



Current Connections

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CELEBRATING OUR NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS

Our ribbon cutting for the new pickleball courts was a true celebration of community spirit, bringing together local government, businesses, and residents who helped make this project possible. From resurfacing and expansion to landscaping and fencing, every part of these courts reflects teamwork, dedication, and a shared vision for our community. We're especially proud of how Callicoon came together to support the growing

love for pickleball. From planning and fundraising to the hands-on help of volunteers, this project showcases what can be achieved when everyone works toward a common goal. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Sullivan 180, the Town of Delaware, and all our incredible community members and sponsors for helping turn this vision into reality. Together, we've built more than just courts—we've strengthened our community.

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE HISTORIC GRANDSTAND



The Delaware Youth Center's long-standing grandstand has been removed, thanks to a generous community donation that fully funds the demolition. While the structure holds decades of memories, sadly it has become unsafe and beyond repair, with rotting beams and instability making it a hazard.

Over the years, the Board explored many options—from renovation to storage solutions—but each proved too costly or impractical. Removing the deteriorated structure will open up valuable space for families to enjoy.

Although saying farewell is bittersweet, the Youth Center plans to honor the grandstand's history as part of future improvements, including new backstop fencing and upgraded, safe seating. Not to worry, youth sports and community activities will continue uninterrupted. The Youth Center invites community members to stop by, see the grounds, and share in the memories of this cherished piece of local history as the site continues to grow, modernize, and welcome new generations.

MEET THE HEART OF OUR COMMUNITY

Shirley Buddenhagen

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

Some of my earliest and fondest memories are tied to the Delaware Youth Center. As young girls, my sister and I would ride our bikes down the hill from our family farm in the Beechwoods, lunches packed and ready for a full day at the Center. We spent our mornings in swimming lessons and our afternoons on the playground, learning everything from the high-jump to the putt throw under the guidance of kind and encouraging staff.

In 2015, I was invited to join a new initiative designed to bring more activity to the Center. That group became Delaware Young @ Heart. I began by co-chairing games and helping to launch weekly mah-jongg sessions, which—almost ten years later—are still going strong. After a pause in activities due to health issues within the group, Barbara Long and I decided to revive the program. She took on organizing trips, I handled the business meetings, and with board support, Delaware Young @ Heart is once again thriving.



What is your favorite DYC memory?

As an adult, it was especially meaningful to return to the Center with my own children and watch them enjoy the same pool and playground I grew up with. Over the years, my involvement deepened—from hosting our Knack family reunions at the pavilion to taking on officer roles and volunteering wherever I could.

Along the way, I've also sold raffle tickets for the River Run. I learned that when you greet people with a smile and mention the Youth Center, the tickets practically sell themselves. This community holds the Center in such high regard, and that has made my involvement both easy and deeply rewarding.

What is your vision for the Center?

I believe the Delaware Youth Center has always been a cornerstone of our community, and I see that continuing well into the future. My vision is one in which the Center remains a place where people of all ages feel welcome, supported, and engaged—whether through recreation, social programs, or community events.

The activities offered today already show how strong the Center's impact is, and I hope to see even more opportunities for connection, enrichment, and intergenerational involvement. With continued dedication from volunteers, leadership, and the community, the Youth Center will remain a vibrant and valued gathering place for many years to come.



SPOOKTACULAR STROLL DOWN MAIN STREET

Halloween at the Delaware Youth Center was a spooktacular success! Thank you to everyone who joined us for the parade and stayed for the games and festivities afterward. Your costumes, laughter, and enthusiasm made the day unforgettable.

A special spooky thank you goes out to our incredible volunteers. Their hard work behind the scenes—and out in the chilly autumn air—made every moment run smoothly. We truly couldn't host events like this without their dedication and community spirit. Photo credit: Jeanne Sager Photography

CRAFTING HOLIDAY MAGIC TOGETHER

Our Holiday Craft Fair was a huge success, and we couldn't be more grateful to everyone who made it possible. Thank you to our amazing volunteers—those in the kitchen selling concessions, the team at the DYC table selling wreaths and T-shirts, and everyone who helped with setup beforehand. Stories from the day wouldn't be complete without celebrating the talented local artisans who joined us: our fair featured beautiful work from Lizabelle, Gifts From Nature, Coo Coo's Nest, Misty Brooking, Earth Treasures, Eagle Valley Wooden Toys, Becky and Bella's Boutique, Cin-d Quilts, Flame Craft Candles, With Wings, Guided Hands Wood Turning, Hudson Valley Beading Company, Vintage Vignettes, and many more. That incredible variety brought something special for shoppers of all ages.

We're also deeply thankful to everyone who came out, shopped, and supported our makers — your enthusiasm helps keep this beloved tradition alive. As we reflect on the Thanksgiving season, the DYC Board of Directors wants to take a moment to express how truly thankful we are for your support, your generosity, and your community spirit.



GIVE THE GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP

Give the gift of connection this holiday season with a Delaware Youth Center membership. For the family who seems to have it all, offer them something truly meaningful—the opportunity to be part of a vibrant, welcoming community. A DYC membership opens the door to year-round events, programs, and activities that bring people together, spark joy, and create lasting memories. It's a gift that enriches every season and supports a place dedicated to strengthening families, friendships, and the heart of our community.



BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: DYC ANNOUNCES ANOTHER KID'S DANCE PARTY ON FEBRUARY 21!

The Delaware Youth Center is excited to share that our Kid's Dance Party is returning on February 21, and this time it's shaping up to be even bigger and better than before! After the overwhelming enthusiasm from our last event, we're thrilled to once again open our doors for an afternoon and evening filled with energy, laughter, and nonstop fun.

The celebration kicks off with an afternoon designed especially for our littlest community members, featuring age-friendly games, music, and plenty of space to dance their hearts out. Then, as the lights dim and the music turns up, our middle school crowd will take over the floor for a dedicated dance that promises great tunes, good friends, and the perfect chance to beat the winter blues.

Whether your child loves to show off their moves or just wants to hang out with friends, this event offers something for everyone. Mark your calendars, spread the word, and get ready—DYC's Kid's Dance Party is back, and it's going to be unforgettable!