



# Blue Light Express

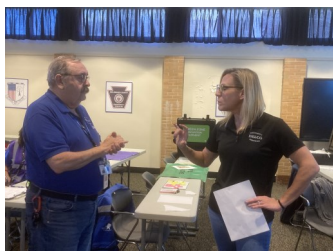
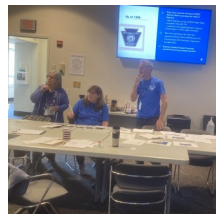
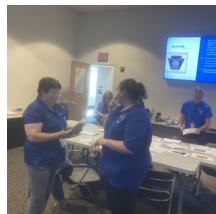
## Exercise, Exercise, Exercise!

By Danielle Koerner

October 28<sup>th</sup>, a sunny, unseasonably warm and beautifully cloudless October Saturday, found CCDC Volunteers and members of the Regional EMS Office, Health Department, and Department of Emergency Services Special Operations and Emergency Management Teams hard at work pretending to evacuate a fictional Long Term Care Facility. Over the course of two sessions, attendees were introduced to Tool Kits specifically designed to track and move residents of Long-Term Care Facilities during urgent unplanned evacuations.

Delaware County Regional EMS Office Director, Pat O'Connell provided an introduction and education on the kits in the morning and overviews of real-world evacuations that have occurred in the past in Delaware County, as well as Best Practices and Lessons Learned. In the afternoon session, attendees were introduced to a fictional facility in need of urgent evacuation, and the 50 long-term care residents who they would be serving.

Attendees were assigned realistic roles and tasks, and directed to tables representing either the Facility, Emergency Operations Center, or the Reception/ Shelter Location. This exercise provided valuable information on implementation of the new kits, and solidified the invaluable role that volunteer play in assuring that the community is served during critical events. This exercise will be repeated and additional opportunities will be provided throughout the New Year!



## CCDC Volunteer Promoted @ DCHD

Janet Barton has been named the DCHD Population Health Manager. Many of you know Janet and have worked with her during the pandemic as she was an integral player on the Covid-19 Task Force. Previous to the pandemic, Janet was on the Communications Workgroup of CCDC.

Once the health department began to take shape, Janet was able to transfer her knowledge and skills to assist with its development. Congratulations to Janet on her new position!

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## In Loving Memory

Ed Lang was a fixture at the Aston VPOD working along side of Joe Cirillo 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, providing guidance, security, briefing and debriefing. He was also a stalwart leader with the Emergency Room Missions when we supplemented the nursing staffs in area hospitals.

I always saw him as a big reliable teddy bear, with a calming command of the situation and a soft-spoken manner. He was kind and engaged in training classes and at missions usually accompanied by his lovely wife, Debby, also a volunteer. CCDC members are not asked about their backgrounds or past jobs or training as part of the onboarding process and this information is revealed in personal conversations, usually when working with each other day after day, does the personal side come to light. Ed's life was briefly described in his untimely obituary:

*"Ed always said, 'I was born on St. Joseph's Day, so my mother named me Ed.' The son of a World War II veteran and a Pennsylvania farm girl, he was raised with a sense of humor, a commitment to service and a natural love of all that life has to offer. From an early age Ed knew he would be a police officer. For more than 30 years he served various communities across Philadelphia, earned the rank of lieutenant, and trained the next generation of officers who are protecting our city today.*

*A police officer by day, at night he was a rock star who played bass guitar and sang in well-known cover bands. After being noticed by former Philadelphia Mayor Ed Rendell, his band was invited to open the Philadelphia Convention Center. When he wasn't performing you could find him singing karaoke and dancing with friends and family. You might also find him at one of the many social clubs or service organizations he joined over the years.*

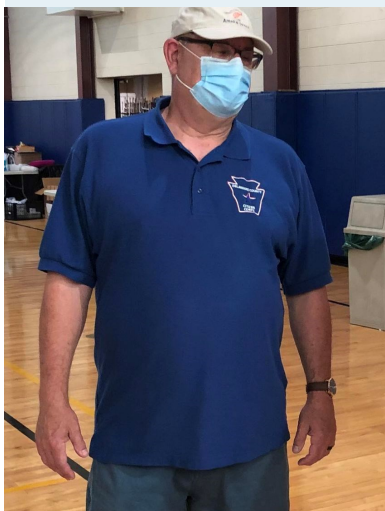
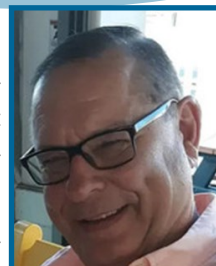
*He was a master storyteller, a friend to all and someone who always remembers your name. Ed loves talking about genealogy, rare coins, and the latest non-fiction book he has his nose buried in.*

*But of all the things in his life – he loved his family the most. He was proud of the men his sons became. He took joy in watching his grandchildren grow and revels in being a Pop-Pop. And he treasured exploring and living life to its fullest with his wife Debby."*

It is safe to say that we are all grateful for knowing Ed, serving with him through the pandemic, and will miss him in training classes and at missions. Gone too soon, we will not get to chat with him about the things we now know interested him and musical talents we could have enjoyed together.

Rest easy Ed Lang, and know that you will be missed by the Citizen Corps of Delaware County.

Judy McKinney



## DES News

### Tom Morgan Retires

Tom Morgan, Chief of Special Operations has retired this month from DES. Tom has a long and distinguished legacy in Delaware County's EMS, Fire, and Emergency Management. He has always been an advocate for the CCDC teams and we wish him well in his retirement. Best of luck in retirement, Tom! Enjoy the family and stay in touch!

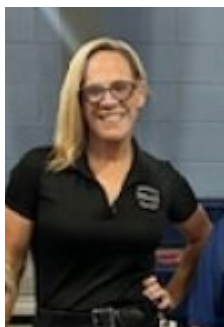


### Danielle Koerner

With Tom out on sick leave, Danielle has been filling in his position while simultaneously responsible for her own duties at DES, which she has done spectacularly. Danielle is Acting Chief of Special Operations now.

### Kelly Sides

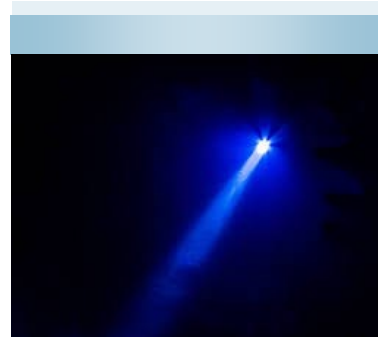
Clearly Danielle cannot juggle this schedule in definitely and thus, Kelly Sides will take over as Acting Volunteer Coordinator. CCDC will work under the supervision and guidance of Kelly Sides, so volunteers can expect to see her signature in emails, messaging and in the handbook from this time forward. Kelly was hired as a Paramedic by Dave Ingram when he was Chief of DCMH EMS. Dave is also a Paramedic. Kelly has been learning the ropes at DES and has been working closely with the CCDC Leadership Team on all matters including learning the Galaxy.



CCDC Leadership has assured Kelly that we are here to serve and make this transition as smooth as possible. We know that you will stand by Kelly as she moves into her new position as the Leadership team intends to.

### Julia Borek

Julia has been training and working as the Mass Care Lead for the past few months. We will learn of new training classes that she wants to introduce as well as the ongoing focus of FAST Team and Sheltering.



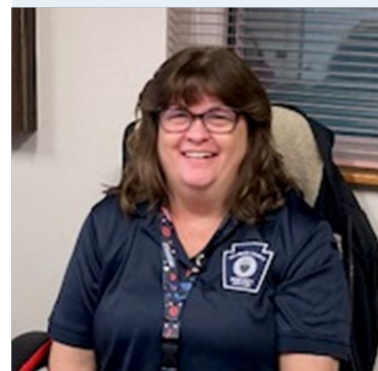
Tom Morgan



Julia Borek

### Teresa Reinmiller

Teresa remains the point person for Danielle, Kelly & Julia and serves as one of the admins for Galaxy and ServPA as well. She has been training with Cathy & Judy on both and will help to manage those programs. Teresa also manages the data for Special Operations, which includes all reportable data from the Volunteer Teams that goes to PADOH and is worthy of note. Moving into the New Year, Teresa will also be working closely with Julia on Recovery Operations.



Teresa Reinmiller

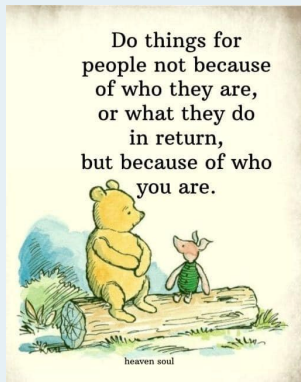
Also worth noting that Special Operations also has additional team members, and that these are the folks who volunteers will deal with regularly for non-emergency operations.





### By The Numbers

Accounts in Galaxy = 4,275  
Accounts Active = 2,459  
Accounts Inactive = 1,816  
**Deployable in 2023 = 123**  
**(Patch & NIMS 100)**  
Volunteers w/NIMS 100 = 142  
Volunteers w/Patch = 227



### CCDC Volunteers at DCHD

During the formation of the Health Department, our volunteers were found to be valuable assets whose knowledge and skills would benefit the department and were hired to develop and manage the various areas needed to care for the county health needs. Here are some of them:

Janet Barton  
Christine Box  
Joe Cirillo  
Donna Davis  
Cynthia Evans  
Carol Von Colln

## CCDC Training Curriculum for 2024

As we start planning for 2024, we wanted to list the training classes we will repeat throughout next year and ask that you let us know other classes that you would like to take as well. Let us know what activities, new skills, and expertise that you would like to add to your volunteer resume!

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

CCDC Orientation Handbook Training & HIPPA  
CPR Certification Class (Pending Confirmation)

ICS 100

AFN Education

Selfcare/Wellness & Situational Awareness

Shelter Basics Fundamentals

DCORT/EBH

MCM 101

Bloodborne Pathogens & Narcan Education

You are the help & Stop the Bleed

MCM 102

Volunteer Preparedness & Deployment Education

Community Preparedness Education

## Book Review: "Code Breaker: Jennifer Doudna, Gene Editing, and the Future of the Human Race"

By Walter Isaacson (Review by Judy McKinney)

CCDC members have two things in common: volunteering and the experience of living through the Coronavirus Pandemic of 2020. This book provides the backstories of the people, countries and research going on years before Covid-19 came into our lives, and the work done by competing academics and rival university labs culminated with the unprecedented collaboration of their achievements based on their innate scientific curiosity.

The story centers around Jennifer Doudna and her navigation of a career in science and the mentors, rivals, coworkers that influenced and inspired her to continue to create innovative and groundbreaking scientific discoveries. It is an interesting journey providing a window into the academic competitiveness, patents, and races to be the first to publish a new solution to be the top in their field. It demonstrates the importance of interdisciplinary cooperation to make those breakthroughs and conscience due diligence of long lasting solutions. Reading this book gives us another thing in common: a detailed understanding of the science and technology that provided the testing tools and vaccinations we used to help our neighbors get through the pandemic.

Amazon review:

"After helping to discover CRISPR, Doudna became a leader in wrestling with gene editing moral issues and, with her collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier, won the Nobel Prize in 2020. Her story is an "enthraling detective story" (*Oprah Daily*) that involves the most profound wonders of nature, from the origins of life to the future of our species."

## Bob Marchisello—Firefighter, Author, Teacher

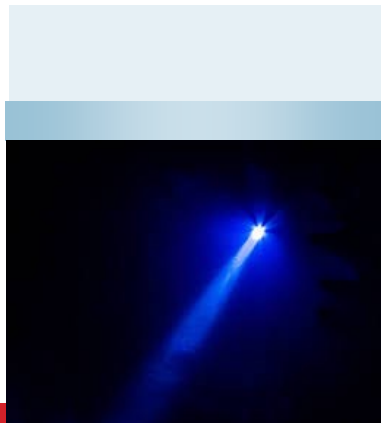
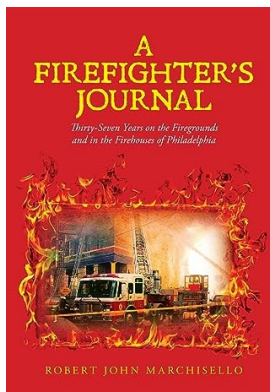
If you missed the Hazmat Training classes you will want to attend next year's class with Bob Marchisello. We have heard great reviews from those who did attend and they all encourage us to make it for the class.

Bob brings a wealth of anecdotal stories, non nonsense descriptions and explanations, and a well respected career as an emergency first responder.

Bob Marchisello, our Hazmat Awareness instructor, a man rich in experience, humor, and a million first hand stories is an author as well! The stories Bob Marchisello, retired Philly firefighter and Delco Emergency Services Hazmat Specialist, has to tell are from a vast 30+ year background centered in the Philadelphia Fire Department.

Amazon's introduction to Chief Marchisello's book reads: "During his entire career Marchisello kept a journal detailing his experiences as well as his personal and professional challenges. His work offers rare insights into the unimaginable types of emergencies to which these men and women respond—from decomposing bodies to hazardous chemicals to deadly shootouts. Between calls sit in the firehouse and enjoy the pranks, banter, humor, and camaraderie firefighters share. His vibrant writing lets you experience the adrenalin, the danger and yes, even the laughs of nearly four decades on the firegrounds, in the firehouses and everywhere in between. You'll never look at a passing fire engine the same way!"

Citizen Corps of Delaware County is grateful to have Chief Marchisello as the instructor for the Hazmat Awareness seminar.

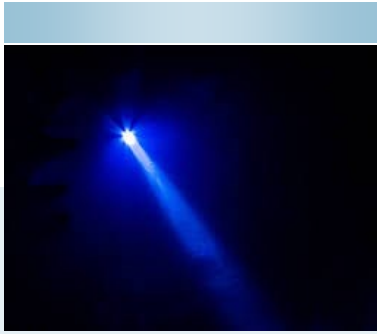


Led by Bob Marchisello, the 30 members of the Delaware County Hazardous Materials Response Team support local municipal, county, state, and federal responses to hazardous materials incidents. Activities include training and exercises, and response to emergency situations for the purpose of recognizing and managing a hazardous materials incident. (source: Delaware County Emergency Services website.)



Bob's instruction with Delco municipalities and members of DES yielded a 2018 Pennsylvania Emergency Management Council Certification of the Delaware County Hazardous Materials Response Team.

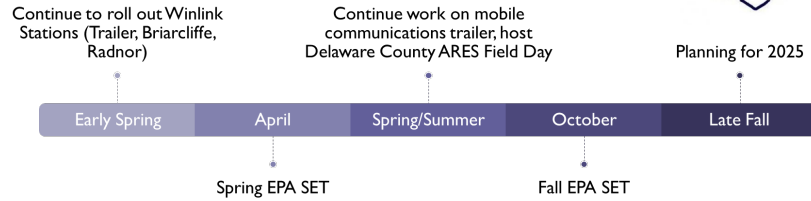




## ARES Has A Busy Year Planned for 2024

ARES made a presentation to other ARES groups recently and below are some highlights.

### Projects 2024



### Served Agencies

#### DELAWARE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

- Primary served agency is the Delaware County Department of Emergency Services, under the Special Operations group.
- Included in backup emergency communication plans, EOC exercises on a regular basis.
- This includes close cooperation with the county's Citizen Corps and Medical Reserve Corps groups.

#### NOAA NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

- Secondary served agency is the NOAA National Weather Service.
- We run SKYWARN nets whenever NOAA issues a severe weather alert.
- Reportable weather events are automatically emailed over to the Mt. Holly, NJ FWS for collection and reporting.

#### AMERICAN RED CROSS

- Secondary served agency is the American Red Cross.
- Can support them if needed during shelter operations.

They are also going to start working on a AREDN network for Delaware County, having purchased 3 WiFi nodes to start a WiFi mesh network for emergency communications. Attached is an AREDN mesh brochure, and more information is available here: [Wireless mesh network - Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wireless_mesh_network) and here: [Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network \(arednmesh.org\)](https://www.amateur-radio-emergency-data-network.org/)

Interested in this organization?

Contact Chris Kelleher at [Chris.Kelleher@delcocitizencorps.org](mailto:Chris.Kelleher@delcocitizencorps.org)

## DelCART Thanks You

DelCART would like to thank all our CCDC friends who helped us respond to fires and flooding that caused pets to be in need. We would also like to thank everyone for participating in our outreach and training events. Your support allows us to fill needs and to educate people on pet safety.

We wish you all a Happy New Year and look forward to interacting with you in 2024!



# The Volunteer Heart

By Beatrice Agar



**Beatrice Agar**

MA, RDN, LDN, CMA (AAMA)



I am a new member of the CCDC, and will be helping out the F.A.S.T. Team by providing education (with the assistance of my Colleague, Doreen who is an ASL Interpreter). We will be sharing strategies to assist the volunteers in communicating with Deaf individuals during an emergency situation. The following story highlights my journey that led me to volunteer in this capacity.

My background is in healthcare and in education. I am a Registered Dietitian/Nutritionist (RDN, LDN) and a Certified Medical Assistant. As an RDN, LDN, I have worked in hospitals, long-term care, management, education, and currently as a Dietitian/Manager. As a Medical Assistant I taught Medical Assisting Students in the classroom and in the Simulation Lab.

My first encounter with Deaf Individuals took place about 8 years ago when I worked at Delaware County Community College. As Coordinator of the Nurse Aide Training and Evaluation Program, I was involved in helping a cohort of Deaf students who worked as Personal Care Associates at an Assisted Living/PACE program for elderly Deaf people. I was running an informational meeting for these students, and I was waiting in the conference room for the students and ASL interpreter to arrive. Two students arrived early and entered the conference room. The interpreter had not yet arrived. The students sat down, and I began to feel a bit awkward, since I had never interacted with Deaf people before.

I started writing notes to them, they wrote back, and we immediately established a rapport. Looking back on it, this choice made all the difference, and started my journey. The interpreter (who by the way was Doreen) and I worked very closely together over the next few months, and I truly enjoyed learning from Doreen and working with these students! The students successfully completed the program, internship, and passed the test to become Nurse Aides.

A couple years later, I ended up working with these Deaf individuals as part of the health care team caring for the Deaf Elderly residents in the Assisted Living facility where I have been the Dietitian/Manager for 6 years! When I started I knew no sign language. I immediately felt the need to learn ASL and the importance of communicating with them in their heart language. I studied ASL at home using borrowed ASL flash cards and studied an old ASL text book from my Granddaughter and ASL class videos online. I immediately learned as many food, kitchen, and healthcare signs as I could. Then a wonderful thing happened. Everyone saw that my heart was in this, and the Deaf Staff, the elderly residents, and interpreters began teaching me. Also, I was very quickly accepted by the Deaf, which also helped my passion to grow.

As my ASL improved, and conversations became easier, I became aware of some unfortunate ways that Deaf people are at times marginalized regarding access to healthcare and other services. I feel my heart's purpose is to advocate for Deaf individuals, to increase awareness of the hardships that Deaf people face, and to assist hearing people and Deaf people to better communicate with each other!

## Oh, One More Thing....

**A new year hopes for some new ideas, some new energy, some new improvements. We need your participation! We need your support and input! Where? Everywhere! Class instruction and education; Newsletter articles & pictures; social and outreach. Please raise your hand and offer your talents and knowledge and brilliant brainstorming!**



Citizen Corps of Delaware County

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