



Current Connections

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Full Swing Into Summer at the Delaware Youth Center

If you've driven by the Delaware Youth Center lately, you've probably heard it before you even reached the parking lot—the laughter, the splashing, the cheers, and the unmistakable sounds of summer.

We're officially in full swing.

The pool has been alive with swimmers making waves, our craft pavilion is filled with masterpieces waiting for glue and paint to dry, and our sports programs have kept kids moving, learning, and making memories. Every corner of the Center has been buzzing with activity, reminding us exactly why summer at the Delaware Youth Center is so special.

Of course, Mother Nature has certainly kept us on our toes this season. Between the heat, the rain, and the smoke, we've learned to expect the unexpected. But one thing has remained constant: the incredible spirit of our community. Parents, volunteers, staff, sponsors, and participants have continued to show up with smiles, flexibility, and enthusiasm, making every day a success.

To every family who has spent time at the Center, every volunteer who has lent a helping hand, every sponsor who has supported our mission, and every community member who believes in what we do—thank you. Your support allows us to provide a place where friendships are formed, confidence is built, and childhood memories are made.

While the calendar tells us summer is beginning to wind down, there's still plenty of vacation left to enjoy. We hope you'll make the Delaware Youth Center part of your remaining summer adventures.

Come on down. Jump in the pool. Cheer from the sidelines. Join a program. Grab one of our famous Friday hot dogs. Create something colorful, even if you leave with a few specks of glitter that somehow follow you home. Most importantly, spend time with friends, neighbors, and family in a place that belongs to all of us.

Here's to making every remaining summer day count. We can't wait to see you at the Center!

Meet the Heart of Our Community

Nicole Mullally

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

I've been a licensed Zumba instructor since 2010. At the time, I was working at Roche's Garage in Callicoon and was looking for the perfect place to hold my classes. When I found the Delaware Youth Center, I knew it was exactly what I was looking for. The beautiful floating wood floor and large open space made it the ideal location, and I ended up teaching Zumba there for nearly 10 years. DYC became so much more than just a place to exercise, it became a place where friendships are built and our community comes together.



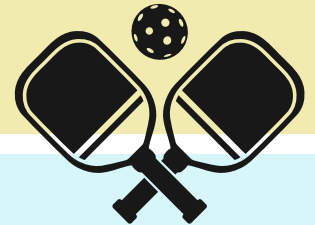
What is your favorite DYC memory?

Without a doubt, it's the fundraising events. Some of my favorite memories are hosting Zumba fundraisers for causes that meant so much to our community, including Party in Pink for breast cancer, the Heart-a-Thon, and local animal rescues. Watching people come together to dance, have fun, and raise thousands of dollars for people and organizations in need is something I'll never forget. It showed me just how generous and supportive our community truly is.

What is your vision for the Center?

I hope more people realize everything the Delaware Youth Center has to offer. It's a community gathering place with a beautiful event hall, kitchen, swimming pool, pickleball and basketball courts, baseball field, a skate park, pavilion, playground, and a gorgeous location along the Delaware River. Whether you're looking to host a wedding, family reunion, fundraiser, birthday party, fitness class, or community event, DYC has the space to make it happen.

I also hope people understand that places like this don't exist without community support. The Delaware Youth Center isn't funded by tax dollars, it's maintained by memberships, rentals, fundraising, and countless volunteer hours. Becoming a member isn't just paying a fee, it's investing in a place that benefits generations of families and helps keep this incredible community resource thriving.



A Small Upgrade Making a Big Difference

Our pickleball players are enjoying an exciting improvement this summer! Thanks to the generosity of our pickleball community, along with a significant contribution from an anonymous donor, a brand-new divider fence has been installed between the pickleball courts.

This simple addition makes a big impact by keeping stray balls on the correct court, reducing interruptions, and creating a smoother, more enjoyable playing experience for everyone.

This project is another wonderful example of what can happen when our community comes together to make the Delaware Youth Center even better. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed to making this improvement possible—and to our anonymous donor for their extraordinary generosity.

Thank you for helping us keep the rallies going!



The Moments That Matter by Jeanne Sager

I hate the phrase “picture perfect.”

It’s not the sort of thing you’d expect from a photographer, I’m sure, but these two words have wormed their way into my brain over the years and settled in like a pebble in your shoe, slowly but surely irritating the surface.

For most people, picture perfect calls to mind a specific, glossy look that’s been carefully crafted. Think “red carpet” or “magazine cover.” To be picture perfect, we’ve all accepted, means you have a lot of work to do before the picture’s ever taken.

A few weeks ago, I captured hundreds of photos of people who’d put in a lot of work before arriving in front of my camera. Most had run or walked 3.1 miles, some had run double that.

As I’ve worked my way through a file of hundreds of photos, deleting dozens of photos ruined by people walking in front of me and my own “oops, that was out of focus” shots, I’ve found myself smiling at each of these people, these beings on my computer screen.

As they crossed the finish line of the Delaware Youth Center’s River Race, most were exhausted, their energy stores depleted, their cells gasping for water and air.

My camera captured that exhaustion, it’s true.

But it also captured muscles rippling beneath the skin, powering runners to the very end. It captured arms swinging mid-air, elbows pinned back to provide balance and chests rising as they filled with another deep breath.

It captured smiles, some small and some giant, at the exact moment it dawned on these runners that they had done it. They had set out to test themselves, and they had passed that test.

They had accomplished this feat.

There was no red carpet, but there was a body that had spent everything it had, caught in the half-second it understood what it had done.

Picture perfect.

Head over to the [gallery](#) to see them all in all their perfection!

More Than a Building: A Hub for Community Partnerships

The Delaware Youth Center has always been about bringing people together—and sometimes, that means bringing organizations together, too.

We’re proud to be a hub where local groups, nonprofits, and community organizations can connect with the people they serve. When organizations collaborate, everyone benefits: programs reach more people, resources are shared, and our community becomes stronger.

This summer, we’ve had the pleasure of welcoming several community partners through our doors. Western Sullivan Public Library has brought its summer reading program to the DYC, giving local children a fun and welcoming place to learn, explore, and stay engaged over the summer.

The National Park Service has also become a familiar face at the Center, visiting weekly to provide environmental education and hands-on opportunities to learn more about the natural world around us. They even took advantage of our pool for a training session—proof that the DYC can be a pretty versatile place!

And it’s not just programs. Kiwanis uses the DYC as its regular meeting place, bringing community-minded members together to plan, serve, and make a difference.

These partnerships are exactly what we mean when we say the Delaware Youth Center is more than a building. We are a gathering place, a resource, and a community hub.

Maybe your organization needs a place to meet. Maybe you have a program you’d like to bring to the community. Maybe there’s an event you’ve been dreaming about but don’t have the space or resources to make happen on your own.

Let’s talk.

The DYC has space, facilities, a connection to the community, and a willingness to explore what we can accomplish together. We believe some of the best things happen when organizations stop working in their own corners and start working side by side.

If you have an idea for a partnership or would like to explore how the Delaware Youth Center could help your organization connect with the community, reach out to us. We’d love to hear what you’re working on—and see what we can build together.

Because a stronger community doesn’t happen by accident. It happens when we work together.

RIVERSIDE
Remedies

WIREPRO
ELECTRIC

meadow

Delaware Valley
Farm & Garden Center
EST. 1982

THE CALLICOON
PANTRY

 **LLOYDS**

van der Schans Family &
LLOYDS BANK

Litt
HOME & BOOK



Generosity That Keeps Making a Difference

While we’re on the topic of generosity, we’d be remiss if we didn’t recognize another incredible gift that is already making a lasting impact on the Delaware Youth Center.

Thanks to a generous donation designated specifically for facility improvements, we were able to install a new set of crash doors at the Center. This upgrade not only enhances the appearance of our building, but also improves energy efficiency by helping to reduce heating and cooling costs, strengthens security, and creates a more comfortable environment for everyone who uses the facility throughout the year. The generosity doesn’t stop there. The remaining funds from this donation will be used to replace deteriorating exterior boards, helping preserve the integrity of the building for years to come. And if the budget allows, we hope to install additional roofing to provide much-needed shade while also offering greater protection for the building from the elements.

Every improvement, large or small, helps us create a safer, more comfortable, and more welcoming place for our community. We are deeply grateful for the generosity of those who invest in the future of the Delaware Youth Center. Your support truly leaves a lasting legacy.

DYC UPCOMING EVENTS

Summer may be flying by, but we're not waving the white flag just yet! There are still plenty of reasons to stop by the Delaware Youth Center—and we promise at least one of them involves food.

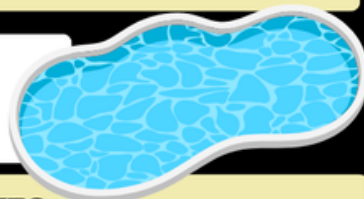


SUMMER PROGRAMS CONTINUES

The fun isn't over yet! Camps, crafts, sports, games, and plenty of laughter are still filling our days. If your kids come home tired, smiling, and with a mysterious amount of glitter in their shoes...we're doing our job.

POOL TIME

The water's still warm, the cannonballs are still making a splash, and there's plenty of summer left for one more swim (or ten).



FRIDAY HOT DOG LUNCHES

Why make lunch when someone else is already grilling? Stop by on Fridays, grab a hot dog, catch up with friends, and enjoy one of summer's simplest pleasures.

CRAFTS & CREATIVITY

Paint, glue, markers, glitter...lots and lots of glitter. We can't promise it won't follow you home, but we can promise it'll be worth it.



COMMUNITY COOKING SUNDAYS

There are still a few Community Cooking Sundays left! Come sharpen your kitchen skills, enjoy great company, and maybe discover your next favorite recipe. Spots are limited, so don't wait until you're hungry to sign up.



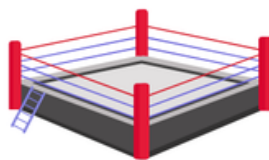
WATER AEROBICS

Yes, it's 5:30 a.m. And yes, people actually show up smiling! Join us every Tuesday and Friday for an energizing workout before most alarms have even gone off. Find us on TeamReach using group code `dycaerobics26`.

DANCE ON THE DELAWARE

Saturday, October 3, 2026 • 7:00 p.m.

Adults 21+—it's your turn to have some fun! Dust off your dancing shoes, gather your friends, and prepare for an evening where the only thing getting more exercise than your feet is your laugh.



EAST COAST PRO WRESTLING

Saturday, October 17, 2026 • 7:00 p.m.

High-flying action, larger-than-life personalities, and plenty of excitement are headed back to the DYC. It's the only place where cheering at the top of your lungs is highly encouraged.

Looking Ahead

As much as we'd like to keep summer forever, we're already planning an incredible fall lineup. Keep an eye on our website, social media, and future newsletters—you'll want to be in the know.

There's still time to squeeze every last drop out of summer. Come make some memories with us...and if you leave with wet sneakers, a full stomach, and a little glitter on your shirt, we'd call that a successful day at the Delaware Youth Center!



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