



# The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | April 24, 2026



## Delaware County Council Recognizes National Victims' Rights Week with Resolution and Press Conference

This week Delaware County Council recognized April 19-25 as National Crime Victims' Rights Week with a press conference in front of the Delaware County Courthouse on Thursday morning where they presented a resolution and a presentation at Wednesday evening's Council meeting. The theme of this year's National Crime Victims' Rights is Listen. *Act. Advocate. Protect victims, serve communities.*

Candice Linehan, the Managing Director of the Delaware County Victim Assistance Center, accepted the resolution on behalf of all Delaware County victim service providers. Linehan also presented in front of County Council on Wednesday evening, sharing the importance of the work done by her colleagues and county employees across various departments.



"Today, we take a moment to honor the incredible resilience of survivors in Delaware County," said Linehan. "But we also recognize that their strength is often reinforced by the tireless daily efforts and commitment of the professionals who invest in the people of Delaware County and turn victims into survivors."

The people doing this crucial work include Victim Advocates, Family Advocates, Forensic Interviewers, Victim Witness Coordinators, Court Appointed Special Advocates, Case Workers,

attorneys, Protective Service workers, law enforcement, medical professionals, and clinical specialists.

She emphasized that supporting victims is a community effort, a team approach, and something that “strengthens the foundation of Delaware County, making it a safer and compassionate place for everyone.”

Linehan made sure to recognize the following agencies, many of which are run or funded by the county:

- **Delaware County Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)**
- **County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)**
- **Children and Youth Services (CYS)**
- **Delaware County Domestic Abuse Project (DAP)**
- **Delaware County Victim Assistance Center**
- **Every Child Counts**
- **Family Support Line**
- **Juvenile Victim Witness Unit**
- **Legal Aid of Southeastern Pennsylvania**
- Witness Victim Coordinator at the **District Attorney’s Office**

Delaware County District Attorney Tanner Rouse also spoke, first giving a brief update on the work his office has done and how they have reduced violent crime across the county. He specifically referenced the fact that **for the first month in recorded history, Chester had 0 victims of gun violence in March**. This is the latest indicator of progress in an area where the DA’s office has been working alongside local partners to make Chester safer.

Rouse then shared his appreciation for the “extraordinary” base of nonprofits in Delaware County that work to support victims.

“This is not the first District Attorney’s Office I’ve worked with,” Rouse said. “However, it is the first time I have seen the kind of wraparound support that we get from these agencies. It truly is extraordinary and it’s a resource this county should be really proud of.”

At the end of the presentation, County Council members shared their appreciation for the work being done by all the groups supporting crime victims across Delaware County.

“Thank you for all the work you do,” said Delaware County Council member Joanne Phillips. “I know that you guys go above and beyond in many areas, so your commitment to taking care of our people is something we’re very grateful for.”

“You may not always get the recognition you deserve,” said Delaware County Council Chair Richard Womack. “But just know that your work is not going unnoticed, we appreciate it, and we will continue to support you in any way that we can.”

To learn more about National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, visit the [website](#) of the National Center for Victims of Crime. For more information about each agency mentioned that advocates for crime victims, click their name where mentioned in the article above.



## **Delaware County Delivers for Residents Amidst National County Government Month**

Delaware County revealed their **Delco Delivers** initiative this week as part of *National County Government Month*, highlighting how they are serving residents, investing taxpayer dollars wisely, and making Delaware County a better place to live and work. Executive Director Barbara O’Malley detailed the work that has gone into **Delco Delivers** at Wednesday’s County Council meeting, discussing some of what the county has prioritized and how it benefits residents.

“We support our residents through every age and every stage of life,” said O’Malley. “We’re improving maternal and infant health, supporting children and youth, seniors and veterans. We are providing care and support for those with mental illnesses, developmental disabilities, and those with housing issues to help people lead their most independent and productive lives.”

Among the ways Delaware County has invested in the safety of their residents, earlier this year they debuted a state-of-the-art emergency communications system **on time and \$2 million under budget**. Improvements include **99% on-street coverage** and **faster startup times for first responder handheld radios** along with **improved compatibility between agencies**. This has led to an **80% reduction in dropped calls**, keeping first responders safe and ensuring they can reach residents quicker.

The Delaware County Health Department recently launched their Community Health Improvement Plan focused on multiple priority areas. These areas included promoting Whole Person Care, preventing Mental Health and Substance Abuse Disorders, promoting maternal, parental, and infant health, and preventing chronic diseases. Since 2024, DCHD has distributed more than **15,000 drug test strips**, seen more than **2,500 patients** at clinics, and **assisted over 250 seniors in obtaining their Crozer medical records**.

In 2025, the Delaware County Planning Department was instrumental in securing and administering millions in funding for **parks, trails, and safer streets**. They secured more than **\$70 million** in roadway improvements and over **\$10 million** in funding for towns for non-county parks and infrastructure while awarding over **\$20 million** in grants for green ways throughout Delco.

One of Delaware County’s most active and engaged departments is the Elections Department, which has consistently made elections more secure while being fiscally responsible. In 2025, they began **saving taxpayers over \$100,000 per year** through precinct consolidation, implemented “Hash Verification” to keep Delco votes safe, and processed over **65,000 requests for mail-in ballots**.

Many Delco residents rely on the Delaware County Department of Human Services, which plays a central role in improving life across the county. In 2025, they provided **housing help for 350+ residents**, secured a **\$425,000 grant for juvenile delinquency prevention**, and secured nearly **\$300 million** in non-county funds.

“I am incredibly proud of the work our county employees do to serve residents every day,” said Delaware County Council Chair Richard Womack. “Whether it’s the Health Department keeping our communities healthy or our Human Services team providing our residents with crucial services, we are consistently delivering for Delco.”

Delaware County is excited to celebrate *National County Government Month* by sharing their Delco Delivers initiative, which shares a unified message of how the county is delivering for residents. *National County Government Month*, which was established in 1991 and is celebrated every April, is meant to raise awareness of local programs/services, champion the county workforce, and boost civic engagement.

“I want to thank each and every one of our county employees for the work they do to improve the lives of their friends and neighbors,” said Delaware County Vice Chair Christine Reuther. “Their hard work too often doesn’t get the recognition it deserves, so we are proud to celebrate them this month as a part of National County Government Month.”

As part of Delco Delivers, Delaware County will be providing fact sheets for each department, which will share each of their constituent service numbers, and department one-pagers, which will summarize what each department does and why it’s so important to the county.

For more information about National County Government Month, visit the National Association of Counties [website](#). To learn more about Delco Delivers, visit [delcopa.gov](http://delcopa.gov) or follow Delaware County Council on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

# DELCO DELIVERS

576,830 Residents,  
**ONE DELCO**

Your Tax Dollars at work!

Across **576,000+** residents, Delaware County continues to **deliver** on its promise of creating a better home for all. **3,000+** employees across the County contribute - on a daily basis - to build a safer, more-prosperous, **Delco for all**.

OVER **3,000** COUNTY EMPLOYEES + NEARLY **585,000** CONSTITUENTS SERVED = OVER **42.6 billion** IN ECONOMIC OUTPUT

## EMERGENCY SERVICES ENHANCEMENTS

Delaware County deployed a **state-of-the-art** emergency communications system **on-time** and **under-budget**.

### IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

- **Greater coverage area** for first responder handhelds.
- **Faster startup times** for emergency radios.
- **Interoperability** between agencies.



DROPPED CALLS REDUCED BY **80%**

Delaware County's 911 system received **over 800,000** calls in 2025.

The County delivered once again, reducing dropped calls by **over 80%** following the implementation of the Automated Abandoned Callback (AAC) system.

## COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

The Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) launched an **action plan** to address needs following its Community Health Assessment.

DCHD honed in on **3 priority areas** that it would address over the course of 4 years.

### PRIORITY AREAS INCLUDED:

1. Promote **Whole Person Care** and Prevent Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders.
2. Promote **Maternal, Parental, And Infant Health**.
3. Prevent **Chronic Diseases**.

SINCE 2024, DCHD HAS:

DISTRIBUTED MORE THAN **15,000** DRUG TEST STRIPS,

SEEN MORE THAN **2,500** PATIENTS AT CLINICS,

& ASSISTED OVER **250** SENIORS AT RECORDS CLINICS

## MILLIONS SECURED IN FUNDING FOR A BETTER DELCO

THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT

**IN 2025:**

SECURED MORE THAN **\$70 Million**

FOR ROADWAY IMPROVEMENTS

OVER **\$20 Million**

AWARDED IN GRANTS FOR GREEN WAYS

The Delaware County Planning Department was instrumental in securing and administering **millions in funding** for parks, trails, & safer streets.

In 2025, the Planning Department played a **central role** in securing over **\$10 million** in funding for towns for **non-County parks and infrastructure**.

## DELCO COUNTS, DELCO VOTES

In 2025, The County's Elections Department efforts made elections **more secure** and **saved** more taxpayer dollars.

THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

**IN 2025:**

- Began saving taxpayers over **\$100,000** annually through precinct streamlining.
- Implemented "Hash Verification" which ushered in **advanced security** for Delco's votes.
- Processed over **65,000** requests for mail-in ballots

THEIR [DELCO'S] LEADERSHIP & DEDICATION TO ENSURING ELECTIONS ARE... **SAFE, SECURE, ACCURATE, & ACCESSIBLE IS NOTEWORTHY**

- US ELECTIONS ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

## SOCIAL SERVICES IN DELCO

The Department of Human Services (HSA) plays a central role in bettering life in Delco.

In 2026, HSA laid out how they're enhancing their delivery of a **better Delco**.

### HSA'S 2026 STRATEGIC GOALS:

- Implementing an **All-Access** services program
- Further departmental optimizations, **saving thousands for taxpayers**.
- Rolling-out resident **awareness** initiatives.

SOCIAL SERVICES IN 2025:

SECURED NEARLY **\$300 Million** IN NON-COUNTY FUNDS

PROVIDED HOUSING HELP FOR **OVER 350** RESIDENTS

SECURED A **\$425,000** GRANT FOR JUVENILE DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

# Delaware County Controller's Office Recognized for Excellence in Financial Reporting

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The Delaware County Controller's Office has been awarded the prestigious **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting** by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2024. Additionally, former Controller and current Council member Joanne Phillips was presented with the **Award of Financial Reporting Achievement** for her work leading the office.

Controller Louis Rosenthal presented the award and shared its significance at Wednesday's County Council meeting.

**The Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting**, and receiving this award represents a significant accomplishment. The criteria for receiving the award are extensive and detailed and the certificate was reviewed by GFOA's Special Review Committee. The committee reviews and offers commentary on adherence to accounting standards set by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board and review by independent auditors.

The GFOA established the Certificate of Achievement program to encourage local governments to go beyond minimum accounting requirements and prepare comprehensive, transparent financial reports each year. These reports are filled with regulatory agencies overseeing municipal finance and are relied upon by stakeholders like creditors, grantors, developers, rating agencies, and business owners to assess the County's financial position and fiscal health.

"Receiving this award is a tremendous honor and shows Delaware County's commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsible financial management," said former Delaware County Controller and current Council member Joanne Phillips. "This reflects our dedication to safeguarding taxpayer dollars, maintaining the highest standards in financial reporting, and ensuring that residents have a clear and accurate understanding of the County's fiscal health."

Phillips and her staff earned this honor every year of her tenure since she took office in 2018, continuing Delaware County's long-standing record of excellence in financial reporting.

"This award is a testament to the dedication and expertise of the team in the Controller's Office," said Delaware County Controller Louis Rosenthal. "I am proud to continue a tradition of financial integrity, compliance with evolving governmental accounting standards, and providing taxpayers with a clear and comprehensive picture of the County's financial position."

A copy of the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for 2024, along with other financial reports and audits, is available on the Controller's Office website at [delcopa.gov/controller](https://delcopa.gov/controller).

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## Lansdowne Theater Reopened for First Time Since 1987 Thanks to Help from County Council and Local Partners



Earlier this month, members of Delaware County Council attended the Lansdowne Theater Opening Gala Celebration, marking the completion of a years-long \$20 million project to restore the Historic Lansdowne Theater to its previous glory.

“The restoration of the Lansdowne Theater is a crucial example of how Delco Delivers for everyone lucky enough to call our region home,” said Delaware County Council Chair Richard Womack. “This is a moment of pride for Lansdowne, for Delco,

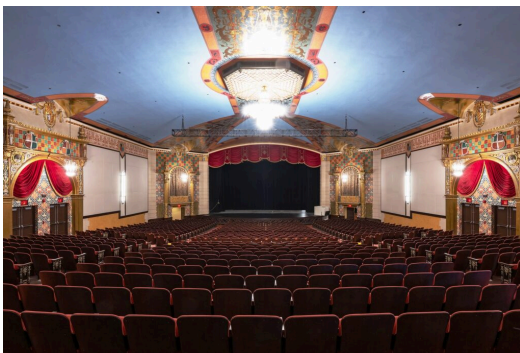
for those that love the arts, love our communities, or even those that just love to see something done right.”

The restoration of the theater, which was originally built in 1927, has a capacity of 1,280, and serves as one of the last remaining theaters from the 1920s in the Philadelphia region, was **made possible through over \$3 million in investments from Delaware County Council**. \$2.5 million was allocated through a grant from the American Rescue Plan Act, signed into law by President Joe Biden in 2021. Another \$570,489 came in block grants by way of the Delaware County Office of Housing and Community Development via the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

This investment, along with a \$1.5 million federal earmark co-introduced by Senator Bob Casey and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, and donations from 1,000+ individuals and private groups allowed the theater to be restored. Private groups included the Foundation for Delaware County, National Endowment for the Arts, Connelly Foundation, Dapplecroft Fund of the Philadelphia Foundation, Presser Foundation, Greater Lansdowne Civic Association, Ethel Sergeant Clark Smith Memorial Fund, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Additional financial support came from the Pennsylvania Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (\$4 million), Department of Community and Economic Development (\$1 million), Commonwealth Financing Authority (\$200,000), PA Historical and Museum Commission (\$124,000), Delaware County Interactive Gaming Revenue Authority (\$25,000), and the Borough of Lansdowne (\$200,000 permit and easement fee relief).

The Lansdowne Theater opened 99 years ago with a showing of the silent film “Knockout Riley” and served as a cultural hub for Delaware County, hosting film showings, live performances, and more. In July of 1987, an electrical fire broke out, closing the theater indefinitely.



Renovations included the restoration of the architectural integrity of the theater, the historic lighting fixtures, and other architectural finishes. The new seats match the original 1927 design, with new/expanded restrooms, a fire suppression system, lobby bar, 1,500 square foot patron lounge, and a new box office being added as well. The entire roof, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical systems were replaced, along with an ADA-compliant addition to the building being constructed at the rear of the theater to accommodate dressing rooms,

storage rooms, and a kitchen. The renovations also made the first floor of the theater ADA-compliant.

The restored theater is expected to attract **over 100,000 visitors annually**, spurring additional investment in Lansdowne, Clifton Heights, Upper Darby, Havertown, and other nearby communities.

For more information about the restoration of the Lansdowne Theater and upcoming events, visit [TheLansdowneTheater.com](http://TheLansdowneTheater.com).

# Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected

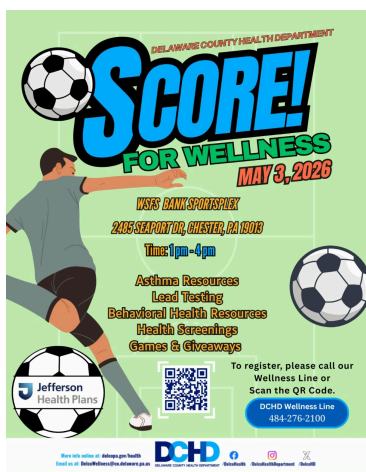
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## NAMi Main Line PA to Host Youth Mental Health Summit on Sunday, April 26

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 to Host Score For Wellness Event in Chester on Sunday, May 3

The Delaware County Health Department is hosting Score for Wellness, a family-friendly event focused on connecting residents with valuable health resources and services, on Sunday May 3 from 1-4 PM at WSFS Bank Sportsplex (**2485 Seaport Drive, Chester, PA 19013**). Available resources and activities include asthma resources, lead testing, behavioral health resource, health screenings, games, and giveaways. To register, scan the QR code on the flyer or call the DCHD Wellness Line at **484-276-2100**.

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## 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 in Chester on **Thursday, May 7**. You can learn more by visiting [delcogives.org](http://delcogives.org). Learn about volunteer opportunities by clicking [here](#).

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## LIHEAP Deadline Extended to Friday, May 8

The deadline to apply for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) has been extended to Friday, May 8. **Through LIHEAP, residents can receive a cash grant between \$200 and \$1,000 to help pay their heating bill.** The amount depends on household income, size, and fuel type. The grant is a one-time payment that will be sent directly to your utility provider to be credited on your bill. To learn more and apply, click [here](#).



## 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 hundreds of 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](http://delco10miler.com).



Delaware County Council members



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