



The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | February 20, 2026



Delaware County Office of Sustainability Updates Council on Recent Work and Upcoming Sustainability Conference

At Wednesday evening's Council meeting, Delaware County Sustainability Officer Becca Yurkovich shared the progress her office made in 2025 and the outlook for 2026 while inviting residents to their **Sustainability Conference on March 13**.

"The work that Sustainability does is so impactful," said Council member Elaine Paul Schaefer. "From tiny things like switching out recycling bins to really big \$4 million composting projects. It all makes an impact, and it's happened through a lot of hard work and perseverance."



Yurkovich gave some highlights of the office's work from 2025, highlighted by the County's Zero Waste Plan and Tree Canopy Assessment. The **Zero Waste Plan**, which was released in September, outlined how the county can best reduce waste, increase the effectiveness of recycling programs, conserve resources, and reduce costs while engaging with stakeholders throughout the process. The **Tree Canopy Assessment**, which was released in May in partnership with the University of Vermont, evaluated the status and importance of tree cover in Delco, which reduces stormwater runoff, cools the pavement in the summer, and provides habitats for wildlife.

The Sustainability Office also highlighted the fact that in 2025 they converted nearly 1,000 deskside bins to recycling, helped Capozzoli's Café compost 14,000 pounds of organics, and oversaw 2,000+ office item supply swaps between County employees. They also shared their robust education and outreach programs, which included events in 17 Delco municipalities and a variety of community beautification projects. Finally, they partnered with over 17 local organizations and the Stroud Water Research Center for their Fall Salt Snapshot, which sampled local creeks to understand the long-term impacts of winter salt usage.

Moving into 2026, Yurkovich shared their new **Sustainable Communities Hub**, which serves as an online repository of sustainability resources for municipal implementation across the county. This includes over 100 model documents, educational resources, and tools and has been celebrated by groups across Delco.

“Everything is not going to work for every municipality, but they’re very interested in figuring out how to move forward with certain initiatives,” said Council member Dr. Monica Taylor. “It’s great to have a one-stop shop where they can find the resources they need. I know that municipalities are happy and very excited to have access to these materials and resources.”

She also highlighted the opportunity to make county buildings more sustainable, including the potential of solar panel installation on county properties and grant funded LED replacement and submetering in the Government Center. The Office of Sustainability also hopes to finalize their Recycling Standardization Report, which will reduce waste in county buildings, and work to benchmark electricity bills.

One of Yurkovich’s proudest accomplishments is the work she’s done on economic sustainability, with seven open grants in 2025 and three new awards for 2026, including a \$5 million grant from the EPA to reimagine waste transfer stations in the county.

She closed out the presentation by inviting the public to upcoming outreach events, including their Earth Day Celebration at Rose Tree Park in collaboration with Parks & Recreation and the Delaware County Conservation District on **Saturday, April 18**.

Their upcoming events are highlighted by their yearly signature event, their **5th Annual Sustainability Conference**. This year, Steve Ward of Scranton Tomorrow will be the keynote presenter, and the program will include informative session on data centers, zero waste, and community sustainability as well as networking with 30+ community organizations and businesses. The event will be held at Swarthmore College on **Friday, March 13**. For more information, please visit delcopa.gov/sustainability.

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Director of Delaware County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Provides Update on Initiatives and Previews Black History Month Celebration Next Week



Delaware County Director of Military & Veterans Affairs Colonel Arthur Jenkins (Ret.) updated County Council on the work his office has been doing to connect with local veterans and previewed the upcoming **Black History Month Celebration at Towne House in Media on Thursday, February 26**.

Col. Jenkins discussed the variety of outreach initiatives his office has undertaken recently, including their Adopt-a-Veteran Initiative, Friends of Green Lawn Initiative, Veteran Employee Lunch and Learns, and their Veterans Book and Memoir Reviews.

Col. Jenkins recapped the work done to launch the “Adopt a Veteran” program, which pairs local students up with local veterans to foster inter-generational connection and a sense of community. The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs will match students of all ages with veterans living at Fair Acres Geriatric Center and other residential facilities in Delaware County, allowing them to

establish a long-term relationship that transcends generational boundaries. If you know any interested students, please contact DelcoVA@co.delaware.pa.us.

The Friends of Green Lawn Initiative is intended to revitalize headstones at Green Lawn Cemetery in Chester, where many veterans of the Civil War, World War I, and World War II were laid to rest. Volunteers participating in the beautification reached out to the family of these veterans, allowing them to honor their ancestors service to our country. The Department of Military & Veterans Affairs invites residents to participate in these efforts by helping clean up Green Lawn Cemetery by reaching out to their office at DelcoVA@co.delaware.pa.us.

The Veteran Employee Lunch and Learns have been a monthly event where county employees who are veterans are invited to have lunch with Col. Jenkins and other members of the Military & Veterans Affairs office, sharing experiences and forging a bond between co-workers with shared experiences.

Thus far, there have been two Veterans Book and Memoir Reviews, with a third one scheduled for **Saturday, March 28** at Delaware County Community College. This provides an opportunity for veterans and interested community members to share their experiences and connect through literature and discussion.

Col. Jenkins wrapped up his presentation by inviting residents to next week's Black History Month Celebration at Towne House in Media on **Thursday, February 26 from 12-2 PM**. The event will focus on the 100-year anniversary of Black History Month celebrations and the contributions of African American veterans to the history of our county and our nation. Col. Jenkins will serve as the MC and Lt. Col. Eclenus Wright Jr. (Ret.) will serve as the keynote speaker.

Awardees will include the family of 1st Lt. William Rice, who was an original Tuskegee Airman and Thaddeus Barnes, who was an original Montford Point Marine. The program will also honor county employees Specialist 4th Class Hazel Johnson, Sergeant Wayne Dixon, Petty Officer 3rd Class Lysandra Greene, and Lt. Col. Yvonne Bradley.

While there is a focus on veterans in the program, this event will be celebrating the valuable contributions and history of all Black Americans. Everyone is welcome, although attendees must RSVP. **Space is limited so please RSVP as soon as possible.**

If you are interested in attending, please RSVP [here](#). The address of Towne House is **117 Veterans Square, Media, PA 19063**. Please reach out to DelcoComms@co.delaware.pa.us with any questions.



Delaware County Health Department Releases Annual Report



The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) has released its 2025 Annual Report, reflecting a year of progress in strengthening public health infrastructure, expanding equitable access to services, and deepening community partnerships across the county. This report is available at: <https://delcopa.gov/sites/default/files/2026-02/DCHD-2025-Annual-Report-Final.pdf>.

Throughout 2025, DCHD advanced priorities outlined in its Community Health Improvement Plan, with accomplishments spanning multiple focus areas:

- **Maternal and Child Health:** Expanded doula services, maternal wellness programming, and youth health initiatives to support healthy families and improve early-life outcomes.

- **Community Health & Outreach:** Delivered comprehensive Back-to-School events and community-based education efforts including the Lead Free 1 2 3 campaign connecting residents to screenings, supplies, and preventive services.
- **Overdose Prevention & Harm Reduction:** Continued implementation of Delco Revive, increasing community training, lifesaving supply distribution, and overdose response capacity.
- **Epidemiology & Disease Surveillance:** Strengthened data-driven monitoring and outbreak response to guide prevention strategies and protect residents from communicable diseases.
- **Environmental Health:** Conducted inspections, investigations, and regulatory enforcement to safeguard food safety, monitor environmental hazards, respond to complaints, and prevent vector-borne disease.
- **Health Equity & Infrastructure:** Modernized internal systems, expanded public health kiosks, and advanced federally funded initiatives to expand access to essential services.

In addition, DCHD played a central role in the county’s response to the Crozer Health System collapse, supporting continuity of care, conducting surveillance, and assisting residents in navigating healthcare access during a period of significant disruption.

The FY24–25 budget totaled \$11.4 million, primarily (83%) supported through federal and state funding and the current county contribution funded through federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Despite fiscal uncertainty, DCHD sustained core services while continuing to build a modern, responsive public health department.

“As we reflect on 2025, this report represents the dedication of our staff and partners who work every day to protect and promote the health of Delaware County residents,” said Director Lora Siegmann Werner, MPH. “We remain committed to building a resilient, equitable public health system for the future.”

To view the full 2025 Annual Report, visit: [DelcoPa.gov/health/about](https://delcopa.gov/health/about).

The Delaware County Health Department is dedicated to preventing injury, illness, and premature death through the promotion of healthy behaviors, environmental protection, and disease prevention. For more information, call the Delaware County Wellness Line at **(484) 276-2100** or email DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us.

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Delaware County Celebrates Heart Health Month

Delaware County has spent the month of February celebrating Heart Health Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness about heart disease and promoting healthy habits to support cardiovascular health.

Heart disease remains the leading cause of death across the world, nationwide, in Pennsylvania, and here in Delaware County. While death rates from heart related diseases in Delco are generally comparable to rates across the Commonwealth, the exception to this is strokes.

In order to reduce the risk of strokes and other heart related diseases, the Delaware County Health Department encourages residents to lower blood pressure, lose weight, exercise more, drink and smoke less, and treat any underlying conditions.

DCHD has been partnering with community organizations throughout the month of February to offer free blood pressure screenings across the county. They have done events in Yeadon, Lansdowne, and Springfield already with an event scheduled for next **Wednesday, February 25 in Chester from 10AM-1 PM**.



Next Wednesday's event will be at the J. Lewis Crozer Library. Walk-ups are encouraged, and no registration is required. This will kick off DCHD's partnership with the American Heart Association for a new community-based blood pressure monitoring initiative throughout the County. This will include free blood pressure devices that residents can "check out" and take home from Delco Libraries. Join DCHD for a morning of education, speakers, and games as they kick-off this new program and raise awareness about heart disease and how to adopt healthy habits.

DCHD's Delco Revive also continues to offer free CPR classes multiple times a month. According to the American Heart Association, about 70% of cardiac arrests that happen outside of hospitals occur in homes. Please take the opportunity to learn how to save a life by

participating in one of these classes.

County employees participated in Wear Red Day this past Thursday, showing their support for heart health awareness.

For more information about Heart Health Month and the programs offered by our Health Department, please call the DCHD Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**.

Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected



Delaware County to Hold Opioid Settlement Strategic Planning Meetings Tuesday, February 24th and Thursday, February 26th

Delaware County invites community members to attend upcoming Opioid Settlement Strategic Planning Meetings from **9 AM to noon on Tuesday February 24 and Thursday February 26**. The primary audience for the Tuesday, February 24 meeting is grantees and other stakeholders. Please register [here](#). The primary audience for the

Thursday, February 26 meeting is community groups and individuals with lived/living experience. Please register [here](#). Anyone is welcome to attend either meeting. Both meetings will be held in-person only in The Media Room at Delaware County Human Services, **4990 State Road, Suite 101, Drexel Hill, PA 19026**.

DCHD and UDTJ to Host Black History Month Panel on Tuesday, February 24

The Delaware County Health Department is hosting an evening of conversation focused on the health and wellness of the Black and Brown community in Delaware County in partnership with UDTJ. The event will be held **5:30-8 PM on Tuesday, February 24 at the Delaware County Wellness Center at 125 Chester Avenue, Yeadon, PA 19050**. Panel topics will include physical health, mental health & recovery, maternal health, and youth development & safety. Registration is required. Please call the DCHD Wellness Line at **484-276-2100** to register.

DCHD & UDTJ PRESENT:



A BLACK HISTORY MONTH HEALTH PANEL

JOIN US FOR A CONVERSATION ABOUT THE HEALTH & WELLNESS OF THE BLACK AND BROWN COMMUNITY IN DELAWARE COUNTY.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

DELAWARE COUNTY WELLNESS CENTER
125 CHESTER AVE., LEADON, PA 17040

5:30 PM - 8 PM

CALL OUR WELLNESS AT 717-278-2100 TO REGISTER.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED

Topics include:

- Physical Health
- Mental Health & Recovery
- Maternal Health
- Youth Development and Safety



NEW COUNTY PARK PHASE II PUBLIC MEETING

What would YOU like to see in the park at 1201 Springfield Road in Darby?

Darby Borough Administration Building
Council Chambers Room
1020 Ridge Ave, Darby, PA
Feb 24, 2026
6:00pm - 8:00pm

CAN'T COME? TAKE OUR SURVEY!



Delaware County to Host Meeting about Phase 2 of New County Park at Darby Borough Administration Building Tuesday, February 24

Delaware County is hosting a meeting regarding Phase 2 of development for the New County Park, formerly known as the Little Flower Open Space. The meeting will be held next **Tuesday, February 24 from 6-8 PM** at the Darby Borough Administration Building (**1020 Ridge Avenue, Darby, PA**). This meeting is intended to solicit feedback from residents about the plan and design for the remaining area of the

property.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS WANTED!

COMMISSION FOR IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS



4 VACANCIES 3 YEAR TERM MEDIA, PA APPLY BY 2/27

ABOUT THE COMMISSION FOR IMMIGRANT AFFAIRS

The Delaware County Commission for Immigrant Affairs will provide both review and recommendations to County Council and pertinent County Departments to address the needs of immigrant communities in Delaware County. Members will strengthen the voices of local immigrant communities, share resources, and raise awareness about the history, geography, and culture of the various immigrant communities represented within Delaware County.

FOR MORE DETAILS & TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION, VISIT DELCOPA.GOV

Applicants should provide name, address, contact information, current employer/occupation, a brief explanation as to why they are interested in serving on a particular board, and attach an up-to-date resume.

Applications for Commission for Immigrant Affairs Vacancies due Friday, February 27

Delaware County is looking to fill four three-year term openings on the Commission for Immigrant Affairs, which advises County Council and County departments on policies and programs to improve the lives of immigrants within Delaware County. Members will strengthen the voices of local immigrant communities, share resources/raise awareness about the history, geography, and culture of immigrant communities in Delaware County. The deadline to apply is

Friday, February 27. Visit delcopa.gov/clerk/board-vacancies.



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