the ansdowne Leader

May 2023

"Accountable Leadership, Accessible Government"

Vol. XXXI, No. 2

DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL'S RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A Democratic County Council Makes a Difference

by Craig Horle

In 2019, Christine Reuther, Elaine Paul Schaefer, and Dr. Monica Taylor were elected for four-year terms, joining two fellow Democrats already on the Delaware County Council, and for the first time the Democrats had complete control of the Council. As the end of their four-year terms nears, they are running for a second term, to carry on and solidify the many significant changes they have brought via Council to Delaware County. The second term would be their last term as Delaware County limits service on the Council to

two four-year terms.Dr. Monica Taylor, Elaine Paul Schaefer and Christine Reuther, with their two other Democratic colleagues, Kevin Madden and Brian Zidek, accomplished a great deal and have much more work they wish to do as fol-

PUBLIC HEALTH: The county health department was created and opened their first location in Yeadon in April 2022. A second site just opened in Chester, while a third location in Media is to be opened soon. This implemented a Health 3.0

strategy which is becoming the standard: instead of one central location requiring residents to come to it, many more scattered locations provide more outreach directly to the community. The COVID pandemic led the council to broker a deal with Chester County that allowed us to set up mobile clinics with the help of the National Guard, create and maintain good data about disease spread, and distribute needed vaccines, prioritizing the elderly and immune-compromised. They have also modernized our 911 services. Council has been standing up for the health needs

of residents in eastern Delaware County as they continue to oppose the closing of Delaware County Memorial Hospital.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:

Council began a plan to reduce gun violence in Chester, gathered more funding from the state to keep it going and expand it across the entire county. They de-privatized the George W. Hill Correctional Facility and brought it back into county control. Improvements include additional programming inside of

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DELAWARE COUNTY COUNCIL CANDIDATES

Christine Reuther

Christine Reuther already had a remarkable resume before being elected to the County Council in 2019. She attended Haverford Township High School, Harvard/Radcliffe College (B.A., cum laude in Government) and attained her law degree from the University of

California, Berkeley. She

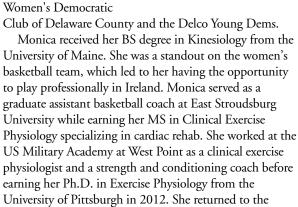


was admitted to practice law in PA in 1987, and has held a number of significant legal positions, most recently at McCausland Keen & Buckman. Upon her resignation from McCausland, Keen & Buckman to serve on council, they stated: "Since 2007, Christine had been a valuable member of our business and tax practice groups. Her knowledge of the tax code, her problem-solving skills and her camaraderie will be deeply

She is, to put it mildly, a community and political activist of the first order, whether serving as Solicitor for Rutledge Borough or Campaign Chair for Joanne Phillips for County Controller. She served Nether Providence in many capacities: Township Commissioner, Third Ward; Planning Commission; Judge of Elections, Third Ward;

Dr. Monica Taylor

Dr. Monica Taylor was an Upper Darby School Board Director (serving as the Co-Chair for the Finance and Operations Committee, overseeing the second highest budget in the county), a former member of the Democratic Party State Committee and on the executive boards of the



Delaware Valley region after four years as a professor and

assistant basketball coach at St. Ambrose University in

continued on page 10



was elected to Delaware County Council in November of 2019 for a four year term and she currently holds the position as the Vice-Chair of the Delaware County Council.

Elaine has lived in the Newtown Square section of Radnor for over twenty years, where she and her husband John



raised their three children. She is an attorney with a background in non-profit management and environmental advocacy. Elaine received her undergraduate degree from Boston College and her law degree from William and

In addition to serving on County Council, Elaine currently serves as the Executive Director of the Schuylkill River Greenways National Heritage Area. She served eight years as an elected Commissioner in Radnor Township, and was President of the Board for three of those years. Before joining Radnor's board, Elaine co-founded the Radnor Conservancy, where she served as Executive Director and President and focused on developing a conservation easement program and protecting the last remaining farm

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Left to right: Jennifer Hoff for School Board Director, William Penn School District; and Benjamin Hover, William Griffin, Molly Connors, and Jessica Pointer, candidates for Lansdowne Borough Council. Learn more about the candidates on pages 3 and 4.

THE LEADER SURVEY The Results Are In!

We asked, and you answered. The results are in! We wanted to find out which issues are important to you, with regards to our great borough. We received over 100 responses through the online survey, and regular mail. Take a moment and view the re-

sults. See if the issues that are important to you are also important to others.

If you didn't complete the survey, there's still time. Scan the QR Code and complete it today!

See the complete survey results on page 4.



HOW WE LIVE IN LANSDOWNE

Walkability is a Key Component in Our Quality of Life

By Catherine Coll

Many of us have chosen Lansdowne for our home because of a variety of attractive features of a close, inner-ring suburb of Philadelphia: the architecture, mature trees, proximity to public transportation, parks, and a feeling of connection to friendly neighbors.

Walkability is a key experience that allows us to enjoy all of these attractions. Growing up in Lansdowne, I was surprised when I first learned of the existence of neighborhoods without sidewalks. It's hard to observe the changing light and changing seasons, much less meet your neighbors, from a car.

I live close to Reservoir Park, and I enjoy taking my dog Sugar on out daily so she can see her friends such as Baltic the Husky, Kiki the Corgi, Scarlett, Flynn, Checkers and many others. I've always been in the habit of walking my neighborhood, and delivering the Lansdowne Leader in the Spring and Fall gave me the opportunity to observe even more details within our town. I got to know where the irises bloom early and

Walkability is a key experience that allows us to enjoy everything that living in Lansdowne offers: architecture, mature trees, parks, and more

which house has a perfect lavender rose bush. I gained a lot of decorating ideas that ultimately found their way into my husband's repair and remodel of our screened front porch. Many of my neighbors have extensive gardening knowledge, which is how I learned that Swiss chard looks a lot like rhubarb, which is a bit harder to cultivate in this climate.

Not everything looks the same as it did when I used to walk to Ardmore Avenue school in the mornings as a child, many houses have been revitalized and remodeled, and there is a much greater variety of landscaping choices. Walking can be aimless or it can have a destination, which Lansdowne's business area has always provided. I can both reminisce about when Lansdowne had a 5 & 10 shop, and also enjoy our current offerings. Camelia coffee house and Scrappy Cat Antiques are the latest, which are both proving very popular destinations. Commuters walking home from the Media-Wawa line stop in Lansdowne have a lot of choices on view on their walk home from the station.

In addition to all of these benefits of walkability, sidewalks also provide accessibility for the disabled, and residents should ensure that their properties are not obstacles. Making sure not to block curb cuts and driveways with parked cars, maintaining sidewalks, and trimming back bushes and weeds, and always cleaning up after pets are some of the neighborly duties that are necessary to ensure that people with wheelchairs, canes, crutches or strollers have safe, consistent and equal access to our town's amenities.

AVOID THE COMMON MISTAKES

Make Sure Your Mail-In Ballot Counts

More than 16,000 ballots were discarded in the 2022 November election because of some easily avoided mistakes. However, if you follow these simple steps, you can be sure that your ballot will be counted.

- Completely fill in the circles on the ballot with a blue or black ink pen.
 Don't make check marks as they will not be counted.
- Put the ballot in the secrecy envelope marked "official election ballot."
- Seal the envelope. Do not make any marks on the secrecy envelope.
- Put the secrecy envelope in the outer envelope and seal the outer envelope.
- Sign the outer envelope.
- Date the outer envelope.
- Double check that you have signed and dated the outer envelope.
- Ballots can be returned through the U.S. mail or by Drop-Box.

BY U.S. MAIL:

- Put a first-class stamp on the outer envelope if you use the U.S. mail.
- If you mail the ballot, it must be RECEIVED at the county election board by 8PM on election night.

BY DROP-BOX:

- Deposit your completed ballot at an official drop-box. Any official Drop-Box in Delaware County can be used.
- The Lansdowne Drop-Box is in front of the firehouse on Highland Avenue.
- Each voter must drop off their own ballot.

IMPORTANT DATES

Applications for mail-in ballots and absentee ballots must be received by Delaware County Bureau of Elections no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 9, 7 days before Election Day. Completed Vote-by-Mail ballots must be received by the Bureau of Elections no later than 8:00 p.m. on Election Day, Tuesday, May 16.

Lansdowne Leader

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Editor's Error: Please acknowledge Caryl Carpenter as author of the Volunteers: Profiles in Service as well as the Vote By Mail article in the Winter 2023 issue of *The Leader*.

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DISCLAIMER: Inclusion in or coverage by the *Lansdowne Leader* of any individual, business, organization or event does not necessarily imply endorsement of *The Leader*'s political or editorial point of view.

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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CLASSIFIED ADS

FREE LESSONS

To learn about How Local Government Works. Lessons provided at Lansdowne Democratic Committee meetings on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm, beginning 4/13. Contact lansdownedems@gmail.com for additional details and future dates.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

For Lansdowne's Boards and Commissions. Vacancies exist in the Civil Service Commission, Environmental Advisory Council, Parks & Recreation Board, and Zoning Hearing Board. For more information, visit this link https://www.lansdowneborough.com/383/Volunteer-for-a-Board-or-Commission.

WALKING WITH A PURPOSE

Lansdowne Democrats are looking for some help to deliver the Leader. This newspaper is published 2-4 times a year and hand-delivered to residences throughout the town. Small neighborhood turfs are assigned. Especially looking for apartment dwellers to distribute in their buildings. Email Suzanne at lansdownedems@gmail.com

SAMPLE BALLOTLansdowne Democrats Endorsed Candidates

OFFICE	CANDIDATE	BALLOT POSITION
PA Supreme Court	Daniel Caffrey	11
PA Superior Court (vote for 2)	Timika Lane Jill Beck	22 23
Commonwealth Court	Matt Wolf	31
Court of Common Pleas	Rachel Ezzell Berr	y 43
County Council (vote for 3)	Elaine Paul Schae Monica Taylor Christine Reuther	52
District Attorney	Jack Stollsteimer	61
Magisterial Judge	W. Keith Williams	;II 71
WPSD School Director Region 7 (Precincts 1,4,5,6 &11)	Jennifer Hoff	81
Borough Council 4-year terms (vote for 3)	William O. Griffin Benjamin Hover Jessica M. Pointe	182
Borough Council 2-year term (vote for 1)	Molly Connors	191

Progressive Leadership for a Better Lansdowne



Molly Connors

Molly Connors has been a resident of Lansdowne Borough for almost thirty years. It was the strong sense of community that attracted her to the Borough. First, as an apartment dweller then after a few years she made the transition to homeowner where she lives with her dog and cat in the second precinct. Molly graduated as an Honor Student from Pennsylvania State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree. Currently, she works in medical communications serving the pharmaceutical industry from the position of Vice-President.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR LANSDOWNE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Molly is a big believer in donating to local organizations located in Lansdowne Borough such as the Interfaith Food Cupboard and the Animal Friends of Lansdowne. Molly volunteers her time with the Lansdowne Democratic Committee and the Lansdowne Arts Festival. Also, she is a member of the Lansdowne Swim Club.

Previously, Molly's work required her to travel extensively and her schedule did not allow her to volunteer on the level that she would have liked. However, her work schedule has changed and now she has the time to help and make a difference in her town

Molly is running for a seat on the Lansdowne Borough Council. She is listed as an endorsed candidate on the Democratic Ballot for the May 16th Primary election. She believes that her skills in budget management, negotiation, leadership and the ability to work in teams will allow her to be an asset to Borough Council. She states that her goals are to show up having educated herself on local government, to listen and take into account the wishes of the constituency, and to participate as a knowledgeable member of Lansdowne's Borough Council.



William Oliver Griffin

William Griffin's goal in serving on Council is to "to be a voice for those that may feel unheard, to bring equity, inclusion, and lastly to strengthen and bring resources to our Borough." Seeking a "more proactive and less reactive approach" to governing, he believes that "nothing is impossible, when leaders work as a team."

Raised in the Overbrook section of West Philadelphia, he moved to Lansdowne's 9th precinct with his wife in 2019 drawn to our borough by his belief that the neighborhood takes pride in the community, clean parks, community events and education. Will is a strong community activist and a staunch union supporter as a member of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19.

During Vice-President Kamala Harris' pro-labor tour in April 2022, she visited Philadelphia for a rally attended by local officials and several hundred supporters with a backdrop of the seal of the Sheet Metal Workers Local 19. As a 28 year old apprentice in the trade, Will was honored to provide her introduction. "I feel like there's nothing I can't accomplish since joining the organization," he commented. When Harris took the stage, she gestured toward him, saying, "You represent the future of America's labor movement."

During August 2022, Will undertook a voter registration project in Lansdowne Borough. He worked with the Lansdowne Democratic Committee, wanting to see the impact of literature dropping, door knocking, and voter registration. At the conclusion of project, Will reported that a seven percent increase in registered voters was achieved through the efforts of all who helped.

In September 2022 when there was a shooting in the 9th precinct, Will and other community volunteers partnered with appointed and elected officials, and police, to organize "Clean & Safe", a community event to discuss what happened, ways to prevent gun violence. The day also included cleaning the block. Will stressed that "we as a community have been faced with various difficulties and this "Clean & Safe" event allows us all to come together and come up with solutions for our everyday struggles."

In a remarkably short span Will has made and continues to make his impact on Lansdowne, now as a Borough Councilman.



Benjamin Hover

Ben Hover has served on Council since 2018, and has been elected President of Council in 2020 and 2022. He is running this year to serve another four years, and to continue the work of the borough. As a leader, Ben is highly visible in the community, shopping at the Farmers Market, participating in community events, celebrating success of local businesses, and celebrating a plethora of diverse holidays indicative of the diversity of the community.

Ben draws on his experience as a teacher when engaging in teamwork on Council. As an educator, he creates an overall plan for the school year, then develops individual units and lesson plans for implementation. On Council his professional style thrives on the structure of the work to accomplish the goals for the Borough. His belief is that with structure and consistency, with standing agendas of council and committee meetings, the work of council can best be understood by fellow council members as well as the public.

Ben's vision is that everyone in Lansdowne, regardless of age, gender identification, race, background or political party, have access to public spaces and the ability to access Lansdowne government on an equal level. He sees public space as a prime driver in both Community and Economic Development because they encourage communication and exchange among our residents and businesses. When you are planting pollinator plants in the park, the concerns about differences between people is irrelevant. What matters most is the job at hand, not political party, race or personal beliefs.

When asked about what he could do better, based on experience or feedback, Ben replied, "I would work with Council and the mayor to have more community forums and provide more public surveys to solicit feedback from residents concerning projects within the community....as well as informational posts about the local government works."



Jessica Pointer

Jessica M. Pointer has been a resident of Lansdowne Borough for over six years having previously lived in West Philadelphia. She attended Walden University where she earned a Graduate Degree in Public Policy and Administration. Jessica has had a professional career in the public and nonprofit sectors for over twenty-five years. She has worked as an Investigator for the State of New Jersey's Department of Child Protection and Permanency for fourteen years. She now works for a substance abuse treatment organization where she developed a Community Health Program for Eastern Pennsylvania. She has been a chapter member of the National Society of Leadership and Success since 2019.

Jessica is a strong advocate for community engagement and volunteerism. She has been on the frontline of grassroot organizations that have fought for social change and justice; whether the moment called for advocating in reform, providing services, resources or demanding change in policies.

Currently, she volunteers on the Lansdowne Democratic Committee where she holds the position of Vice Chair of Fundraising and Development in addition to the Lansdowne Parks and Recreation Committee which oversees all of the outdoor recreation areas and facilities owned and operated throughout the Borough.

Jessica is passionate about empowering marginalized families with the necessary tools to provide safety, permanency and well-being to their own lives. She considers it to be one of her strengths to teach families and individuals on how to execute their inspirations. Additionally, she dedicates her time, talents and experiences to the National Society of Leadership and Success, The Nile Swim Club, Toastmasters International and The American Society for Public Administration.

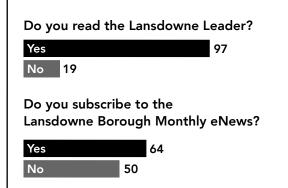
Jessica is running as an endorsed candidate for the position of Lansdowne Borough Council Person in the May 16th Primary Election.

PENNSYLVANIA PRIMARY ELECTION: TUESDAY, MAY 16TH POLLS OPEN 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM - See page 10 for polling locations.

WHAT MATTERS TO YOU IN LANSDOWNE

SURVEY RESULTS

The results are in! You, our readers, told us which issues are important to you. We have received more than 100 responses - take a moment and view the results. If you didn't complete the survey, there's still time. Scan the QR Code on page 1 and complete it today!



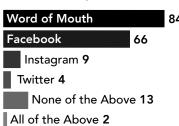
How Do You Find Out What's Going on in Lansdowne? (select all that apply)

Borough Website 88
Lansdowne Leader 68

How Do You Find Out What's Going on in Lansdowne? (select all that apply)

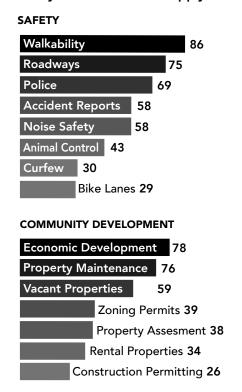


How do you learn about happenings in Lansdowne? (select all that apply)



What issues or aspects of Lansdowne are important to you? Select all that apply.





Jennifer Hoff for School Board Director

Jennifer Hoff has been serving as School Board Director from Lansdowne's Region 7 since 2007 and is seeking her fifth term. How can anyone stay that inspired to give that much of their time to volunteer work? She is energized and motivated by the children, saying, "I love the students and their greatly varied backgrounds. I find



our students very bright and interesting. They make all the meetings worth it!"

Jennifer has expressed her intent to continue serving on school board until fair funding is achieved for our students. She was instrumental in initiating the lawsuit against the state for that purpose nine years ago, and we are grateful that Jennifer shows the kind of commitment and tenacity of purpose that she does to see it through. The recent court decision from the Commonwealth Court Judge Cohn Jubelier brought us one giant step closer, by acknowledging that the education funding inequities are unconstitutional, but it failed to recommend a remedy. Please see Fair Funding article in this issue for more details.

Jennifer has served on School Board through four superintendents and provides a steady approach to make sure that district activities are fairly funded to offer as many possibilities to our students as feasible. Her untiring advocacy of our students as well as residents of the district is commendable. Her patience and kindness are always present when dealing with the complaints about high school taxes or disparaging rumors about the district. She has invited many a person to visit the schools with her and see things for themselves. Our children are thriving as best they can in the circumstances dealt to them by decades of inequitable funding.

Jennifer's support of the students in our district goes far beyond meetings. She can also be seen supporting the students in their various activities, from sports to STEAM competitions.

BOOK REVIEW

A Shift in Political and Societal Structures

by Terry Baraldi

WOKE. We like to think of ourselves as evolved and aware of what has gone before in this democracy...and that "things need to change". But it isn't enough to WOKE up unless we GET up and be about the business.

In her book Viral Justice, Ruha Benjamin hits the ground running with examples and personal anecdotes from her own black middle class history. There is warmth, and even humor in her prose, but there's also no mistaking the justifiable anger crackling just below the surface. Listen to her.

Truth: this is not an easy read. The enormity and breadth of the subject will alarm you, depress you and hopefully move you to a new level of personal commitment toward change.

Best to take it in small bites and along the way digest the reality of what we *all* must be about in the coming decades as we strive to overturn and reform our past racially-biased political and societal structures.

Restructuring how we use our financial resources from police beats to social welfare and mental health specialists is key. So is defunding educational systems that perpetuate that white is always right. Depriving half of our fellow citizens access to the heights of their potential is the 21st century version of eugenics.

Viral Justice, at the MACRO level, is at first glance an overarching call to fix the big stuff...the glaring inequities of our justice system and police procedures; an education system that has systemically, and intentionally, dumbed down the financial, educational and societal opportunities available to what will soon be the racial majority in this land. It's an ever expanding opportunity to reset our democracy, from the largest seats of power to the elementary school classroom.

We know this. We know this must change. We must correct course.

But are we spending all our angst and

energy in trying to find the big solutions that we fail to recognize the power that each of us holds, in our own ways, to begin to make the difference at ground

Most of us will not be called upon to rewrite the criminal justice code. But some will.

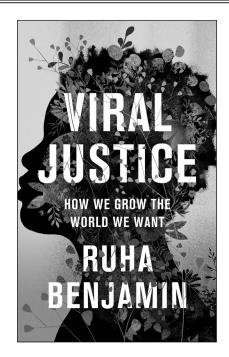
Most of us will not get to personally restructure our racially distorted education systems...But some will.

So what about you?

Viruses spread exponentially. What Ms. Benjamin urges is for each of us here at Ground Zero to *bloom where we're planted...*to use our talents and our efforts in our own social elements or intellectual capacities...what she calls our "plots". By incorporating justice into our own footprints and front yards, we ultimately make the elemental difference in how we see and change the world, starting at the *local level*.

You can start at your *local* polling place.

It all counts. We all count.



Viral Justice By Ruha Benjamin

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THE LAZY GARDENER

When A Weed is More Than Just a Weed

"A rose is a rose is a rose", but what is a weed? A weed is just any plant that happens to be in the wrong place at the wrong time. Take, for example, the friendly Peppermint plant (Mentha piperita L.). Placed in your garden bed, along with other herbs and veggies, this enthusiastic herb produces creeping stollens, or runners, which can soon overtake the entire garden, snuffing out other desirable plants. Place it in a pot or other confined space, and it will happily contribute plenty of your primary ingredient for Mint Juleps and restful teas for many years, while the rest of your garden thrives.

In late March and early April, some yards present a showy display of small yellow flowers known as Lesser Celandine (Ficaria verna). This sweet golden carpet in early spring is an early source of pollen and nectar for emerging bumble bees, small flies, and small beetles. The upper part of the plant dies back later in the season, but the plants spread aggressively and interfere with that monoculture

known as the American lawn. So, I choose to keep this "weed".

The familiar Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale) is always referred to as a weed by lawn lovers, but there are several good reasons to keep these plants. The appearance of a dandelion plant signals poor soil, low in calcium, and compacted. Not only does the dandelion alert you to this state, but they help to improve your soil. The long tap root that makes them so difficult to completely remove is serving to break up the compacted soil, just like an aerator tool, but with way less work on your part.

Dandelions also provide food for beneficial bugs. They are an early season source of food for pollinators.

Dandelions also provide food for humans. Not only are dandelion greens safe to eat, but they also provide a range of health benefits. All parts of a dandelion plant are edible, from the top of the yellow flower down to the roots.

The green leaves of the dandelion can make a healthy addition to salads,



Dandelion (Taraxacum officinale), left, and Lesser Celandine (Ficaria verna), right, are two "weeds" that you may want to think twice about before eradicating them from your garden.

sandwiches, or omelets. The blossoms can be incorporated into various recipes or made into a wine. If you have allergies, be mindful of any sensitivities you might have before adding dandelions to your diet. Younger plants tend to be less bitter.

Grants Help Provide Equal Access to Essential Services

Delaware County was recently granted approximately \$2.7 million dollars in Federal Community Funding (CPF) for two major initiatives that target both workforce development and healthcare in the county.

With the assistance of Senator Bob Casey, the County will receive \$954,000 in funding from the Department of Labor's Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act demonstration program to launch the Delaware County Perinatal Community Health Worker/Doula Pilot Program. This program prepares participants to work as Perinatal Community Health Care Workers

The two Delaware County grants were obtained with the assistance of Senator Bob Casey and Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon

(PCHW) or Doulas. While doctors, nurses, and midwives provide medical care during the perinatal period, doulas provide the woman and her family with emotional, informational, and physical support during pregnancy, birth, and the immediate postpartum period.

The program aims to reduce racial and economic disparities in maternal care through education, targeted training, and deployment of doulas in communities that have the highest disparities in maternal and child health outcomes. This program will ensure that Delaware County women will receive the support they need to ensure healthy pregnancies and deliveries, as well as reduce disparities in maternal/childcare and birth outcomes.

With the assistance of Congresswoman Mary Gay Scanlon, the Delaware County Health Department will receive \$1.75

million dollars in funding for their Health Equity Resource Improvement Initiative. To meet the challenge of establishing and providing comprehensive public health services, the Department will use this funding to invest in additional equipment and technology, allowing the County's Health Department to enhance core services by implementing a comprehensive electronic health records system, improving the quality and diversity of diagnostic and treatment services available in its new mobile health unit, and purchasing lead screening equipment to combat high rates of lead toxicity among county residents.

Organizational Chart: Borough Elected Officials

BOROUGH MAYOR (Elected)
Magdalena Byrne

BOROUGH COUNCIL (Elected)

President: Benjamin Hover

Vice President: Sinoe Naji-Taylor

Members: Robert Curry William Grffin Benjamin Hover Tangela James Carol Martsolf Sinoe Naji-Taylor Jayne Young

Public Meetings
1st & 3rd Wednesdays 7 pm

BOROUGH COUNCIL COMMITTEES - Members are all elected by the voters.

Community Relations	Diversity, Equity & Comm		Economic & Community Development	Environment, Parks & Recreation	Finance & Administration	Infrastru	ıcture	Public Safety	
1st Tues 6:30pm William Griffin* Robert Curry Tangela James	n* Robert Curry* Tangela James		2nd Wed 6pm Benjamin Hover* Sinoe Naji-Taylor Robert Curry	Public Meetings 2nd Mon 6pm Carol Martsolf* Jayne Young William Griffin	2nd Tues 7pm Tangela James* Sinoe Naji-Taylor Jayne Young	2nd Mon 7pm Jayne Young* Carol Martsolf Sinoe Naji-Taylor		2nd Wed 7pm Sinoe Naji-Taylor* William Griffin Benjamin Hover Magda Byrne	
			h board or commision	MMISSIONS: Members a reports to the Borough board or commission av					
Library Board Parks & Rec Board	Human Relations Commission		Code Appeals Board Planning Commission Redevelopment	Environmental Advisory Council Shade Tree Commission		Historic Architecture Review Board Zoning Hearing Board		Board of Health Civil Service Commission	

ENDORSED CANDIDATES IN JUDICIAL ELECTIONS

W. Keith Williams II for Magisterial Court Judge

W. Keith Williams, was first elected in 2011, and then reelected 6 years later in the expanded District Court 32-2-47 that now included Lansdowne Borough, along with East Lansdowne and Yeadon. The Magisterial District Court handles all traffic cases, minor criminal cases, and civil cases involving amounts up to \$12,000, as well as setting bail and conducting preliminary hearings in misdemeanor and felony criminal cases to determine if the cases require further proceedings.

Judge Williams has been well qualified for this position. A graduate from Penn Wood High School, he earned a B.S. in Business Administration from Lincoln University and a J.D. from North Carolina Central University School of Law. He is licensed to practice Law in Pennsylvania and the District of Columbia.

Judge Williams has been committed to the community's image, economic development, and community spirit and youth advocacy. He volunteers as a Judge during "Moot Court" competition for High School Students. My philosophy as Judge has been very clear. I treat people with respect and compassion while enforcing our laws.

In response to some violent altercations at the local school in 2022, Judge Williams responded to a call from the local school to help students through a new program called "Men on a Mission." The WPSD program brings volunteer community leaders into the high school to offer guidance

and assistance to students in need, giving them support that is intended to carry them through their personal and future professional lives. "We all must do our part to inspire and to assure a good future for of our children. It is important for young adults to see and to hear success stories," said Judge Williams, "I share with them my experiences and what steps I took to become an attorney and district judge, with the hope of inspiring them."

His own words support his candidacy, "I believe that I am uniquely qualified for this position because I bring over 25 years of trial litigation experience, 11 years of Judicial experience, a love for our communities, and a vested interest in making sure that our communities stay safe and prosper."

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

Jill Beck

Jill Beck, raised in Pittsburgh, knew from a young age that she wanted to be an advocate for the underserved. She has dedicated her career to ensuring that all Pennsylvanians have access to justice. She now hopes to serve on the Pennsylvania Superior Court to continue her tireless fight for fairness in our judicial system.

She earned her undergraduate degree in criminal justice from The George Washington University and her law degree from Duquesne University. Her work for nonprofit organization KidsVoice involved not only protecting the legal rights of her young clients, but also assuring that their basic human needs were met — food, clothing, shelter, medical treatment, education, and a safe and loving family. KidsVoice honored her for her advocacy in 2008 and in 2010, she received the Children's Voice Award from Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Allegheny County.

Jill's experience advocating for children led her to want to serve from the other side of the bench in Pennsylvania's appellate courts. She spent the next 10 years in public service as a law clerk of a judge of Superior Court and the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. Jill drafted decisions for

criminal, civil, family, juvenile, and orphans' court cases that were grounded in the law and achieved substantial justice for individuals, families, and businesses across the Commonwealth.

In the fall of 2019 Jill became a civil litigator at Blank Rome, a law firm she selected because of its commitment to providing free legal services to those who cannot afford them. She continued to help the underserved in Pennsylvania's legal system, representing members of the LGBTQ+ community, veterans, and victims of domestic violence, wage theft, and gun violence resulting from illegal firearm sales; and volunteering to aid in voter protection efforts.

Beck, who has just been declared Highly Recommended by the Pennsylvania Bar Association, has been endorsed for the open seat on the Pennsylvania Superior Court by the Pennsylvania State Democratic Committee, the Democratic Committees of Delaware, Chester and Montgomery counties, the Lansdowne Democratic Committee. Jill has the experience, integrity, and dedication needed to exceptionally serve the public on one of the Commonwealth's top courts.

PENNSYLVANIA SUPERIOR COURT

Judge Timika Lane

Judge Timika Lane, born in West Philadelphia, was raised with the value of hard work and public service instilled at a very young age. Judge Lane received her B.A. in 1994 from Howard University where she excelled as a student leader and was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated, Alpha Chapter. She then taught social studies to middle school students in Prince George's County, Maryland. Following a successful teaching career, she decided to pursue a career in law.

Judge Lane earned her law degree in 2002 from Rutgers-Camden School of Law in New Jersey. Her legal career has been defined by her desire to serve the community. She represented clients in various areas of family law, ranging from support to custody issues, and represented indigent families involved in dependent matters. Afterwards, she worked as a major trial attorney for the Defender Association of Philadelphia, where she litigated complex criminal jury and waiver trials for indigent adults and juveniles.

Later she served the community in a different capacity, as Chief Legal Counsel for State Senator Anthony H. Williams and as the Democratic Executive Director for the Pennsylvania State Senate Government Committee. In this role, she was on the front lines challenging Pennsylvania's restrictive Photo ID law, organizing rallies and drafting legislation to counter its disparate impact on seniors,

minorities, LGBTQ+ and the poor. Additionally, she assessed the constitutionality of proposed and existing legislation, and provided legal advice and guidance regarding the legal implications of legislation, regulations, and administrative policies.

In November 2013, she was elected to a ten-year term on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas and is presently assigned to the Major Trials program in the Criminal Division. Here, Judge Lane is the sole judge handling human trafficking cases. In addition, she handles serious felony criminal matters including but not limited to, domestic/family violence, sexual assault, attempted murder, aggravated assault, arson, robbery and burglary. She also handles Investigative Grand Jury matters and oversees the Uplift, Fast Track and Branching Up (formerly Roots to Re-entry) programs.

She ran for a seat on the PA Superior Court in 2021 without success despite garnering 1,157,168 votes. She received a rating of "Recommended" for Superior Court by the Pennsylvania Bar Association She is once again running for one of the two open seats on the court, this time along with Jill Beck, both of whom have been endorsed by the Pennsylvania Democratic Committee, the Delaware County Democratic Committee, the Lansdowne Democratic Committee, and the Chester County Democratic Committee.

Judge Matthew S. Wolf for Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court

In November 2017 Matthew S. Wolf was elected to a seat for District 1 of the Philadelphia Municipal Court. By that time, he had nearly 25 years of experience in the legal profession.

Matthew S. Wolf earned a B.S. at Le Moyne College in 1990 and his law degree at Loyola University in 1993. He has practiced law in the Delaware Valley and New Jersey, litigating in a wide variety of issues involving civil rights: Age and Disability Discrimination in Employment; Wrongful Termination; Whistleblower Litigation; Wage and Hour Law; Sexual Harassment; Pregnancy Discrimination; Federal Employment Law; and police misconduct. He also gained a tremendous amount of experience on appeals.

As a Judge on Philadelphia Municipal Court, in October 2020 he was appointed the supervising judge of the Civil

Division. He described the environment at that time, "27 days before I took over as Supervising Judge..., protesters were arrested for blocking the entrance to the Civil Division. Since then, I have helped to guide the Court to be a "National Model." He became the architect of the eviction diversion program, helping landlords and tenants to resolve issues while avoiding a drawn out, costly court process. Building on that, he wants to help all citizens of Pennsylvania now, which is why he is running for Commonwealth Court.

Judge Wolf is "currently engaged in a multi-year effort to modernize and transform the Civil Division with an eye toward equity, access to justice and national best practices." In making changes to court policy, he "listens to both sides of cases as well as all court stakeholders who should have a say in how the court is run." Changes made during Judge

Wolf's tenure include overseeing complete revision of Philadelphia Municipal Court Civil Rules and the revision of the court's website to an appropriate reading comprehension level, with interactivity and explanatory videos. He is also responsible for annual reporting of the Civil Division and setting future goals/milestones.

Another significant aspect of his life is his military experience, which included active duty in combat zones, and he was awarded numerous decorations.

Thus far, Judge Wolf has been endorsed for Commonwealth Court by the Philadelphia Democratic Committee, Delaware County Democratic Committee, the Lansdowne Democratic Committee, and Chester County Democratic Committee. Vol. XXXI, No. 2 • May 2023 Lansdowne Leader page 7

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE ELECTION PROCESS

Getting Up Front and Personal With Our Judges of Elections







Left to right: Christine Du Bois-Buxbaum, Clare Hughes, and Pam Polk

By Dale Harris

Let's appreciate those people who preserve a secure and bipartisan electoral process. Our judges of elections are the backbone of our electoral process. Without their dedication to fulfill the law that every registered voter of at least 18 years of age has the right to vote and to have that vote be counted, we would not have a democracy.

I had the pleasure of interviewing three of our eleven judges of elections. Their dedication goes far beyond what the average voter has in mind. Each year that they serve, they must twice retest their knowledge and be certified in their role. Their manual of instruction must be reviewed—all 86 pages. Usually on the Saturday before an election, they must pick up sealed polling books, provisional ballots and other materials from the Government Office Building in Media. On election day, they arrive around 6:00 am to set up the polling place. They stay until the "last bell" at 8 pm, then take all the materials to the same government building, to arrive home anytime between 10 pm and 1 am!

Let's hear from Christine Du Bois-Buxbaum, who has been a judge of elections in the 3rd precinct for 10 years. She finds the most satisfaction in helping the voter who is "not in her book," to find where they are to vote, thus ensuring that no matter your political affiliation, you get a chance to vote. She prides herself in doing whatever it takes to be sure she is able to determine where they can vote. If still not sure, she can give them a provisional ballot which can be verified and counted by the Bureau of Elections. If a person is described as an "inactive voter" they can also vote by provisional ballot after completing extra paperwork.

The poll workers themselves, the ones at the voting table with the books, are her most valuable assets. All of the election officials are elected every four years in the May primary election. Currently, you must be registered as a Democrat or Republican to vote in the primary. Any

registered voter, no matter what their designated party (or no party), can vote in a general election in November. Christine stated that "I believe in democracy more than I believe in a particular candidate," thus emphasizing how important running a nonpartisan and fair process is to her.

Clare Hughes has been a judge of elections for one and a half years in the 11th precinct. She too praises her majority and minority inspectors, as well as all the voters who largely stay calm and gracious when they arrive at the wrong polling place or are inactive voters. She finds that the secret to doing the job well is to remain calm and call county election officials for help. There is a frustrating aspect for her. At the end of the process, she must sort through 12 long receipt tapes from the voting scanner and keep track of who is to get which tape. Her favorite part is when children join the voter; she gives out candy and especially concentrates on the little girls who not too long ago were denied the right to vote as adults.

Pam Polk has been a judge of elections in the 5th precinct for over 10 years. She, like Christine and Clare, was asked by a neighbor to help "just a little at the polls." Years later, she prides herself on giving every registered voter the opportunity to vote. "You have to vote to have a voice." Despite the very long hours of election day, she loves getting to know her community and helping out. Especially with the paper ballot process, she depends on her scanner operator to work with voters to correct any errors they might have on their ballot, as the scanner will tell you what is wrong. Not filling in the circle completely, for example!

To further address the security factor in our election process, Christine was able to clarify in more detail what is involved. The Bureau of Elections is responsible for delivering a locked "cage" of all the machines involved in the voting process to each polling place. This is done at some point during the week before each election. Inside this cage can be found several items: the voting carrels, the

black box which is locked and placed beneath the scanners to contain the actual scanned paper ballots, the sealed scanners, the sealed ADA compliant machine which allows blind voters to use Braille and ear phones to vote, other adaptations for disabled voters, and the sealed printer which prints out the ADA machine vote.

On election day, the judge of elections is responsible for assembling a bipartisan team to observe the cutting of the seals on all the books and machines. The judge is given the key to the black box to keep on their person throughout the day. Each seal has a code specific to that precinct; the seals are compared. At the end of the day, the bag containing the paper ballots is sealed.

The checks and balances process continues with the paper tapes which Clare mentioned. At the end of the day, the scanner processes all of the votes, tabulating the totals and producing printouts or tapes. Copies of the tapes are sorted to provide appropriate copies for the Bureau of Elections, for the minority inspector, for publicly posting outside the polls, and for each political party representative. The "V" drives to the ADA printer and the vote scanner are removed and placed in sealed bags for return to the Bureau of Elections.

The judge of elections takes the sealed ballot bag, the voter signature books, the printout, and the "V" drives to the Government Office Building when this process concludes. After the regular votes are tallied, a special bipartisan team of lawyers qualifies the provisional ballots, then counts them. Personnel of the Bureau of Elections come later in the week to retrieve all the machines.

In conclusion, the checks and balances system ensures true fairness and security in our electoral process with both paper and electronic results. Our judges of elections are knowledgeable and well trained in all aspects of this system. To quote Clare, "you have to participate in this; democracy doesn't happen on its own."

PENNSYLVANIA SUPREME COURT

Judge Daniel McCaffery

Judge Daniel McCaffery of Philadelphia is an experienced jurist known for his high degree of professionalism, good judicial temperament and strong work ethic. At 18 he served in the US Army for 2 years, earning a veteran's scholarship to Temple University, where he obtained his law degree He served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Philadelphia, chaired a commercial litigation department of a private law firm and spent 16 years as a civil law attorney, prior to taking the bench.

McCaffery spent decades volunteering for the Democratic Party, serving as a Democratic State Committee member, and as a member of the Philadelphia Democratic City Committee, where he also used his experience and expertise as an attorney to serve as legal counsel to the committee.

In 2013 McCaffery was the top vote getter in the election for judge of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas, and assigned to one of the busiest trial divisions in Pennsylvania. In 2019, with a high recommendation by the Pennsylvania Bar Association, he ran successfully in the statewide election for a ten-year term on the Pennsylvania Superior Court, the second highest Appellate Court in the state. He has

served ably as a Superior Court judge, demonstrating a sound knowledge of legal principles. His opinions and legal writings are well written and well-reasoned and he has a demonstrated record of community involvement.

Judge McCaffery, in his own words recently explained his decision to run for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the highest court in the state. Thirty nine years ago he left home to report to basic training in the United States Army, an experience which "sparked a lifelong fire for public service that continues to this day.... Pennsylvanians deserve a court that puts the interests of its citizens above partisan politics. Pennsylvanians deserve a justice who will always protect, obey, and defend the constitution. I believe I am that person. Over the next several months, I hope to earn your trust, your support, and your vote."

Already, Judge McCaffery has amassed a stunning number of endorsements, including from the Pennsylvania Democratic Party, the Delaware County Democratic Party, and the Lansdowne Democratic Committee as well as from Labor Organizations, Women's Organizations, Elected Officials, Community, Labor and Party Leaders and from the Pennsylvania Professional Firefighters Association.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Rachel Ezzell Berry

Since she was appointed as Delaware County Register of Wills and Orphans Court Clerk in March 2020, Rachel Berry has done a remarkable job. In the midst of the pandemic, her office began providing essential services online while also providing plexiglass barriers in the office to protect residents and her small staff when called upon to provide services in person.

Overall, in her first year the Register of Wills proceeded with virtual services to issue 1,300 marriage licenses, probate 1,000 estates, conduct virtual hearings in cases where wills were contested. She also developed e-filing to accept Orphans' Court filing, while running a budget surplus and filling seven vacant staff positions. Not surprisingly, Berry was elected to a full term in 2021, defeating her Republican opponent by more than 9,000 votes.

While loving her position as Register, Berry had a longstanding desire to become a judge and thus is running be fill the open seat on the Delaware County Court of Common Pleas. What are her qualifications? Berry is an attorney and businesswoman who was born and raised in Delaware County, residing here now for 34 years.

She started college as a Pell Grant recipient, indicating exceptional financial need, and has shown her mettle in earning highest honors at Temple University

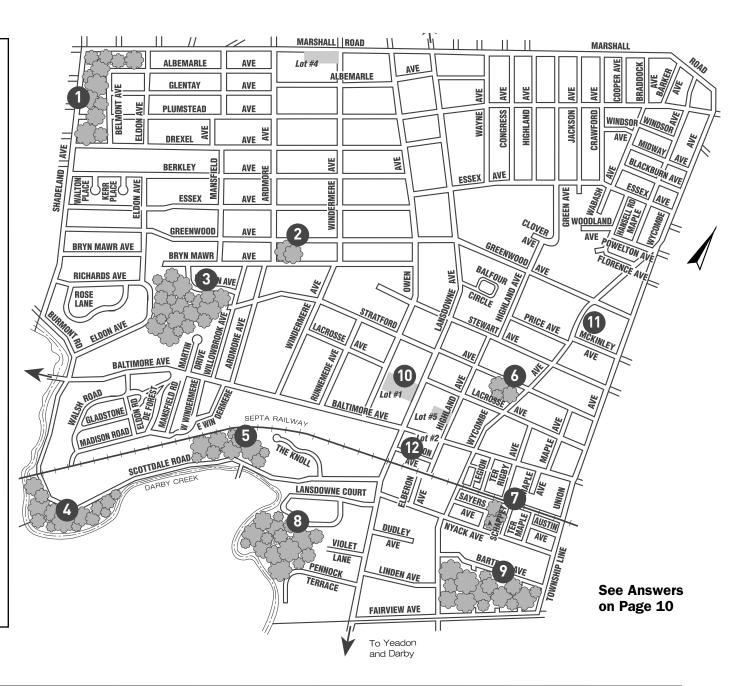
majoring in both Economics and International Business. She later attended University of Michigan Law School where she earned her J.D. magna cum laude, Order of the Coif (an honor society for law school graduates), and where she was Book Review Editor of the Michigan Law Review.

The Register of Wills is a quasi-judicial official who rules on legal petitions related to will contests and presides over evidentiary hearings involving civil matters such as fraud, undue influence, and testamentary capacity. Berry has thousands of hours of courtroom experience at all stages of litigation and has worked closely with judges from across the political spectrum. She relies on her courtroom experience during hearings, demonstrating compassion to all parties and deciding cases based not on politics, but on what the law requires.

She has a long history of community service leadership across Delco, and has been an extremely active Democratic volunteer since 2006, both in Delaware County and previously in Michigan. She recently resigned her position as Democratic committeewoman prior to running for the judicial post. She garnered dozens of endorsements from individuals, and was overwhelmingly endorsed by the Delaware County Democratic Committee.

Do You Know Your Lansdowne Parks?

ASSIGN THE NUMBERS ON THE MAP TO THE LIST OF LANSDOWNE **PARKS BELOW: Belmont Park Borough Green Hays Park Hoffman Park Interboro Park** Lansdowne Landing/ **Veterans Park Marlyn Park Pennock Woods Reservoir Park Shrigley Woods Sycamore Park McKinley Tot Lot**



Re-Elect Jack Stollsteimer for District Attorney

In 2019, Jack Stollsteimer became the first Democrat elected as District Attorney for Delaware County. His substantial experience in the legal realm for two decades prepared him well to immediately implement reforms designed to make Delaware County residents and communities safer by creating new proactive investigative and prosecution units focused on combatting gun violence, protecting communities from environmental hazards, and protecting the rights of workers from unscrupulous employers.

During his campaign four years ago, Jack indicated that he supported goals that would also be within the purview of both the District Attorney's office and the Delaware County Council: An end to the privatization of our criminal justice system; the reform of our cash bail system; the establishment of a county health department; creation of a gun violence task force within the office of the district attorney; and the establishment of an environmental crimes

In a county of this size, crime is always a concern, and there have been recently a number of high profile cases, but there are numerous smaller cases and major developments in the District Attorney's Office. Early in January 2023, District Attorney Stollsteimer shared some of these accomplishments of the District Attorney's team in partnership with local law enforcement agencies and elected officials.

- 1. Gun violence homicide rate in the City of Chester has been reduced by 60% and the overall number of gun violence incidents by 46%.
- 2. A reduction of 30% in the prison population in Delaware County has been achieved through collaboration and innovation. New diversionary programs keep low level, nonviolent offenders out of jail, as well as the implementation of a central arraignment and bail review process, making positive changes to our county's criminal justice system."
- 3. While working with County Council, they successfully took back management of our county jail from a multinational corporation. Delaware County was the only county in the state that allowed a company to profit from those kept behind bars. Stollsteimer said, "Thanks to our County Council's leadership, those profits are now

being invested to support those who work at or are incarcerated at that facility."

- 4. Jack Stollsteimer became the first District Attorney in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to successfully prosecute contractor wage theft.
- 5. The formation of an Environmental Crimes Unit was the first in a DA's Office anywhere in Pennsylvania. In collaboration with Attorney General Shapiro's staff, a joint criminal prosecution of Energy Transfer, Inc. was successfully pursued for the environmental damage caused by the Mariner 2 pipeline; and has brought civil litigation against multinational chemical companies on behalf of our community of first responders exposed to harm from "forever chemicals."
- 6. The District Attorney office also successfully litigated distributors of opioids who profited by selling these powerful pain killers without warning consumers of the foreseeable harm of overuse leading to addiction. As a result, Delaware County will receive millions of dollars to invest in people and programs to help our residents who suffer from substance abuse disorders.

District Attorney Stollsteimer

wants to continue his work to make our communities safer. In his words, "In a time where other communities have seen a surge in violence, we have kept our communities safe, while still ensuring that our criminal justice system not only holds people accountable for their bad acts, but also offers them opportunities to find

redemption and become productive members of our society. I wholeheartedly believe that this collaborative approach to public safety should be the model, not just here in Delco, but throughout the Commonwealth."

