



**OFFICE OF THE CORONER
COUNTY OF CHESTER**
Coroner: Christina VandePol, M.D.

“Committed Service and
Responsiveness”

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For Immediate Release

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The Chester County Coroner’s Office was called to the scene of six firearm fatalities, one homicide and five suicides, in the past week.

A dispatch was received on the night of October 10, 2019 for two fatalities at a residence in London Britain Township. After scene investigation, autopsy, and confirmation of identification, the death of Barbara Palladino, 64, in her residence, has been ruled a homicide by multiple shotgun wounds to the head. Dario Capriotti, 62, of Montgomery County, died of a self-inflicted shotgun wound to the head at the same address. The case is under investigation by the Pennsylvania State Police – Avondale.

On October 13, 2019, the Coroner’s Office received two separate dispatches to firearm fatalities. The cause of death for Terri Garbutt, a 47 year old female of West Chester Borough, was a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head at her residence. The cause of death for Daniel E. Watson, 60, of Caln Township, was a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head, also at his residence. Watson was transported to Paoli Memorial Hospital where he succumbed to the injury.

On October 14, 2019, the Coroner’s Office was again called to two unrelated firearm fatalities. Gerard R. Williams, 94, of West Chester Borough, died at his residence of a self-inflicted shotgun wound to the head. Lester W. Briel, 55, of East Coventry Township, also died at his residence of a self-inflicted gunshot wound to the head.

Coroner Christina VandePol said “This has been a week of tragedy for too many in our community. So many violent deaths in such a short period of time is an unusual and traumatic occurrence in Chester County. Except for the London Britain Township murder-suicide, we know of no connection between any of the other deaths. At this time we have been in contact with next of kin for each decedent and have completed our investigations.”