



# The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | March 19, 2026



## Delaware County Unveils Modernized Emergency Telecommunications System

Last Friday, Delaware County Council was joined by local partners to cut the ribbon on the early and under-budget completion of the County's modernized telecoms system at the County's 911 Center in Lima. The project culminates nearly six years of work to improve emergency communications within Delaware County.



“The system we’ve deployed puts Delaware County at the forefront of radio communications capabilities because it not only broadens the coverage areas of our emergency telecommunications, but it also ensures secure communications that our first responders can depend on in the field,” said Delaware County Council Chair Richard Womack. “Our County continues to put the public safety of its residents first and I’m proud to inaugurate this crucial improvement modernization to our emergency telecoms systems.”

These upgrades give first responders 99% radio coverage of the County, exceeding the national average of 95% and keeping Delco residents safe. This increased coverage greatly improves upon the previous system, which experienced outages and made it more difficult for first responders to do their job. The County tested EF Johnson’s Kenwood handheld radios in streets, wooded areas, parks, trails, and bodies of water across the County. These tests confirmed that the new system is giving first responders the resources they need to keep Delaware County safe.

Along with the benefits that come from increased coverage, the project was completed multiple weeks early and came in \$2 million under the projected budget of \$38 million. **This an another example of Delco delivering for its residents and the first responders that serve them.**

Interim Emergency Services Director Ed Beebe laid out the two biggest issues with the old radio system at Wednesday evening's County Council meeting. First, it was very difficult to find replacement parts for a 30-year-old system, which forced employees to creatively find temporary fixes to critical emergency infrastructure. Second, the old system lacked security and was susceptible to interference.

EF Johnson's Kenwood radio system is more secure than Delaware County's previous system, protecting critical communications from intrusions and the exposure of potentially sensitive information. Not only does this keep residents safer, but it also allows first responders to react quicker and more effectively in an emergency.

The new Kenwood radios employ coreless radio motors with a coil wound on itself. This allows faster start up times, more dependable communications, and more stable connections between radios. This allows for faster responses and more lives saved in an emergency.

The improvements give emergency personnel and law enforcement the ability to more effectively communicate with other agencies while in the field, leading to more robust responses to emergencies. Beebe explained how this upgraded radio system reaches far into neighboring counties, allowing first responders to communicate with their counterparts throughout the region while staying in contact with the 911 Center when they're out of the county.

This project was possible thanks to the hard work of members from the County team in Emergency Services, Public Works, Council, and more, along members of the Delco Delegation in the PA State House and Senate.

More information about this project can be found [here](#).

**DELCO DELIVERS** Your Tax Dollars AT WORK!

**Emergency Telecom Upgrades**

**Increased Coverage**  
99% on-street coverage\*

The County tested EF Johnson's Kenwood handheld radios on streets, wooded areas, parks, trails, and even bodies of water. These tests saw **99% on-street coverage**, far exceeding the industry standard.

**Under Budget**  
The County finished the project almost \$2-million UNDER the initial projected cost of the improvements. Saving taxpayers money while also prioritizing safety.

**\$38 Million Projected**  
**\$36 Million - Final Cost**

**Secure Communications**  
EF Johnson's Kenwood radio system is **more secure**, protecting critical communications from intrusions and exposing potentially sensitive information.

**Coreless Radios = More Reliability**  
Kenwood radios employ **coreless** radio motors with a coil wound on itself. This allows **faster startup times** and **more dependable** communications. In emergency responses, every second counts. **Faster responses = lives saved.**

**Cross-Agency Communications**  
The improvements give emergency personnel and law enforcement the ability to communicate with other agencies while in the field enabling more complete responses to emergencies.

## 2 Delaware County Hosts 5th Annual Sustainability Conference at Swarthmore College



Last Friday, the Delaware County Office of Sustainability hosted their 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sustainability Conference on the campus of Swarthmore College.

The event, which was attended by 300+ people, included morning presentations about a variety of relevant topics, the opportunity for networking with over 30 exhibitors, discussions with local experts about issues facing Delco, and sustainability tours of the Swarthmore campus.

The morning session began with remarks from Delaware County Council member Elaine Paul Schaefer, who shared her enthusiasm for the event and the work done by the Office of Sustainability.

"At a time when federal priorities are clearly shifting, Delaware County remains steadfast in our commitment to sustainability," said Schaefer. "We are committed to meaningful climate action, to

cleaner air and water, and to ensuring that our future is both environmentally and socially resilient.”

After some words from Swarthmore Mayor Conlen Booth, Steve Ward of Scranton Tomorrow took the stage for a moving keynote presentation. Ward’s presentation centered around the question “Is this the place for me?” and he discussed his personal journey, highlighting the encouraging, relatable, and surprising outcomes from his experiences with community engagement. Ward revealed how he found a community through the beautification of Scranton, whether it was planting flowers with schoolchildren or using gardening to help people recover from addiction.

Also in the morning, the Delaware County and Swarthmore Offices of Sustainability presented on the work they have done to increase energy efficiency, implement sustainable food systems, and build a viable future for Delco residents and Swarthmore students.

A hot topic of conversation at Friday’s Conference was data centers. Anneke Van Rossum of the Delaware Riverkeeper Network and Robert Routh of the Natural Resources Defense Council discussed the impacts of data centers and what people need to know about the threat of them in Delaware County.

After that came an hour where participants were able to meet with nearly 40 sustainability-related organizations in Delaware County, ranging from the Delaware County Planning Department to Solarize Delco to the Darby Creek Valley Association. This gave attendees the opportunity to connect with groups from across the region who are building a better, more sustainable future for Delco residents.

Following lunch, attendees participated in breakout sessions about Zero Waste policies, community projects around the county, and campus tours about sustainability. The Zero Waste session included representatives from Energy Justice Network, Pennsylvania Resources Council, and Remark Glass & Bottle Underground. Meanwhile, the community projects session had master gardeners and watershed stewards, from Penn State Extension, the Director of Parks & Recreation in Concord Township, and representatives from the Haverford Township Environmental Advisory Council and Transition Town Greater Media.

Campus tours covered Zero Waste features on Swarthmore’s campus (compost shed, food recovery fridge, and more) and Swarthmore’s geo-exchange system, which provides efficient renewable-powered heating and cooling to campus buildings.

For more information about the Delaware County Office of Sustainability and their Sustainability Conference, please visit [delcopa.gov/sustainability](http://delcopa.gov/sustainability).

## 3 PA CareerLink to Host Delaware County Spring Hiring Event Wednesday, March 25 at Springfield YMCA



The poster for the PA CareerLink Spring Hiring Event features a blue and white color scheme. At the top left, it says "Pennsylvania CareerLink Delaware County". The main title "SPRING HIRING EVENT" is in large, bold, white letters on a blue background. Below that, the date and time are listed: "WEDNESDAY MARCH 25, 2026 10:30 A.M. - 2 P.M.". The location is "Springfield YMCA 194 West Sproul Rd Springfield, PA 19064", with a note "Accessible via public transportation". A QR code is provided for registration. A red box highlights "Jobseekers:" with three bullet points: "Access to local employers", "Bring your resumes and be job ready", and "Job seeker workshops during the event". At the bottom, it says "Want to brush up on your skills prior to the event? Check out our workshops at [pacareerlinkdelco.org](http://pacareerlinkdelco.org)". Logos for Pennsylvania CareerLink and the Department of Labor & Industry are at the bottom.

Jobseekers are encouraged to attend PA CareerLink’s Spring Hiring Event from 10:30 AM to 2 PM on Wednesday, March 25. The event will be held at the Springfield YMCA (194 West Sproul Rd, Springfield, PA 19064), which is accessible via public transportation.

This event has a variety of opportunities for jobseekers, including access to local employers and workshops that will allow those seeking employment to enhance their candidate profiles. Attendees will be able to refine their resumes, practice interviewing skills, gain confidence in approaching hiring managers, and understand how to effectively follow up after the event. Residents are asked to bring resumes and any other

necessary job application documents to the event while being ready to discuss job opportunities on the spot.

“This event is just one of the ways our workforce development board—and our entire County team—join with our state and local partners to connect talented residents with the local employers that need to boost their skilled workforce,” said Delaware County Council Chair Richard Womack. “With so many folks frustrated with impersonal and fully online hiring processes, this event is a great way to stand out from the pack and get facetime with people who can help you find that next opportunity.”

The County’s Workforce Development Board is also highlighting a \$1,000 stipend for caregivers who are unemployed but seeking employment to send their children to a summer camp. For more information, visit [delcoworks.org](http://delcoworks.org).

While walk-ins are welcome, residents are encouraged to register ahead of time for a smoother experience on the day of the event. Registration is available [here](#).

For more information on this event, as well as a variety of other resources for jobseekers, please visit [PACareerLinkDelco.org](http://PACareerLinkDelco.org).



## Submissions Open Until April 17 for 37th Annual Young Poets of Delaware County Poetry Contest



Delaware County is excited to announce that they are accepting submissions for the 37th Annual Young Poets of Delaware County Poetry Contest.

All children in grades 1-12 who live or attend school in Delaware County may enter. Original poems must be typed on 8 1/2” by 11” paper. Only one new, original poem

per student. Poems cannot be more than one page long. If submitting online, poems must be in MS Word format.

**Please note that the poem may not have previously won an award.**

Please include student’s name, phone number, address, parent e-mail (no school e-mails), grade and school on the TOP RIGHT (FRONT) of the poem. **If this information is not listed, the entry will be disqualified.** Contact information is for notification purposes only and will not be shared.

Deadline for submission is **Friday, April 17, 2026**. Please submit your poem at any Delaware County Libraries location or online by using the form linked [here](#). No entries will be returned, so please keep a copy of your poem for your records.

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners in each grade level will be contacted through e-mail by May 11.

Winning poems will be published in our annual poetry anthology, on this page and on the Mad Poet’s [website](#). Poets and their families are invited to an awards ceremony & reading in May, date TBD.

Need some inspiration? Check out our eBook and audiobook collection of poetry books in Libby!

Questions? Email Cheri Crow at [ccrow@delcolibraries.org](mailto:ccrow@delcolibraries.org) or the Mad Poets at [Info@madpoetsociety.com](mailto:Info@madpoetsociety.com).

# Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected



## Delaware County Women's Commission to Host National Women's History Month Celebration Luncheon Saturday, March 21

The Delaware County Women's Commission is holding their Annual National Women's History Month Celebration luncheon on **Saturday, March 21 from 11:30 AM to 2:30 PM** at the Ballrooms in Boothwyn (**1405 Meetinghouse Road, Upper Chichester, PA 19061**). This year's theme is *Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future* and they will recognize honorees leading sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements throughout Delaware County. Please contact Savannah Matthews at [MatthewsS@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:MatthewsS@co.delaware.pa.us) for more information.

**NAVIGATING OUR HEALTH CARE SYSTEM**  
Supporting one another during changing times.

**CPHS** Delaware County Health Services  
**DCHD** DELAWARE COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Were you a former Crozer patient?  
Do you need assistance getting your medical records?

HOSPITAL

The Delaware County Health Department is here to help!

<b>Date:</b> Saturday, March 28 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 <b>Time:</b> 12 pm - 3 pm <b>Location:</b> ChesPenn Health Services 125 East 9 <sup>th</sup> Street, Chester, PA 19013	<b>Date:</b> Wednesday, April 8 <sup>th</sup> , 2026 <b>Time:</b> 3 pm - 6 pm <b>Location:</b> Delaware County Wellness Center 125 Chester Avenue, Yeadon, PA 19086
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**Walk-ins only. Please bring a cell phone and your ID.**  
Text **HealthyDelco** to **888-777** to receive Public Health notifications or  
Call our **Wellness Line** at **484-276-2100** if you have any questions.

Here info online at: [dchd.co.pa.health](http://dchd.co.pa.health)  
Email us at: [DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us)

**DCHD** Delaware County Health Department  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter

## DCHD Restarting Events to Help Former Crozer Patients Access Medical Records on Saturday, March 28

The Delaware County Health Department is restarting their *Navigating Our Healthcare System* events to help former Crozer patients obtain their medical records. They are planning on holding these events approximately monthly throughout 2026, and the first one will be **Saturday, March 28 from 12-3 PM** at ChesPenn Health Services (**125 E. 9th St, Chester, PA 19013**). **No appointments or registration is needed, and you do not have to be a ChesPenn patient to attend.** For more information, email [DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us) or call DCHD's Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**.

**Upcoming Free Childbirth Classes**

Join our classes to better prepare yourself for the birth experience and learn about all of your options for:  
*Your Body, Your Baby, & Your Birth!*

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.  
March 20  
April 3 & 17 (two-class set)

Register by calling the Delaware County Health Department Wellness Line  
(484) 276-2100

**DCHD** Delaware County Health Department  
**Family Village** Helping Delaware County Families Thrive

## DCHD and The Foundation for Delaware County to Host Free Childbirth Classes on April 3 and 17

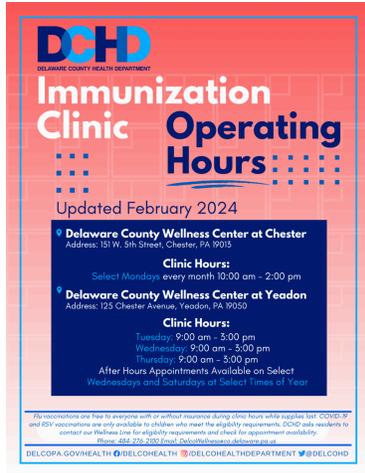
The Delaware County Health Department is holding a free Childbirth two-class set in collaboration with the Foundation for Delaware County's Family Village on **April 3 and 17 from 12-1:30 PM**. The topic of these classes is *Your Body, Your Baby, & Your Birth*. It is intended to prepare residents for the birth experience and learn about all options during an important period of life. The classes will be held at DCHD's Wellness Center in Yeadon (**125 Chester Ave, Yeadon, PA**). Partners are welcome to attend. Registration is required through DCHD's Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**. Family Village hosts many other free classes throughout the year for expecting and new parents. Topics include self-care, nutrition, breastfeeding, and more. More information can be found [here](#).



## 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](mailto:lisa@namimainlinepa.org).

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## DCHD Continues Vaccination Clinics Amid Increased Risk for Measles Exposure

The Delaware County Health Department is continuing to hold vaccine clinics multiple times a week as there is an increased risk for measles exposure within Delaware County. Residents can get vaccinated for numerous diseases, including measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) at Vaccination Clinics held **9 AM-3 PM on Tuesdays and Thursdays** at the Delaware County Wellness Center in Yeadon (**125 Chester Ave, Yeadon, PA**) and **select Mondays from 10 AM-2 PM** at the Delaware County Wellness Center in Chester (**151 W 5th St, Chester, PA**). Registration is required by emailing [DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us) or calling DCHD's Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**.

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Delaware County Council members

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