



Blue Light Special

The Volunteer Heart

Introducing a new column, written by our volunteers, featuring thoughts about volunteering and stories that describe the general experience as a volunteer. You are encouraged to submit your sentiments. (mrc@co.delaware.pa.us) It can be said that the kindness of a volunteer can send ripples of kindness throughout the community. Please enjoy the words of Georg H. Strey whose writing was first published through the Blog last month and appears on the back page of the newsletter.

Delco Health Department Finally Official

Source: from Health Dept. News Page

The Health Department leadership team, under the direction of Melissa Lyon, will lead a team of 53 local health experts to improve the quality of life and health outcomes for Delaware County residents.

"As of April 2, 2022, the Delaware County Health Department will, at the local level, address fundamental public health issues including, but not limited to communicable, infectious diseases, vaccines preventable diseases and maternal child health issues," said Melissa Lyon, Director of the Delaware County Health Department. "We will have the ability to efficiently collect data that drives positive health outcomes for residents, and fully operate in what I call the 3 P's: **P**revention of illness and injury, **P**rotection for all populations, and **P**romotion of healthy habits and lifestyles." The Delaware County Health Department has already started the process to address health equity, establishing the following Divisions:

Environmental Health Division- responsible for the prevention of human injury and illness, the promotion of a healthy environment, and protecting the community from environmental hazards.

Personal Health Division- to promote healthy behaviors and habits that prevent chronic illness and the spread of infectious diseases and ensure access to clinical services and programs to all residents of Delaware County.

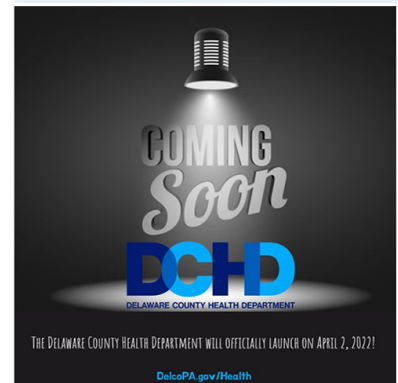
Population Health Division- to serve as the chief health strategist and build cross-sector partnerships that foster collaboration, create funding opportunities, and promote collective action with community partners, agencies, and healthcare institutions to ensure health equity across all communities.

For more information about the Delaware County Health Department please visit <https://delcopa.gov/health>.



"I want to change the world," said Tiny Dragon.
"Start with the next person who needs your help,"
replied Big Panda

jamesnorbury.com



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*Unprecedented
Performance by
Delaware County
Volunteers*



Successful Handoff to Population Health

by Diane Daye and Robbie Kankus, CCDC Volunteer Associate Coordinators & VPOD Commanders

As you are aware, the purpose of the Citizen Corps of Delaware County, which includes the MRC, is to be prepared to support the County Department of Emergency Services. Our main objective is to be available for any type of emergency or disaster situation to provide more hands to assist Delco residents for a short-term period of about 72 hours.

It has been about two years since we have been deployed and about a year of that has been driving the Covid 19 Task Force operation. We trained for a pandemic-type event for ten years and while we never wanted to have to use that training, the Covid Virus challenged us from beginning to end. While long-term deployments are not our usual modus operandi, a review of our accomplishments illustrates that the training we learned paid off in dividends.

According to the County Epidemiologist:

- Testing – Delco has the highest test rate per capita: 740 per 1,000 persons
- Vaccinations – Delco has the highest rate of vaccination in the 5 counties (second only to Philadelphia)

And according to the MRC reports we have submitted for the time period of January-December 2021:

- ◇ 523 Emergency days (under Covid Emergency Status)
- ◇ 204 Non-emergency days
- ◇ 7,000 Hours we were “open” to the public
- ◇ 13,000 volunteer responses to missions
- ◇ 84,500 Volunteer hours served
- ◇ \$2,411,841 Volunteer Impact Value

These statistics are unprecedented in Delaware County as well as in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania!

Now Delaware County’s VPODs have transitioned from operating under CCDC/DES to operating under the new Delaware County Health Department’s Population Health Team. The success of the volunteers operating thousands of hours of VPODS open to the public has resulted in this smooth hand-off of operations to the Delco Health Department.

On the eve of this publication release, the Tuesday and Saturday missions for Chester and Yeadon have been discontinued. CCDC Volunteers are being asked to continue their Friday support of the Watkins Center Vaccine location through 4/1/2022. The Health Department Team will then shift their focus on training and preparing for the young pediatric COVID-19 vaccinations, and other non-Pandemic public Health initiatives that will include the continued partnership with the Volunteers.. (Continued on Pg 5)

Volunteer Database Gets a Facelift

by Judy McKinney, CCDC Associate Coordinator

Galaxy Digital, the parent company of our Volunteer Database, has many platform names representing the various iterations of the development of the software product. Because there have been new versions of the Volunteer Database sold over the years, any enhancement or software modification we request, must be easy to program and compliment all the past versions to be adopted by the development team. They do improve the product from time to time but the promotion to the client ahead of the changes is not always apparent.

This month we noticed that the ReDI logo has disappeared! In its place, from the volunteer screens, is nothing. On the administration, “behind the scenes” screens however, a new moniker is innocuously visible.

We are so focused on auditing the hours, teaching the software to others, improving the process, reports and the mission minutia, that we only notice these subtle changes in moments of calm reflection of the days’ accomplishments.

Galaxy casually acknowledged that there has been a rebranding of the platform. Anticipating another rebranding, from now on we will refer to what was ReDI as the “**Galaxy Database**”.

Successful Handoff to Population Health

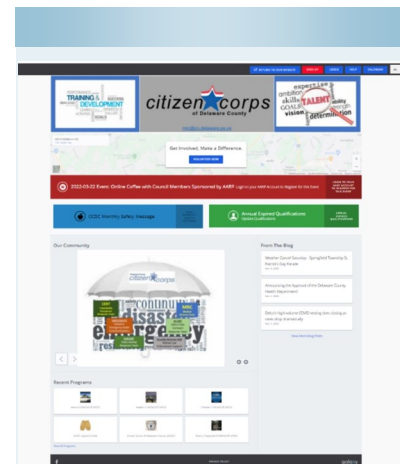
(Continued from Pg 4)

CCDC/DES has supported this transition by providing documentation, training, and volunteers to the missions overseen by the Health Department. We (Diane Daye and Robbie Kankus), CCDC Leadership Officers and Task Force VPOD Commanders, are working with the Population Health Team to ensure a smooth and knowledgeable transition. Many of the processes and initiatives created by CCDC have been integrated into the Health Department VPODs to maintain consistency and efficacy for public comfort and safety.

Take a moment and reflect on what this announcement truly means for Delaware County; the missions to provide initial COVID-19 Vaccination opportunities to anyone who wanted it has been an overwhelming success!

As we close this chapter, we look to open new ones and invite you to join us in continuing to serve the Delaware County Community with post-pandemic vaccination All Hazards initiatives of the Department of Emergency Services & coming Public Health Initiatives.

We are proud to serve with 3,000 of the best volunteers in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. It is also noteworthy to congratulate many of our office personnel and VPOD Commanders who have accepted full time employment with the County in DES positions and Health Department positions.



Supporting the Health Department in the field to perpetuate excellence



Delco ARES Upcoming Events

by Chris Kelleher, ARES Member and CCDC Volunteer Associate Coordinator

Delco ARES Mission

Providing Emergency Communications Support

The Delaware County Amateur Radio Emergency Service is an organized unit of trained, FCC-licensed volunteer Amateur Radio operators dedicated to providing back-up, auxiliary emergency communication support to the Delaware County Department of Emergency Services (DES). Support is also provided to local, county and state agencies including PEMA and federal agencies including FEMA during disasters and other emergencies. The unit also provides communication support for public service events, widespread health emergencies and important exercises and drills.

Delco ARES Field Day Expo

The Delco ARES Field Day Expo 2022, taking place on June 25th and 26th, will be a live exercise to test and demonstrate the capabilities of the organization to deploy, set up and function during times of need in supporting the Delaware County Department of Emergency Services and the Delaware County community and residents.

The Expo will test the capabilities of our ARES organization in addition to serve as a platform to exercise and train existing members, utilize the Delaware County Go Kits and members private equipment, recruit new members, connect with ARES organizations and HAM operators locally, statewide and tristate, and introduce the organization to the community and its stakeholders.

This event will enable us to show our technological diversity by participating in the many broadcast formats (multiple frequency bands, digital voice and data transmissions etc.) associated with field day as well as scheduled ARES exercises that the public would not normally have access to. Running this exercise at the same time as Field Day gives us the ability to demonstrate Message handling at a fast pace as well as the opportunity to communicate with people all around the world. This is intended to recruit new volunteers and to build confidence in our ability to respond to all emergencies.

What is Field Day?

ARRL Field Day on the fourth full weekend of June every year is the opportunity for thousands of amateur radio enthusiasts throughout the U.S and Canada to set up temporary communications stations and make contact with like-minded people. Licensed radio operators (often called "Hams") spend the weekend practicing community outreach, emergency preparedness, and technical skills.



Providing Emergency Communication Support



Delaware County Animal Response Team

by Sue Kelley, CART Coordinator and CCDC Associate Coordinator

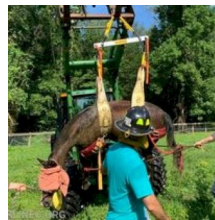
Led by Sue Kelley, members of the Delaware County Animal Response Team plan for, train for, and respond to disasters affecting animals and by setting up and staffing pet shelters. Activities include trainings and exercises, response during emergencies, animal rescue support, sheltering and public education. By educating pet families, we build their knowledge on how to react in a emergency—from simple first aid problems to a full scale disaster.

Who We Are

The Delaware County Animal Response Team (DelCART) is a unit of the Pennsylvania State Animal Response Team (PART), a network of public agencies and private partners dedicated to the preparedness, care, and recovery of animals in emergencies. DelCART works closely with local emergency management services and neighboring CARTs in southeastern Pennsylvania. Through our joint meetings and trainings, we are able to support each other in cases where a disaster overwhelms our single county's resources and staff. Our volunteers are trained in animal handling and disaster sheltering to ensure your pets are kept safe and secure in the event of a crisis.

What We Do

If disaster strikes and you must evacuate your home, don't leave your pets behind! DelCART makes it possible to bring your pets with you and out of danger. Evacuation shelters set up by the Red Cross and other emergency agencies often cannot accommodate pets safely, but our trained volunteers will establish and maintain a shelter close by that is equipped for displaced animals.

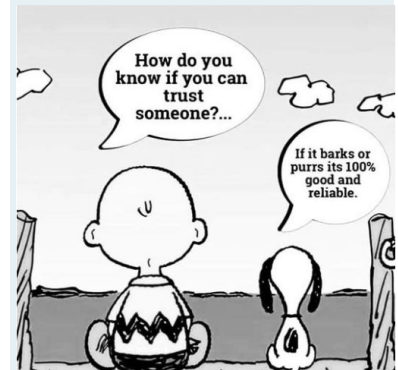


Pets will be securely housed in supplied kennels or crates. You should notify us of your pet's medical needs or dietary requirements and provide any special food or medications. You will be asked to participate in their daily care and feeding whenever possible.

Join Us

We provide training to our members and other interested parties throughout the year to improve our abilities to serve both the pets and people of the county. Our volunteers have opportunities to learn about putting a pet shelter together (and take it down!), assist with educational outreach - staffing tables at events or teaching classes to various groups. They can learn or improve their skills in administration, public speaking, inventory control, volunteer recruitment and management and more.

When we are not preparing for our duties, we are available to assist the larger volunteer group - CCDC - Citizen Corps of Delaware County. Here you can add networking, team management, logistics, event control and even more to your volunteer experiences. So, whatever your interest, we'd love to have you join us and learn how to help Delaware County's pets and citizens, while finding a great group to work with!



What is the PETS Act?

The Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards (PETS) Act was passed by the U.S. Congress in 2006. It stipulates that state and local emergency plans must include provisions for individuals with household pets and service animals in the event of a disaster. The PETS Act covers evacuation and transportation, sheltering (incl. food, water, hygiene, etc.), emergency veterinary care, record keeping and reunification procedures. It does NOT specify how these services are rendered (plans vary by state) or require private accommodations or carriers to admit pets (access for service animals is covered under the Americans with Disabilities Act).





The Volunteer Heart

The Small Things Matter

By Georg H. Strey

Thanks To All Hospital Missions Volunteers!

During the past few weeks, I had a great opportunity to work with the best volunteers ever. All your patience and dedication to all the small things prove that all the small things in life matter.

It's proof that many small tasks will result in one huge one and that together we all can accomplish much more than the sum of all individuals could ever do. Every single completed task made the day of staff or patients a little bit better. And therefore, it made the world a little better, you made the world a little better. What we all have done during this challenging time was incredible and even more important it had a huge impact. Huge impact on nurses, staff, hospital, community and most important on patients.

My thanks go to every single volunteer who has done one of the many ER Hospital shifts. And to everyone who supported us in background from our command, MRC, to families, friends, strangers. Volunteers like you are the reason why I volunteer. Because with volunteers like you we can help people who need us. If we are asked to serve in this way again, I encourage you to sign up for these missions.

When asked "Will you continue to volunteer once we are out of the VPOD business and return to more pre-Covid opportunities?", Georg responded:

"In Germany it's a lifetime commitment. Once you enlist you are caught forever. And when you get older you will just switch from Active to Passive Membership. The passive members are usually taking care about training, organizations, promotion, ..., baking cakes. Where the active ones take the missions. And even more, they already start with kids and put them into the Youth Department. But apart from that we also made plans, practiced, organized, preparing for Day X, several projects with schools, companies, organizations.

For CCDC I was helping out dozens of times at Aston - VPOD, a couple of food pantries, food drives, food collections. Therefore, I'm not done yet. .

*"In Germany, it is a lifetime commitment.
I'm not done yet."*



Oh, One More Thing....

Citizen Corps of Delaware County

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<https://delcocitizenccrps.org>

<https://ccdcredi.delcocitizenccrps.org>



DW Euromaxx is in Cardiff.
March 9 at 4:45 AM · 🌐

🇬🇧 A tearful eye in the national colors of #Ukraine. British street artist *My Dog Sighs* created this touching mural in Cardiff, Wales. You can see the silhouette of St. Andrew's Church in Kyiv in the eye. A fire cloud rises to the right of it. The artist tweeted that he wanted to express his "sadness and anger over the Ukrainian invasion by Russia".

📍 Northcote Lane, Cardiff, UK

citizen★***corps***
of Delaware County