



DAUPHIN COUNTY  
PENNSYLVANIA



Mike Pries  
Chairman



Chad Saylor  
Commissioner



George P. Hartwick, III  
Commissioner

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# READY FOR SPRING?

## Dauphin County's Parks are Cost-Free Community Gems

It's about that time to get outside for a walk, bike ride, or cruise on the water.

We could all use it, right?

That's why Dauphin County Commissioners have prioritized improving and expanding greenspaces and recreational areas.

More than ever – with pandemic restrictions and related stress – our parks are positive outlets that promote wellness for families and individuals.



Photo: Amy Spangler

"Our parks and greenspaces really are community gems," Commissioner Chair Mike Pries said.

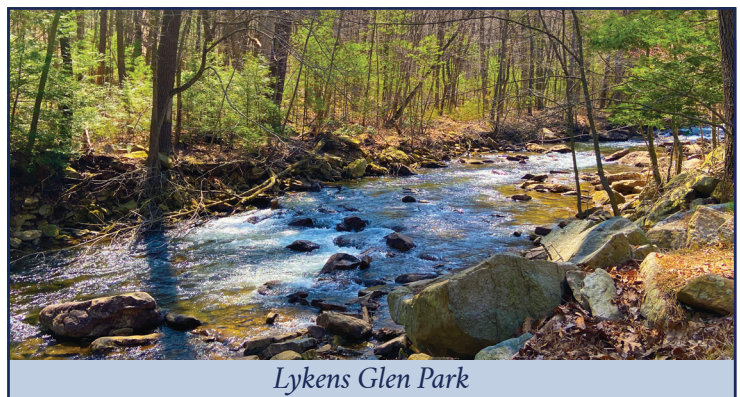
"Each one holds its own unique treasure," Commissioner Chad Saylor said. "I am always floored by the spectrum of sights and wide range of activities at Dauphin County's parks."

The commissioners consider park improvements to be investments for the future, so stay tuned for news on expansions and developments.

"Shake off the cold of winter with a day out with your loved ones," Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III said. "The fresh air and beautiful scenery have healing powers."

### DAUPHIN COUNTY PARKS

- Wildwood Park
- Fort Hunter Park
- Wiconisco Creek Park
- Lykens Glen Park
- Henninger Farm Covered Bridge
- Fort Hunter Conservancy
- Sassafras Island
- Detweiler Park



Lykens Glen Park



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# Emergency Rental Assistance Program is Keeping Families in Homes

Dauphin County's Emergency Rental and Utility Assistance Program has helped keep thousands of people and families in their homes.

The program also funds power bills for applicants impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dauphin County launched the program in March 2021 and has processed about 2,500 applications, releasing over \$16 million in funding to households in need.

"This program is more than just money," Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III said. "Our team also offers wrap-around services – like addiction treatment resources – to people and families in need."

The commissioners thank Dauphin County Library System for helping applicants file at libraries.

"This funding is literally keeping people in their home, with the lights on," Commissioner Chair Mike Pries said.

Commissioner Saylor credited county Human Services staff and community partners for keeping up with such a high-demand program.

**APPLICATIONS PROCESSED:  
2,522**

**FUNDS DISTRIBUTED:  
\$16.41 MILLION**



## 17 Years, No Increase: How Your Tax Dollars are Spent

The commissioners approved the 2022 budget that – for a 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive year – does not include a property tax increase.

The general fund budget for 2022 is \$211.5 million.

*But, what does it pay for?*

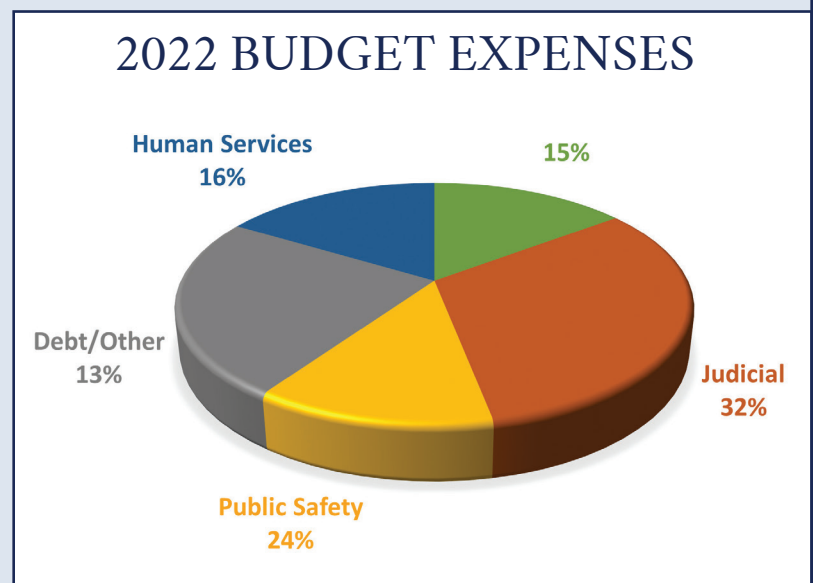
The chart at right provides a breakdown of spending categories.

"We scrutinize the budget just like you do at home: line by line," Commissioner Chair Mike Pries said.

Commissioner Chad Saylor said: "We make budget decisions while looking ahead, so the county can be stable and strong for years to come."

Judicial (which includes court operations) and public safety (which includes prisons costs) make up more than half of the total budget expenditures.

"We also commit many resources to human services, including vital programs for our vulnerable residents and those dealing with substance use and mental health issues," Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III said.



**VIEW THE APPROVED 2022 BUDGET:**  
[www.dauphincounty.org/approved\\_budget\\_2022](http://www.dauphincounty.org/approved_budget_2022)

# Commissioners Working to Fill Broadband Gaps

Online access is crucial today, so Dauphin County Commissioners are working to provide broadband Wi-Fi access to all residents

“The pandemic has emphasized our reliance on the internet, as many people are working from home,” Commissioner Chair Mike Pries said.

Over recent months, the commissioners have been engaged with providers to determine costs – and available funding streams – for broadband improvements.

Most consumers do have access to Wi-Fi, but there are gaps, especially in rural areas, as well as some barriers in the city.

“Our hope is to connect the grid, so to speak, and enhance broadband north of the mountains,” Commissioner Chad Saylor said.

The commissioners have been prudent in gauging funding streams coming available, including those from federal and state streams, before designating local/taxpayer funds.

“We will not spend taxpayer dollars unless we absolutely have to,” Commissioner George P. Hartwick, III said.



*The commissioners discuss broadband options.*

## AROUND THE COMMUNITY



Top Left:  
*The commissioners attend a Black History Month show for students at Gamut Theatre.*



Top Right:  
*Chairman Pries honors Lykens Township Supervisor Ray Deppen.*



Bottom Left:  
*Commissioner Saylor discusses river safety with Pa. FBC.*



Bottom Right:  
*Commissioner Hartwick, CCAP Human Services Policy Chair, setting statewide policy at a recent CCAP Conference in Hershey.*

# DAUPHIN COUNTY NOW

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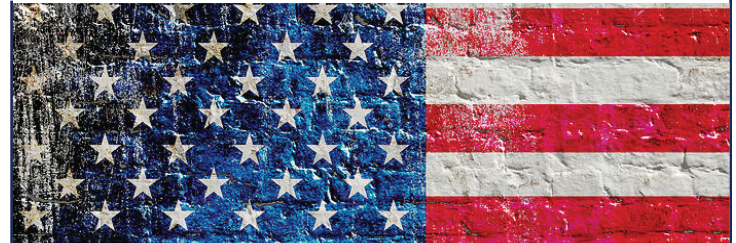
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## 4 Officials Sworn In



From left, Prothonotary Matthew Krupp, Judge Jeffrey Engle, Coroner Graham Hetrick, Controller Mary Bateman.



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## Upcoming Events

**MAPLE SUGAR FESTIVAL**  
April 3 | 12 P.M. – 4 P.M. Fort  
Hunter Park | Free  
[forthunter.org](http://forthunter.org)

**WETLANDS FESTIVAL**  
April 23 | 10 A.M. – 4 P.M.  
Wildwood Park | Free  
[explorewildwoodpark.org](http://explorewildwoodpark.org)

**KIDS DISCOVER:  
THINGS WITH WINGS (Ages 5-10)**  
May 15 | 1:30 P.M. – 3 P.M.  
Lykens Glen Park | \$5 per child (chaperones free)  
[dauphincounty.org](http://dauphincounty.org)