



The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | September 18, 2026

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Delaware County Council Applauds Nearly \$100 Million Investment into Chester

Delaware County Council commends the announcement of the **nearly \$100 million investment in Chester** announced by Governor Josh Shapiro last week to revitalize Pennsylvania's oldest municipality, which has a rich history as a hub of manufacturing and shipping throughout the 20th century.

This investment, done in partnership with local business leaders, nonprofits, and leaders, includes **\$2.9 million in funding from the County to help redesign Route 291/U.S. 13 and address blight across the city.**



Delaware County has committed **\$2.5 million earned through a US Department of Transportation Reconnecting Communities grant** to the over \$52 million being invested in the Route 291 project, which will **redesign and revamp a section of Route 291** that bisects Chester's downtown from the waterfront to increase roadway safety, provide residents better connection to the waterfront, and build the section of the East Coast Greenway through the City of Chester. The County has also committed **\$400,000 in Act 152 funding** dedicated to helping **address blight through demolition and site readiness.**

Other projects include a **\$27.5 million investment in expanding the waterfront sports complex** in partnership with the Philadelphia Union, **nearly \$14 million in investments to better connect Widener University** to downtown Chester and modernize the campus, and roughly **\$900,000 to reduce violence and invest in the arts** across the city.

These investments will transform an area that has the potential to be one of Delaware County's greatest assets. The package will address both urgent needs and long-term revitalization in Chester, which has the opportunity to be one of the greatest turnarounds in Pennsylvania history. Council remains deeply committed to improving the lives of Chester residents and putting the city on a path to success by investing in infrastructure, community programs, and economic growth.

Thank you to Governor Shapiro, Mayor Roots, the Philadelphia Union, Wawa, Power Home Remodeling Group, Widener University, and all our partners in the private sector who have committed to a better future for Delaware County.

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Director of Delaware County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Col. Arthur Jenkins Updates Council Amidst Veteran Suicide Prevention Month



At Wednesday's County Council meeting, Delaware County Director of Military and Veterans Affairs Col. Arthur Jenkins updated Council on the progress his office has made, reflections amidst Veteran Suicide Prevention Month, and recent events they've been hosting.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs recognizes the struggle many veterans go through as they transition back into civilian life and work every day to assist these vulnerable individuals. Col. Jenkins

shared the story of Sgt. Michael Smith, who he met when he began as the Company Commander for the largest Wounded Warrior medical holdover company in the Department of Defense. Sgt. Smith expressed his desire to make the lives of wounded veterans better and more productive, agreeing to meet with Col. Jenkins the following Monday. Unfortunately, Sgt. Smith took his own life the weekend beforehand, leaving Col. Jenkins to think about what he could have done differently.

"I was in a state of shock," said Col. Jenkins. "I hadn't really officially begun as a commander and I was left with a bunch of what-ifs. For 20 years, I have carried with me the story of Sgt. Smith and many other veterans who have taken the dark road."

As part of Suicide Prevention Month recognition in the month of September, Delaware County is honoring Veteran Suicide Prevention Month. Col. Jenkins and his team are looking to address the loneliness, isolation, and depression that leads to veterans taking their own lives by bringing people together and ensuring they feel loved. By leaning into the fact that service members each have unique experiences from their time in the military, they have been connecting veterans with each other and members of the Delaware County community.

Col. Jenkins shared that he sees two ways of approaching the issues plaguing veterans: a clinical and non-clinical way.

The clinical way to approach it is centered around building a Veterans Center in Delaware County, which is an extension of the federal Veterans Affairs health system with a concentration on clinical interventions for veterans experiencing mental health challenges. Currently, veterans express the need for help to Delaware County Military and Veterans Affairs staff, who need to refer them to facilities outside of Delco because the county doesn't have a dedicated Veterans Center. This results in a loss of critical time and the service member who was brave enough to ask for help has the chance to change their mind, meaning they don't always go for the clinical intervention they need.

The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs addresses these problems in non-clinical ways by engaging the veteran community in a variety of ways. This includes flag raisings to honor the history of each branch of the military, events for veteran authors and memoir keepers, veteran resource fairs throughout the county, and more.

"I want to recognize the amount that Col. Jenkins has done in leading the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs with their programming," said Delaware County Council member Elaine Paul Schaefer. "They've made such a difference with their programming, so I'm excited to see them continue to do so."

When Col. Jenkins began his role as Director of the Delaware County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, he was tasked with establishing a bridge between veterans and young people in Delaware County, which he has done through the newly established Adopt a Veteran Program. This program connects Delaware County veterans with young people looking to learn their story and establish a relationship. This Saturday, September 19 at Fair Acres Geriatric Center, will be the latest in a series of meetings between veterans and students, with 50-60 local veterans expected to participate.

"This type of bonding transcends the divisiveness we have along the political aisle," said Col. Jenkins. "Anyone can take care of and love a veteran irrespective of your religious beliefs and whether you choose to eat grits or potatoes in the morning."

Another way the Department of Military and Veterans has engaged younger members of the community is through their series of Green Lawn Cemetery cleanups, the most recent of which was last weekend. Students from Strath Haven, Marple Newtown, Penncrest, and Monsignor Bonner & Archbishop Prendergast High Schools, and the Agnes Irwin School joined members of the veteran community to clean the tombstones of Black Civil War soldiers buried at Green Lawn Cemetery in Chester. Impressively, the participating students didn't just stop at cleaning the tombstones, they are planning to research and explore the individuals who are buried there.

Col. Jenkins closed out by encouraging residents to attend the monthly Veterans Advisory Council meetings, where the public can provide feedback about matters concerning veterans in Delaware County. The next meeting is **Tuesday, September 22 at 6 PM** in the County Council meeting room.

Please visit delcopa.gov/department-military-and-veterans-affairs for more information. Contact DelcoVA@co.delaware.pa.us or **610-891-4645** with any questions.



Delaware County Office of Drug & Alcohol Services and Delaware County Health Department to Honor National Save a Life Day



The Delaware County Department of Human Services Office of Drug and Alcohol Services is partnering with the Delaware County Health Department to participate in National Save a Life Day, a nationwide initiative dedicated to preventing opioid overdose deaths through education, awareness, and the free distribution of naloxone.

Observed annually on the fourth Thursday in September, National Save a Life Day brings together communities across the country with simple but powerful goal: put life-saving naloxone into the hands of as many people as possible while increasing public awareness about overdose prevention.

On Thursday, September 24, Delaware County will support naloxone distribution efforts across as many municipalities as possible, helping to increase access to this lifesaving medication throughout the community. Residents are encouraged to call the DCHD Wellness Line at **484-276-2100** to find a naloxone distribution location near them.

Throughout Delaware County, treatment providers, recovery organizations, and community-based organizations will host distribution sites where residents can receive free naloxone (commonly known as Narcan®). By working together with our community partners, we are helping ensure that this life-saving medication is available where it's needed most.

Naloxone is a safe, easy-to-administer medication that rapidly reverses the effects of an opioid overdose by restoring normal breathing while emergency medical services are on the way. It is effective in reversing overdoses involving opioids, including fentanyl, heroin, and prescription opioid medications.

Residents are encouraged to visit participating locations throughout Delaware County to receive free naloxone, educational materials, and information about local prevention, treatment, and recovery resources.

Delaware County locations where naloxone is available to the public on a walk-up basis year-round:

- Delaware County Single County Authority: **610-713-2365**
- Delaware County Health Department: **484-276-2100**
 - **125 Chester Avenue, Yeadon, PA 19050**
 - Delaware County Health Department Public Health Kiosks
 - Delaware County Community College, Marple Campus – **901 Media Line Rd, Media, PA 19063** (Student Resource Center hours)
 - Delaware County Government Center – **201 W. Front St., Media, PA 19063** (available 24/7)
 - Delaware County Yeadon Wellness Center – **125 Chester Ave., Yeadon, PA 19050** (available 24/7)
 - Keystone First Wellness and Opportunity Center – **1929 W 9th Street, Chester, PA 19013** (available 24/7)
 - SEPTA 69th Street Transportation Terminal – **6901 Market Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082** (terminal hours)

Additional naloxone distribution locations for Save a Life Day on Thursday, September 24:

- ACG Health: 9:30 AM to 3 PM
 - **422 East 22nd Street, Chester, PA 19013**
 - Collingdale Fire Company: 8 AM to 4 PM
 - **510 Clifton Avenue, Collingdale, PA 19023**
- Community Action Agency of Delaware County: 9 AM to 1 PM
 - **1414 Meetinghouse Road, Boothwyn, PA 19061**
- East Lansdowne Police Department: 10 AM to 4 PM
 - **155 Lexington Avenue, East Lansdowne, PA 19050**
- High Focus: 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM
 - **175 King of Prussia Road, Radnor, PA 19087**
- Key Recovery: 11 AM to 2 PM
 - **5000 Hilltop Drive, Brookhaven, PA 19015**
- Lansdowne Treatment Services: 7 AM to 11:30 AM
 - **53 North Union Avenue, Lansdowne, PA 19050**
- Loaves and Fishes: 1 PM to 4 PM
 - **703 Lincoln Avenue, Prospect Park, PA 19076**
- Marple EMS
 - **8 North Malin Road, Broomall, PA 19008**
- Merakey: 9 AM to 2 PM
 - **800 Chester Pike, Sharon Hill, PA 19079**
- MVP Recovery: 9 AM to 3 PM
 - **300 West Baltimore Avenue, Media, PA 19063**
- Recovery Without Barriers
 - **6310 Market Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082**
- Recovery Works: 12 PM to 7 PM, Narcan Training at 2 PM
 - **3001 Garrett Road, Drexel Hill, PA 19026**

- Ridley Township Police Department
 - **100 MacDade Boulevard, Folsom, PA 19076**
 - Savage Sisters: 9 AM to 5 PM
 - **6931 Ludlow Street, Upper Darby, PA 19082**
 - The Bridge Foundation
 - **209 Bishop Hollow Road, Newtown Square, PA 19073**
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Delaware County Libraries Invites Residents to Celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month This September



This September, Delaware County Libraries invites you to celebrate Library Card Sign-up Month and discover how a library card can hit all the right notes, no matter what your tastes are.

With a library card, you can do more than check out books. From free classes and job resources to homework help, streaming media, and cultural events, today's libraries connect communities to information, inspiration, and each other.

An initiative of the American Library Association, Library Card Sign-up Month has been held each September since 1987 to mark the beginning of the school year, combat illiteracy, and encourage communities everywhere to explore all the offerings that having a library card unlocks. Today, thousands of public libraries and schools nationwide participate in the month-long celebration each fall.

This year's theme, "A Library Card Hits All the Right Notes," is a reminder that libraries offer something for everyone no matter your age, background, or goals. Whether you're checking out a classic story, trying something new, finding harmony at the library's programs, finding your focus in a study room, vibing out in a cozy nook, or composing your future with new skills, there's a seat in the front row at the library for you, and your library card is the ticket.

At Delaware County libraries, you'll find:

- eBooks and audiobooks, databases, homework help, businesses and job search resources, and more!
- Museum passes, Libraries of Things, puzzle exchanges, and seed libraries
- Programs and events for all ages, from storytimes and book clubs to job search support and tech help

Getting a library card is free, easy, and empowering. For students, it's key to academic success. For adults, it's a gateway to lifelong learning. For everyone, it's a smart way to stay connected to your community.

Want to really make your library card sing? Get the most out of your card by adding a PIN. You'll need one to log into your account online, the DelcoReads app, and some library resources. Find out more about setting up your PIN at delcolibraries.org/pin.

As part of Library Card Sign-up Month, residents are invited to Read at Rose Tree! Bring lawn chairs or a blanket, a book (or two), and a picnic dinner. Read aloud with your family or silent by yourself or with friends. Library card signups will be available, as well as a pop-up library and prize raffles. This event will be held on **Thursday, September 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM** in the amphitheater at Rose Tree Park. Dogs are welcome and no registration is required. This event will be held weather permitting.

Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected



Delaware County Libraries Hosting Read at Rose Tree Event Thursday, September 24

Delaware County Libraries is hosting their annual Read at Rose Tree event on **Thursday, September 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 PM** at the amphitheater at Rose Tree Park (**1671 N. Providence Road, Media, PA 19063**) as part of Library Card Signup Month. Residents are invited to bring lawn chairs, a blanket, a book, and a picnic dinner and read aloud with your family or silently with friends. Library card signups will be available, as well as a pop-up library and prize raffles. For more information, visit delcolibraries.org.



DCHD to Host Rally for Recovery on Thursday, September 24 in Essington

The Delaware County Health Department is hosting a Rally for Recovery on **Thursday, September 24 from 5 to 7 PM** at Governor Printz Park (**W. 2nd St. & Taylor Ave., Essington, PA 19029**). This will be a family-friendly event to celebrate individuals in recovery and share hope with communities still struggling. Residents at every stage of recovery are encouraged to attend and enjoy music, food trucks, speakers, face painting, and access to recovery resources. For more information, visit delcopa.gov/health. Interested residents can RSVP using DCHD's Facebook [post](#) about the event.



DCHD and State Rep. Jennifer O'Mara to Host Free Flu Vaccine Clinic in Media on Friday, September 25

The Delaware County Health Department and State Rep. Jennifer O'Mara are hosting a FREE Flu Vaccine Clinic on Friday, September 25 from 12 to 4 PM at the Media Community Center (**301 N. Jackson Street, Media, PA 19063**). Vaccines are available for individuals ages 3 and up and high dose vaccines are unavailable for residents over the age of 65. Residents are asked to wear short sleeves if possible. No insurance is required and walk-ins are welcome. Please call **610-544-9878** to pre-register.

Signups for Delco 10 Miler Remain Open!



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. Registration is nearing capacity, 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.



Human Services to Host Annual Adult Systems Training the Week of October 5

The Delaware County Department of Human Services is hosting their annual Adult Systems Training from **Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9**. This will include presentations on services for Mental Health, Adult & Family Services, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, Drug & Alcohol, and Advocacy & Community Supports. **Registration will close on Wednesday, September 30**. To learn more, visit delcopa.gov/human-services.



Apply ASAP for Mail-in or Absentee Ballots if You Are Not Planning on Voting in Person

Due to uncertainty at the federal level, residents are encouraged to **apply for mail-in and absentee ballots as soon as possible** if they are not planning on voting in person. The Department of Elections is aiming to send out the first batch of mail-in/absentee ballots in late September, and voters are encouraged to return their ballots early if they know who they'd like to vote for. The most direct and safest way for residents to return their ballot is to use a

County Drop Box. The drop box at the Government Center in Media will open upon the first mailing of ballots, and the remaining 27 Community Drop Boxes will be open by Saturday, October 10. For more information, please visit delcopa.gov/vote.



Delaware County Council members



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