

Delaware Public Media

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Local journalism has never been
more important.



Demand for local news intensified in 2020

Ten years ago, a group of visionaries launched Delaware Public Media to fill a gap in local news coverage. We doubt they could have foreseen then how the events of 2020 would amplify the need for timely, trustworthy, and local news.

COVID-19, social unrest, and a contentious election season made 2020 the most tumultuous year of news in our history. Our team went into overdrive, and it was amazing to watch them pivot seamlessly to handling the incredibly fast news cycle the coronavirus created. Amid this environment, we:

- Aired more than 600 stories about COVID-19 in Delaware.
- Reported nearly 200 election-related stories, coproduced **Delaware Debates**, and offered live primary and election night results.
- Produced 60 episodes of **The Green**, presented 100 reports on the arts, and reported on education, healthcare, the economy, the environment, and other issues affecting the lives of First Staters.
- Welcomed **Hometown Heroes** to our schedule after it was dropped by its long-time commercial radio home.
- Were the only local news organization in the region selected to host a Report for America journalist. This national service program supports young journalists and pays half of their first-year salaries.
- Celebrated our tenth anniversary with a virtual event featuring Lulu Garcia-Navarro, the host of NPR's **Weekend Edition Sunday**, and former **Weekend Edition Sunday** host Liane Hansen, a DPM fan since moving to Delaware.
- Introduced a new logo that symbolizes our commitment to Delaware and the unique mix of programming we transmit.

In a time of new and unexpected challenges, we remain profoundly grateful for the strong support we've received from all of you. By supporting quality journalism in the First State, you make it possible for us to be the place where Delawareans get tuned in.



Robert J. Varipapa, MD
Chairperson



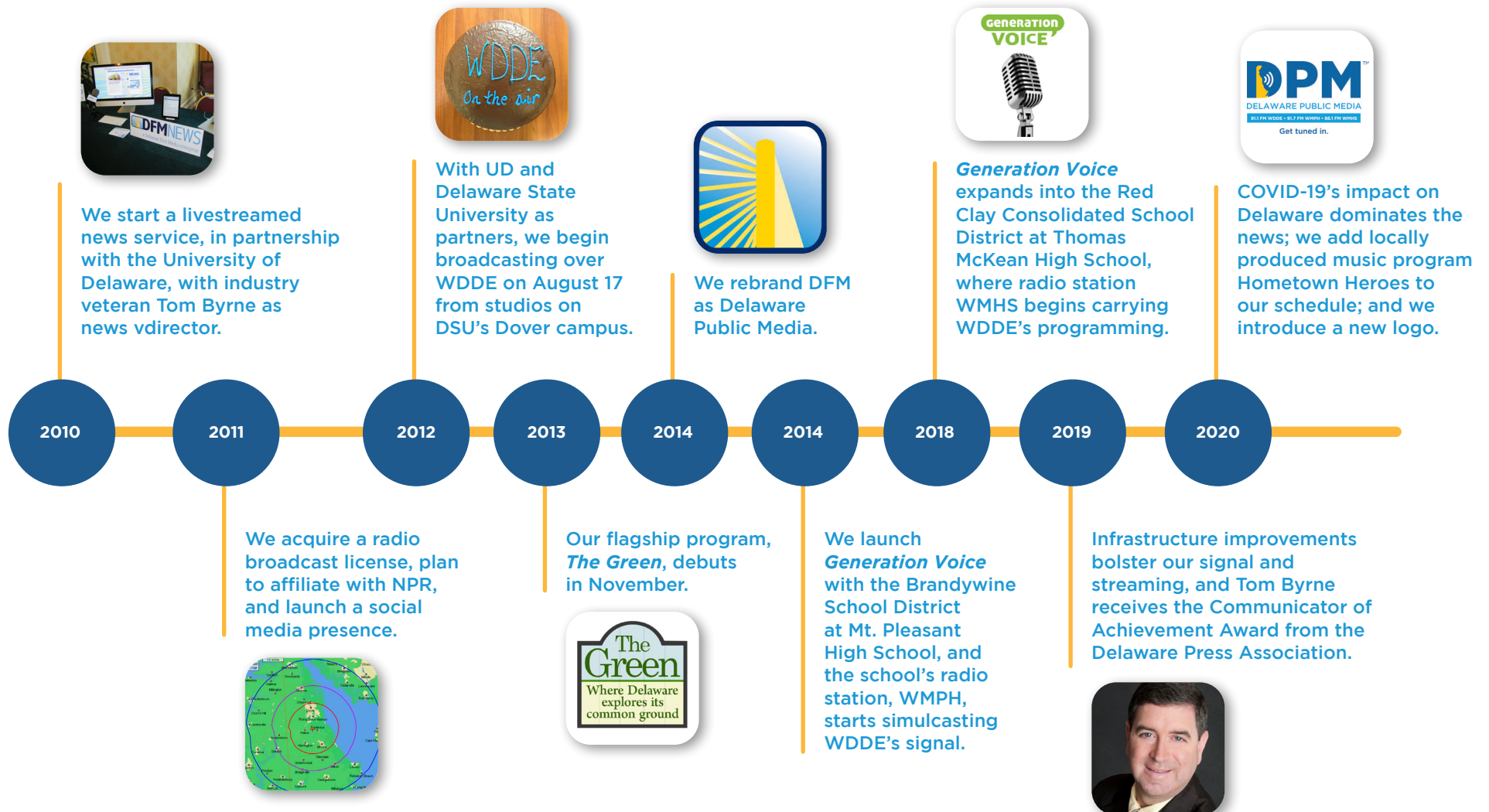
Jane C. W. Vincent
President & Station Manager

On the cover: Sophia Schmidt



In 2020 we celebrated our 10th anniversary

Founded in 2009 as Delaware First Media, we launched our news service in 2010. Here are some of the milestones that have marked our evolution into today's Delaware Public Media.



Our news coverage won 32 awards in 2020— here are our first-place winners

Our work was recognized by the Delaware Press Association and the National Federation of Press Women.



Direction Democracy *podcast series*

Hosted by Tom Byrne

Produced with UD's Center for Political Communication, this series earned first-place awards in both the state and national competitions.



Protesters challenge *state DOJ's handling of* *Wilmington Police shooting* *of carjacking suspect*

by Sophia Schmidt

When protestors demonstrated, Sophia was on the scene, and her report took first place in both the state and national competitions.



First State officials slam sea *wall plan as unrealistic way* *to repel rising seas*

by Jon Hurdle

In this 10-minute report, Jon and Tom Byrne dug into the viability of a \$9.4 billion proposal to build 941 miles of sea walls in Delaware.

“So well done. Easily on the level of some national podcasts. Host has great rapport and a personality you want to hear more of.”

2020 Communications Contest judges on the *Direction Democracy* podcast series



State Education Funding Lawsuit: The battle over property assessments

by Tom Byrne and Larry Nagengast

This report, which aired on **The Green**, discussed the debate over property reassessment and its different implications for county governments, school districts, and taxpayers.



Google partnering with Delaware to fight opioid crisis

by Nick Ciolino

Nick's extensive, award-winning reporting on the opioid crisis continued with his coverage of this announcement, which revealed that Delaware ranks first in the nation in searches per capita on Google for methadone.



Redeveloping 'The Flats' seeks to reinvigorate a neighborhood while retaining its character

by Larry Nagengast

Larry took an in-depth look at what's been done so far, what's still to come, and how this project's approach is faring.



We provide a perspective not consistently available from commercial or out-of-state news sources.



Tom Byrne

The Green is where you'll find our most comprehensive coverage

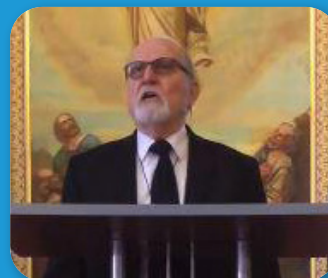


With a name that evokes gathering places of yore in New Castle, Dover, and Georgetown, **The Green** delivers a mix of First State news, commentary, and features that are in-depth, nuanced, and couched in context that only someone like news director and host Tom Byrne, with insight gained over 30+ years of reporting Delaware news, can offer.

In 2020, politics and the pandemic dominated **The Green**. We aired **Candidate Conversations** with statewide office hopefuls; Gov. Carney visited our studio for an exclusive, extensive conversation about his 2021 priorities; and a variety of medical and healthcare professionals weighed in on the coronavirus.



Red Clay Consolidated School District superintendent Dorrell Green (shown with administrator Hugh Broomall, left) discussed the role K-12 schools play in racial justice.



*Pastor John Hornberger of Middletown's Bethesda United Methodist Church spoke to **Enlighten Me** about the challenges of leading worship virtually.*



***Arts Playlist** asked how the Biggs Museum of American Art and other arts organizations adapted to COVID-forced closures.*

The Green is supported in part by DANA, the Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement. **Arts Playlist** is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

We introduced a new segment, **Building Bridges**, a collaboration with the *Delaware State News* featuring conversations with Delawareans working to promote social justice and racial equity.

The pandemic also featured prominently on **The Green's** human-interest segments, **Enlighten Me** and **Arts Playlist**. For one **Enlighten Me** piece, reporter Sophia Schmidt asked faith leaders across the state how their congregations were adapting. **Enlighten Me** also aired reports by students at the University of Delaware, at Delaware State University, and in the **Generation Voice** programs at Mt. Pleasant and Thomas McKean High Schools.

With **Arts Playlist** morning anchor/reporter Kelli Steele delves into Delaware's vibrant visual and performing arts scene, which COVID-19 completely disrupted. Kelli talked to Paul Weagraff, director of the Delaware Division of the Arts, about the financial implications for arts organizations—and the ripple effects that closures are having on the state's economy. She also took a virtual "road trip" to report on outside-the-box actions museums were taking to engage audiences.

Village greens have long been open-air meeting places; **The Green** is an on-air meeting place where Delawareans explore their common ground.



Kelli Steele



**Roman
Battaglia**

Election-year coverage offered insight into candidates and issues

In 2020, there were debates between the major-party candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives and for governor of Delaware, both of which took place virtually.

We aired 24 **Candidate Conversations** with primary and general election candidates for the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives, governor, lieutenant governor, and insurance commissioner.

Races to Watch reports followed hotly contested races for seats in the Delaware Senate and House of Representatives; for president of New Castle County Council; and for seats on Kent County Levy Court, Sussex County Council, and Wilmington City Council.

Our reporters spent election day in the field gathering reactions from voters, candidates, and party leaders up and down the state. On election night, Tom Byrne hosted live coverage featuring analysis and commentary with guests Matt Bittle from the *Delaware State News* and Dr. Paul R. Brewer from UD's Center for Political Communication.

2020 election coverage was sponsored in part by Delaware Humanities.



In biennial election years, we coproduce **Delaware Debates** and **Candidate Conversations** with UD's Center for Political Communication.

The coronavirus made having access to local news a matter of life and death

As the coronavirus spread to Delaware, the need for timely, accurate, and local information became urgent. This was especially true in Sussex County, where we are one of the few locally based news outlets.

Our website traffic skyrocketed. It more than doubled from New Castle, Middletown, Smyrna, and Dover. In Sussex County, volume was three to five times higher, with the largest increases coming from Lewes, Long Neck, Milford, Milton, Ocean View, and Seaford.

To cover this rapidly evolving story, our news team worked overtime, we added freelance reporters, and we nearly doubled the number of local stories we aired. With news reporters considered essential critical infrastructure workers, anchors Kelli Steele and Nick Ciolino continued to broadcast from our studios. For reporters working in the field, we provided boom microphone extenders to assist with social distancing, and we invested in additional production equipment so they could write, produce, and file stories remotely and safely.

We followed the pandemic's progression in Delaware from a variety of angles. We augmented government updates with insight from local medical and healthcare professionals. We reported on the effects on educators and students, employers and workers, communities of color and low-income areas, arts and religious organizations, business and the economy, and families across the state.

As the First State continues to cope with COVID-19, Delawareans can continue to count on us for the best local coverage possible.

Our first report on COVID-19 in Delaware aired on January 29, 2020.



Nick Ciolino

Partnerships enrich our programming and foster community connections

We've partnered with the University of Delaware since day one, and with Delaware State University since 2012, when we launched WDDE.

DSU's Dover campus is home base to our studios and offices, and we work there with the Department of Mass Communications, Visual, and Performing Arts and sound production students. At UD, we collaborate with the Center for Political Communication and journalism students on a variety of initiatives, including an annual audio essay contest and biennial election debates. Student interns from both schools gain experience in all aspects of newsroom operations and learn how to produce professional-quality stories in broadcast and digital formats.



Our youth media program helps high school students learn about digital media arts production.

We offer **Generation Voice**, our youth media program, in partnership with two New Castle County high schools that have their own radio stations: Mt. Pleasant High School in the Brandywine School District and Thomas McKean High School in the Red Clay Consolidated School District. We collaborate with the schools on a curriculum that teaches journalism ethics and basics, including how to identify, research, and write stories; how to conduct interviews and host programs; and how to use radio and digital production platforms.

Our reporters work directly with students at their schools, and the school radio stations—91.7 FM WMPH and 88.1 FM WMHS—simulcast portions of our programming.

The **Generation Voice** program is led by our youth media producer, Sophia Schmidt, with assistance from reporter Roman Battaglia. In the 2019–20 school year, the program initially focused on investigative journalism. After the coronavirus closed schools, we helped students produce audio journals chronicling their pandemic experiences.

“The COVID crisis makes NPR and Delaware Public Media critically important. It makes me really proud to say we have DPM on campus.”

Tony Allen, PhD
President, Delaware State University



We coproduce the *A Matter of Facts* podcast series with Delaware Humanities.

This series, which airs on *The Green*, explores how information overload makes it difficult to discern the difference between news and opinion, and helps audiences identify trustworthy news sources.

Delaware Humanities, a state affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, thanks the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the Pulitzer Prizes for their support.

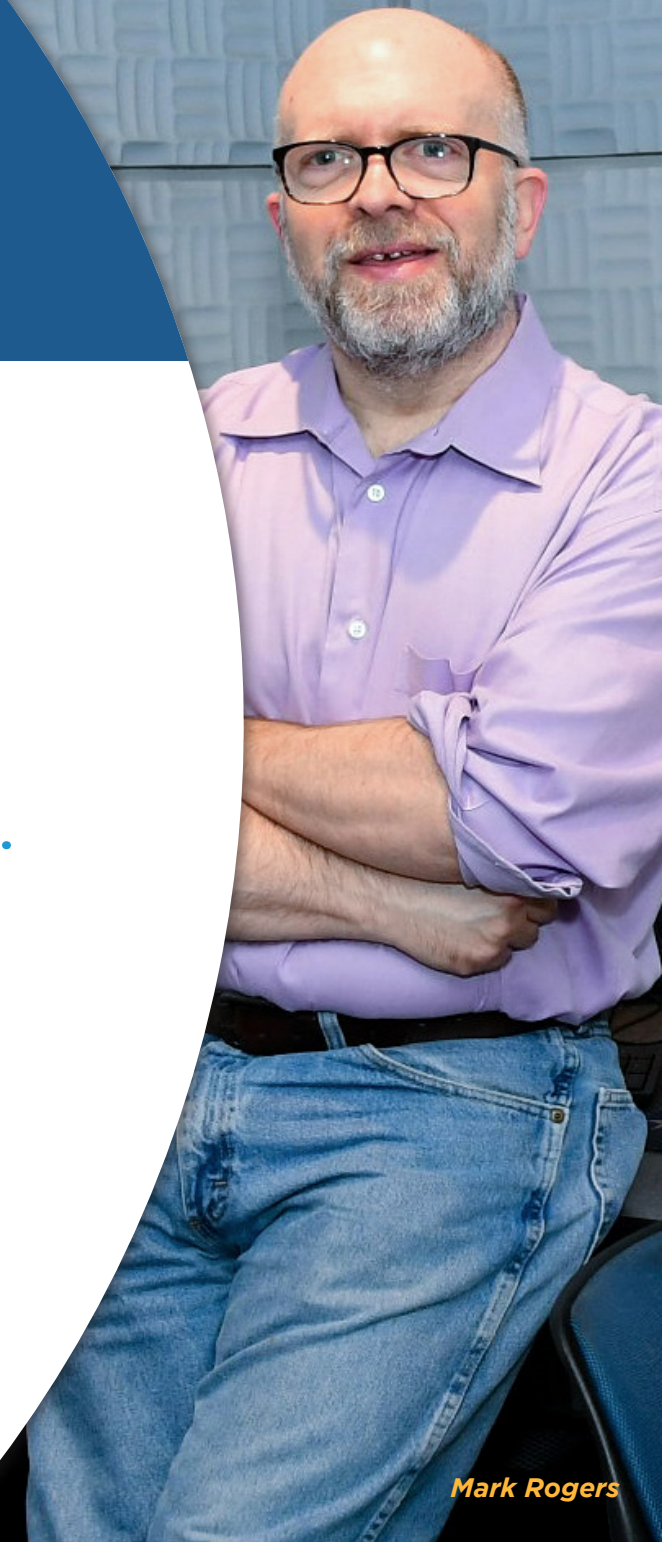


Hometown Heroes needed a new home in 2020—and found one with us.

When a local commercial radio station abruptly canceled *Hometown Heroes* after 21 years, long-standing host Mark Rogers and his iconic program joined the Delaware Public Media family. Mark's much-loved program is the single authoritative showcase for news about, interviews with, and in-studio performances by artists in and around Delaware across a wide variety of musical genres.

Broadcast live from the WMHS studios at Thomas McKean High School, *Hometown Heroes* airs on Facebook Live in addition to all of our platforms.

Hometown Heroes is supported in part by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



Mark Rogers

These supporters kept the news going in 2020 and helped Delawareans cope with COVID-19. Thank you!



Delaware State
University

UNIVERSITY OF
DELAWARE



Delaware Community Foundation • Delaware Division of the Arts • Delaware State Housing Authority • Hamilton Goodman Partners • Laffey McHugh Foundation • Howard Lieberman, Wilkinson, Barker & Knaus, LLP

Bayhealth • City of Dover • Delaware Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Delaware Health Information Network • Delaware State News • Facebook/Lenfest Foundation • Girl Scouts of Chesapeake Bay • Google/National Public Media • New Castle County Council • Old Swedes Foundation • Report for America

Biggs Museum of American Art • Delaware Alliance for Nonprofit Advancement • Delaware Art Museum • Delaware Municipal Electric Cooperative • Fifer Orchards • Google/National Public Media • John Chaski Antiques • House of Coffi • Meals on Wheels Delaware • Old Swedes Foundation • J.E. Salazar & Associates • Spur Impact



Delaware Public Media is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on www.DelawareScene.com.

Financial Highlights

For the 12 months ended June 30	2020	2019	2018
INCOME			
Grants	\$363,907	\$211,483	\$211,951
Corporation sponsorships	\$119,279	\$133,817	\$70,550
University partnerships	\$189,000	\$189,000	\$266,000
Contributions	\$208,678	\$142,491	\$121,184
Other income	\$134,540	\$3,304	\$713
Total income	\$1,015,404	\$680,095	\$670,398

For the 12 months ended June 30	2020	2019	2018
EXPENSES			
Programming	\$632,795	\$549,120	\$538,151
Administration	\$114,678	\$104,747	\$124,439
Fundraising	\$106,756	\$62,725	\$10,240
Total expenses	\$854,229	\$716,592	\$672,830
Surplus/(deficit)	\$161,175	(\$36,497)	(\$2,432)

Other income includes forgiveness of debt and conditional contribution. Complete audited financial statements are available at delawarepublic.org/legal.

Producer's Circle

David Brond, Thomas Church, Sheila Cooper & Connor Cooper, Marilyn Davis, Dr. Marci Drees, Leslie & Larry Cook, Randy & Linda Farmer, Drew Fennell & Lisa Goodman, Jim & Patricia Griffin, Jim Sr. & Kathleen Flood, Lisa & Jennings Hastings, Nancy Karibjanian & Joe Nemecz, Mary Elizabeth Phillips, Dennis Rochford, Rita & Tom Sweeney, Tunnell Companies, Dr. Robert Varipapa, Jane & Andy Vincent, David & Crystal Walker, James & Heather Williams, Kent & Mary Woods, Amy Wright

Anchor Level

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Broadcaster Level

Ria Allman, Ralph Begleiter, William & Anne-Marie Bond, Pete Booker, Robert Boucek, Sheila Bravo & Rev. Jeffrey Ross, Kimberly Brockenbrough, Susan Burchenal, Bernice & Richard Byrne, Thomas Byrne, Richmond Danso-Danquah, Edward Dawley, Stephen Doggett, Paul Esposito, Donna Fiedler, John Filicicchia, Beverly Fletcher, Patrick & Jennifer Gallagher, Rachel Grier-Reynolds, Christine Griswold, Jim & Kathleen Hawkins, Kathleen Haynes, Virginia Ann & Clay Jester, Eugene K. Johnson, Carla & Jack Markell, Brian Mattix, Kevin McCarthy, Robert McCleary, Leslie Newman & Bob Wolfe, Rosanne Pack, Portable Buildings Inc., Ron & Suzanne Raab-Long, James Reid, Susan & Chazz Salkin, Frank Selby, Cem Soykan, Guy VanderLek & Susan Witman, Donald & Janet Voss, Walter Walls, Gary Williams, Blythe York

Reporter Level

Seiichi Akana, Jeffrey and Nancy Alteri, Barbara & Michael Alushin, Justin Arseneau, Bonnie Arvay, Linda & Richard Barlow, Jean Bauer, Caroline Baxter, Karen Bennett, Tyler Bergstrom, Bob Blazovic, George Bockius, Edmond Bolton, Kyle & Margaret Bottorff, Robb Breen, David & Ann Burton, Vicki Byrd, Bob & Mary Byrd, Richard Byrne, Matthew Caddell, Tom & Martha Carper, Rodney Carroll, Karen Carson, Janet & Zach Carter, Patricia Chapman, John H. Clark, Alexander Clawson, Jennifer Clemons, James Cloonan Jr., James Clougherty, Susan Cohen, Tom Collins, Garrett Colmorgen, Stuart & Lucy Comstock-Gay, Jennifer Cornell, Eddie & Heather Cregar, Mary Curran, James & Susan Cycyk, Hubert Daniel, Alan & Marva Dansberry, Christine Davidson, Alice & Thomas Davis, AJ & Carolyn DeMarco, Tony DePrima, Richard Dillard, Deanna Duby, John Dunham, Charalisa Holloway Edelin, Pat & Paul Ehrler, Susan Eliason, Laura Epstein, Maureen Ewadinger, Harry & Donna Feldman, Amy Ferrer, Dolores Finger Wright, Dr. John Fink, Jeremy Firestone, Frieda Fisher-Tyler, Joan Flaherty, Barry & Renate Flannelly, Philip Fowler, Edward Freel, Ann & Richard Freeman, David Graham, Charles & Fleeta Grant, Ken Grant, Jim Grant, Spencer Greene, Cheryl Grosso, Sara Hammer, Abhishek Hatkar, Cornelius & Margaret Hawk, Michael Hawke, Colette Haycraft, John & Judy Hayes, Bob Haynes, Linda Heckert, Bob Heffernan, Carl Hoffman, Virgil & Vickie Hogue, Gilda Howard, Lynne Huggins, Claudia Hughes, Harry Humes, Helga Huntley, Joe Jr. & Cathy Huston, Karen Hutchison, John & Sandra James, Chris Jarrell, Jan Jessup, Evelyn Joiner, John and Susan Jungck, Jonathan Justice, Paul Kaercher, Susan Karibjanian, Dona Kauth, Diana Keegan, Jacqueline Kemp, Ann Kempiski, Sherry Kijowski, Lynne King, Connie Klimke, Jimmy Kroon, Rebecca Lawrence, Durk Lee, Charles Lewis, Jerome & Linda Lewis, Dr. Theresa Little, Sarah & Jason Long, Susan Love, Brendan Lucey, Carol & Casey Lunn, William Lustfield, Janet MacDonna, Jim J. Maier, Michael J. Malkiewicz, Francis & Marian Marro, Stephanie & Robert McBride, Daniel McGlynn, Patricia McGlynn, Stacy Melendez, Henry Mensack, Susan Moliken, Michael Munroe, Dennis Murphy, John & Nadine Murphy, Melissa & David Nixon, Sharon Noone, Eric Norenberg, Martin Nunlee, Barbara Oberender, Sally O'Byrne, Michael O'Rourke, Elizabeth & Reig Outten, Judith Pappenhagen, Allison Parkes, David Partridge, William Philips, Madaleine Polhemus, Robert Pond, Ben Pressly, Jocelyn Quick, Elizabeth Quinlan, Nancy Quinn, Maureen Raitz, Andreas & Alice Rauer, Gloria Richards, Ellen Roberts, Kate Rohrer, Debi Ross, Jeffrey Roushey, Pierre Rouviere, Jennifer L. Rowan, Bernadette Ruf, Kathy Samworth, Suzanne Savery, Gregory Schmidt, James & Virginia Schweiger, David L. Sechler, Kathleen Seipel, Susan Selph, Brint Shafer, Purushottam Shanbhag, Dr. William Sheppard, Christiane Shields, Janice Shugart, Robin Sirkis, Cindy & David Small, Sara Smith, Diane Snover, David Sokolowski, Ross Spencer, Margaret Stewart, Christine & Lester Stillson, Vicki Stockslager, Carol D. Stratford, Danielle & Kevin Sullivan, Susan Swan, Luann Taylor, Verna & Mike Thompson, Lydia Timmins, Leslie Truono, Alan Turner, Callie Tyner, Karen Usselman & Jeffrey Booth, Amanda & Sam Van Horne, Nuggehalli Vasuki, Alice Vincent, Melodie Virtue, William Wandless, Katherine Ward, Chuck Ward, Barbara Warnell, George Watson, Arden Wellington, Warren Wetherbee, Juanita & Edward Wilson, Kenney Workman, Rosemary Ziskovsky, Richard & Marsha Zuckerman

Technician Level

Lloyd & Ann Alexander, Ray & Sara Anderson, Elizabeth Archer, Chantalle Ashford, Nathan Attard, Brian Baer, David & Susan Baker, Constance Beattie, Daniel Bobrowsky, Matthew Bobrowsky, Psychiatric Access For Central Delaware, PA, William Bretzger, Darlene Brigance, Carol Burns, Thomas Burt, Carla Burton, Frank Calio, Anjene Cannon, Nigel Caplan, Stephen L. Caporiccio, Mike & Jane Castle, Jeanne M. Celiberti, Mike Censurato, Elizabeth Chajes, Charlotte Cherriman, Michael Cohalan, Celia Cohen, William Cohen, Janelle Cornwell, Jo-Anne & Kevin Corwin, Laura Coseglia, Patricia & Richard Crabb, Lisa Crim, Kiley Dancy, Ashley Davis, James Dawson, Bethany DeBussy, Erin DeLano, Bradley Dellinger, George Malcolm Dellinger, Arnie Diskin, Thomas & Kathy Dix, Joan Durand, Alice Erickson, Jeremy Ernest, Dale & Jennie Farmer, Elaine Faye-Barberic, Karen Fitzpatrick, Claire Ford, Christine W. Forry, John France, Nancy Frankl, Calvin & Carol Freedman, John Freidel, Stephen French, Alan & Janice Gaddis, John Gingrich, Geri & Paul Gitlin, Maureen Given, Andrew Gogates, Jay Valorie Hailey, Mary Kathleen Hall, Wayne Hamilton, Suzanne Harper, Patty Hartmannsgruber, Christine Hayward, Clayton & Deborah Heaton, Lawrence Henry, Theresa Hines, Lindsay Hoffman, Daniel Hoffman, Chester Hollingsworth, Martin Hopkins, Peter & Susan Horthy, Lynne Howard & Don Brown, Katherine Jackson, Jan Jenkins, Patricia Johnson, Cynthia Johnson, Janet Johnson, Deborah Kennedy, Gifford King, Elizabeth Kirk, Desiree Klein, Richard Krueger, Ken Kujala, Sharon Kwiatkowski, Daniel & Karen Laughman, Isaac Lin, Dieter Littles, Lisa Locke, Micah Loewinger, Anthony Lorenzo, Elaine Loughlin, Ricky & Robin Maddox, Raymond & Ellen Malenfant, Bradley Mansolf, Glenn & Claire Marshall, Sheryl E. Martin, Jordan Matthews, John McCarthy, Chuck McCloskey, Gail McDermott, Valerie McNickol, Gus & Justin Mercante-Bartels, Gina Miserendino, Sarah Mueller, Lynda Murray, Larry Nagengast, Carol & Gilbert Neild, Joseph Nestlerode, Pamela Nichols, Pat Nickols, Michael Nielsen, Chris & Susan O'Connell, Gail Obenreder O'Donnell, Joseph Pearce, Mark Pfeifer, Lisa Ralph, Fran Riddle & Bob Frazier, James & Anna Ruether, Gervasio Ruiz, Earl & Carol Russell, Irene & Theodore Sacher, Michele & Howard Sands, June & Joseph Satterfield Jr., Delane Saxton, Ed & Laura Schmidt, Sophia Schmidt, Wendy Scott, Kevin & Janel Scott, Raymond Seigfried, Claire & Richard Senato, Spencer & Meredith Sheehan, Michael Sigman, Rachel Simon, Robin Sleeman, Anita & Paul Smith, Graham Smith, Perrin Smith, Dan & Mary Snyder, Phil Spampinato, Nancy Stokes, Jennifer Strickland, Jeanne Swartz, RJ Szechtman, Shirley Thoms, William Thormann, Jon & Esther Timmeney, Ann Marie & Michael Townshend, Denise Tuck, Thomas Tufano, Philip Ugelow, Mary Voshell, Kevina Vulinec, Eric Wahl, Lindalee & Joseph Wald, Mark Walters, Melville & Peni Warren, Susan Watkins, Daniel Webster, Yu-Fang & Huei Wong, Jean Woods, Charles Yarmey, Victor Yarnall Jr., Martin Yerrick

Our news team reports on what matters to Delawareans

No other broadcaster in Delaware has more experience covering the First State than news director Tom Byrne. A Delaware newscaster for 30+ years, Tom brings a level of insight, depth, and context to our programming that is unequaled in the local media, and he holds our team to the highest standards of unbiased reporting and journalistic ethics.

Our local news coverage begins weekdays at 5:00 a.m. with morning anchor Kelli Steele. An award-winning journalist with more than 30 years of radio news experience in Delaware and elsewhere, Kelli is also our arts reporter.

Afternoon anchor Nick Ciolino also reports extensively on healthcare and the opioid crisis. He's worked at NPR stations in Detroit and Alaska—and as a cupcake delivery driver, auto shop tire technician, commercial fisherman, and beer vendor.

Sophia Schmidt, our New Castle County-based reporter and youth media producer, also leads our **Generation Voice** programs. Before joining DPM, Sophia worked on NPR's **Weekend Edition** in Washington, D.C.

Roman Battaglia, our Report for America fellow, covers local news throughout the state and supports **Generation Voice**. Previously he reported for NPR's Next Generation Radio in California.

Part-time contributors and freelancers round out our team

Joe Irizarry, who previously spent six years at commercial stations in New Castle and Sussex Counties, handles part-time reporting and anchoring duties.

Part-time anchor Rachel Sawicki is a senior at the University of Delaware.

Seasoned freelancers Eileen Dallabrida, Mark Fowser, Jon Hurdle, and Larry Nagengast help us cover the state and contribute regularly to **The Green**.

As we celebrated our 10th anniversary, NPR celebrated its 50th.



From 88 member stations and a staff of 65 in 1970, today NPR has more than 1,000 member and affiliated stations and 862 staff members in bureaus around the world.



We are the only public news service dedicated to covering local and statewide news in Delaware.

Volunteers bring a statewide perspective

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News Director

Kelli Steele
Morning Host/
Arts Reporter

Nick Ciolino
Reporter/
Afternoon Anchor

Sophia Schmidt
Reporter/Youth
Media Producer

Roman Battaglia
Reporter/Report for
America Fellow

Joe Irizarry
Reporter/Part-time
Anchor

Rachel Sawicki
Part-time Anchor

Contributors

Eileen Smith Dallabrida

Mark Fowser

Jon Hurdle

Larry Nagengast

Program Host

Mark Rogers
Hometown Heroes

Operations and Programming

Pete Booker
Senior Advisor

Daniele June
Administrative Assistant

Thomas Terry
Operations Manager

Chuck Ward
Director of Sales



Get tuned in.



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91.1 FM WDDE Dover
91.7 FM WMPH Wilmington
88.1 FM WMHS Wilmington

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Photography: Delaware Public Media Staff and Glazier Photography

About Delaware Public Media

Delaware Public Media is the first and only NPR affiliate licensed, established, and headquartered in Delaware.

Our mission is to serve the public interest by providing unbiased and in-depth noncommercial news and information that informs, educates, and engages the citizens of Delaware. Our unique mix of programming combines NPR content with First State-specific news and features produced by our own award-winning team.

We work closely with Delaware State University, the University of Delaware, the Brandywine School District, and the Red Clay Consolidated School District to provide internships and other opportunities that train future journalists to practice and uphold the highest standards of news gathering and reporting.

Founded in 2009 as Delaware First Media, we launched an online news service in 2010, and began broadcasting over 91.1 FM WDDE in 2012 from studios on Delaware State University's Dover campus. Our radio signal is also simulcast at select times on 91.7 FM WMPH and 88.1 FM WMHS.



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