Annual Christmas Show & Benefit

Alternative rock group from Philadelphia known for their "Vaudevillian Rock Music."

8:30pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/BeruRevue21

12/17 Funky Brunch & Market

Brunch event with live music and local craft vendors.

10:30am. Info: http://bit.ly/Funky-BrunchDec17

12/17 Robert Glasper Trio

3x Grammy award winning jazz pianist known for his infusion of R&B and hip-hop

8pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/RobertGlasp-erAMH

12/21 Tim Reynolds (Dave Matthews collaborator): Solo Acoustic

Grammy nominated multi-instrumentalist known for his collaborations with Dave Matthews Band.

7:30pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/TimReynoldsAMH

12/22 Badfish, a Tribute to Sublime

Reggae-rock band performing the music of the popular reggae band Sublime.

8pm. Tickets: http://bit.ly/Badfish_ AMH

12/23 Electron

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12/31 NYE (Day) Family Jam feat. Alex & The Kaleidoscope

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10:30am. Tickets: http://bit.ly/NYE-FamilyJam

12/31 NYE Bash: Start Making Sense (Talking Heads Tribute)

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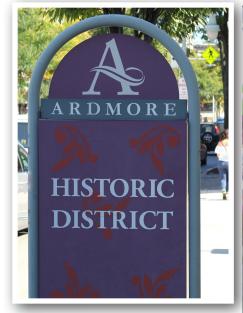
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