

# Chalfont's Villa d'Braccia is 40th VIA Designer House

Chalfont's Villa d'Braccia has been selected for the 40th Bucks County Designer House and Gardens tour.

The Mediterranean-styled villa offers a unusual setting for the Designer House. The house is on a 4-acre gated property through a pair of elegant gates.

"In building this house, I wanted to bring the style of my native Italy to my new home in beautiful Bucks County," owner Nick Braccia said. "Since then, we have enjoyed many family memories and culinary celebrations hosted by my wife, Lisa. We are proud to offer our home as the 2015 Bucks County Designer House and Gardens - opening it to the community in support of Doylestown Hospital and the mission of the Village Improvement

Association of Doylestown."

"While Villa d'Braccia is one of our youngest designer homes, having been built in 1987, old-world craftsmanship abounds," said Barbara Ann Price, marketing chair. "The 7,800-square-foot house has a master bedroom suite on the first floor and four generous bedrooms upstairs, each accessed from a wrap-around gallery that overlooks the entry's grand butterfly staircase and family room."

The kitchen has handcrafted cherry cabinets and granite counters. The home's lower level is an entertainment space with a 20-foot two-sided rock-faced fireplace that divides the room with a wet bar and game area on one side and room to relax on the other.

Outside areas include a covered porches, upper balconies, a gaze-

bo with barbeque, a wisteria arbor, and a volleyball sand court.

The 2015 Bucks County Designer House and Gardens will be open for tours April 26 to May 30, excluding Memorial Day.

Preview Events include the Empty House Party on Sunday March 1, and the Preview Gala on April 24. Special events in May include a fashion show and Mother's Day brunch and a closing Blue Jean Bash.

Proceeds from the Designer House contribute to the Village Improvement Association's \$1 million pledge to renovate the VIA Maternity Center at Doylestown Hospital and to fulfilling the VIA's mission.

Designers, landscapers, artists, craftspeople and businesses are invited to participate in and to



A tree-lined driveway leads to Villa d'Braccia, the next Bucks County Designer House.

support the fundraising event, which attracts more than 8,000 visitors each year.

Sponsorship and advertising opportunities are available. Send

queries to [contact@BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org](mailto:contact@BucksCountyDesignerHouse.org).

The schedule and calendar are at the Bucks County Designer House web site.

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## "Cranksgiving" bike ride to stock food pantry

Hop on your bike and join the cause for the third annual Cranksgiving Bike Ride & Food Drive sponsored by Doylestown Bike Works. The bike shop hosts the charity bicycle ride, departing at 10 a.m. Sunday Nov. 9, from Central Bucks West High School's student parking lot. It will cover roughly 30 to 35 miles of easy-paced riding.

The purpose of the event is to help stock the food pantry operated by the Bucks County Housing Group going into the busy winter

months. The ride visits three local supermarkets where riders will purchase canned goods, which will be collected by volunteers stationed at each store.

The ride occurs on scenic secondary roads and will be fully supported by Doylestown Bike Works. Helmets are mandatory, and registration is free and can be done ahead of time by visiting [bikereg.com/bikeworkscranksgiving](http://bikereg.com/bikeworkscranksgiving) or in person the day of the event.

## Area photographer headed for Haiti

Allure West Studios photographer Natalie Wi will travel to Haiti

Nov. 8-15 with the nonprofit, Poverty Resolutions, to aid the group's mission of building a transition center and to begin work on a personal photography project.

"I am a wife, parent, small business owner and artist and often find myself easily caught up in my own world, losing sight of what is truly important in life," Wi said. "The opportunity to join Poverty Resolutions on their mission presented itself shortly after I began my quest for personal and professional inspiration."

She will be photographing the people of Haiti and hopes to create an interactive to help young men in transition learn business skills and life lessons.

Wi is raising money to invest in Fujifilm Instax Instant Film cameras to use during the workshops. Support pledges are accepted at <http://bit.ly/LightonPoverty>.

Natalie Wi and her husband, Jung, own Allure West Studios in Doylestown.

## Two municipalities receive ARLE funding

PennDOT announced that nearly \$6.6 million in Automated Red Light Enforcement (ARLE) funding will be distributed to 37 municipalities statewide to fund 41 safety projects.

The law specifies that projects improving safety, enhancing mobility and reducing congestion can be considered for funding. Municipalities submitted more than 226 applications, totaling approximately \$36.6 million.

In Bucks County, Doylestown Township was awarded \$48,500 to upgrade to traffic-volume detection technology that improves traffic flow at the intersection of Upper State Road and Almshouse Road. Wrightstown Township received \$157,020 to optimize the traffic signal timing for the morning, mid-day and afternoon peak hours as well add traffic-volume detection at four intersections.

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