



The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | March 6, 2026

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Delaware County Interim Human Services Director Chris Welsh Recognizes National Social Work Month with Council Presentation

At Wednesday evening's Council meeting, Delaware County Interim Director of Human Services Chris Welsh recognized the importance of social workers throughout the county and the importance of celebrating National Social Work Month in a presentation to Council. At the conclusion of the presentation, Welsh accepted a resolution from Council recognizing March 2026 as National Social Work Month in Delaware County on behalf of all social workers in Delaware County.



Welsh gave a brief background of the work done by social workers and the history of National Social Work Month, which began in 1984. Among the 810,000 social workers nationwide, Delaware County employs them across many departments, including Children & Youth Services (CYS), the County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA), George W. Hill Correctional Facility, Fair Acres Geriatric Center, the Department of Human Services, and the Public Defender's Office.

Children & Youth Services employees not only go out in the community and investigate claims of abuse, but they also respond to requests from parents who just need basic help across the County. Welsh said that the vast majority of services **CYS** social workers provide are to families in their homes looking for assistance keeping their families united. **COSA** social workers also investigate claims of abuse but primarily help seniors and their families access the services they need to stay in the community with their loved ones.

Meanwhile, social workers are very active at **George W. Hill**, where most people do not stay long-term. According to Welsh, the average length of stay is less than two months, meaning many inmates work closely with social workers to develop re-entry plans, allowing them to succeed when they are released and ensuring they stay out of prison in the future. At Fair Acres, social workers work alongside residents to make the transition to nursing home care a positive one.

The **Department of Human Services** employs social workers in a variety of areas, including the Office of Intellectual Disabilities, Early Intervention, Drug & Alcohol, and Mental Health Services. These employees provide direct service and make sure that contractors and service providers are effectively serving residents.

Welsh talked extensively about the work done by people in the **Public Defender's Office**, which he oversaw for five years before stepping into his current role. He told the story of a social worker named Nigel at the Public Defender's office who had a client at George W. Hill with psychiatric disabilities and a history of substance abuse. He was there because of a misdemeanor and was unable to post bail, so Nigel worked with the PD attorney to have his bail modified so he could be released to a recovery house. After the condition of Nigel's client worsened and he had to be hospitalized, Nigel stayed in contact through his family and attorneys to ensure he didn't go back to prison. Eventually, they found another recovery house, where he was prescribed the correct medications. He has been there for over two months, gotten a job, and was recently admitted to ARD, a program for people encountering the criminal justice system for the first time who can end with no criminal record if completed.

This is just one example of the thankless work done by social workers like Nigel across Delco, who help residents through life's most difficult moments through continuous contact, coaching, and encouragement without judgment.

Welsh also mentioned the work done by victim advocates in the **District Attorney's Office**, who work closely with victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and child sexual assault/neglect. These advocates provide patience, kindness, and empathy to help victims who need to come to the DA's office to feel secure and heard while being a constant beacon of stability in a chaotic system.

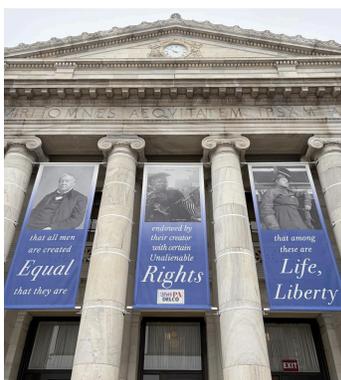
Welsh ended with a message for social workers in Delaware County and beyond.

"Thank you for choosing a profession that serves others, often at great personal sacrifice. Thank you for uplifting the voices of those who are often silenced, for defending the dignity of our neighbors, and for working to transform systems to better serve people."

To contact the Delaware County Department of Human Services or learn more about social work in Delaware County, visit delcohsa.org or call **610-713-2115**.

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Delaware County Celebrates Women's History Month and Honors Influential Delco Women



Delaware County Council is proud to recognize Women's History Month by spotlighting women who have made historical contributions to Delco and uplifting the voices of women across the county throughout March.

"Women have played a critical role in shaping our history, strengthening our communities, and inspiring future generations," said Delaware County Vice Chair Christine Reuther. "Their leadership, resilience, and advocacy continue to drive progress, and it is essential that we recognize and support their achievements."

Throughout the month of March, the county will be honoring historical Delco women and their contributions to the community with displays on TVs throughout the Government Center.

Among the women being celebrated, Nether Providence resident **Anna Howard Shaw** is among the most notable. Howard Shaw was a leader of the women's suffrage movement and a driving force behind the passage of the 19th amendment whose house sits on Ridley Creek Road in Nether Providence Township. She also appears on the banners in front of the Courthouse put up by America250PA Delco and the Media Arts Council honoring the contributions of Delco residents to our nation's history.

Others featured on at the Government Center include:

- Chester native **Dr. Anna Broomall**, who established the first maternal health and prenatal care clinic in the US
- Swarthmore resident **Caroline Burnham Kilgore**, the first woman admitted to the bar in Pennsylvania
- Upper Darby native and ten-time Emmy winner **Tina Fey**, who wrote and starred in Mean Girls, which was inspired by her experience at Upper Darby High School

Recently, members of Council participated in the League of Women Voters annual luncheon in Swarthmore, where they spoke about the challenges and opportunities facing Delaware County and how they plan to approach them. Council members and attendees discussed the incredible opportunities presented by events happening in Delco this year like the PGA Championship, World Cup, and America's 250th birthday celebrations. They also discussed how to respond to federal overreach, develop the local economy, continue cost containment work, and rebuild healthcare assets after Prospect's desertion of our community.

The League of Women Voters is a crucial non-partisan, grassroots civic engagement organization that has been serving Delco and beyond for 100+ years. They are focused on protecting and expanding voting rights to ensure everyone is represented in our democracy through advocacy, education, and litigation at every level of government.

The Delaware County Women's Commission will be holding their National Women's History Month Celebration luncheon on **Saturday, March 21 from 11:30 AM to 2 PM** at the Ballrooms at Boothwyn (**1405 Meetinghouse Rd, Boothwyn, PA 19061**). The theme of this year's event is "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future." At the event, three members of the community will be recognized for their leadership in sustainability efforts across environmental, economic, educational, and social justice movements throughout Delaware County. For more information, contact **delco.pa.womenscommission@gmail.com**.

The Women's Commission evaluates the concerns and needs of women and girls in Delaware County while recommending ways to address them to Council. They meet once a month, with their next meeting being held next **Thursday, March 12 at 6 PM** via Zoom. The public is invited to attend. Please contact Savannah Matthews at **MatthewsS@co.delaware.pa.us** for more information. To learn more about the Delaware County Women's Commission, visit **delcopa.gov/womens-commission**.



Delaware County Planning Department Releases 2026 Municipal Officials Directory

Delaware County is pleased to announce that the 2026 Delaware County Municipal Officials Directory, compiled and published by the Delaware County Planning Department, has been finalized and is available for public use.

The directory includes a list of officials and employees for all 49 municipalities along with contact information, meeting dates, and a map of municipalities and their classifications. It also includes contact information and details about county offices and elected officials. This directory serves as



Delaware County
Municipal Officials
Directory
2026

Compiled by:
Delaware County Planning Department

a resource for county staff and the community alike, allowing for expedited communication with municipal leaders and easy access to key meeting dates across Delco.

In support of the zero waste initiatives outlined in the County's first Sustainability Plan and to ensure the most up-to-date information, this resource was made completely digital in 2023. The 2026 directory can now be viewed or downloaded here: link.delcopa.gov/MunicipalOfficialsDirectory.

For questions or corrections to the Municipal Official Directory, please contact Planning Department Data and Systems Coordinator, Ron Aquilino, at aquilinor@co.delaware.pa.us.

Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected

SHAPE THE FUTURE OF CHESTER CREEK TRAIL!

The Delaware County Planning Department is exploring the possibility of extending the Chester Creek Trail through Toby Farms in Chester Township and Upland Borough.

Look at an initial Trail Feasibility Map and share YOUR thoughts!

Join a public meeting!

VIRTUAL

March 12, 2026
7:00 - 8:00pm
Register at
tinyurl.com/chestercreekvirtualmeeting

IN-PERSON

March 7, 2026
10:30am - 1:30pm
Redwood Community Center in Upland Park
No presentation!
Come and go as you wish!

Delaware County to Host Meetings about Chester Creek Trail Feasibility Study Phase 4 Saturday, March 7 and Thursday, March 12

Delaware County is hosting two meetings over the next week regarding the Phase 4 Feasibility Study of the Chester Creek Trail connecting Aston Township with Upland Borough through Chester Township. There will be an in-person Public Open House on **Saturday, March 7 from 10:30 AM to 1:30 PM** at the Redwood Community Center in Upland Park (280 6th St, Brookhaven, PA)

and a **Zoom** meeting on **Thursday, March 12 from 7 to 8 PM**. These meetings are intended to teach residents about the project and solicit feedback from residents about the recommended trail alignment.

State Sen. Tim Kearney and State Rep. Greg Vitali to Hold Property Tax/Rent Rebate Event Wednesday, March 18

State Sen. Tim Kearney and State Rep. Greg Vitali are hosting a Property Tax/Rent Rebate Event on **Wednesday, March 18 from 10 AM to 2 PM** at Surrey Services for Seniors (505 Parkway Dr, Broomall, PA). This event will help eligible Delco residents apply for the state benefit. **Eligible residents must register.** Call **610-544-6120** or **610-789-3900** to register.

COSA Offering Weekly Chronic Disease Self-Management Program Starting next Wednesday, March 18

The Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) is offering the acclaimed *Steps to Healthy Living: Chronic Disease Self-Management Program* to provide residents 60 or older with self-care tools and life skills that support them in reaching their personal goals to manage their chronic conditions. The six-week program will be held on **Wednesdays from 12:30 to 3 PM**, beginning on March 18 and going through April 22. The program is **FREE** however class size is



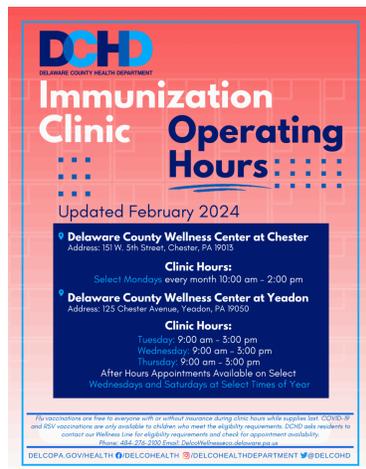
limited so registration is required. For more information, email williamse@co.delaware.pa.us or call **610-499-1937** and provide your name, address, phone number, and email address.



DCHD and The Foundation for Delaware County to Host Free Childbirth Class on March 20

The Delaware County Health Department is holding a free Childbirth class in collaboration with the Foundation for Delaware County's Family Village on **March 20 from 12-1:30 PM**. The topic of this class 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 class 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](#).



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 or calling DCHD's Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**.



Delaware County Council members



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