



KENT COUNTY

LEVY *Ledger*

January 7, 2026



Hon. Joanne Masten



Hon. Jeffrey W. Hall



Hon. Allan F. Angel



Hon. Robert J. Scott

Hon. Jody Sweeney



Hon. Paul Hertz

Hon. Terry Pepper



Serving Kent County with Pride!

KENT COUNTY NEWSLETTER



What's Ahead in the Levy Ledger?

Happy New Year! We're starting 2026 with a fresh edition of the Levy Ledger filled with updates, recognitions, and important information for our community. In this issue, you'll find highlights from recent Levy Court actions, our first Employee of the Month of the new year, and key notices and reminders to help you stay informed. We look forward to another year of service, progress, and connection with the residents of Kent County.



About the Levy Court

Levy Court is your County government, comprised of seven elected Commissioners who serve at the will of the electorate. The Levy Court's responsibilities include: enacting planning and land use ordinances; providing parks and recreation facilities; establishing fees; providing emergency medical services; 911 communications; emergency management; approving sewer system construction; establishing the yearly tax rate and overseeing the county departments that support the mission of Levy Court.

Levy Court offices are located at **555 Bay Road in Dover Delaware**. Residents may call 744-2300 to reach a County Office. Commissioners contact information follows below.

For more information on Levy Court, please visit our website at www.kentcountyde.gov.

Hon. Joanne Masten

President
Commissioner, 1st District
Committee: Community Services
302-270-1747

Hon. Jeffrey W. Hall

Commissioner, 2nd District
Committee: Planning Services
302-632-0757

Hon. Allan F. Angel

Commissioner, 3rd District
Committee: Administration
302-382-6735

Hon. Robert J. Scott

Vice President
Commissioner, 4th District
Committee: Public Safety
302-505-0198

Hon. Jody Sweeney

Commissioner, 5th District
302-943-7328

Hon. Paul Hertz

Commissioner, 6th District
Committee: Public Works
302-505-2310

Hon. Terry L. Pepper

Commissioner: At-Large
Committee: Finance
302-697-9194



About the Row Offices

Kent County has four Row Officers: each of which is an elected official and is accountable to the electorate. Each row office performs a distinct function within the County Government. The offices and contact information follows or you can visit their webpages by searching the county's website.

REGISTER OF WILLS:

Hon. Douglas "DJ" Cox
douglas.cox@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2330

**Chief Deputy -
Aleyshia Young**
aleyshia.young@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2330

RECORDER OF DEEDS:

Hon. Eugenia Thornton
eugenia.thornton@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2321

Deputy - Darin Dell
darin.dell@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2318

CLERK OF THE PEACE:

Hon. Brenda Wootten
brenda.wootten@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2346

Deputy - Patricia A. Brown
trish.brown@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2347

SHERIFF:

Hon. Norman Barlow
norman.barlow@
kentcountyde.gov
302-744-2161

Chief Deputy - Robert Daddio
robert.daddio@
kentcountyde.gov
302-736-2161

Kent County PHONE DIRECTORY

**Kent County Administrative
Complex****555 Bay Road Dover, DE 19901**

Levy Court	302-744-2305
Assessment Office	302-744-2401
Building Permits & Inspections	302-744-2451
Code Enforcement	302-744-2452
Community Development	302-744-2480
Economic Development	302-678-3028
Engineering	302-744-2430
Facilities Management	302-744-2357
Finance	302-744-2386
Tax Section	302-744-2341
GIS/Mapping	302-744-2416
Information Technology	302-744-2365
Parks & Recreation	302-744-2495
Personnel	302-744-2310
Planning	302-744-2471

**Kent County Emergency Services
Building****911 Public Safety Boulevard
Dover, DE 19901**

Emergency Communications	302-735-2200
Emergency Management	302-735-3465
Emergency Medical Services	302-735-2180

**Kent County Library
497 South Red Haven Lane
Dover, DE 19904**

Library Services	302-744-1919
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**Kent County Parks and
Recreation
1683 New Burton Road
Dover, DE 19904**

Recreation Center	302-744-2495
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**Kent County Wastewater
Treatment Plant
139 Milford Neck Road
Milford, DE 19963**

Wastewater Facilities	302-335-6000
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Levy Court **UPDATES**

Important Property & Assessment Notices for Kent County Residents

NOTICE: TO ALL OWNERS OF TAXABLE PROPERTY IN KENT COUNTY

The deadline for filing an appeal of your annual property tax assessment is the last working day of January (**January 30, 2026**). Results of appeals filed on or before this date will be effective on June 1 for the upcoming annual billing. Please visit our website at www.kentcountyde.gov for appeal forms and instructions for residential and commercial appeals ([click here](#)). Appeal Forms and Instructions are also available at the Kent County Assessment Office at 555 Bay Rd., Room 215, Dover, DE 19901. Please contact our office if you have any questions, 302-744-2401.

NOTICE: PROPERTY TAX ASSESSMENT IN KENT COUNTY AND PROPERTY OWNER RESPONSIBILITY

Under Delaware law, any property owner who does not submit a timely appeal of his assessment is liable for the property tax based on that assessment for the tax year in question. This means that even if the assessment is found at a later date to contain an error that caused the payment of more tax than would have been paid if the assessment had not contained the error, the assessment will be changed only for the succeeding and future years and, under normal circumstances, no refund of any excess tax paid in the current or prior years will be available.

While the Assessment Office strives to achieve 100% accuracy in determining assessments, it cannot guarantee such accuracy. As an owner of taxable property, you should review the assessment records on your property to verify that they contain accurate information on property characteristics such as, for example, square footage of structures, land area, and plumbing fixtures. The accuracy of your assessment depends in large part on the accuracy of the property information upon which the assessment is based. Much of this information can be found on-line at www.kentcountyde.gov. After you get onto the web page, click the Property Search button and go to the listing on your property.

Remember, Delaware law places the burden of assuring the accuracy of the information used to determine an assessment ultimately upon you, the property owner. Please contact the Assessment Office at 302-744-2401 if you have any questions or would like to discuss your property or assessment with an assessor.



Updates, cont.

ELDERLY-DISABILITY EXEMPTION OFFERED BY THE KENT COUNTY BOARD OF ASSESSMENT

Persons 65 years of age or older by May 31st and/or persons totally (100%) disabled, and able to document said total disability, may qualify to receive a reduction in the amount of their taxable assessment which would reduce or eliminate their property tax liability.

Listed below are additional requirements which must be met to qualify:

- A. The applicant(s) must have been a resident of the State of Delaware for the 5 years immediately preceding the tax year for which an exemption is sought. This 5 year requirement is waived for veterans who are 100% disabled as a result of their military service but they must currently reside on this property as their principle place of residence (The tax year begins June 1st).
- B. Title to the property for which the exemption is sought must be in the name of the applicant (or the applicant and the applicant's spouse), or a revocable grantor trust with the applicant(s) listed as a trustee, as reflected in the official records of the County.
- C. The applicant(s) must currently reside on the property and have resided on the property as their principal place of residence for the one year immediately preceding the tax year for which an exemption is sought. This 12 month requirement is waived for veterans who are 100% disabled as a result of their military service but they must currently reside on this property as their principle place of residence
- D. Total adjusted gross annual income of a single applicant shall not exceed \$18,000. Combined total adjusted gross annual income of the applicant and spouse residing together in the same residence shall not exceed \$24,750.
- E. Application and subsequent verification forms must be completed and received by the Assessment Office, 555 Bay Road, Dover, DE 19901 no later than April 30th prior to the tax year for which the exemption is being sought.

Social Security, Railroad Retirement Tier I, and if disabled, pension income(s) directly related to the applicants disability are excluded from adjusted gross income.

Phone 302-744-2401 Monday through Friday, 8:00 am through 5:00 pm



Updates, cont.

NOTICE: TO OWNERS OF MANURE AND COMPOSTING SHEDS:

Property owners seeking a property tax exemption for manure and composting sheds which are part of an approved nutrient management plan must request this exemption by writing a letter to the Kent County Assessment Office postmarked on or before **May 31st** preceding the tax year for which the exemption is sought. Exemption requests postmarked after May 31st cannot be processed until the following tax year. For additional information you may call the Kent County Assessment Office at 302-744-2401, Monday through Friday, 8 am through 5 pm.

Website Navigation Update

We've recently updated the layout of our website to make it easier for visitors to find the information they need. The previous vertical sidebar menu has been replaced with a streamlined dropdown navigation across the top of the page. This new design features standard top-level categories with submenus that appear when selected, helping you quickly access services, departments, and resources.

We appreciate your patience as our community adjusts to the new layout.



Stay Informed with Kent County Levy Court! Catch full recordings of our meetings and public hearings anytime on our official YouTube channel:

[Kent County Levy Court on YouTube](#)

Subscribe to stay updated and never miss a moment that matters to our community.



AWARDS

Kent County Levy Court proudly hosted its Annual Employee Recognition and Awards Ceremony on Friday, December 12, 2025, honoring the dedication, professionalism, and service of County employees across all departments.

Employees of the Month – 2025

Throughout the year, twelve outstanding employees were recognized for their contributions:

- January: James Thistlewood, Administration Department
- February: Robert Daddio, Office of the Sheriff
- March: Greg Schulties, Department of Public Safety
- April: Lisa Spence-Russ, Department of Finance
- May: Aaron Andrews, Department of Public Works
- June: Amy Brannen, Register of Wills Office
- July: Danielle Patterson-Fields, Administration Department
- August: Jonathan Stewart, Community Services Department
- September: Dylan Carrar, Department of Public Safety
- October: Cathy Moore, Recorder of Deeds Office
- November: Jonathan Cole, Department of Public Works
- December: Marissa Burgos, Administration Department





Awards, cont.

Employee of the Year

The highlight of the ceremony was the announcement of Jonathan Stewart as Kent County's Employee of the Year, who was recognized at the December 16, 2025 Levy Court Business Meeting.



Mr. Stewart was recognized for his exceptional leadership, commitment to excellence, and service to the community. He received a \$500 check and a commemorative plaque in honor of his achievement.

Service Awards

In addition to monthly and annual recognitions, Kent County honored employees who reached significant milestones in their careers.

5 Years

- Rebecca Biddle
- Donna Caulfield
- Samantha Faulkner
- Debra Handel
- Andee Lauritsen
- Karyn Megonigal
- Cynthia Messina
- Paula Rodriguez
- Robert Wood

10 Years

- Warren Collins
- Marie Betty Lafortune
- Gregory Mansfield
- Eric Neeld
- Roxanne Parsons
- Vincent Parsons Jr.

15 Years

- Cameron Maas Jr.
- Harold Neal
- David Richter
- Devin DuPree



Awards, cont.

<u>20 Years</u> · Darin Jones · Mark Kennedy · Jessica Steele · Jesse Wallace · John Zistl	<u>25 Years</u> · Dylan Carrar · Leslie Vasquez · Scott Vautard	<u>30 Years</u> · Michael Rigby · Allan Thomas · Dirk Yoder
<u>35 Years</u> · Lorraine Tanaka		



35 Year Employee Lorraine Tanaka, center, pictured with (from left) County Administrator Kevin Sipple, Levy Court President, Joanne Masten, Levy Court Vice President, Robert Scott, and Levy Court Commissioner Allan Angel



Awards, cont.

Gene Vanderwende receives a Kent County Medal, Kent County's highest honor, at the final Levy Court Business Meeting of 2025.



Gene Vanderwende has dedicated more than four decades to public service as the Field Coordinator for Tax Ditch/Drainage Assistance with the Kent Conservation District. His work has strengthened Kent County's agricultural community by improving drainage across 77 watersheds, benefiting over 15,400 parcels and more than 206,000 acres. Through his deep knowledge of local waterways and steadfast partnership with Tax Ditch Officers, he has helped prevent flooding, protect property, and preserve vital watershed systems. In recognition of his lasting impact and exceptional service, he has been recommended for the Kent County Medal.



Awards, cont.

After honoring our 2025 Employee of the Year, we now proudly recognize January's Employee of the Month for 2026, JACOB YODER!



Kent County Department Heads have selected Jacob Yoder from the Department of Planning Services as the January 2026 Employee of the Month.

Jacob currently serves as a Building Codes Inspector I in the Inspections and Enforcement Office, having joined Kent County in November 2024. His strong background in construction site operations, along with specialized training in masonry and general construction from James H. Groves, made him an ideal candidate for the position.

In his current role, Jacob is responsible for inspecting buildings during construction, alteration, and repair to ensure foundation adequacy, structural safety, and overall compliance with approved plans. He reviews residential and accessory building permits for conformity with building codes and zoning ordinances, issues notices for violations related to zoning, building, housing, and property maintenance codes, and conducts special investigations upon request, providing written reports detailing any violations found.

During the first weeks of November, our office experienced an unexpected surge in inspection requests. Unfortunately, this coincided with the absence of two inspectors and the unavailability of our third-party contractor. On one particularly demanding day, Jacob completed 18 inspections. His county-issued cell phone died early in the morning, prompting him to return to the office to borrow a replacement and attempt to repair his own (unsuccessfully). Later that day, he experienced mechanical issues with his vehicle but managed to bring it back to the office and switch to a spare. Despite these challenges, Jacob completed all scheduled inspections, ensuring our constituents were served without disruption. He remained patient, cheerful, and committed throughout the day, demonstrating exceptional dedication and professionalism.

According to Planning Services Director, Sarah Keifer, "Volunteering for extra work is always appreciated but doing so with such a positive attitude even when nothing seems to be working is invaluable. We are truly lucky to have Jacob as part of our team."

Congratulations Jacob on a job well done!



KENT COUNTY

LEVY COURT

Let's welcome our New Hires

Public Safety

Candace Ernst joined Kent County as a Paramedic I in October.

Robert Gerofsky joined Kent County as a Paramedic Trainee in November

Jared Russell joined Kent County as a Paramedic Trainee.

Payton Henry joined Kent County as a Paramedic Trainee.

Damian David joined Kent County as a Paramedic Trainee.

McKendree Cortilessos joined Kent County as a Paramedic Trainee.

Sara Newell joined Kent County as a Paramedic Trainee.

Public Works

Zachary Dorsonne joined Kent County as a Maintenance Mechanic I.

Sean Rentz joined Kent County as a Maintenance Mechanic I.

Consent Agenda 25-16 (December 16, 2025)

Approval of Levy Court Business Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, December 9th, 2025

Action items from December 9th Workshop:

- 2026 EMS Vehicle Procurement
- Extension of GIS Professional Services Contract

January

The month of January is Blood Donor Month Nationally and in Kent County
Please consider making a donation.

Kent County Offices will be closed on Monday, January 19 in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.



Happy Birthday to Peggy Taylor, who celebrated her remarkable **100th** birthday on January 3. A graduate of Caesar Rodney High School and a long-time resident of the Wyoming community, Peggy is cherished for her quick wit, warm personality, and enduring positivity. We extend our heartfelt best wishes to Peggy on this extraordinary milestone.



KENT COUNTY LEVY COURT

Serving Kent County with Pride



Get In Touch

Kent County Levy Court	facebook.com/KCLevyCourt
Kent County Levy Court	instagram.com/kentcountylevycourt
Kent County Levy Court	@KCLevyCourt/x
Digital Mailing List	public.govdelivery.com/accounts/DEKENTCO/subscriber/new