



# The Delaware County Digest

Your source for the latest news from Delaware County | January 9, 2026

## 1

## Delaware County Swears in Members of Council and Row Officers

On Monday morning, Delaware County Council members Richard Womack and Joanne Phillips, Register of Wills Vincent Rongione, Sheriff Siddiq Kamara, and Controller Louis Rosenthal were sworn in to begin four-year terms while District Attorney Tanner Rouse was sworn in to finish the final two years of new Court of Common Pleas judge Jack Stollsteimer's term.

During the standing-room only Induction Ceremony, Womack was introduced by his granddaughter and surrounded by family and friends who celebrated his reelection. The Darby Township native reflected on his first four years on Council and looked ahead to the future.

"Being here on County Council is not an easy job," Womack said. Sometimes it's a thankless job, but I am reminded that it's not about me, it's about the people of the county that I serve. I have stayed up many nights. I've shed many tears. I prayed a lot and thanked God for my family that's been there for me. They ask why I continue to do this, and I do it because I love people, and they have embraced me."



Phillips, who spent the last eight years as Delaware County Controller and has lived in Middletown Township for over 30 years, was introduced by her sister and had the Oath of Office administered by Pennsylvania Superior Court Judge Maria McLaughlin. Phillips discussed her commitment to the County and dedication to serving Delco residents on Council.

"I remain inspired by what the voters told me during this election," Phillips said. "They told me to keep working hard, use my common sense, keep moving the county forward, implement changes as efficiently and effectively as we can, use our resources wisely, and take care of our people."

Rongione, a Havertown native and Upper Darby resident, was sworn in as Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court by his predecessor in the office, Rachel Ezzell Berry, and had his bible held by his son and daughter. Rongione has served as Register of Wills and Clerk of the Orphans' Court since his appointment in January 2024 and will begin a full four-year term.



"It truly is the honor of my life to hold this office and serve this community of my friends and neighbors," Rongione said. "It is thrilling and daunting to understand that this is a quasi-judicial office and that the rule of law is our most sacred institution in the United States."

Kamara was introduced by Councilmember Dr. Monica Taylor and surrounded by family and friends as he became the youngest Sheriff in the country. The Upper Darby native reflected on his upbringing as the son of Liberian immigrants and outlined his vision for the office.

"My goal as Sheriff is pretty simple," Kamara said. "I want to modernize our department and bring more efficiency than ever. At the same time, I also want to increase community engagement. I want people to know what we do and that we're responsible for Delaware County."

Rosenthal, who lives in Newtown Township and volunteers with the Newtown Fire Company, was joined by his wife and had his Oath of Office administered by Delaware County Court of Common Pleas President Judge Linda Cartisano. Rosenthal gave a detailed account of why he's so excited to be the next Delaware County Controller.

"This is a very, very meaningful role for a very, very special County," Rosenthal said. "Life is sometimes more difficult and challenging for some of our neighbors than for us, and people commit themselves to public service to make it better. And that's really the attraction to me."

Rouse, who lives in Swarthmore, has served as the First Assistant District Attorney since 2020 and was sworn in with his family by his side. He shared the importance of being the top-ranking law enforcement official in Delaware County, expressing gratitude and an excitement to get started.

"The only way to earn what I have been given is to do exactly that," Rouse said. "It's to earn it. I promise everyone in this room, regardless of your title, regardless of your partisan beliefs, that I and my team will work every day to make you proud of this office and to show that we are an example of government at its best."

For more information on the newly sworn in members of Council and the row offices, please visit [delcopa.gov/council](https://delcopa.gov/council).

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## Richard Womack named Council Chair, Christine Reuther named Vice Chair at Organizational Meeting

Delaware County Council named Richard Womack Chair and Christine Reuther Vice Chair at their Organizational Meeting on Monday afternoon.

Womack, a native of Darby Township, has served on Council since 2022 and served as Vice Chair for the last two years, where he oversaw a first-of-its-kind countywide Budget Task Force and was part of a Council that created a Human Rights Commission to protect residents from discrimination. He shared his appreciation for the opportunity and excitement to get started.



"I want to thank the people of Delaware County and my fellow members of Council for having faith in me to lead this Council," Womack said. "While we accomplished a lot during my first four years on Council, I am looking forward to making an even bigger difference over the next few years in this community I love so much."

The former labor leader has dedicated his life to public service, spending more than 25 years advocating for the rights of the Labor Movement, including time as an advisor to the President of the National AFL-CIO, a federation of 55 labor unions that represent 12.5 million workers. One of his most gratifying achievements was working intimately with the disability community and US Congress to pass the American Disabilities Act. Womack spent over a decade on the Darby Township Board of Commissioners representing Ward 2, where he worked his way up to President of the Board of Commissioners.

**For more information about Council Chair Womack, please go [here](#).**

Reuther, who graduated from Haverford High School and lives in Wallingford, has served on Council since 2020. She was part of a Council that took back County control of the George W. Hill Correctional Facility and created a County Health Department after Delaware County was the largest county in the United States without one. She expressed her gratitude and enthusiasm to serve the residents of Delaware County.

"We are facing plenty of challenges in Delaware County, but as we've done throughout my time on Council, I know that we will do what's best for our residents to solve these problems," Reuther said. "Thank you to my fellow Council members for having faith in me. Now let's get to work!"

Vice Chair Reuther has experience as a lawyer for Ballard Spahr, PECO, and CIGNA Corporation, and was a shareholder at McCausland Keen and Buckman until she was sworn in as a member of Council. She has specialized in tax law and corporate practice. She has a long history of working with local non-profits and currently sits on the America250PADELco Commission, which is responsible for planning local celebrations of America's 250th birthday. She is a former member of the Nether Providence Board of Commissioners and spent time as the solicitor for Rutledge Borough, giving her vast experience at many levels of local government.

**For more information about Council Vice Chair Reuther, please go [here](#).**

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# 3

## New Delaware County Sheriff Siddiq Kamara Shares His Vision for the Office and Features K9 Unit at Wednesday's Council Meeting



At Wednesday's County Council meeting, newly sworn in Sheriff Siddiq Kamara took the podium to talk about his priorities for his time in office.

Kamara brings a vision of transforming the sheriff's office into a more engaged partner with residents and other public safety agencies, focusing not just on traditional duties like courtroom security and civil processes, but on prevention, education, and building community trust.

He thanked the residents of Delaware County, his staff, and County Council for supporting the work that the office does while discussing his focus on community outreach.

"My key focus is transparency, accountability, and gaining the trust of the public," Kamara said. "I want to modernize the department, and I want to make sure that people know what the Sheriff's office does."

Kamara is the son of Liberian immigrants who fled civil war before settling in Delaware County. After graduating from Upper Darby High School, he enlisted in the Pennsylvania Army National Guard, where he served for six years. He has served as a member of the Yeadon Police Department and was a Special Agent with the Pennsylvania Attorney General's Office. He later served on the security and executive detail for then-Attorney General and current Pennsylvania Governor Josh Shapiro.

The Upper Darby native has already increased the office's presence on social media and has added community outreach staff members to the office to more comprehensively tackle the issues that face Delaware County residents.

"Already in the first week there's been more outreach and buzz about the Sheriff's office," said Council member Elaine Paul Schaefer. "I know you're excited to get the word out about what your office does, and I can't wait to see it happen."

Sheriff Kamara introduced Deputy Jake Amatucci, who leads the K9 unit, to discuss the work that him and K9 Zladco do to keep Delco residents safe. Deputy Amatucci explained that he and Zladco went through five weeks of intensive training this summer to get certified in explosive detection and patrol work, including criminal apprehension, article searches, and tracking suspects/missing persons.



Although Zladco has only been in service for four months, he has already been an asset to the County and local police departments, being deployed 14 times. This includes bomb threats at Haverford High School and Swarthmore College where he kept students, staff, and residents safe.

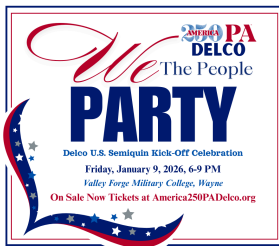
Additionally, Zladco and Deputy Amatucci do a sweep of the Courthouse every day before it opens, have been deployed to help with suspicious packages onsite, have helped with high-risk prisoner transports, and are present at serious crime trials and hearings where they serve as a deterrent and maintain security.

For more information about the work the Sheriff's Office does, please visit their website [delcopa.gov/sheriff](http://delcopa.gov/sheriff).

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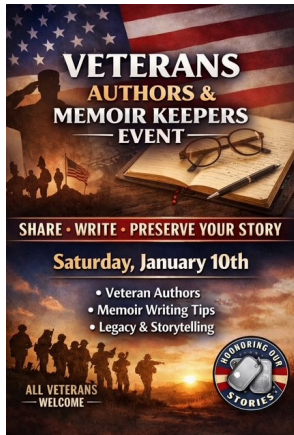
## Take Part, Spread the Word, Stay Connected

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### America250PA Delco Kicks off Semiquincentennial Celebrations with We the People Party on Friday, January 9

America250PA Delco invites residents to Valley Forge Military College for a party to kick off a year of American 250th birthday celebrations from **6-9 PM on Friday, January 9**. This exclusive sneak peek is reserved for the Delco community, offering a festive evening of discovery, where residents will unveil a special sampler of the 2026 events and programs! **More information can be found [here](#).**



### Department of Military & Veterans Affairs Invites Veterans to Book/Memoir Review on Saturday, January 10

The Delaware County Department of Military & Veterans Affairs is welcoming veterans and interested community members to participate in their book/memoir review from **11 AM-1 PM on Saturday, January 10** in the County Council Meeting Room at the Government Center. This is a great opportunity to learn about the extraordinary military service rendered by Delco residents and connect with fellow veterans about their experiences. Five local authors will be featured, and lunch will be provided. **Contact the DCMVA office for more information.**



### DCHD Kicks Off Birth and Beyond Class Series

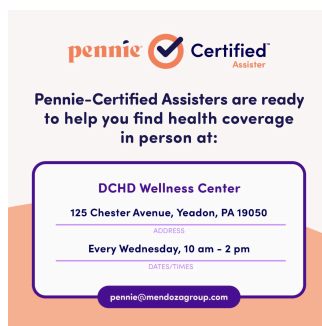
Birth and Beyond is a DCHD program in collaboration with the Foundation for Delaware County's Family Village designed to improve maternal and infant health outcomes by increasing access to education, supportive services, and community resources during pregnancy, postpartum, and beyond. DCHD plans to host monthly pop-up events throughout the county in 2026 to share resources and promote birthing classes. Each month will have a different theme, starting with January's "New Mom, New Beginnings," which will focus on topics and resources for new mothers. The first event was held at DCHD's Wellness Center on **Friday, January 9th from noon-1:30 PM**. The event is for birthing

or expecting parents only. Registration is required through DCHD's Wellness Line, please call 484-276-2100.



## DCHD Hosting Smashing the Stigma Event as Part of Stomp Out Stigma Initiative

The Delaware County Health Department is hosting Smashing the Stigma, a community event aimed at reducing stigma surrounding mental health, substance abuse disorder, and harm reduction on **Saturday, January 10 from noon-4 PM**. As part of the initiative, local businesses are encouraged to make Narcan, harm reduction materials, and resources available to the public. DCHD will also be offering training on CPR, Narcan, and Stop the Bleed techniques to participating businesses and employees. In addition, DCHD will continue to host community conversations to educate the public on mental health and substance use disorder in their communities. For more information, contact Kayla Cocci at **610-605-1118** or [kayla@udtj.org](mailto:kayla@udtj.org).



## Final Week of Pennie-Certified Assistants Helping Residents Find Health Coverage at DCHD Wellness Center

DCHD invites residents to work with Pennie-Certified Assistants to help find health care coverage this winter. Services will be provided every **Wednesday, January 15 from 10:00 AM-2:00 PM** at the Wellness Center located at 125 Chester Avenue, Yeadon, PA 19050. For questions please contact [pennie@mendozagroup.com](mailto:pennie@mendozagroup.com).



## Delaware County Weekly Archive

## Your Delaware County Council Members



