

*The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.*

*Gandhi*



# Blue Light Express

## Volunteers, Let's Get Together !!!

A select CCDC committee, headed by Annie Favinger, has been working very hard for many months to develop an event where we can all come together in a social environment and celebrate our accomplishments and to socialize with one another.

We are usually in a serious mode, working diligently to mitigate some emergency situation or training to accomplish the same. At least once a year, we like to have some fun. Annie and her team have navigated uncertainty and temporary, tentative plans for two years and now they have succeeded in this event at the Rose Tree County Park on August 18, 2022 from 5:30p to 8:30p.

We have spent a difficult two years supporting each other in the battle against covid-19. Even though it is summer, and we are in vacation mode, we want to get together again, this time for some laughs and to reconnect with those strangers who became friends over training and operations activities. Those strangers whom we only got to know by voice and covered by a mask....now we can begin to know the faces! The AM Radio Band will entertain us, so bring your chairs and bring your family if you like. This is going to be a party!

## National Night Out-The Volunteer Back Story

Did you know that National Night Out has local volunteer roots? In 1981, a Lower Merion Neighborhood Watch Volunteer, named Matt, realized that there needed to be a more unified way to bring communities together to enhance civic involvement and community safety. For three years Matt worked to establish a better network and way to approach incorporating community policing with other like-minded individuals until 1984, when National Night Out was established. Their Mission Statement is ([www.natw.org](http://www.natw.org)): 'National Night Out is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood comradery'.

CCDC Volunteers will be out supporting this year's National Night Out festivities in five municipalities on Tuesday, August 2nd starting at 5pm. Use your Galaxy account to sign up; or simply come as a member of the community. While you enjoy the festivities, remember that a volunteer, just like you, found a way to improve their community that was embraced nationally! Thank you for helping to make Delaware County a safer, more community-centered place to live!

Register through Galaxy to celebrate your accomplishments & receive your COVID-19 Challenge Coin!

**Citizen Corps of Delaware County  
MRC 2022 Recognition and  
Celebration**

**WHEN: AUGUST 18, 2022**  
5:30pm to 8:30pm  
*(Program to begin at 6:00 pm)*  
*(This event will be called due to rain)*

**WHERE: Rose Tree County Park**  
1671 N. Providence Rd., Media, PA  
19063

Bring chairs, blankets, snacks, beverages (non-alcoholic) & enjoy a brief recognition ceremony before enjoying the sounds of the AM Radio Tribute Band & refreshments generously donated in your honor!

Thank You to the AM Radio Tribute Band, Delco Parks & Recreation, DES, & to our Delaware County Leadership Champions who Supported this Event!

**citizen corps**  
of Delaware County



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# Volunteering to Help the Healing from Covid

By Judy McKinney

As 2022 began, I was reading about the COVID statistics in Delaware County and wanted to honor all of the people who died due to Covid or its complications. The Aids Quilt came to mind as I remembered visiting it displayed on the Mall in Washington, D.C. It was a powerful exhibition of lost humanity from a devastating virus and a heart-bursting expression of love, loss, and grief.

With that in mind, I started the **DelcoPA Covid Quilt Project** in February with Barbe Smith, a CCDC volunteer, with whom many of you volunteered at the testing and vaccination sites. Barbe is an enthusiastic and clever compadre and I am grateful to have her partnering with me in this project. We contacted a couple of local quilting groups-Brandywine Valley Quilters and Undercover Quilters- and recruited them to sponsor the project utilizing their crafting talents to sew and assemble the quilts for us. We are honored to have them on board.

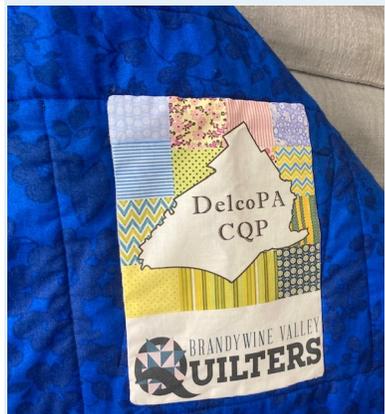
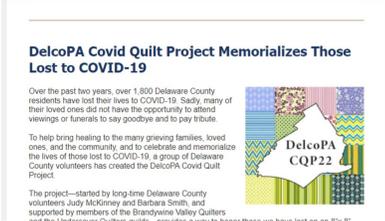
Basically, a friend or family member who knows of someone who died of Covid, gathers together items relating to the deceased and either creates a memorial square themselves OR sends us the materials and our team will assemble a memorial square for them. Once we acquire 15 squares, they are sewn together to make a quilt. Since launching in March, we have completed a background quilt and gathered 7 individual Memorial Squares towards our next Quilt..

There are 1900+ Delaware County residents who passed away from Covid-19 according to the statistics. The quilt is a respectful way to honor to remember them in a permanent manner, and provide their family and friends with a way of healing from the chaos the pandemic has wrought on the world.

We had a terrific front page spread in the Delco Times in March by Kathleen Carey, an article in the Delaware County Council Newsletter through Adrienne Marofsky, and promotion through a Facebook Page presence that Barbe manages. We also attended a quilt show in July at Neumann University where our sample Quilt was displayed and I explained our project to anyone who would listen.

Based on research from the Delaware County Government Covid Memorial Page and Memorial articles found in the Philadelphia Inquirer, we have done our best to contact family members and affiliated associations of those who died in an effort to publicize this project and inviting them to submit a square. Your suggestions and assistance in contacting any affected families and promoting our efforts would be both welcomed and appreciated.

Our website ([DelcoPAcovidquiltproject.com](http://DelcoPAcovidquiltproject.com)) explains everything and provides the details of making the Memorial Squares. As soon as the our current memorial squares are compiled, they will appear on our website with the narratives of the individuals' lives for reflection and remembrance. Once we have a Quilt finished we plan to tour the County with the panels traveling to public venues which will be listed on our website and Facebook page. Ultimately, the panels will reside in a permanent location for all to view.



# MCM Full Scale Exercise (MCM FSE)

By Cathy Pensyl

As you may recall, on June 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Delaware County Emergency Services (DES), in conjunction with the Delaware County Health Department (DCHD) and numerous stakeholders, including the Citizen Corps of Delaware County (CCDC), conducted a full-scale exercise (FSE) of our Medical Countermeasures (MCM) Program. Staff and volunteers, alike, by worked through a scenario involving a public health emergency at a public location in Delaware County that required a PILL BASED MCM response. Which differs greatly from our experience with a vaccine based response for COVID 19. To be clear - THIS WAS AN EXERCISE AND NO ACTUAL EMERGENCY TOOK PLACE. You might be curious about what else was happening while you were receiving messages through Galaxy about your availability.

A simulated Medical Countermeasures Operations Center (MOC) was opened. Leaders from various stakeholder groups (referenced in sidebar) assembled to coordinate the response and collaborated under the leadership of MOC Commander Danielle Koerner and a Deputy MOC Coordinator Shelly Takach of DCHD. Ed Kline and Wilbur Wolf designed and led the exercise.

Specifics of the scenario were presented: the when, where, and how of the simulated agent causing the public health emergency was released, and what areas of Delaware County and the surrounding region would have been affected if this had been a real emergency. Discussions that followed explored how to address the immediate need for medical countermeasures dispensing to citizens, (preventive medication needed to start within 48 hours of exposure in our scenario). Plans were exercised to dispense medication 24 hours a day, in 8-hour shifts, for 5 days. Open PODs were contacted to determine the availability of their location for medication dispensing and whether they required additional staffing. Closed PODs (private care groups & businesses) were also contacted to assure their ability to dispense medication to their internal populations. Transportation coordinated the delivery of boxes of simulated medication to the various locations; actual deliveries were made. ARES set up communications equipment at the MOC and several other locations in the county to test their tertiary communications systems.

Periodic reports throughout the exercise updated the team on the status of POD opening preparations, medication and equipment deliveries, and availability of personnel. They also added new information to the unfolding simulation (called injects). AGAIN-THIS WAS AN EXERCISE ONLY- NO ACTUAL EMERGENCY OCCURRED.

Dennis and I used ServPA to alert volunteers that they would be needed to assist in the effort and used Galaxy to post missions for the open PODs. We first alerted volunteers to standby for communications about volunteer needs. When the decision was made to start dispensing, we built missions for each of the open POD locations in the county and requested volunteers for each of those sites. We evaluated your responses to determine if volunteers could provide enough support or if other resources would be needed.

Lessons learned from this EXERCISE specific to CCDC:

- Existing volunteers alone cannot cover an event such as this; there are not enough of us. We need to continue recruitment efforts.
- There are multiple Open PODs. It takes time to build all those missions. We need a team of people to be able to accomplish this in a short time.
- Volunteers need hands-on open POD practice: expect to see this in the future so you will know what to do if you ever must work in this type of setting.



## MCM Stakeholders

- Closed Point of Dispensing (POD) ,
- Open POD coordinators,
- transportation coordinators,
- safety & security experts,
- Reps from local hospitals,
- Pennsylvania Department of Health (PaDOH),
- Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA),
- DES,
- DCHD,
- Delaware County Public Relations, CCDC Leadership (Dennis Daye and Cathy Pensyl),
- ARES ham radio group

**WE ARE NOT  
A TEAM  
BECAUSE WE  
WORK TOGETHER.**

**WE ARE**  
*a team because*  
**WE RESPECT,**  
trust, and care  
*for each other.*

**Leadership is service,  
not position.**  
**Tim Fargo**



**Ann Marie Favinger**  
**Volunteer Coordinator**

Ann Marie is an EMT, an administrative assistant at the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy, now owned by St. Joe's, and works as a Pharmacy Tech part-time. She is married to a firefighter/EMT and lives in Clifton Heights. She oversees project areas and has focused her efforts of late organizing and leading the social team for our annual get-together on 8/18/22 at Rose Tree County Park.

## The Volunteer Heart

By Annie Favinger



My Name is Annie Favinger and I am one of the Volunteer Management Coordinators, or Deputy Dog, which is my unofficial title. I have been with the MRC and CCDC since 2011. I was working at the Delaware County Courthouse during this time and saw a flyer on the wall. It said if you are an EMT, Pharmacy Tech, nurse, or doctor and want to volunteer come to this meeting at the Delaware County Intermediate Unit. I said to myself that I was two out of the 4 occupations listed, so I would give it a chance. I had recently become an EMT and a Pharm Tech. So this sounded right up my alley.

I went to the meeting and this is where I met Wilbur Wolf. If anyone has ever had a conversation with Wilbur then you know he can be very persuasive. He started explaining the Medical Countermeasures Program and how I could be on the front line to protect my family and my Delaware County community. I remember being super energized at the end of this orientation.

About six months after the original orientation with Wilbur Wolf, I was invited to an open house meeting about the Medical Reserve Corps. Ed Kline was hired as the Volunteer Manager Coordinator and was charged to organize, train, and engage with all of the volunteers who were willing and able to support the county and community in the case of a pandemic. After this meeting, I walked up and introduced myself and for the next 12 years, I have found my passion for helping people and learned so much about myself. Here with the MRC I could utilize all of my skills, and talents, and have a safe place to grow as a leader. I never in a million years thought that I would be an actual leader in the organization. My time working my way up the ranks has shown me that when you put your desire, drive, and passion to work for you, you will surprise yourself and accomplish things you never dreamed you could. I truly have found a place where I belong.

So if you have a desire or passion for something, keep going until you find what will fuel your fire. What gets you to get out of bed in the middle of the night to help a community that has been flooded and just needs someone to hold their hand? I like being calm in the storm. Sometimes, just being there to hold their hand, offer a coloring book, a deck of cards, or just sit quietly with someone on the worse day of their life, is a blessing. When I see the hope come back to them and they understand that they will get through this that is the greatest feeling I cannot explain. It is just something you need to feel to understand. Once you experience that feeling you will understand why I volunteer.

## Oh, One More Thing....

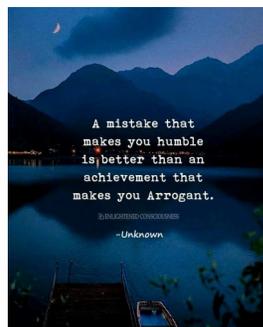
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[mrc@co.delaware.pa.us](mailto:mrc@co.delaware.pa.us)

<https://delcocitizencorps.org>

<https://ccdcredi.delcocitizencorps.org>



A mistake that makes you humble is better than an achievement that makes you arrogant.

Unknown