



The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | October 23, 2026

1 Delaware County Elections Director Provides Update on Safety and Security of Upcoming General Election

At Wednesday's County Council meeting, Delaware County Elections Director Jim Allen updated residents on the safety and security of the upcoming election scheduled for **Tuesday, November 3**.

Allen began his presentation by sharing that as of Tuesday, October 20, his office had received 55,000 mail-in and absentee ballot applications. 53,000 of these applications had been successfully processed and sent out to voters, with 25,000 already having been returned.



The Department of Elections is preparing for fewer mail-in/absentee voters and more in-person voters on Election Day, as they have received fewer applications than they did in the 2022 midterms when they received 66,000. While they saw a trend of higher-than-expected in-person turnout in 2025, Allen stressed that every election is different and previous ones cannot be used as perfect predictors for future elections.

Residents planning on voting by mail should vote as soon as possible, return their ballots quickly, and use County Drop Boxes if possible. **The deadline to apply for a mail-in or absentee ballot is Tuesday, October 27 at 5 PM.**

DO NOT WAIT FOR THE DEADLINE.

Visit pavoterservices.pa.gov/OnlineAbsenteeApplication/#/OnlineMailInBegin to apply. For more information about the 28 County Drop Boxes, which will be open until 8 PM on Tuesday,

November 3, visit delcopa.gov/vote/ballot-drop-box.

The Voter Service Center on the ground floor of the Government Center (**201 West Front Street, Media, PA 19063**) is open through Election Day, Tuesday, November 3. Voters may resolve issues with ballots or receive answers to other questions. Delco Voters may get a ballot on demand at the Voter Service Center by requesting a ballot, filling it out on the spot, and dropping it in the Drop Box at the Government Center.

The Voter Service Center is open 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM on Monday, Tuesday, and Friday, 8:30 AM to 7 PM on Wednesday and Thursday, and 9 AM to noon on Saturday. Visit delcopa.gov/vote for more information or call **610-891-8683** with questions.



Allen further discussed how they are preparing for the election, crediting the **1,900 poll workers across the county** as the “backbone of the system.” They are responsible for managing and administering fair, accessible, secure, and transparent elections for their neighbors. The Department of Elections provides paid training for poll workers who pass the test and serve successfully, paying \$150 for in-person training and \$100 for online training on top of their base pay for working on Election Day. They put a premium on in person training because it is more

hands on and better prepares poll workers. Allen’s office also holds Open Houses where poll workers can get hands on experience with the equipment and sessions for new Judges of Elections to ensure they are as prepared as possible.

The Department of Elections also provides orderly checklists for opening/closing polls, clear paperwork, tech support and well-being checks throughout Election Day, and thorough testing of the equipment and ballots beforehand. After each election, they poll the poll workers to ask what can be done better in hopes of a constantly improving experience. As of October 6, all 383 precincts in Delaware County are fully staffed, which is the earliest it has happened in recent memory.

Allen then highlighted the benefits of newly acquired electronic poll pads, which allow for faster, more accurate check-ins and shorter lines while avoiding poll workers fumbling through big paper books to check people in. Crucially, these poll pads allow for uniformity across all precincts. The poll pads guide poll workers through when it’s appropriate to issue a standard ballot or a provisional ballot, what are acceptable forms of ID, how to accommodate disabled voters who can receive assistance, and how to re-direct voters who arrive at the wrong polling place. They also allow for increased transparency, providing the Department of Elections the voter history indicating who voted the day after the election instead of weeks after the election is certified.

One of the most impressive initiatives the Department of Elections has undertaken is their leadership across the Commonwealth in hash testing, which checks the computer fingerprint of the software as it was certified for use by the federal government to ensure it is a 100% match. Delaware County was the first in Pennsylvania to perform hash testing on central servers and central-count processors before and after every election. The United States Election Assistance Commission, the federal agency charged with certifying voting systems, recently issued a **report** that praised Delco’s hash testing program and urged its adoption elsewhere.

Along with hash testing, the Department of Elections does robust testing of all ballots and envelopes. Samples of ballots for every precinct are marked and tested as they come off the printer by a staff member to ensure there are no problems. **Since this practice was instituted in 2021, there have been no issues with the scanability of ballots in Delaware County.** Additionally, all mail-in/absentee ballots and envelopes go through rigorous printing quality assurance, and all precinct scanners and technology go through a test election known as logic and accuracy testing.

When the polls close, three sets of tapes with the results are printed: one to be posted on the door of the precinct, one for the record of the Department of Elections, and one for the Minority Inspector to keep. Memory devices from each piece of voting equipment are secured in tamper-evident Tyvek envelopes signed by all poll workers before leaving the polling place. This ensures that results have not been tampered with before they are entered into the servers. The voting equipment also stores images of the ballots and the results from the close of polls, providing another backup to ensure that results are accurate and can't be tampered with.

All Delaware County voters use paper ballots, which must be marked by pen. This provides a voter-verifiable paper audit trail. Since 2021, results have been verified through audits and more than a dozen recounts, three of which were done countywide. **The system used to tabulate votes is not connected to the internet or phone lines, is not vulnerable to remote hacking, and is not connected to the County network.** Hash testing in September after this summer's County network disruption indicated that there was no impact on voting systems.

Allen also described the strict security measures surrounding mail-in and absentee ballots. For a voter to receive a mail-in/absentee ballot, they must be a registered voter and submit a signed application. As part of their application, they must provide a state ID/driver's license or the last four digits of their Social Security number. Once the ballot is sent out, each ballot has a unique correspondence code issued by the Pennsylvania Department of State, which avoids processing more than one ballot from the same individual. Finally, the envelope must be sealed and signed, while the ballot inside must be in a secrecy envelope.

Delaware County has one of the best notice and cure systems in Pennsylvania for mail-in and absentee ballots. The system developed by Delco alongside Allegheny and Dauphin Counties is being duplicated across the Commonwealth because of its success rate notifying voters who have fatal flaws with their ballots and fixing those issues. **In Delaware County the cure rate is 70%, whereas other counties see rates of 40% or lower.**

Finally, Allen shared that this is the third year in a row his office will be under budget and reducing their budget for next year. **Not only is Delaware County delivering safer and more efficient elections, but they are also doing it in a fiscally responsible manner.**

For more information about elections in Delaware County, visit delcopa.gov/vote. Please call **610-891-8683** with any questions.



Delaware County and Domestic Abuse Project of Delaware County Pay Tribute to Survivors and Victims of Domestic Violence



Last week, Delaware County joined the Domestic Abuse Project (DAP) of Delaware County for their annual Tribute to Survivors and Victims of Domestic Violence on the steps of the Delaware County Courthouse.

The event honored the lives lost to domestic violence, celebrated the strength of survivors, and reaffirmed Delaware County's commitment to prevention, justice, and healing.

According to the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 99 people lost their lives to domestic violence in Pennsylvania in 2025, with four of those coming in Delaware County.

“As we honor all victims of domestic violence across Delaware County and our Commonwealth, we stand with survivors who continue to heal and remain focused on the work ahead,” said Delaware County Council member and Delaware County Domestic Violence Task Force Chair Dr. Monica Taylor.

DAP, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, answered 4,503 hotline/referral calls, provided 3,972 nights of emergency shelter, and trained 48 Delco law enforcement officers through the Lethality Assessment Program last year.

The Domestic Violence Task Force brings together local law enforcement, victim service providers, survivors, Human Services, and the District Attorney’s Office to strengthen the Delco community’s response to domestic violence. Recently, the Task Force has worked closely with DAP and the District Attorney’s Office to coordinate specialized training for police officers across Delaware County. Additionally, DAP has partnered with the Delaware County Victims Assistance Center to provide training for staff at the Delaware County Courthouse.

DAP Executive Director Michelle Brown opened the proceedings by giving an overview of the work her organization does and reading the names of the domestic abuse victims who lost their lives last year in Delaware County. Other speakers included DAP Board Vice Chair Lt. Laina Stevens, District Attorney Tanner Rouse, County Council member and Domestic Violence Task Force Chair Dr. Monica Taylor, and DAP Board Chair Rev. Alina Gayeuski.

The speakers were joined by Council Chair Richard Womack, Sheriff Siddiq Kamara, members of the Delco Delegation in Harrisburg, and DAP staff.

For more information on the Delaware County Domestic Abuse Project, visit dapdc.org.



Delaware County Leaders Advocate for Smarter Transit at DCTMA Legislative Forum in Springfield



Last week at the Springfield Country Club, Delaware County Council member Elaine Paul Schaefer joined State Senator Tim Kearney, State Representative Jennifer O'Mara, and other Delaware County leaders for the Delaware County Transportation Management Association Fall Legislative Forum.

Attendees touched on a variety of subjects including mobility enhancements, future priorities, the Delaware County Green Ways Grant Program, and more.

Council member Schaefer highlighted the Delaware County Vision Zero Initiative, which aims to eliminate traffic deaths and injuries while ensuring that everyone has the freedom to walk, roll, or drive safely in Delco. In the past year, Delaware County has seen 19 municipalities adopt a resolution pledging to work to eliminate traffic-related fatalities. Additionally, the Delaware County Planning Department has moved to earn grants for Road Safety Audits on High Injury Corridors such as Route 291 in Chester, which is getting a \$52 million investment to make it safer. The County has also helped several municipalities adopt their own Vision Zero plans, assisted them in obtaining grant funding to improve road safety, and continued outreach to planning partners.

This year, Delaware County launched Walk Roll Delco, the County’s Active Transportation Plan. This is a watershed strategic policy plan to prioritize the mobility needs of non-vehicle users. The plan was finalized in April by the Delaware County Planning Department and officially adopted at Council’s July meeting. It evaluated existing bike and pedestrian infrastructure while identifying options that would fill gaps, connect neighborhoods, and provide safe routes for all ages and abilities.

Walk Roll Delco included a remarkable amount of stakeholder engagement and public outreach, ensuring that a thoughtful and comprehensive plan was put forward. From that input, the County determined that pedestrian and bicycle facilities are inadequate and don't protect users, the current pedestrian/biking network has gaps and is incomplete, and the lack of sidewalks and separated bike lanes are a major concern.

Therefore, the plan recommends the following:

- Developing a bike lane or trail maintenance request platform
- Incorporating the plan into land use processes and reviews
- Continued development of a list of high priority sidewalk gaps aiming for a more inclusive approach to safety, mobility, and land use

Council member Schaefer emphasized the importance of fully funding SEPTA, which thousands of Delco residents rely upon on a daily basis.

"We all benefit from SEPTA's growth," said Council member Schaefer. "Our Delco Delegation in Harrisburg understands this. My colleagues on Council understand this. No one benefits from SEPTA becoming a political football that elected officials from hundreds of miles away get to toss around with no care for who that hurts."

Attendees also discussed the importance of the Delaware County Green Ways Grant program, which has been instrumental in hardening Delco's flood mitigation, providing cleaner drinking water, and enhancing air quality. The program continues to reap benefits and will do so for years to come as projects funded by the program reach completion. **Delaware County has invested roughly \$20 million across nearly 120 projects while generating an additional \$30 million in state, federal, and other funding in Delco.**

A critical component of the discussion was about how investing in green infrastructure isn't just about elevating the quality of trails or green spaces. It represents an investment in every resident in the form of safer communities, increased property values, and healthier residents that can help save millions in healthcare costs.

For more information about the work being done by the Delaware County Planning Department to improve transportation and improve quality of life across the County, visit delcopa.gov/planning.



Darby Creek Trail Expanded in Haverford Thanks to \$20 Million in Green Ways Grant Funding



Earlier this month, Delaware County joined Haverford Township and other local partners to celebrate the southern extension of the Darby Creek Trail.

The extension now **connects McDonald Field to Merry Place, where the 1.5-mile trail goes all the way down to West Chester Pike.** The trail extension consists of a 10-foot-wide paved walking path designed to meet ADA standards.

"The southward expansion of the Darby Creek Trail will expand access to more of our community, keeping Delco healthier, more sustainable, and more connected," said Delaware County Council Vice Chair Christine Reuther.

This project was made possible through a **\$500,000 investment thanks to the Delaware County Green Ways Grant program**. This program has invested over \$20 million across nearly 120 projects while generating an additional \$30 million in state, federal, and other funding invested in Delco's environment. These projects have conserved green spaces, connected communities through safe bicycle and walking paths, and enhanced public parks for all residents.

Darby Creek Trail serves as a crucial piece of the Philadelphia region's Circuit Trails Network and is one of the region's most popular outdoor sites. Its location near Marple, Haverford, Springfield, and Upper Darby Townships makes it a hub for outdoor activity.

Delaware County would like to thank everyone at Haverford Township who made this vision a reality and has served as responsible stewards of the Darby Creek Trail for years. Critical to the project was Director of Parks and Recreation Brian Barrett, along with the Haverford Township Board of Commissioners, led by Chair Judy Trombetta.

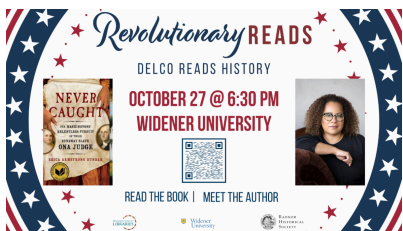
For more information on the Darby Creek Trail, visit havtrail.com/trailmap/dcmap.htm.

Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected



Red, White & Boo! to be Held at Delaware County Veterans Memorial on Sunday, October 25

Residents are invited to Red, White & Boo! on Sunday, October 25 from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Delaware County Veterans Memorial (**4599 West Chester Pike, Newtown Square, PA 19073**). Attendees can expect a family friendly Trick-or-Treat experience that combines Halloween fun with an opportunity to learn about the service of local veterans. At each station, children will earn treats while taking part in a meaningful and memorable educational experience. Family friendly costumes are encouraged. Admission is free and open to the public.



Delaware County Libraries to Host Revolutionary Reads Author Talk at Widener University on Tuesday, October 27

Delaware County Libraries is hosting a FREE Revolutionary Reads Author Talk on Tuesday, October 27 at 6:30 PM at Widener University alongside the Radnor Historical Society, America250PA Delco, and Widener. Residents are invited to check out Erica Armstrong Dunbar's *Never Caught: the Washington's Relentless Pursuit of Their Runaway Slave, Ona Judge*. Visit delcolibraries.org/revolutionary-reads to RSVP. Copies of the book are available at Delaware County Libraries locations and online.

Give Yourself the Gift of Health



Are Bringing FREE Mammogram Screenings to Chester!

DCHD Wellness Center: 151 W. 5th St, Chester, PA 19013

Wednesday, October 28, 2026, from 9 am-3 pm



Requirements:

- Must be over 40 years old
- Have not had a mammogram in the last 365 days
- No prior diagnosis of Breast Cancer
- Insurance is not required
- Patients with insurance will need a script from their PCP or OBG

To register:

Call our Wellness Line at (484) 276-2100 or email
DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us.

MUST PRE-REGISTER by October 16, 2026
Appointments are limited; call early to schedule.

DCHD Hosting FREE Mammogram Screenings in Chester on Wednesday, October 28

Due to The Delaware County Health Department is hosting FREE mammogram screenings on **Wednesday, October 28 from 9 AM to 3 PM** at the Delaware County Wellness Center in Chester (**151 W. 5th Street, Chester, PA 19013**). To get a screening you must be over the age of 40, not have had a mammogram in the last year, and have no prior diagnosis of breast cancer. Insurance is not required, but if you have insurance, you must get a script from your Primary Care Physician or OB/GYN. To register, call the Delaware County Wellness Line at **484-276-2100** or email **DelcoWellness@co.delaware.pa.us**.



Grand Opening of Walkable Chadds Ford Trail & Pedestrian Safety Project to be Held on Thursday, October 29

Chadds Ford Township is hosting the Grand Opening of the Walkable Chadds Ford Trail & Pedestrian Safety Project on Thursday, October 29 at 3 PM at the Chadds Ford Township Building (**10 Ring Road, Chadds Ford, PA 19317**). This

project, which creates a walkable connection between the Brandywine Battlefield, Chadds Ford Historical Society, Brandywine Museum of Art, downtown Chadds Ford, and the Brandywine Creek, was funded by \$600,000 in Delaware County Green Ways Grant funding along with nearly \$3.8 million in local, state, and federal funding. It represents a significant investment in pedestrian safety, connectivity, recreation, and the preservation of the historic character of Chadds Ford.



Celebrate Halloween at the 4th Annual Darby Township Tables & Treats on Saturday, October 31

Residents are invited to attend Darby Township's 4th Annual Tables & Treats event on Saturday, October 31 from 5 to 7:30 PM at Beech Avenue Hall (**767 Beech Avenue, Glenolden, PA 19036**). Community members are encouraged to host a table, donate candy, volunteer, spread the word, and show up in fun, family friendly costumes to make the event a success! Please contact Darby Township at **610-586-1514** for more information.

Delaware County Workforce Development Board Hosting Trade Union Apprenticeship Career Fair in Boothwyn on Tuesday, December 8



TRADE UNION APPRENTICESHIP EVENT

Trade Union Apprenticeship Career Fair. Learn about required skills, and ask questions directly to the union reps.

Unions and Trades Available:

- DC 21 Painters & Allied Trades
- Laborers Local 413
- International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 654
- Ironworkers Local 541
- Sprinkler Fitters Local 692
- Ironworkers Local 405
- Plumbers Local 690
- Operating Engineers Local 542

DATE: Tuesday, December 8
TIME: 6pm-8pm
ADDRESS: IBEW Local 654
 3729 Chichester Ave, Boothwyn, PA 19061
QUESTIONS:
McGeeverK@co.delaware.pa.us

Brought to you by Delaware County and Delaware County Workforce Development Board



The Delaware County Workforce Development Board is hosting a Trade Union Apprenticeship Career Fair at the IBEW Local 654 Union Hall (**3729 Chichester Avenue, Boothwyn, PA 19061**) on **Tuesday, December 8 from 6 to 8 PM**. Residents of all ages are invited to attend this event where they can learn about the necessary skills and ask representatives from eight different local unions and trades. Please reach out to **McGeeverK@co.delaware.pa.us** with any questions.



Delaware County Council members



Delaware County Weekly Archive

