

# the Lansdowne Leader

November 2019

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

Vol. XXVII, No. 2

## WOMEN MAKING HISTORY

# It's Time for Change on County Council

By Catherine Coll

On November 5th, 2019, Delco Democrats hope to make history, with the chance to gain a Democratic majority on County Council. The Council holds the purse strings of the county, and this is our chance to end the "corruption tax" which siphons our tax dollars right into the hands of Republican donors. Our County Council race is one with potential for the biggest impact on the everyday lives of people here in Delco, since it affects all of the county services we rely on.

As a result of contracts being awarded without bidding to Republican donors, and a general lack of observance of best practices in governance, our county lacks many basic services. Although we are hard hit by the opioid crisis, we have never had a department of health. We lack a standard level of online government services. Should we gain a Democratic majority, there will be a process of prioritizing and identifying issues, which will require an advanced level of knowledge specific to these issues. Our endorsed Democratic slate of council candidates brings the depth of knowledge and experience required to meet these unique challenges.

**Monica Taylor** is a former professional basketball player and has a PhD. She currently serves on the school board of Upper Darby, Delco's largest and most diverse community. Dr. Taylor is ready to implement necessary county services that have been neglected during the Republicans' fiat rule. She states: "On County Council, I will work to establish a county health department and implement other



**Christine Reuther**

recommended policies. This county Health Department should provide services including, but not limited to, child and adult immunizations, a flu vaccine clinic, a maternal health subdivision, sexually transmitted diseases testing and treatment, family planning, food inspection, tuberculosis testing, WIC programming, mental health services, and community education on topics such as public safety, cardiovascular health, food safety, sexual violence prevention, tobacco use prevention, teen pregnancy prevention, exercise, and nutrition. Lastly, the county should institute programming specifically for substance use disorders."

**Christine Reuther** is a lawyer specializing in tax and business matters. She is solicitor of Rutledge Borough, and has served on the board of commissioners in Nether



**Elaine Paul Schaefer**

Providence. On the issue of diversity, Christine says, "The county is changing. In 2000, less than 20% of our county residents were people of color. Today, the percentage is almost 35%. In Upper Darby, our largest municipality and school district, over 60 languages are spoken. Yet, our county government does not reflect the community it serves. There is no public posting for jobs. While every job in the county must be filled by a county resident and jobs are going unfilled, the old word of mouth system – conducted largely through Republican party connections and family relationships – is the main source of applicants. The county workforce needs to expand its efforts to recruit from the community it serves, for leaders and for employees. Only by drawing on the experiences of people

*continued on page 6*



**Monica Taylor**

## DELAWARE COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS



Left-to-right: Judicial candidates Nusrat Rashid, Rick Lowe, Kelly Eckel, and Stephanie Klein.

# Bring Some Balance to the Judicial System

By Craig Horle

On November 5th 2019, Delaware County voters have a chance to make history when they vote for candidates to become judges of the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas in Media. Most notably, the Democratic Party has never won a seat in the history of Delaware County on that court, which at present has 17 men and 3 women, all of whom ran as Republicans.

The Democratic Party has four strong candidates, all with tremendous legal experience. Moreover, one of the Democratic candidates, Nusrat J. Rashid, would become, if victorious, the first African-American woman to ever serve on

the court. The time is now to bring some balance to our judicial system. All four of these judicial candidates have been endorsed by Delco AFL-CIO and by SEIU Local 668, Pennsylvania's social service employees union representing 20,000 workers in all counties in the state.

The four Democratic candidates are Nusrat Rashid, Rick Lowe, Kelly Eckel and Stephanie Klein.

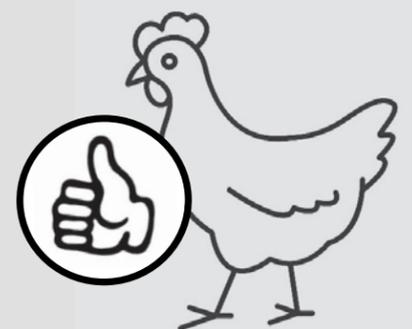
**Nusrat Rashid** is an attorney who earned her J.D. from the Temple University Beasley School of Law. As the founder of her own firm, the Rashid Firm in Chester, PA, she leads a full-service legal practice. Prior to that, she served as an associate in two law firms. She is extremely active in civic affairs in Chester, including

working with the Delaware County Bar Association on its outreach program in the Chester public schools. Committed to educating the public about the county-level legal system, she has produced several informative videos including one on how the Court of Common Pleas works and still another video on how the Magisterial District courts work.

**Rick Lowe** is an attorney who earned his J.D. from New York University. He was the first Democrat elected as Mayor of Swarthmore where he also served as Borough Solicitor. Rick is a partner at the Philadelphia firm of Duane Morris LLP with a specialty in construction cases and not surprisingly sits on the Board of the

*continued on page 4*

## CLUCK YEAH!

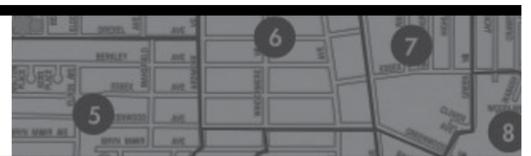


# Backyard Chickens Now Legal!

After much discussion, education and advocacy, the Lansdowne Borough Council enacted Ordinance No. 2019-05 which will allow the keeping of domesticated chickens on residential properties. The Ordinance offers detailed information about the rules and regulations surrounding this activity. Anyone interested in keeping chickens should become thoroughly acquainted with the conditions set forth in the Ordinance, which can be found on the borough's website at [lansdowneborough.com](http://lansdowneborough.com).

# KNOW WHERE TO VOTE!

**TUESDAY, NOV. 5**  
See map on page 6



## CHAIR'S COLUMN

# When Lansdowne Votes, Democrats Win! We Need YOU!

By Charlotte Hummel

On November 5th there is a general election, in which the winners of the party primaries, held in May, 2019, will run against each other. Every voter, whether registered as a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or a third party, is eligible to vote for any of the candidates in any of the parties.

If that sounds pretty straightforward, and if that was all the information it took to get people to actually go out and vote then, as the saying goes, my work here would be done.

However, too often in an election that does not include the presidential or governor's race, people just don't bother to vote. The proof is in the numbers. In the last general election in 2018 when we voted for governor 72% of Lansdowne voters came out to vote! Amazing!

But then, in the very next election, this past May's primary, only 30% of Lansdowne voted. What happened to those other 42% of voters? For those of us who are deeply involved in the political process and who know how important local and county governments are to our everyday lives, it's hard to accept that so few vote in these "off year" elections.

If you think that voting this year is NOT important, please consider this: On November 5th you have a chance to make history in Delaware County.

Pennsylvania will be electing two Superior Court judges to 10-year terms. These are judges who hear cases that have been appealed for a possible new decision after a Common Pleas court has made a ruling. **The Democratic endorsed candidates are Amanda Green-Hawkins and Daniel McCaffery.**

Delaware County will be electing four Court of Common Pleas judges to 10-year terms. These judges

hear local civil cases where there is a significant amount of controversy and also cases concerning serious crimes. There has **NEVER** been a Democrat elected to this Court. **The Democratic endorsed candidates are Kelly Eckel, Stephanie Klein, Rick Lowe and Nusrat Rashid.**

**There has never been a Delaware County Democrat elected to serve as a Common Pleas Court Judge, nor have Democrats ever held the majority on County Council. With your help, that could all change on November 5th.**

Delaware County will be electing three members of the County Council. The five members of the council serve 4-year terms and are limited to two terms. They are responsible for the actions and budgets of all county departments and create laws and rules specific to Delaware County. Their actions impact local economic development, public transportation, county waste disposal, human services, housing, land use, county parks, elections, senior services, and culture. There are currently two Democrats – Kevin Madden and Brian Zidek – serving on the five member Council. With one more seat won, the Democrats could hold the majority on the county council for the first time ever. **The Democratic endorsed candidates are Christine Reuther, Elaine Schaefer and Monica Taylor.**

Delaware County will be electing a District Attorney to a 4-year term. The DA is the top prosecuting lawyer for the county, helping to investigate crimes and bringing the accused to court. The DA's office also provides assistance to crime victims, handles juvenile delinquency matters, educates seniors about criminals seeking to exploit them, and educates youths about the dangers of opioid addiction. **The endorsed Democratic candidate is Jack Stollsteimer.**

Lansdowne will be electing its two representatives to the William Penn School District school board, one to a two-year term (to fill a seat open due to a mid-term resignation) for people who live in Precincts 2, 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 and the other to a four-year term for people who live in Precincts 1, 4, 5, 6 and 11.

The school board oversees and manages the school district policies, budget, personnel, student transportation, special education services, school curricula, after-school activities and sports, school nurses and libraries, and school district properties. **The endorsed Democratic candidates are Jan Tong (2 years) and Jennifer Hoff (4 years).**

Lansdowne will be electing three members of the Lansdowne Borough Council. The Council creates borough laws, budgets, taxes, and projects, and oversees the borough's parks, sewers, streets, library, trash and recycling, leaf and yard waste collection, bulk trash, environmental health, economic development, public safety, and code enforcement. **The endorsed Democratic candidates are Benjamin Hover, Tangel James and Sinoe Naji-Taylor.**

So please – be informed, get involved and make a plan to cast your vote on November 5th. And remember, if Lansdowne votes, Democrats WIN!

## LANSDOWNE ELECTION SPOTLIGHT

# Democrats for Borough Council, WPSD Board

### LANSDOWNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

#### BENJAMIN HOVER

17-year resident of Lansdowne  
M.S. Education, St. Joseph's University  
M.A. English, Villanova University  
Public School Teacher - 20 Years  
Endorsed by the Delco AFL-CIO  
Currently Serving on Borough Council - Two Years Appointed Term

#### TANGELA JAMES

7 year resident of Lansdowne  
10 years in the education field  
B.A. in Biology  
Four years on Borough Council

#### SINOE NAJI-TAYLOR

15-year resident of Lansdowne  
Active pharmacist for 23 years  
Serving first term as committeeperson in the 1st precinct



Left to right: Tong, Naji-Taylor, Hover, Hoff, James

### WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD

#### JENNIFER HOFF

22-year resident of Lansdowne  
Entrepreneur with two businesses in the borough  
Parent of William Penn School District alumnae  
Currently completing third term as school board director (12 years) and fifth year as School Board president

#### JAN TONG

13-year resident of Lansdowne  
Technology program specialist with a large school district - 21 Years  
Parent of five students in William Penn School District  
Currently serving as School Board Director by appointment

## the Lansdowne Leader

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The Leader welcomes your letters to the editor. Letters must include your name and a valid phone number in order to be considered for publication. Please address correspondence to:

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LansdowneDemocrats.org  
Facebook: Lansdowne Democrats

## TIME TO PUT THE KAT OUT

## Stollsteimer for District Attorney

Jack Stollsteimer is a longtime Delco resident from a proud union family. He has track record of service to the state of PA and to the county, one of his achievements being his work with State Treasurer Joe Torsella to establish the PA ABLE savings program for people with disabilities.

Jack is our best chance at real representation for Democrats in the DA's office, his opponent being an appointee of the GOP machine. Jack has a ten point plan for Delaware County:

1. End the privatization of our criminal justice system. Jack supports the deprivatization of the George Hill facility, PA's only private prison.
2. Reform our cash bail system. Reduce or waive administrative fees, and expedite a bail hearing for those who do not post bail.
3. Charge the possession of small amounts of marijuana as a summary offense
4. Support the establishment of a County Health Department
5. Seek to expand the capacity and effectiveness of our County Drug Treatment Court
6. Establish an Underground Economy Unit within the Office of the District Attorney
7. Establish an Environmental Crimes Unit within the Office of the District Attorney
8. Establish a Gun Violence Task Force within the Office of the District Attorney
9. Implement a Community Prosecution model for our criminal courts

10. Adopt Ethics and Transparency policies for the Office of the District Attorney

As a member of the Coalition for Prison Reform and other local organizations, Jack has been at the forefront of grassroots demand for change. The Republicans are scrambling to try to put their names on some superficial initiatives shortly before the election, and to confuse the issues, but Democratic voters know that candidates like Jack have been with us all along. Vote for Jack on November 5th, and for all of our Democratic candidates from the borough to county-wide!



## Support Your Local Democrats!

The Lansdowne Democratic Committee is now able to accept online donations through our ACT BLUE account.

Please visit [LansdowneDemocrats.org](http://LansdowneDemocrats.org) to learn more about us and to make either a one-time donation or to become an ongoing subscriber! Your contribution helps publish *The Lansdowne Leader*, support local elections and Election Day activities.

Thank you!



## BUY NOTHING LANSDOWNE

## A Facebook Group Brings Community Together

By April Hall

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article, written by Lansdowne resident April Hall, appeared in *The Washington Post* recently. April was inspired to write this by her friend's reaction to April's story of "the dress." April says that she had not intended to write such an article but she continues to be moved by such reactions to "our village" — generous, patient and kind with a sense of humor.

I had a gala to attend. I am not a gala person. I do not have the wardrobe for it. I barely have the wardrobe for a long weekend. Then I found out there was a theme, "Into the Blue." Now I needed a blue dress for a gala.

I logged on to my community's Buy Nothing Facebook page in Lansdowne, Pa., thinking I would probably stump my neighbors this time — even though the group's website says "Buy Nothing Groups = Random Acts of Kindness All Day Long."

The page, singularly devoted to the exchange of free goods and services, has amazed me since I joined in the summer of 2016. I've seen a stranger help move a dresser, another mow the lawn of a very pregnant woman and a third visit a neighbor's yard to give advice on building a habitat for insects and animals. There's even a woman who likes to iron and will smooth out any clothes you bring by her house.

So I started my post: "Hello! I'm looking to borrow a blue cocktail/gala dress." I included my size, 14, but didn't mention that I needed a dress in part because I'd just lost a considerable amount of weight and not much in my closet fit me.

In just a few days, there were 20 comments — some with photos of a potential dress, some with descriptions. I drove around town one Saturday afternoon picking up four to try on.

I already had been the grateful recipient of a leather couch, a vintage overcoat and soba noodles. I've also given items including a public transportation pass, homegrown kale and a toddler snowsuit.

The Buy Nothing Project was launched by two friends in Washington state in 2013 as a hyperlocal gift-economy experiment, and it has since expanded to 30 countries with hundreds of sites worldwide. Its website

says it will "give you a hands-on chance to take part in a social movement spreading across the globe, enabling people and communities to commit episodic acts of daily good together."

The groups are different from neighborhood email groups or sites such as Craigslist or Freecycle. The rules for Buy Nothing groups state no selling, bartering, trading or even listing the monetary value of items. It is only a place to give away or ask for free stuff.

It's even discouraged to suggest where items can be



purchased. For that reason, there aren't any "looking for recommendations" posts or advertisements of any kind. Lending is allowed.

When I drove around that Saturday to pick up dresses, here's what I got:

Two dresses from the mother of a friend — one was a Victorian-style lace mother-of-the-groom gown, and the other had an Asian style. She also loaned me a beaded blue clutch.

Next I picked up a swiny orange-and-blue-flowered number from a woman I had never met. She also lent me two pairs of shoes. Last, I got a bright blue dress with sequins and rhinestones from an acquaintance who said it belonged to her mother.

Several people in the group became invested in my dress quest and asked me to post photos after the event.

I didn't want to let them down, so I went all in. I tried on every dress and posted photos of me in them (with shoes). I crowdsourced which to choose, though I was partial to the Asian-inspired jacket dress. I was unanimously voted down — it was decided to be "too funky." (They were probably just being kind; I am no fashionista.) Sixty-seven comments, "likes" and "loves" later, I would wear the dress with the bedazzled top. The sparkly shoes I'd borrowed from someone else were a perfect match, as was the borrowed beaded purse.

It struck me how much the group was about kindness more than just passing along toys or books. We often call our one-square-mile borough of 11,000 "the village." Friend groups are tightknit, and we have a mix of people who have lived here for generations, as well as those of us who moved here to have a backyard without being too far from Philadelphia.

However, when I moved to Lansdowne in 2006, I found it difficult to meet people. I would frequent the farmers market and the local coffee shop, but it was six years before I really made friends. With the Buy Nothing site, I made even more friends and met more people. The founders of the site said they did, too.

Our Buy Nothing Lansdowne founders, Ramsey Beyer and Amanda Higgins, unquestionably made our community feel much smaller and kinder when they launched it three years ago. It turns out, sometimes people just need an opportunity to be kind.

"The group completely changed my view of the town," Beyer said. "I went from knowing no one and thinking it was a sleepy, closed-off town that lacked community to knowing everyone."

A very pregnant member, Sarah DeSilva Giddings, feels the same way. She put out an ask when the grass in her front yard started to grow tall and her mower was broken.

A couple of people inquired about helping, but it was Jayne Young — a woman she didn't know — who ended up taking her push mower over to Giddings's house.

"It was just obvious that she was at that point that she just needed to get it done, so I went over and helped," Young said.

Once she was done mowing, Young figured the lawn looked so nice that she didn't want to leave the flower bed unattended. She weeded dandelions before she left.

Higgins said that in addition to doing good for

continued on page 4

**ADDING IT UP: MAKING SENSE OF LANSDOWNE'S NEW TAX**

# Just the Facts: Lansdowne's Earned Income Tax

**By Benjamin Hover**

The following is meant to provide facts about an Earned Income Tax which was approved by Lansdowne Borough Council at its September meeting. The tax will go into effect as of January, 2020.

In 1965, the State Legislature of Pennsylvania recognized the need of local governments to have more tools to generate revenue to support the creation of local services in their communities. With this recognition, the State Legislature passed Act 511, or the Local Tax Enabling Act, which empowers Boroughs, Towns, Townships of the First Class, most School Districts, and all non-First Class cities the ability to pass taxes from a menu of allowable taxes to help pay for the needs of the District or Municipality. Shortly after passage of Act 511 Boroughs, Townships, and School Boards throughout the state implemented the Earned Income Tax to generate the necessary revenue to pay for police forces, parks and recreation, and support other municipal services.

Currently, the Municipal Register shows that throughout the state of Pennsylvania:

- 935 out of 975 Boroughs possess an Earned Income Tax.
- 86 out of 95 First Class Townships.
- 1438 out of 1495 Second Class Townships.
- In Delaware County, 19 out of 49 municipalities assess an Earned Income Tax.
- In Montgomery County, 58 out of 62 municipalities assess an Earned Income Tax.

**For nearly two-thirds of working Lansdowne residents, the new Earned Income Tax should have no impact at all on their net income.**

Up until the recent EIT adoption, the Borough of Lansdowne levied only a Property Tax and a Local Services Tax to help pay for municipal services. The Earned Income Tax in Lansdowne will apply to individuals who pay an Earned Income Tax to any of the municipalities outside of Lansdowne. This tax would no longer go to an outside municipality but would be paid to Lansdowne.

According to Policymap.com, Lansdowne 4,970 working adults live in the Borough. From the numbers generated by Keystone Collections, the Borough of Lansdowne would receive approximately \$133,476 from a .5% EIT on 1138 (or 23%) of working residents who already pay an EIT elsewhere. This revenue, as part of the general fund, would be used to pay for police officers, parks, borough personnel, and borough services.

All Lansdowne residents who work in Philadelphia currently pay the Philadelphia Wage Tax at 3.5%. According to Census data from the American Community Survey of

the U. S. Census, approximately 2,980 (or 40%) of Lansdowne residents who work pay the Philadelphia City Wage Tax. Because of the Sterling Act, this money would not be recoverable under the EIT; however, all of the commuters WOULD have to file a local earned income tax return to demonstrate proof of payment of the wage tax to Philadelphia and to get a credit against any local tax.

Therefore, for 63% of Lansdowne workers, an Earned Income Tax is not a new tax, but there would be necessary paperwork to demonstrate payment of a wage tax. For the remaining 1,840 (or 37%) of the workers who reside in Lansdowne but pay no outside EIT to other municipalities or the City of Philadelphia, the Earned Income Tax would be new. At .5%, a household that makes \$25,000 would pay \$125 in new taxes, or about \$2.50 more a week. A household that makes \$50,000 would pay \$250, or about \$5 more a week. At .5%, a household that makes \$75,000 would pay \$375, or about \$7 a week.

The revenue generated by the EIT would supplement the local property taxes and diversify the revenue stream. This would shield against unforeseen changes in property value or property tax decline and enable to borough to continue to fund the inflationary costs of Borough services.

*Reference of PA Local Tax Enabling Act:*  
(<https://www.legis.state.pa.us/WU01/LI/LI/US/HTM/1965/0/0511..HTM>)

## VISION FOR THE FUTURE

**Innovative and progressive approaches** to improving our community while honoring Lansdowne's history and traditions.

**Smart financial management** mindful of the impact of taxes with a commitment to a strong return on community investment.

**Priority on public safety** - support our police, volunteer first responders and community involvement.

**Strong economic development** in partnership with the LBPA and LEDC, marketing to attract new businesses along with supporting current businesses.

**Promote arts and culture** with a focus on diversity of our population and full range of opportunity for creativity.

**Value government transparency and increase public participation** and collaboration through technology.

**Lead in the area of intergovernmental cooperation** among neighboring boroughs and with the William Penn School District.

**Continuous improvement of public services** and infrastructure within our fiscal means by being creative and setting priorities.

**VOTE TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5**

**LANSDOWNE  
DEMOCRATIC  
COMMITTEE**

**BUY NOTHING LANSDOWNE***continued from page 3*

others, Buy Nothing sites help people with something else — learning to ask for help. That was a big step for me, and I've gotten a big payoff.

After my success with the dress, a neighbor put out a request to borrow a cocktail dress when she was in need. She received offers from three people and borrowed a tags-still-on sequined dress from a stranger.

And I'm still reaping the rewards of putting my size-14 self out there. Remember that orange and blue summer dress I briefly borrowed that was voted down for my gala? I borrowed it for a cousin's wedding on the Chesapeake Bay — with matching shoes.

As someone who is averse to shopping (dressing rooms are my nemesis), it was so nice to have my village helping me. I think my neighbors might have felt proud of the community effort, too. The photo of me at the wedding got 44 likes, 10 loves and two wows.

**COURT OF COMMON PLEAS***continued from page 1*

American College of Construction Lawyers and has served on its Diversity Committee. Rick volunteers at SCI Phoenix maximum security prison and is outside liaison for inmates seeking legislation for parole eligibility for "lifers." He is determined to bring about prison reform and changing the culture of the Delco judiciary.

Kelly Eckel is an attorney who earned her J.D. from Temple University School of Law (managing editor of the law review) and has worked for over 20 years at the 800-lawyer firm of Duane Morris LLP. In particular she is respected for the work she has performed as an appointed member of the American Association's Roster of Neutrals for commercial cases, an exclusive list of accomplished practitioners from legal and business communities throughout the world who preside over extremely complex matters involving dispute resolution.

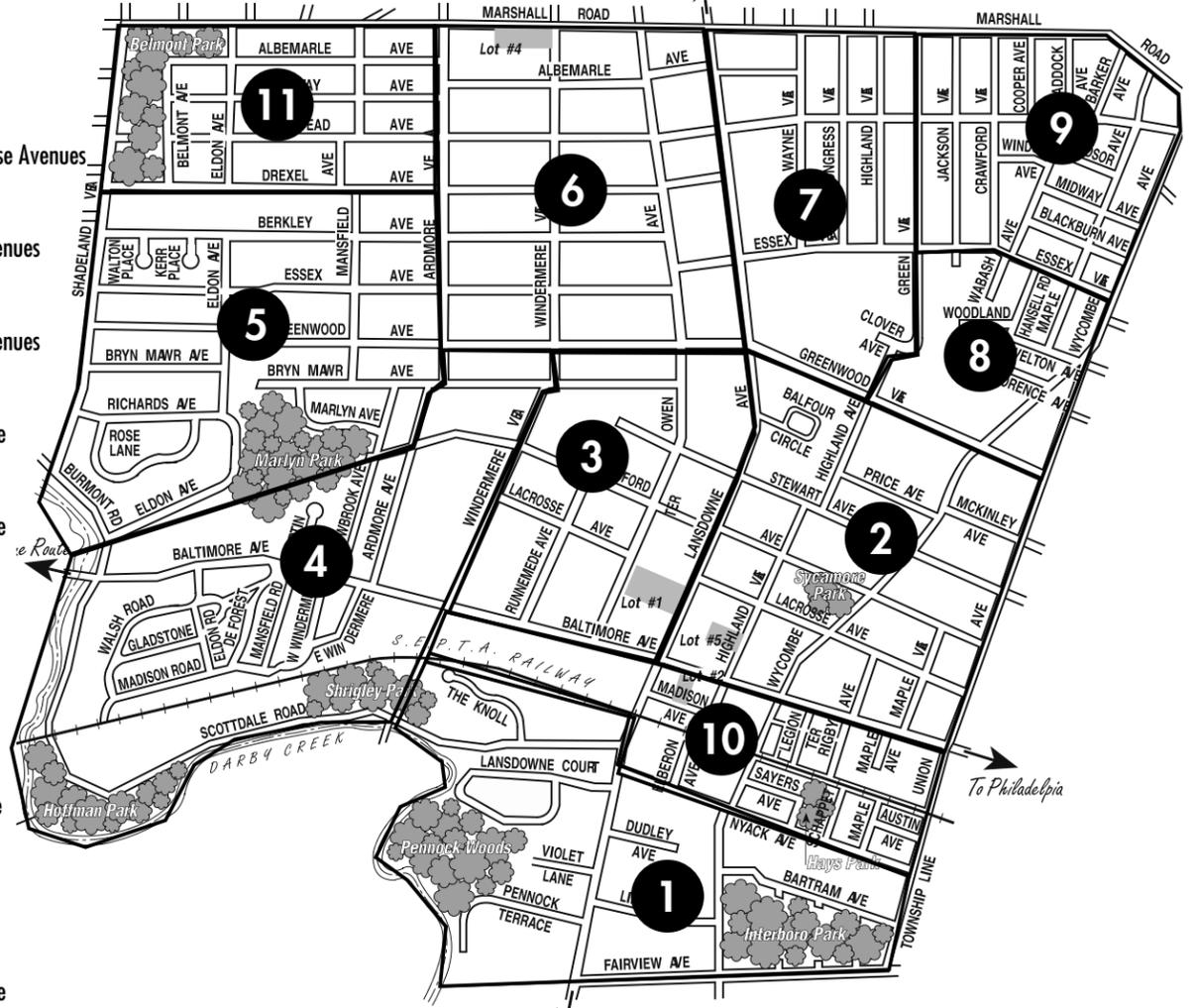
Stephanie Klein is an attorney who earned her J.D. from Washington College of Law, American University in Washington, D.C. Stephanie is a former Magisterial District Judge for Media, Nether Providence and Swarthmore. She was the first woman and first Democrat elected to that post and served for 18 years. Stephanie now serves as a mediator and arbitrator in civil matters, particularly experienced with cases involving veterans' benefits, unemployment and Social Security benefits, tenant rights, the homeless, and domestic violence. She has a deep, abiding love for the law and the role of the courts.

**ELECTION DAY**

# All You Need to Know to Vote on November 5th

## POLLING LOCATIONS & PRECINCTS

- 1st Precinct**  
Twentieth Century Club, 84 South Lansdowne Avenue
- 2nd Precinct**  
Lansdowne Fire Company, SW Corner of Highland and LaCrosse Avenues
- 3rd Precinct**  
Simpson Gardens, Corner of Lansdowne and West Stewart Avenues
- 4th Precinct**  
Simpson Gardens, Corner of Lansdowne and West Stewart Avenues
- 5th Precinct**  
Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, Berkley Avenue entrance
- 6th Precinct**  
Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, Berkley Avenue entrance
- 7th Precinct**  
Penn Wood High School, Essex Avenue Entrance
- 8th Precinct**  
Penn Wood High School, Essex Avenue Entrance
- 9th Precinct**  
Pepper Pharmacy, East Plumstead Avenue near Union Avenue
- 10th Precinct**  
Lansdowne Public Library, Nyack Avenue
- 11th Precinct\***  
Ardmore Avenue Elementary School, Berkley Avenue entrance



**DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICIAL BALLOT**  
VOTE YES  ON RETENTION FOR **JUDGE ANNE E. LAZARUS**

## Absentee Ballot Applications Online

By Catherine Coll

In time for this November's election, the state of Pennsylvania has made it easier to apply for an absentee ballot. Previously, the ballot had to be requested via mail or hand delivery to the county election office. Voters can now apply online, at [votesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee](http://votesPA.com/ApplyAbsentee). Voters who apply will receive their absentee ballot in the mail.

"Giving voters the option to apply for an absentee ballot online is another important step to make voting more accessible," Gov. Tom Wolf said. "Pennsylvanians have busy lives, so we must continue to modernize our elections and make voting more convenient for people."

The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot for this November's election is Tuesday, October 29th at 5pm. The deadline for county election offices to receive voted absentee ballots is just three days later, Friday, November 1 at 5pm. The absentee ballots can be mailed or delivered. In Pennsylvania, individuals with illnesses or disabilities, individuals who will be away from their municipalities on Election Day, and students attending college out of state are all eligible to vote with an absentee ballot.

This change helps make voting more accessible and augments the services that are provided online by the state of Pennsylvania.

OFFICES	DEMOCRAT	
	TO VOTE STRAIGHT DEMOCRAT TICKET PRESS HERE →	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT (VOTE FOR 2)	<b>DANIEL D MCCAFFERY</b>	<b>A1</b>
	<b>AMANDA GREEN-HAWKINS</b>	<b>A2</b>
JUDGE OF THE COURT OF COMMON PLEAS (VOTE FOR 4)	<b>NUSRAT RASHID</b>	<b>A3</b>
	<b>STEPHANIE KLEIN</b>	<b>A4</b>
	<b>KELLY ECKEL</b>	<b>A5</b>
	<b>RICK LOWE</b>	<b>A6</b>
COUNTY COUNCIL 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 3)	<b>MONICA TAYLOR</b>	<b>A7</b>
	<b>ELAINE PAUL SCHAEFER</b>	<b>A8</b>
	<b>CHRISTINE REUTHER</b>	<b>A9</b>
DISTRICT ATTORNEY 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	<b>JACK STOLLSTEIMER</b>	<b>A10</b>
SCHOOL DIRECTOR WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT REGION 7 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	<b>JENNIFER HOFF</b>	<b>A12</b>
SCHOOL DIRECTOR WILLIAM PENN SCHOOL DISTRICT REGION 6 2 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 1)	<b>JAN TONG</b>	<b>A17</b>
COUNTY COUNCIL 4 YEAR TERM (VOTE FOR 3)	<b>SINOE NAJI-TAYLOR</b>	<b>A27</b>
	<b>TANGELA JAMES</b>	<b>A28</b>
	<b>BENJAMIN D HOVER</b>	<b>A29</b>

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2019**

## New Voting System for 2020 Primary

According to Delaware County Councilmen Brian Zidek and Kevin Madden, at the September 16, 2019 meeting of the Delaware County Election Board, the Board voted unanimously to recommend a voting machine to the Delaware County Council for its approval. The Board selected the Hart Verity hand marked paper ballot system.

While the County Council has (at the time of printing) not yet scheduled a vote on this recommendation, it is expected that they will follow the recommendation and either lease or purchase new machines for use in the County starting with the 2020 Primary election.

The Hart InterCivic Verity Voting 2.3.3 was

certified by the PA Department of State on February 12, 2019. The certified polling place components are:

- Verity Scan digital ballot scanner
- Verity Duo ballot marking device



The United State Election Assistance Commission (EAC) and the Pennsylvania Department of State certified the Hart InterCivic-Verity Voting 2.3.3 under current federal and state standards. Pennsylvania has developed new standards of security and accessibility that manufacturers must meet to achieve state certification.

For more information on this voting system visit the Hart Verity website at [hartintercivic.com](http://hartintercivic.com).



## LENSES ON LANSDOWNE

### A Habitat for Pollinators

Ramsey Beyer transformed her lawn from a monoculture (inset) to a diverse pollinator landscape. Many Lansdowne residents are opting out of having front lawns and developing front yard gardens instead. Using native plants and those that attract pollinators and birds, flat, high-maintenance lawns are giving way to beautiful gardens with a purpose.



### Landing with Pride

On June 22, 2019, the first ever Lansdowne Pride celebration took place at Lansdowne Landing. A large crowd including members of the LGBTQIA+ community of Delco, family, neighbors, and all kinds of allies, listened to a DJ, danced and enjoyed hot dogs. The event was an independent project of Jennifer Hoff and Bill Horton.

### It's Nice to Meet You!

Residents enjoying lunch at the newly opened Burger Bank on Lansdowne Avenue. The restaurant offers both eat-in and takeout service at its 27 North Lansdowne Avenue location.



## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Why I'm Voting Against Marsy's Law

By George J. Badey III

I am voting "no" on Marsy's Law, which seeks to amend the Pennsylvania Constitution to promote so-called "victim's rights" because (1) many of those 'rights' are already law (2) the legislature is free to pass more 'victim-protection' measures, and (3) fundamentally amending the PA Constitution is overkill and could take away civil liberties and protections that currently exist, leaving only the U.S. Constitution as the source of some of our most crucial protections. And don't forget, President Trump is busy packing the federal bench with right-wing authoritarians who will be on the bench for decades to come and who will interpret the U.S. Constitution in a way which may be hostile to many of our basic civil rights.

The ACLU is right on this one. This amendment could potentially increase the chances that an innocent person will be convicted of a crime they did not commit. Check this out:

<https://www.aclu.org/blog/criminal-law-reform/victims-rights-proposals-marsys-law-undermine-due-process>

Being against Marsy's Law doesn't mean you are against victim's rights. It just means you want fairness and you understand that the Pennsylvania Constitution is not broken; it's just fine as it is.

Sadly, superficial 'feel good' measures like this attract politicians who like popular soundbites but are afraid to stand up for unpopular, but fair and just, things. Many politicians have lost their spines. Republicans in

Washington know Trump must go but they're terrified of his base, so they do not oppose him. Democrats indignantly decry these cowardly Republicans, but some then turn around and demonstrate a stunning lack of courage themselves. It takes guts to stand up and do the right thing when the right thing is not popular to the masses who are uninformed and have only a superficial understanding. Many politicians who studied the issue and support this amendment likely support it not because they

believe it is the right thing, but because they fear being attacked as 'anti-victim' in this hyper-sensitive, superficial and soundbite environment.

This amendment is likely to pass because, on the surface, it is popular. But we should all always strive to be "pro-truth and justice" even if it's not popular.

George J. Badey III, Esquire  
Chair, Radnor Twp. Democratic Committee

## COUNTY COUNCIL

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from different parts of the county can we serve all of the residents. We need to understand the challenges facing our communities of color, our immigrant communities where English may be a second language, communities facing long term environmental burdens from old industries that operated in a time without robust regulatory oversight, discrimination due to sexual orientation, gender identity or gender and the intractable problems of poverty. Understanding comes from including people who know the communities they serve. We must do a better job of recruiting people as employees and service providers and implement policies and training to insure that services are provided where they are needed most."

Elaine Paul Schaefer has extensive experience in flipping a red municipality to blue. A longtime engaged resident

and environmental activist, Elaine won a crucial Radnor Township Commissioner seat, flipping the majority to the Democrats. At that time, the township was in a state of disarray with a financial corruption controversy, a record of deficit spending and high levels of resident distrust of the local government. Under Elaine's leadership, the new Democratic majority completely revamped the government, appointing an entirely new management structure, instituting a higher level of financial reporting, increasing transparency and making strategic staffing decisions. The board remains under Democratic control today, and Radnor serves as a model of accountable local government in our region – a model needed for Delaware County Council.

Voters of Lansdowne, these dynamic women will have the most positive impact on our day to day life here in Delaware County, if they can flip control of County Council blue. Please help them make history on Tuesday, November 5th!



# Arts on the Avenue

Rock painting (right) was one of many activities taking place during the annual Arts on the Avenue Festival, which was held this year on Sunday, September 22 on North Lansdowne Avenue between Baltimore and Greenwood Avenues. The event is presented annually by the Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC).



## LANSDOWNE DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE

- Charlotte K. Hummel, Chair .....610-626-7086
- Suzanne K. McElroy,  
First Vice Chair .....610-213-1172
- Clare Hughes,  
Vice Chair for Engagement .....610-613-3997
- Catherine Coll,  
Vice Chair for Communications .....202-669-7933
- Kate Schleigh, Secretary .....610-284-0411
- William T. Smith, Treasurer ..... 610-213-2022

### ■ COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- 1st Precinct**
- William Horton..... 267-240-6747
- Sinoe Naji-Taylor .....267-716-1867
- 2nd Precinct**
- Michael Schleigh .....215-740-7047
- Kate Schleigh .....610-406-3660
- 3rd Precinct**
- Elliot Borgman .....610-715-6803
- William Hodgson .....610-259-0884
- 4th Precinct**
- Craig Horle .....215-823-9607
- Susan Corbin .....610-284-0411
- 5th Precinct**
- Michael McElroy .....610-284-5503
- Desmondé Pringle .....610-202-2743
- 6th Precinct**
- William T. Smith .....610-213-2022
- Allison Truman.....610-453-2547
- 7th Precinct**
- Mark Anthony French .....610-517-5251
- Bernadette Domenick.....610-585-2353
- 8th Precinct**
- Two vacancies
- 9th Precinct**
- Antoine R. Mauldin .....267-205-4809
- One vacancy
- 10th Precinct**
- Peggie McCormack.....610-772-3947
- One vacancy
- 11th Precinct**
- Kellie Bowker .....484-410-9209
- Kristin Bellafante .....703-597-5857

## WORD FIND

A	T	E	K	R	A	M	S	R	E	M	R	A	F
N	H	T	F	A	E	C	I	J	A	M	E	S	Y
D	E	M	O	C	R	A	T	S	L	A	V	H	T
G	L	N	T	N	I	T	F	F	O	H	O	E	I
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B	E	N	U	A	A	E	R	O	M	A	C	Y	S

- |                |           |             |             |
|----------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| AFL            | Gladstone | LGB         | Sycamore    |
| Arts           | Hoff      | Library     | Theater     |
| Buy Nothing    | Hope      | Naji Taylor | The Landing |
| Community      | Hover     | November 5  | Tong        |
| Dawn           | James     | Open Sound  | Trees       |
| Democrats      | Lansdowne | Penn Wood   | UAA         |
| Farmers Market | LEDC      | Pride       | Vote        |

- At-Large**
- Kate Bechtold .....610-308-3645
- Magda Byrne .....484-362-3351
- Tony Campuzano .....610-259-0543
- Caryl Carpenter .....610-623-6449
- Catherine Coll .....202-669-7933
- Andy Farquhar .....610-626-7086
- Wardell Holt II .....215-704-3869
- Benjamin Hover .....610-357-3731
- Clare Hughes .....610-613-3997
- Charlotte K. Hummel .....610-626-7086
- Suzanne McElroy .....610-213-1172
- Charles L Royal .....610-284-9338
- Joe Stevenson .....610-623-3487
- Laurie Wolfe .....215-823-9407

# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

## ONGOING EVENTS

### Animal Friends of Lansdowne (AFL)

Second Tuesday of each month  
7:00 PM  
Borough Hall

### ArtSpace Lansdowne Figure Drawing

Mondays, 7:00 PM  
Art Space Lansdowne

### Blues Brunch

Sundays, 11:30 AM – 4:30 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

### Delaware County Council

General Meetings: Second and fourth  
Wednesday of month, 10:00 AM

Agenda Meetings: Tuesday prior to  
General Meetings, 10:00 AM

Government Center Building

### ESL Conversation:

Practice Your English!

First and Third Thursdays, 7:00 PM

Kia's Cakes and Café

### Lansdowne American Legion Post 65

Third Tuesday of each month  
7:30 PM – Borough Hall

### Lansdowne Arts Board Monthly Exhibits at the 20\*20 House

### Lansdowne Borough Council Business Meetings

First Wednesday of each month  
7:30 PM – Borough Hall

### Lansdowne Borough Council General Meetings

Third Wednesday of each month  
7:30 PM – Borough Hall

### Lansdowne Boys & Girls Club

Fourth Wednesday of every other  
month (Sept. 25, Nov. 27, Jan. 22)  
6:00 PM – Art Space Lansdowne

### Lansdowne Democratic Committee

Second Monday of each month  
7:00 PM – Borough Hall

### Lansdowne Library Programs

First Monday, 7:00 PM:  
**Mondays are Murder Book Club**

First Thursday, 7:00 PM:  
**BC Book Club**

Second Sunday, 2:00 PM:  
**Graphic Novel Book Club**

Second Thursday, 7:00 PM:  
**Page Turner Book Club**

Third Thursday, 7:30 PM:  
**History Forum**

Tuesday 4:30 PM: **Scrabble Club**

### William Penn School Board Committee Meeting

Third Monday of each month (except  
Jul & Aug)

6:30 PM – Green Ave Board Room

### William Penn School Board Business Meeting

Fourth Monday of each month  
6:30 PM – Green Avenue Board  
Room

## SCHEDULED EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

Saturday, November 2

#### Lansdowne 5K Harvest Run/Walk

Starts 30 N. Lansdowne Avenue,  
8:30 AM

Saturday, November 2

#### Performance by The Italian Job

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Sunday November 3

#### Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center,  
3:00 PM

Sunday, November 3

#### Daylight Savings Time Ends

Reminder from Lansdowne Fire  
Company to turn clocks back an  
hour and change batteries in smoke  
& carbon monoxide detectors.

Tuesday, November 5

#### GENERAL ELECTION

Your vote counts! See map of  
polling places on page 5.

**POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM – 8:00 PM**

Friday, November 8

#### Performance by Robin Bullock

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Saturday, November 9

#### Fall Into Spring

Bulb planting & Pollinator planting  
in Lansdowne's Parks  
Meet at Sycamore Park 9:00 AM

Saturday, November 9

#### Performance by Billy Kemp

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Friday, November 15

#### Performance by Sirens in the Round

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Saturday, November 16

#### Performance by Jon Dee Graham with Ben De La Cour

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Thursday, November 21

#### Performance by Deb Callahan

Lansdowne Folk Club, 7:30 PM

Friday, November 22

#### Performance by Steve Katz

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Saturday, November 23

#### Bonus Thanksgiving Farmers Market

30 N. Lansdowne Avenue, 10:00  
AM – Noon

Friday, November 29

#### Performance by The Coal Cave Hollow Boys

Dinner 6:00 PM; Showtime 8:00 PM  
Jamey's House of Music

Friday, November 29

Saturday, November 30

#### A Bit of the Arts

#### Holiday Art Show and Sale

Twentieth Century Club, (4 PM – 8  
PM Friday; 10 AM - 4 PM Saturday)

## DECEMBER

Thursday, December 5

#### Performance by Stephen DiJoseph

Lansdowne Folk Club, 7:30 PM

Saturday, December 7

#### Winter Lights Parade (with Santa)

Lansdowne Ave. from Greenwood  
Ave. to Lansdowne Landing, 6:00 PM

Sunday, December 8

#### Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center,  
3:00 PM

Tuesday, December 10

#### Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra

**Messiah Sing-In**  
Lansdowne Friends School, 7:30 PM

Friday, December 13

#### Bonus Winter Farmers Market

30 N. Lansdowne Avenue, 10:00  
AM – Noon

Sunday, February 9

#### Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center,  
3:00 PM

Sunday, March 22

#### Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center,  
3:00 PM

Sunday, May 3

#### Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra

Upper Darby Performing Arts Center,  
3:00 PM

## EVENT LOCATIONS & CONTACT INFORMATION

**20 20 House Gallery**  
20 Lansdowne Court

**Art Space Lansdowne**  
23 S. Lansdowne Ave.

**Delaware County Council**  
Government Center Building  
1st Floor, Government Center Building  
Media, PA  
www.delcopa.gov

**Historic Lansdowne Theater Corporation**  
31 S. Lansdowne Avenue  
www.lansdownetheater.org

**Hoffman Park**  
Scottdale Road

**Jamey's House of Music**  
32 S. Lansdowne Ave  
215-477-9985  
www.jameyshouseofmusic.com

**Lansdowne Business & Professional Association (LBPA)**  
www.shoplansdowne.com

**Lansdowne Borough Hall**  
12 E. Baltimore Ave.  
610-623-7300

**Lansdowne Democratic Committee**  
PO. Box 1136, Lansdowne, PA 19050  
www.lansdownedemocrats.com  
lansdownedems@gmail.com

**Lansdowne Economic Development Corporation (LEDC)**  
32 E. Baltimore Avenue  
www.lansdownesfuture.org

**Lansdowne Folk Club Twentieth Century Club**  
84 S. Lansdowne Ave.  
484-466-6213  
www.folkclub.org

**Lansdowne Landing**  
30 N. Lansdowne Ave.  
Enter from either N. Lansdowne Ave. or Owen Ave

**Lansdowne Public Library**  
55 S. Lansdowne Ave.  
610-623-0239

**Lansdowne Symphony Orchestra**  
Performances at the  
Upper Darby Performing Arts Center  
601 N. Lansdowne Ave. Drexel Hill, PA 19026  
www.lansdowneso.org

**Twentieth Century Club**  
84 S. Lansdowne Ave.

**William Penn School District**  
Administration Building  
100 Green Ave.  
www.williampensd.org