



The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | August 21, 2026



Delaware County Office of Judicial Support Director Mary Walk Updates County Council on Recent Progress

At Wednesday's Delaware County Council meeting, Office of Judicial Support (OJS) Director Mary Walk provided her annual update on the recent progress made by her office, highlighted by the institution of e-filing in family and criminal filings along with responsible budget enhancements.

The Office of Judicial Support handles civil, family, and criminal filing matters throughout Delaware County. Walk, who acts as the prothonotary for civil matters and the Clerk of Courts for criminal matters, shared that her office, which serves as the filing office for the 32nd Judicial District of Pennsylvania, employs 50 people.



In 2025, OJS brought in \$3,504,695 in revenue with a budget of \$2,475,781, **generating \$1,028,914 in revenue for Delaware County**. Walk shared that over the last two years the office has increased revenue by \$301,475 and decreased their budget by \$183,573, meaning that **not only does OJS provide critical services for Delaware County residents, they do so while responsibly handling public money**.

Last year, OJS processed **7,947 initial civil filings**. Civil filings include OJS accepting and docketing lawsuits by individuals and businesses, landlord tenant appeals from the Magisterial District Courts, appeals from administrative agencies and arbitrations, notary registrations, mental health petitions, petitions for a change of name, and liens/judgments.

OJS processed **4,266 initial family filings** in 2025, with **1,328 initial custody filings**, **891 initial divorce filings**, and **2,047 initial protection from abuse filings**. On October 15, 2025,

OJS instituted family e-filing, which has cut down on wait times and paper usage while greatly improving efficiency. Since implementation, the office has accepted **11,290 electronic filings** (not just initial filings) in just 10 months, showcasing the importance and popularity of these innovations.

When it comes to the **10,806 criminal filings** they did in 2025, OJS docketed motions and petitions, accepts bail payments and processes bail refunds, issues and rescinds bench warrants, issues private detective licenses, provides summary appeals from Magisterial District Courts, and processes expungements from Common Pleas and Magisterial District Courts. In September of 2025, OJS instituted e-filing and has since **accepted 2,706 filings electronically**.

Walk then ran through the responsibilities of other important divisions of her office, spotlighting court clerks, passport applications, records management, and naturalization.

Court clerks spend most of their time preparing for and attending civil, family, and criminal court hearings and trials. In court, they electronically record the proceedings, mark and dock exhibits, complete the criminal sentencing order for the judge's signature, assist with questioning prospecting jurors, and read the verdict. Walk mentioned that clerks now work on filing when they are not in court rather than simply preparing for the following day, greatly increasing the efficiency of the office.

In 2025, OJS accepted **5,153 passport applications**, an increase of 834 from the previous year. Passport agents are required to recertify annually by passing a test administered by the US Department of State, which members of the office recently did.

OJS maintains the official docket for civil and criminal proceedings, fulfilling thousands of document requests per year (divorce records, naturalization records, etc.) and providing the certified record to the PA Appellate Courts for civil and criminal appeals.

The Office of Judicial Support also coordinates with US Citizenship and Immigration Services to facilitate naturalization ceremonies four times a year. While the ceremonies are typically held at the Delaware County Courthouse, the September ceremony will be held at the historic 1724 Chester Courthouse as part of America250PA Delco celebrations.

For more information about the Delaware County Office of Judicial Support, visit delcopa.gov/ojs.



Delaware County Acquires 70 Flood Gauges to Improve Safety and Flood Resilience



DELCO
Planning

Delaware County recently acquired 70 flood gauges that will improve the response to flooding, track data, and can provide early warning detection for communities across Delco.

"The data from these flood gauges will be used by our Department of Emergency Services to monitor flood events and by the Planning Department for stormwater management planning efforts," said Delaware County Planning Director Gina Burritt.

Gauge data will also be shared with municipalities and residents, with a public access portal to be revealed after installation. Gauges will be placed in locations recommended by the Delaware County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan and will be critical in helping with the methodology of the plan.

"I want to thank the Planning Department for their hard work in making this a reality to combat flooding across our county," said Delaware County Council member Joanne Phillips. "The need for these devices is critical and we're only going to need them more in the future."

The flood gauges were acquired using \$332,119 of state and federal grants, **investing tax dollars paid by Delco residents back into the community to keep Delaware County safe.** \$107,845 was earned from Community Development Block Grants from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, with another \$224,274 coming from state Local Share Account grants secured by State Representative Gina Curry and other members of the Delco Delegation in Harrisburg.

The first batch of flood gauges will be installed on county property, with Delaware County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan consultant Jacobs Engineering providing installation location guidance. Installation will cost \$95,000, with the money coming from the amended capital budget passed at Wednesday's Delaware County Council meeting. The county will be putting out a Request For Proposal for a contractor to install the first batch soon.

The flood gauges may eventually be able to provide early warning detection to combat flooding throughout the county, although this capability is still being developed.

In conjunction with the Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan, the Delaware County Planning Department has identified 230 flood problem areas, with 130 targeted as high priority. Planning staff have conducted nearly 200 field visits and made recommendations for each area.

For more information about the Delaware County Act 167 Stormwater Management Plan, click [here](#). To learn more about the work of the Planning Department, visit delcopa.gov/planning.

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Delaware County Unveils Walk Roll Delco Active Transportation Plan



Delaware County is hiring, with opportunities available across a wide range of County departments and fields. **18 departments are hiring for over 50 positions**, with a variety of roles available at the Health Department (DCHD), Fair Acres, George W. Hill Correctional Facility, the Department of Human Services, and more.

Open roles at **DCHD** include Community Health Planner, Disease Intervention Specialist, Environmental Health Specialist, and Administrative Coordinator. Employees at DCHD can expect to work out of the Delaware County Wellness Center in Yeadon.

Fair Acres is hiring for seven unique positions, with many roles having multiple vacancies. Open positions include Certified Nursing Assistant, Dietitian, Staff Nurse, and Food Service Worker. Employees will have the opportunity to work at the largest skilled nursing facility in Delaware County, which offers residents long term care, short term rehabilitation, respite care, and hospice services.

George W. Hill Correctional Facility, which is located in Thornton, has 17 vacant positions. Openings include roles as a Correctional Officer, Substance Abuse Counselor, Maintenance Clerk, and Intelligence Analyst.

The Department of Human Services provides critical services for children, seniors, and individuals with developmental disabilities while securing grant funding. DHS has a variety of career opportunities for case workers, social workers, and mental health advocates along with critical positions that require financial acumen to help administer grants.

All roles include competitive salaries, strong benefits, and the opportunity to improve the lives of neighbors and friends. **Applicants do not need to be Delaware County residents, although resident applications will be prioritized.**

For more information and to see all openings, please visit delcopa.gov/employment.

Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected



DCHD Partnering with Temple and Villanova Nursing to Provide FREE Birth Companion Program

The Delaware County Health Department is partnering with the Temple and Villanova nursing programs to provide a **FREE** birth companion program for expecting mothers in Delaware County. Companions will provide non-medical emotional, educational, and physical support. Residents may qualify if they are 18 or older, in their third trimester, live in Delaware County, plan to deliver at Bryn Mawr or Riddle Hospital, and are not scheduled for a planned C-section. To learn more or be matched, email monica.goodwin@villanova.edu with the subject line "Birth Companion Match Request."



Delaware County Looking to Fill Three Openings on Sustainability Commission

Delaware County is looking to fill three openings on the Sustainability Commission. The board advises County Council on policies and best practices that promote environmental protection, energy efficiency, and sustainable development. The County is looking for **two members of the general public with an interest and/or expertise in sustainability** (one with term through September 2028 and one with term through September 2029) and **one municipal representative representing a municipality within the county** (term through September 2029). The deadline to apply is Friday, September 4 and more information can be found at delcopa.gov/clerk/board-vacancies.



COSA Offering Acclaimed Virtual Chronic Pain Self-Management Program on Tuesdays, September 15 to October 20

Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA), in collaboration with the PA Department of Aging, is offering the acclaimed Power Over Pain: Chronic Self-Management Program for residents 60 years or older living with chronic pain. The program will be held virtually on Zoom on **Tuesdays, September 15 through October 20 from 1-3:30 PM**. This program is **FREE** through support from COSA and the PA Department of Aging. Space is limited and registration is required. To register, contact COSA Health and Wellness Program Manager Ellen Williams at **610-499-1937** or williamse@co.delaware.pa.us. Interested residents should provide their name, address, phone number, and email when registering.



DCHD to Host Rally for Recovery on Thursday, September 24 in Essington

The Delaware County Health Department is hosting a Rally for Recovery on **Thursday, September 24 from 5 to 7 PM** at Governor Printz Park (**W. 2nd St. & Taylor Ave., Essington, PA 19029**). This will be a family-friendly event to celebrate individuals in recovery and share hope with communities still struggling. Residents at every stage of recovery are encouraged to attend and enjoy music, food trucks, speakers, face painting, and access to recovery resources. For more information, visit delcopa.gov/health. Interested residents can RSVP using DCHD's

Facebook [post](#) about the event.



Signups for Delco 10 Miler Remain Open!

Residents are encouraged to sign up for the 2nd Annual Delco 10 Miler, scheduled for **Sunday, October 4**. Like last year, the race will begin at Rose Tree Park in Media and end at Subaru Park in Chester with a celebration at Union Yards. Organizers have already seen over 1,750 runners sign up and have fewer than 750 spots left, so residents are encouraged to sign up ASAP. Please note that there is a 13:30 per mile pace requirement. If you aren't interested in running, please consider signing up to volunteer. For more information, visit delco10miler.com.



Human Services to Host Annual Adult Systems Training the Week of October 5

The Delaware County Department of Human Services is hosting their annual Adult Systems Training from **Monday, October 5 to Friday, October 9**. This will include presentations on services for Mental Health, Adult & Family Services, Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities, Drug & Alcohol, and Advocacy & Community Supports. **Registration will open on Tuesday, September 1**. To learn more, visit delcopa.gov/human-services.



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