



**Mike Pries**  
Chairman



**Chad Saylor**  
Commissioner



**George P. Hartwick, III**  
Commissioner

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## HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED:

**Commissioners Thank Veterans, Remind them of Available Benefits**



*The Dauphin County Commissioners were joined by the county's entire state legislative House delegation for May's Veterans Appreciation Breakfast, which celebrated all those who served in the U.S. Armed Forces.*

The smoky smell of bacon wafted through the air at Lower Swatara Fire Department's banquet hall in late May, as a packed house gathered for the Dauphin County Commissioners' biannual Veterans Appreciation Breakfast.

The free event has a dual purpose – to honor and thank those who have honorably served the nation in the armed forces, and to remind veterans of the many benefits, programs and services available to them through the Dauphin County Veterans Affairs Office.

"We owe an immense debt of gratitude to our veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice – including those who made the ultimate sacrifice for our freedoms," said Commissioners Chairman Mike Pries. "The Veterans Appreciation Breakfast is our small way of saying 'thank you' while also giving us a chance to remind veterans of all the benefits and programs that exist to help them."

The county serves as a liaison for veterans, helping them navigate local, state and federal agencies to ensure they can access the programs and services for which they are eligible due to their military service.

These include healthcare and disability benefits, education and training benefits, home loan and life insurance benefits, burial and spousal benefits, temporary housing benefits, tax

exemption programs, a free veteran discount program and a free transportation service to the Lebanon VA Medical Center.

"Dauphin County cares for its veterans, and we honor their service," said Commissioner Chad Saylor. "That's why it's so important for us to remind them and their families of the substantial benefits that are available to them. They've earned these benefits, and we want them to be able to access them when they need them."

Dauphin County Veterans Affairs also helps to connect veterans with job opportunities and career counseling and training services. With available positions in various departments, the commissioners said the county could use the skills that veterans bring to the workplace.

"As the son of a Vietnam veteran, it's important to me that we make sure that our veterans are given every opportunity to succeed and thrive when they come back home," said Commissioner George P. Hartwick III. "Our veterans are the best of us, and we want the best to work for Dauphin County."

**For more information about veterans' programs, services and benefits, please contact Dauphin County Veterans Affairs at 717-780-6356 or 717-780-6357.**



DauphinCounty.gov



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# Over \$3 Million in Tourism Grants Awarded to 100 Groups



*Harrisburg Area Riverboat Society (Pride of the Susquehanna) was among the 100 recipients of a 2023 Dauphin County Tourism Grant.*

The Dauphin County Commissioners recently awarded a total of more than \$3 million in 2023 Tourism Grants to 100 businesses, organizations and local government agencies.

The awards will help to fund a wide range of tourism and community activities across the county – from the region’s leading tourism draw of Hershey to the increasingly thriving concerts, events and shows in Harrisburg and the many local arts, cultural and recreational events that are hosted in every corner of Dauphin County.

“It’s not news to anyone who lives in Dauphin County that this is a great place to live, work and raise a family,” said Commissioners Chairman Mike Pries. “These grants help give our communities an extra boost, supporting dozens of organizations and events that keep Dauphin County vibrant for residents and visitors alike. It’s that kind of energy that has made the Harrisburg-Hershey region one of the best places in the nation.”

The tourism grants are funded through a 5% room occupancy tax that is included as a portion of hotel room rental taxes in the county. The Tourism Grant Program is administered by the Dauphin County Department of Community and Economic Development.

Eligible activities under the program are limited to marketing efforts to attract tourism, programs that enhance tourism activities, beautification projects and limited general operating expenses.

For a full list of awardees and additional details about the Tourism Grant Program, visit [DauphinCounty.gov](http://DauphinCounty.gov).

## ‘Help Make a Difference’: County Seeks Job Applicants for Human Services

Dauphin County needs you!

All across the county, there are people who rely on the county’s human service programs – from children and families to seniors to individuals who struggle with mental health and addiction.

These programs require dedicated, compassionate professionals who care about the welfare of their fellow neighbors and want to help. Dauphin County has multiple openings for a wide range of positions across the human services field – from crisis intervention caseworkers in Mental Health, Autism and Developmental Programs to caseworkers and accounting positions in Children and Youth Services to treatment specialists and correctional officers at the prison.

“If you enjoy helping people and are looking to truly make an impact on other people’s lives, Dauphin County has a job for you,” said County Commissioners Chairman Mike Pries. “Join our team and help make a difference in our community.”

For a current list of job opportunities, visit [DauphinCounty.gov](http://DauphinCounty.gov) and click on “Opportunities” and then click on “Employment.” You may also call 717-780-6230.

A blue and white graphic with the text "NOW HIRING" in large, bold, blue letters. Below the text are silhouettes of five people standing in a row. At the bottom, there is a white banner with the text "Join Our Team" in blue. Below the banner is a QR code.

# AROUND THE COMMUNITY



The Dauphin County Commissioners held an Employee Appreciation Luncheon and Pin Ceremony on May 23 at Fort Hunter Park, where they honored employees and thanked them for their milestone years of service.

## SILENT EPIDEMIC: Addressing the Growing Mental Health Crisis

As COVID-19 pandemic fades into history, we are reminded every day that we still remain in the midst of a silent epidemic – a growing mental health crisis that affects thousands of families across Dauphin County.

From depression and anxiety to substance use disorder, people of all ages and from all socioeconomic backgrounds are experiencing mental health needs at an unprecedented scale. Dauphin County is working hard to address those needs, despite chronic underfunding at the state level.

The county has partnered with UPMC to conduct a comprehensive review of the county's mental health crisis response system, resulting in a series of recommendations for improvements. In addition, Dauphin and Cumberland counties have received a joint grant, totaling \$15.1 million, to develop a 24/7 regional crisis response center – with a goal of reducing the strain on hospital emergency departments and prisons by getting individuals the care they need.

“This is about getting people the right care in the right place at the right time,” said Commissioner George P. Hartwick III. “We are picking up the pieces of a broken mental health system and with limited resources we are building a new continuum of care.”

He noted that new programs and resources have been allocated in the county's criminal justice system, focusing on reducing recidivism, the length of stay and overall prison population by sending those with serious mental illness to facilities that can treat their mental health needs.



A recent training class of Dauphin County's Crisis Intervention Team, which uses best practices in mental and behavioral health, communication and de-escalation tactics to respond to a crisis. The CIT training is held at Harrisburg Area Community College and coordinated through the South Central Task Force.

And there has been a significant focus on best-practice training for first responders, police departments and correctional officers to identify and appropriately respond to an individual who is experiencing a mental health crisis.

Substance use disorder continues to be a pressing issue for Dauphin County as well as the entire nation. The county has been allocated \$13 million over the next 18 years as its share of the historic opioid settlement. As a result, Dauphin County has established the Opioid Remediation Grant program to help fund addiction prevention, treatment and recovery programs across the county.

“The goal is to build and expand a sustainable behavioral health system that will endure years beyond the settlement period,” Commissioner Hartwick said. “We do not want to waste time in getting this money on the street.”

# DAUPHIN COUNTY NOW

2 South Second Street, Fourth Floor

Harrisburg, PA 17101-1295

717-780-6300

[DauphinCounty.gov](http://DauphinCounty.gov)

NOT PAID FOR WITH COUNTY TAX DOLLARS



## Upcoming Events

### SUNSET MUSIC & MOVIE SERIES

*Sponsored by Renewal by Anderson*

Every Friday Evening, June through August,  
Fort Hunter Park

### 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAUPHIN COUNTY BREWFEST

*Sponsored by Brew Barons Beer Trail*

Saturday, July 15 – 3 to 7 p.m., Fort Hunter Park

### 15<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CULTURAL FEST

*Sponsored by Capital Blue Cross*

Saturday, Aug. 19 – 3 to 10 p.m. – South  
Riverfront Park on Front St. – Harrisburg

### 4<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RUN WILD FOR WILDWOOD 5K & 10K

*Sponsored by Capital Blue Cross*

Saturday, Aug. 26 – Wildwood Park, Harrisburg

### 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL DAUPHIN COUNTY JAZZ & WINE FESTIVAL

*Sponsored by PA Housing Finance Agency*

## Dauphin County Dedicates Renovated Wildwood Park Boardwalk

After three years of planning and repairs, Dauphin County officially reopened the boardwalk at Wildwood Park during a recent rededication ceremony. County officials were joined by Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn, State Rep. Patty Kim, as well as leaders from Friends of Wildwood and local park supporters.

As part of the project, a 100-foot section of the Delta Boardwalk was completely rebuilt to better withstand floodwaters, and a new 75-foot section spanning Paxton Creek was added to the North Boardwalk.



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