



COUNTY OF DELAWARE
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**Delaware County Council recognizes
COLORECTAL CANCER AWARENESS MONTH**

Delaware County Council and the County Intercommunity Health Department recognized March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month to increase awareness about the importance of early testing and diagnosis to treat this cancer. The resolution was presented at the Tuesday, March 1, County Council meeting at the County Government Center in Media.

Colorectal cancer is one of only a few cancers that can be prevented through the use of screening tests, yet colorectal cancer remains the third most commonly diagnosed cancer and the second most common cause of cancer deaths for men and women in the United States. Each year, tens of thousands of lives are lost to this disease. Based on Pennsylvania state health statistics, residents of Pennsylvania and of Delaware County are significantly affected by this cancer. Despite these staggering statistics, colorectal cancer is one of the most preventable, treatable and beatable forms of cancer, especially when it is detected early. Wider use of proven screening tests could save more than half of these lives.

We can fight this disease by designating March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month and encouraging residents to help reduce the number of lives lost to the disease. They can do so by speaking with their doctors about getting screened, and by spreading the word that the disease is preventable, treatable and beatable.

It is notable that incidence rates among African Americans are more than 20 percent higher and mortality rates are about 45 percent higher than among Whites, with African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans and Native Alaskans less likely to be screened for colorectal cancer.

A resolution to set aside March as Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month was accepted by:

Marie DeStefano, RN, Administrative Director of Oncology, Crozer-Keystone Health System;
Marge Franke, RN, Nurse Navigator, Delaware County Regional Cancer Center;
Patti Hollenback, RN, Nurse Navigator at the Crozer Regional Cancer Center; and
Dr. Jenia Jenab-Wolcott, Medical Oncologist, Consultants in Medical Oncology and Hermatology.