



The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | April 10, 2026



Delaware County Library Services Shares Update with Council Ahead of National Library Week

At Wednesday's County Council meeting, Delaware County Director of Library Services Anny Laepple updated Council members on the Delaware County Library System and laid out their plans to celebrate this year's National Library Week from April 19 to April 25.



At the end of the presentation, Council presented Laepple and her team with a resolution recognizing April 19-25 as National Library Week in Delaware County.

The Library Services Department serves as the administrative headquarters for Delaware County Libraries, which has 26 independent member libraries with 28 locations. They work together to ensure all residents benefit from high quality, equitable library services throughout Delaware County.

Laepple kicked off her presentation by highlighting the astounding engagement numbers across all their locations. In 2025, Delaware County Libraries had over **1.5 million visits, more than three million check outs, and 230,000+ attendees at nearly 13,000 programs.**

She also recapped the recent Delaware County Libraries' Legislative Breakfast and Awards, which was held at the Middletown Free Library on March 6. Roughly 150 attendees came together to celebrate four honorees. Aston Township Manager Bill DeFeo was honored with the Extraordinary Public Official Award for his response to fiscal concerns at the Aston Library. Two awards were given for Outstanding Citizen, with one being posthumously awarded to Marcy Adams, a longtime member of the Marple Public Library Board of Trustees and book seller. The

second award went to the Library Foundation of Delaware County for their work enhancing the essential services provided by Delaware County Libraries through grantmaking and raising their profile. Finally, Dr. Jean Kosha, the Program Coordinator at the Upper Darby Township & Sellers Memorial Free Public Library Municipal Branch, was given the Exceptional Library Worker Award for her work with the Teen Advisory Board at the Municipal Branch.

Also at the Breakfast, they launched the 2025 Delaware County Libraries' Impact Report. The report shows the effect that libraries have in the Delco community and includes updates from each member library, from program highlights to construction updates, to patron successes. The report can be viewed [here](#).

Laepple spotlighted new initiatives, updated resources, and improved services across the County in 2025. The first of these is the Libraries' expanded participation in **Chat With a Librarian**, which provides residents with 24/7 online reference with a real human, giving people more direct access to local answers. Last spring, Library Services collaborated with Delaware County Parks & Recreation and students from Williamson College of the Trades to relocate their **StoryWalk in Rose Tree Park** to next to the playground, which has increased accessibility and attendance. Laepple was particularly proud of the launch of **MuseumKey** last summer, which allows patrons to reserve passes for local museums and other destinations. She also explained that DCL recently expanded their **At-Home Services**, a free home delivery service for eligible Delco residents who are unable to visit the library in person because of disability, injury, or temporary setback.

Delaware County will be celebrating National Library Week with their 3rd Annual Read at Rose Tree initiative from **11 AM to 12 PM on Saturday, April 18** at the amphitheater at Rose Tree Park (**1671 N. Providence Rd, Media, PA 19063**) as part of the County's Earth Day Celebration. Libraries will also be holding more than 300 programs across the County to celebrate National Libraries Week. To learn more, visit delcolibraries.org/events.

For more information about the Delaware County Library system, visit delcolibraries.org.

2

Delaware County Members of Penn State Extension's 4-H Program Share Progress with County Council



Members of Penn State Extension's 4-H program in Delaware County shared an update at Wednesday's County Council meeting, outlining the importance of their activities and Council's support.

After the presentation, Council presented people involved with 4-H in Delaware County with a resolution recognizing March 15-21 as Pennsylvania 4-H Week in Delaware County.

4-H, which stands for Head, Heart, Hands, and Health, is America's largest youth development organization that empowers young people through hands-on learning, leadership, and life skills development. The organization reaches over six million children between the ages of 5 and 18 nationally while providing meaningful opportunities for youth to develop skills in leadership, civic engagement, science, agriculture, and healthy living while fostering personal growth and community involvement.

In Delaware County, 4-H engaged 125 young people across 10 clubs. These clubs include everything from Archery Club to Potato Judging Club, giving Delco youth the opportunity to develop valuable life skills, explore career opportunities, and find their passion in a variety of areas. Clubs meet at Smedley Park in Springfield, the Garrett Williamson Farm in Newtown Square, and the Penn State Brandywine campus in Media.

Amy Bradford, Penn State Extension's Client Relationship Manager for Delaware County and surrounding counties, kicked off the presentation by thanking Council for their support of 4-H before explaining how the program produces future community leaders, entrepreneurs, and farmers in Delco and beyond.

Lauren Kauffman, the Delaware County 4-H Youth Development Educator, explained the work 4-H participants in Delaware County have done recently, including **cleanups at county parks, supply drives for donations** to Cradles to Crayons and the Providence Animal Shelter, and **sewing 40+ winter hats for donation** to the Media Clothing Closet at the First United Methodist Church in Media. A highlight Kauffman mentioned was the work 4-H has done to train and support local teachers as they implement programs like the 4-H Embryology School Enrichment Project, which last year **taught 400+ Delco students the stages of chicken embryonic development** and gave them the chance to care for live chicks in the classroom.

16-year-old Anita Feinberg, who has been a 4-H member for nine years, detailed her experience in the program and how it's helped her develop. She started in the Sewing Club, which gave her a creative outlet and a sense of pride in what she could accomplish. Since then, she has joined the Poultry Club, Alpaca Club, Sheep Club (which she is now the president of), and Dairy Club. These clubs gave her hands on experience while teaching important skills in leadership and responsibility.

"4-H is more than just a program," said Feinberg. "It's a community that helps young people discover who they are and who they want to become. It gives youth the chance to try new things, take on leadership roles, and build confidence in a supportive environment."

Council members also heard from 11-year-old Rannik Gulati, who has been in STEM Club and Archery Club, and 11-year-old Michelle, who is a member of Sewing Club, Silver Stirrups Club, and Potato Judging Club.

At the end of the presentation, Council members reflected on the importance of the 4-H program before presenting their resolution recognizing Pennsylvania 4-H Week.

"I was at the PA Farm Show this year and was really proud to be able to go to the Penn State Extension tables and say that their Delaware County campus has so many great programs coming out of it," said Delaware County Council member Joanne Phillips. "I'm thrilled that 4-H is one of them and I am honored to support this program."

For information about Delaware County 4-H, visit extension.psu.edu/programs/4-h/counties/delaware.

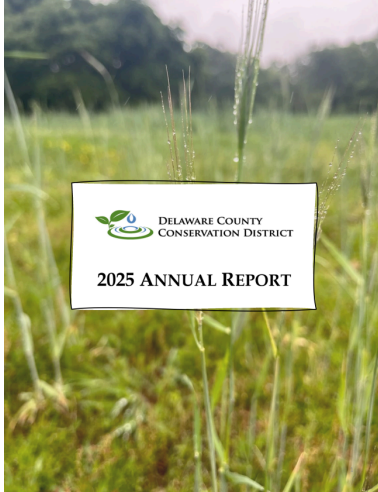
3

Delaware County Conservation District Releases Annual Report

The Delaware County Conservation District released their **2025 Annual Report** this week, highlighting the changes and expansions of programs, new and strengthened partnerships, and responsible fiscal management.

The Conservation District ensures the **smart use of Delaware County's natural resources** while protecting and restoring the natural environment through the conservation of its soil, water, and related resources. They work with individuals, governmental units, and the regulated sector of society to prevent environmental degradation and advocate for remediation of past environmental damage.

In 2025, the District continued to process applications, authorize permits, and conduct site inspections while adapting to new state requirements and rolling out digital submission tools to improve efficiency and accessibility. They did over 200 erosion and sediment plan reviews, 78



National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Permits, 26 Chapter 105 permits, and reviewed over 703 acres of proposed disturbed land.

Their efforts were highlighted by **stormwater management and watershed programs**. Stormwater management initiatives included a successful routine inspection of Municipal Separate Storm System permitting by the PA Department of Environmental Protection, multiple examples of Stormwater Control Measure Maintenance across the county, and continued work on the Countywide Act 167 plan to develop watershed-based storm management plans that control runoff while protecting water resources. The Conservation District partnered with a variety of watershed protection groups across the County along with the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society on their Trees for Watersheds Program, where they secured over

\$18,000 in funds for **riparian buffers** in Delaware County.

They also worked on a multitude of education and outreach initiatives throughout the year, highlighted by the Delaware County Envirothon, Science & Engineering Fair, and Sustainability Conference. This combined with the annual Race for the Watershed at Newlin Grist Mill, the Chester River Fest, and the Media Eco Fest allowed DCCD to reach countless residents and advance their mission.

Financially, **DCCD maintained a balanced and responsible budget supported by state funding, county contributions, program fees, and grants**. Major investments included office upgrades, implementation of the PA Agricultural Conservation Assistance Program (ACAP), and the Low Volume Roads (LVR) Grant Program.

Office upgrades addressed adapting to the digitization of documents, expanding the staff, and changing the layout of the office to better accommodate the work they do. ACAP projects in Edgmont, Chadds Ford, Newtown, and Middletown Townships continued to be executed throughout the year funded by the PA Department of Agriculture. LVR projects were completed in Newtown and Thornbury Townships, while a contract was executed for an upcoming project in Edgmont Township with funding being provided by the state.

For more information about the Delaware County Conservation District, visit delcocod.org. To see the 2025 Annual Report, please click [here](#).

Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected

Beyond the Statistics
A Black Maternal Health Conversation

Join the Delaware County Health Department for a solution-driven conversation on **Black Maternal Health**. This panel will explore the real experiences of Black mothers, center community voices and resources, and explore ways we can better support Black mothers before, during, and after birth.

Resources & Giveaways | Dinner provided + registered

Call the Delaware County Wellness Line at **484-276-2100** to register!

APRIL 16th, 2025 | 4:30 PM - 7:30 PM | 1929 W 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013

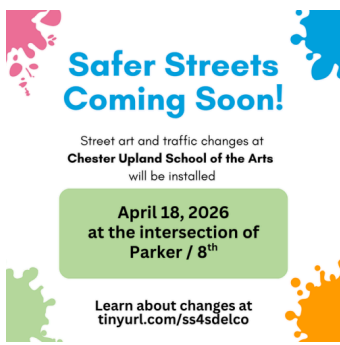
Maya Nelson (MHI Researcher), **Shonna Williams** (Licensed Counselor, Social Worker, MEd), **Michele Suggs** (Midwife), **Skylo Vanskrit** (Dietitian and Community Education Specialist)

Dr. Gifty Akomea Key, DCHD (Moderator)

Keystone First | DCHD

DCHD to Host Black Maternal Health Panel on Thursday, April 16 in Chester

The Delaware County Health Department is holding a free moderated discussion on Black Maternal Health on **Thursday, April 16 from 4:30-7:30 PM** at the Keystone Wellness Center (**1929 W. 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013**). Experts from across Delco will discuss racial disparities in pregnancy care across the County and resources being made available to attendees. A complimentary dinner will be provided as part of the event as well. To register, call the Delaware County Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**.



Delaware County to Host First Safe Streets for Schools Block Party on Saturday, April 18 in Chester

The Delaware County Planning Department is partnering with Chester Upland and Southeast Delco school districts on their Safe Streets for Schools Initiative, which will see low-cost, temporary improvements to four intersections. They will be hosting Quick-Build Block Parties for each of them, where residents are encouraged to join their neighbors in painting student-chosen art to improve street safety. The first of these Block Parties is on **Saturday, April 18 from 11 AM to 3 PM at the intersection of Parker and 8th Street in Chester** (next to the Chester Upland School of the Arts). There will be three more Block Parties throughout the year, with the next one scheduled for Saturday, May 2 at the Harris School in Collingdale. For more information, visit tinyurl.com/ss4sdelco.



Join Us in Celebrating Earth Day Saturday, April 18 at Rose Tree Park

The Delaware County Office of Sustainability is hosting an Earth Day celebration from **11 AM to 2 PM at Rose Tree County Park (1671 N. Providence Rd, Media, PA 19063)**. This event will be in collaboration with Delaware County Parks, Libraries, the Conservation District, and Delco Planning. Join us for some family fun celebrating the Earth with fun activities, volunteer projects, food trucks and more! For more information call the Delaware County Parks & Recreation Department at **610-891-4663**.



Celebrate National Volunteers Week with Delco Volunteers and America250PA Delco April 19-25

America250PA Delco is celebrating National Volunteers Week April 19-25 with a variety of events for their Delco Volunteers initiative. It kicks off a day early on Saturday, April 18 with Farmer's Market Booth Help in Lansdowne and Main Line School Greeters in Radnor. The following day, Sunday, April 19 is the Media Spring Arts Show, with the opportunity to be a gardening volunteer at Scott Arboretum in Swarthmore coming on Tuesday, April 21. On Saturday, April 25, volunteers needed for Haverford's America on Display window painting project and Edgmont's Colonial Farmstead Park Day. Residents interested in learning more or participating in these events can visit volunteer.america250padelco.org.



Signups Open for 2nd Annual Delco 10 Miler

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the 2nd Annual Delco 10 Miler, scheduled for **Sunday, October 4**. Like last year, the race will begin at Rose Tree Park in Media and end at Subaru Park in Chester with a celebration at Union Yards. After selling out 1,500 spots last year, this year's race will feature 2,500 runners. **Organizers have already seen over 700 runners sign up**, so residents are encouraged to **sign up ASAP**. Please note that there is a 13:30 per mile pace requirement. If you

aren't interested in running, please consider signing up to volunteer. For more information, visit delco10miler.com.



NAMi Main Line PA to Host Youth Mental Health Summit on Sunday, April 26

The National Alliance on Mental illness Main Line PA is hosting a Youth Mental Health Summit on Sunday, April 26 at St. James United Church of Christ (**135 Myrtle Ave, Havertown, PA 19083**). This will include a panel of young people sharing their experiences with mental health and what helps them cope, activities focused on boosting your mood/mindset, helpful mental health tips, tools, and resources, and raffle prizes. To register, click [here](#). If you are interested in volunteering, email lisa@namimainlinepa.org.



The Foundation for Delaware County to Host 3rd Annual Delco Gives, May 6-7

The Foundation for Delaware County invites residents to participate in the 3rd Annual Delco Gives. Last year, over 11,000 people raised nearly \$2.3 million for 306 nonprofits across the County. This year, a series of community events will celebrate the initiative, including the Delco Gives launch party at Dining Under the Stars on State St. in Media on Wednesday, May 6. The closing celebration will be held at the WSFS Bank Sportsplex on Thursday, May 7. You can learn more by visiting delcogives.org. Learn about volunteer opportunities by clicking [here](#).



Delaware County Council members



Delaware County Weekly Archive



Delaware County Communications & Public Affairs | Delaware County Government Center Building 201 W. Front Street | Media, PA 19063 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)