



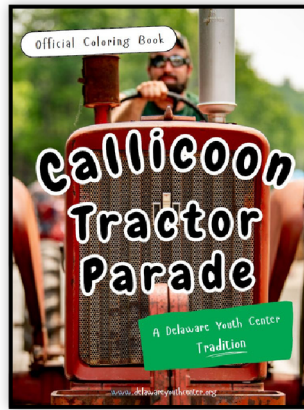
Current Connections

Issue No. 10 | May/June 2026

30 Years of Hometown Pride, History and Horsepower



Celebrate a milestone 30 years in the making at the Delaware Youth Center's Tractor Parade! This year's theme, "30 Years of Hometown Pride, History and Horsepower," honors three decades of community tradition, memories, and magnificent machinery. Mark your calendars for **June 14** and be sure to arrive early—the parade steps off **sharply at noon**. Before the tractors roll by, pick up your commemorative 30th Anniversary shirt and check out our brand-new Tractor Parade Coloring Book. Flip through the pages and see how many familiar faces and iconic tractor brands you can recognize! After the parade, stick around for live music by Pistachio Bathtub and enjoy a delicious chicken BBQ prepared by the Callicoon Kiwanis. With great food, music, family fun, and a celebration of hometown heritage, June 14 has all the makings of a fantastic day. We can't wait to see you there!



Join Us Under the Big Top on June 13



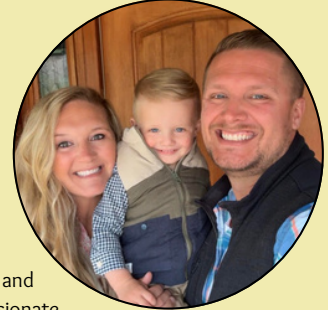
Get ready for an unforgettable afternoon under the Big Top! The Zerbini Family Circus is coming to town on Saturday, June 13, with performances at 4:00 PM and 6:00 PM. Bring the whole family and be amazed by thrilling aerial acts, talented jugglers, hilarious clowns, daring acrobatics, and impressive animal performances that have delighted audiences of all ages. Tickets are just \$15 in advance and include admission for one adult and one child ages 4-10. Children 3 and under are always free. Don't miss this exciting family-friendly event—purchase your tickets early and join us for an afternoon of laughter, wonder, and circus magic!

Meet the Heart of Our Community

Katrina Graby LaGrutta

Can you tell us a little about yourself and how you got involved in DYC?

My name is Katrina LaGrutta, formerly a Graby. My husband Gabe & I have one son Liam, but another baby is on the way. It might even make an appearance at this year's Tractor Parade! I was born and raised in Callicoon on a dairy farm, where I learned early on the value of hard work, community, and service. My parents, Bill and Marie, were passionate advocates for our community. They always encouraged my siblings Marissa & Nick, and I to stay involved—especially through activities at the DYC. It's a place that has always held a special meaning for me. Some of my earliest memories are from summers spent there, doing arts and crafts under the pavilion during Summer Program or roller skating in the hall during a special Friday night. 12 years ago, I began my career as a local insurance agent, and from the start, I made it a priority to give back to the community that gave so much to me. I became involved with the Callicoon Business Association, where I served as Vice President, and later served as President of the Sullivan County Young Professionals. If there was an opportunity to get involved and make a difference, I was eager to be part of it. In 2016, I was asked by the DYC Board to coordinate the well-known Tractor Parade. Having grown up on a dairy farm, I felt a strong connection to this tradition and was honored to take it on—though I quickly realized what a significant undertaking it would be. Over the last 10 years, I've had the privilege of helping organize the parade alongside the incredible support of the DYC Board, the events committee volunteers, and my own family, who always step in wherever needed. Being part of such a meaningful event for our community brings me a tremendous sense of pride each year. Seeing local farmers, their families, and many friends ride through town on parade morning, makes "Tractor Parade Day" one of the most special and memorable days in Callicoon.



What is your favorite DYC memory?

The Delaware Youth Center is where I spent countless summer days growing up—it's where I learned to swim, made lasting memories, and even got to experience the best Halloween parades! One of my favorite memories is the summer program triathlon. Each year, we would race around the bases, swim, and bike. To me, it felt like competing in the Olympics, and every summer I was determined to bring home the gold. I still remember sitting in the car with my mom on the morning of the event, feeling nervous and excited as I waited for it to be time to head in for the big race. And when I came home with a first-place trophy, it truly felt like I had conquered the world.

What is your vision for the Center?

My vision for the DYC is for it to continue being a place where families can bring their children to learn, grow, and create lasting memories. It is not only a cornerstone for youth development, but also an incredible space for special family events and local organizations to come together. I hope we can continue to grow our volunteer base each year, because that is truly what makes our community so special and close-knit. Volunteers are essential to the DYC's success and are the reason it can continue to serve generations to come. It is important that we, as a community, take pride in this organization, as it provides so much value and opportunity for so many people.



Community Cooking Sundays

Community Cooking SUNDAYS
It's free for anyone, thanks to a grant from Sullivan 180

CLASS SCHEDULE

- MAY 17, 2026: Local & Seasonal
- JUNE 7, 2026: Weeknight Dinners
- JULY 12, 2026: From Your Pantry
- JULY 26, 2026: Kids' Class* (*Ages 8-18)
- AUGUST 9, 2026: Weeknight Dinners
- AUGUST 23, 2026: From Your Pantry
- SEPTEMBER 13, 2026: Local & Seasonal

ALL CLASSES ARE HELD ON SUNDAYS FROM 3 - 6 PM

Led by Chef and Instructor Dayna Halprin, these hands-on classes are a great opportunity to build confidence in the kitchen. Participants will learn how to create a grocery list, shop for ingredients, and successfully execute a recipe from start to finish. Registration is required, and space is limited. We encourage all community members to sign up and be part of this fun and educational experience! If you are unable to attend after registering, please cancel your spot so someone on the waitlist can participate. ***All classes (except the Kids' class) are designed for everyone ages 12 and up (adults too), with younger children welcome to attend alongside a parent or guardian.**

SCAN FOR REGISTRATION

DELAWARE YOUTH CENTER, 8 CREAMERY RD., CALLICOON NY
www.delawareyouthcenter.org

Join us for a series of free, hands-on cooking classes held on Sundays from 3:00–6:00 PM, led by Chef and Instructor Dayna Halprin. These engaging classes are designed to help participants build confidence in the kitchen while learning practical skills such as creating a grocery list, shopping for ingredients, and preparing a recipe from start to finish.

Classes are designed with families in mind, encouraging parents to attend with children ages 12 and up. Don't have kids? No problem! Adults are welcome and encouraged to participate as well. Our doors are open to anyone interested in learning new cooking skills and connecting with others in the community.

Class Schedule:

- June 7: Weeknight Dinners
- July 12: From Your Pantry
- July 26: Kids' Class (Recommended for ages 8+ with an accompanying adult)
- August 9: Weeknight Dinners
- August 23: From Your Pantry
- September 13: Local & Seasonal

The Kids' Class is specifically designed with young cooks in mind and is recommended for children ages 8 and older accompanied by an adult. Please note that this is not a drop-off event.

Registration is required and space is limited. If you register and later find you cannot attend, please cancel your reservation so someone on the waitlist can participate. Come cook, learn, and connect—we hope to see you in the kitchen!



Recent Improvements Made Possible by Your Support

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, the Delaware Youth Center continues to make important improvements to our facilities. We are excited to share that we recently acquired a new storage container, generously donated by Prestige Towing and Recovery. This additional storage space will be a tremendous help as we prepare for a busy summer season, providing much-needed room for supplies and equipment used throughout our many programs and events.

You may also notice a few other upgrades around the grounds. Following the removal of the grandstand, a new backstop was installed on the baseball field by Ketchem Fencing. Their team did a fantastic job, and we look forward to seeing players of all ages enjoying the field this season.

Inside the hall, the floors recently received some well-deserved TLC. After being professionally cleaned and resealed, they are looking better than ever and ready to welcome the many groups and events that call the DYC home. We can't thank Dean from Sanico and our very own Jackie Peters enough for their time and effort spent on this project.

We know we sound like a broken record, but we truly cannot say it enough—thank you. These are the kinds of meaningful improvements that are only possible because of your continued support, donations, and belief in our mission. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for helping us maintain and improve our facilities so we can continue serving our community for years to come.

Share Your Passion with the Community

Do you have a skill, talent, hobby, or passion you'd like to share with others? Whether it's a kid-friendly activity perfect for our summer programs, an artistic pursuit that inspires creativity, a hands-on craft, or a special area of expertise, we'd love to hear from you! Consider leading a workshop, presenting a demonstration, hosting an introductory class, or organizing a crafting hour where community members can gather, create, and exchange ideas. The Delaware Youth Center is here to build community, foster creativity, encourage lifelong learning, and provide opportunities for neighbors of all ages to connect through shared interests and experiences. If you have an idea that could bring people together, reach out to us—we'd be excited to help turn your vision into reality.



Plan Your Best Summer Yet

Summer is just around the corner, and now is the perfect time to start planning for all the fun ahead! Join us for our Summer Sign-Up Event on Monday, June 8, from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Stop by to pick up a summer events calendar, register for swimming lessons, learn about upcoming programs, and get all the information you need to make the most of the season. We can't wait to help you kick off a summer full of fun, friends, and memories at the Delaware Youth Center!