



Current Connections

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Get ready to move and groove at the Delaware Youth Center's **Kids Dance Party** on **Saturday, February 22!**

Join us for an afternoon packed with music, fun, and dancing! From **12:00 to 2:00 PM**, pre-kindergarten through 2nd-grade dancers take the floor, while the action continues from **2:00 to 4:00 PM** for kids in grades 3 through 6. Parents or chaperones are asked to stay with younger dancers (a special parent room will be available), while older kids are welcome to dance the afternoon away with supervision from DYC Event Committee Members, Volunteers, and high schoolers. **Admission is just \$5 per dancer**, and delicious food items will be available for purchase. Dust off your best dance outfits, shine those shoes, and come ready for an unforgettable time filled with music, games, and smiles! Don't miss it!

[Get your tickets here](#)

Announcement

The Delaware Youth Center is proud to be a vital hub for community activities, events, and youth programs. As a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely on the generous support of our members and donors to keep our doors open and our programs running strong. Your contributions help us maintain our facility, offer engaging activities, and create opportunities that enrich the lives of local children and families. Every membership and donation makes a difference! Please consider renewing your membership or making a donation to support our mission and invest in the future of our community. Thank you for helping us continue to grow and thrive!

Meet the Heart of Our Community Clarence Kratz

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

I first became involved with the Delaware Youth Center in the early 70s when I was asked to help supervise roller skating events. My wife, Loretta, was serving on the Youth Center board at the time. When she stepped down, I took over her position and have been involved ever since. What started as a simple way to contribute turned into a lifelong commitment to supporting and being part of a place that means so much to our community.



What is your favorite DYC memory?

My fondest memory of being part of the Delaware Youth Center is the flood in the 90s—not because of the devastation, but because of how it brought people together. Times were tough, but watching the board and the community unite to rebuild and restore the center was truly inspiring. People came not only from our local town but also from surrounding communities who had participated in dances, softball and golf tournaments, river races, and children's events at the center. Everyone pitched in, including rebuilding the floor in a way that could be taken apart and raised to prevent damage from future floods. It was a powerful reminder of the strength and heart of our community.

What is your vision for the Center?

My vision for the Delaware Youth Center is that it continues to be a vibrant gathering place for the community—a space where people of all ages can come together, connect, and create lasting memories. I hope we never forget the dedication and resilience of those who kept the center alive during difficult times. Their hard work and commitment are the foundation on which the center stands today, and their legacy should continue to inspire future generations.



PAST EVENTS RECAP

Halloween

The Delaware Youth Center Halloween Parade was a spooktacular success, bringing together kids from across the community for a festive stroll down Main Street in Callicoon. Excitement filled the air as colorful costumes, creative characters, and smiling faces paraded through town, finishing back at the Center for an afternoon of fun, games, and Halloween magic. We are incredibly grateful to everyone who came out to support the event, as well as the generous volunteers and donors who made it all possible. Thank you for helping us create wonderful memories, and we can't wait to see all the spectacular costumes again next year!



Step right up! A day of wonder, laughter, and jaw-dropping performances when The Zerbini Family Circus came to town — fun for all ages!

Craft Fair

The Delaware Youth Center's annual Craft Fair, held the day after Thanksgiving, was a festive celebration of local talent and creativity. With over 40 vendors showcasing an impressive array of handcrafted goods, the event offered a perfect start to the holiday shopping season. From unique gifts to beautifully crafted treasures, the craftsmanship on display was truly outstanding. Adding to the warmth of the day, the DYC Chili Crew served up hearty bowls of delicious chili, filling bellies and spreading smiles. A special thank you goes to **Regina Meyer**, our head chef, for leading the effort in the kitchen. We are also incredibly grateful for the many volunteers who helped organize the event, assist in organizing, and lend a hand in the kitchen—your dedication and hard work made this day a wonderful success. Thank you to everyone who joined us, and be sure to mark your calendar for next year to support local artisans and enjoy another tasty meal!



Hoppin' into Easter with gratitude. A big shoutout to our amazing volunteers who made the celebration egg-s-tra special!

Kids' Holiday Party

The Delaware Youth Center's Kids' Holiday Party was a joyful celebration of creativity and holiday cheer! We were thrilled to see so many children and families join us for an afternoon of festive fun. The kids showed off their artistic talents by creating beautiful homemade crafts, decorating delicious gingerbread people, and topping cupcakes with colorful, festive designs. It was a heartwarming sight to see our young people filled with holiday spirit, laughter, and smiles. Thank you to everyone who came out to make the day special—we look forward to sharing more memorable moments with you in the future!



Rolling through town with pride. Honoring our heroes with a float built from heart and teamwork at the Memorial Day Parade!

RIVER RACE

Registration for the 27th Annual River Race will be opening soon. Race day is Sunday 20th July - Full details will be forthcoming on the Delaware Youth Center Website!

After an amazing 15+ years as Race Director, Ann Santoro is stepping back from official duties. Under her leadership, the River Race grew to over 500 competitors and became an amazing event on the Callicoon Community calendar.

Ed van der Schans has stepped into the role for 2025. Having been an avid runner for nearly 30 years (& hundred of races), Ed is looking forward to growing his community involvement and support of the DYC from a more administrative role.

With the help and support of a small army of volunteers and supporters, the DYC is once again looking forward to hosting the 5k/10k Race & Walk, as well as the Winglovitz Virtual Race.



We would love your help!

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