

DELCO

WATER COMPANY

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Growth Spurs Expansion in Mt. Air & Waldo

The past few years has seen continued growth at Del-Co Water. Part of that growth is due to regionalization projects where Del-Co has been able to provide water to both large neighborhoods and small villages.

Del-Co's regionalization efforts officially began a few years ago with the acquisition of the Village of Centerburg which was completed in 2018. However, these efforts have unofficially existed for the past several decades, during which Del-Co absorbed several existing water systems, including the Villages of Powell, Galena, Edison, and Sunbury, and also a small neighborhood, Lake of the Woods.

One of Del-Co's most recent regionalization projects is Mt. Air, a neighborhood located off Olentangy River Road, just south of the Franklin/Delaware County



<https://twitter.com/govmikedeWine/status/1468323980088070144>

border. About 60 homes in this community depended on a common well for drinking water, but they were having issues with aging infrastructure, poor water quality, and system maintenance. Consequently, they contacted Del-Co to ask about the possibility of providing water to the community. An agreement resulted in Del-Co building a new

distribution system which serves safe, quality drinking water and also provides water for fire protection.

Del-Co's regionalization efforts are currently focused on the

Village of Waldo, located in southern Marion County. About 250 homes in the village depend on individual wells and would benefit from a centralized, safe, reliable drinking water source. In addition to funding from the Ohio EPA Del-Co was awarded in partnership \$2.5 million as part of an Ohio BUILDS Water Infrastructure grant to build a water distribution system for the Village and surrounding area. Construction is scheduled to begin this summer.

Natalie Linkous - Project Manager

Ohio BUILDS
Water Infrastructure
Grants Awards - Round 3

- More than \$109 million
- 101 Projects
- 106 Communities



MIKE DEWINE
GOVERNOR OF OHIO

Boil Advisories and Water Safety During an Outage

We take our mission to provide quality water to heart and the last thing we want is for our customers to experience a water outage. We do everything we can to minimize their impact, but unfortunately they do occur for various reasons. The reason determines how quickly we can communicate to our customers and the methods we use to contact them. Planned outages are scheduled ahead of time when we replace or repair a mainline or need to relocate an existing mainline. Unplanned outages are emergencies that typically result from a contractor accidentally digging into our pipe.

Planned or unplanned, Del-Co recommends that affected customers boil all water that will be used for cooking and drinking for twenty-four hours after

service has been restored. Customers affected by a planned outage are notified with a letter in advance of the outage. Emergency outages are handled differently, due to their unpredictable nature. In the case of an emergency outage, Del-Co will notify affected customers using an automated call system.

During a boil advisory, customers should bring all water used for cooking and drinking to a rolling boil for one minute and then allow the water to cool before using. If you are unable to boil your water, you can use bottled water until the advisory is over. After your water service is restored, you may notice some discoloration or air in the water. These conditions are normal and may persist until the mainline has been

flushed. **Please note that Del-Co's boil advisories are precautionary and there is a minimal risk to public health.** Customers can find current information about outages on our website: <https://delcowater.org/water-outages>, and can find CDC Recommendations at: <https://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/emergency/drinking/drinking-wateradvisories/boil-water-advisory.html>.

Please keep your contact information up to date by calling our Customer Service Department at 740-548-7746 or visit our Customer Web Portal at www.delcowater.org to update/confirm your information. Also, consider following Del-Co Water on Facebook to receive important information about your water utility.

Environmental Stewardship Guiding Initiatives at Del-Co



Photo Courtesy www.Pexels.com

In 2021, Del-Co formed an exciting new initiative for employees - the Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC). Drawing on the expertise of our diverse staff, the ESC is committed to a sustainable future and improving the environmental well-being of the company. The ESC is also dedicated to environmental improvements that foster a sustainable future in the communities we serve.

During the initial year, the ESC commissioned a carbon footprint study. This study provided an overview of the company's environmental impacts related to greenhouse gas production and reliance on fossil fuels. The study also provided a baseline which will help set goals to reduce future impacts. Two initiatives that will assist in the reduction of our carbon footprint, are the installation of solar panels and the use of electric vehicles. The most significant of the solar panels will be an installation on one of the reservoirs at Del-Co's Olentangy Campus. For our new electric vehicles, charging stations will be installed on campus.

Three additional initiatives to promote a more sustainable Del-Co Water are land restoration, employee engagement, and composting. We recently partnered with Compost Clubhouse, an organization that engages and educates children in the importance of composting. By composting, we are recycling our food waste and keeping it out of the landfill. Composting also benefits the soil and environment, as does land restoration. Del-Co is restoring portions of land by planting native vegetation. Once established, the native plants will provide habitat for local wildlife, create more resilient ecosystems, and reduce maintenance. The committee intends to implement conscientious land management which focuses on keystone species, as well as their ability to aid in ecological carbon sequestration.

Del-Co continually strives to become a responsible steward of our environment. This committee is dedicated to serving the community in a way that will make the world a better place for generations to come.

*Carol Prior - Project Manager &
Luke Gordon - Customer Service Rep*

Smart Irrigation Systems Help Save Money

As technology advances, smart irrigation systems are becoming more and more available to anyone interested in maintaining their lawn while also conserving water. Smart irrigation systems utilize real-time weather data and/or sensors to monitor soil moisture, and automatically adjust watering to optimal

levels. Improved irrigation controllers are a great start, but efficient sprinkler heads, rotors, and proper zoning can also go a long way in saving water and money while maintaining a green lawn. There are many options available if you decide to install a smart irrigation system. Speak to a

professional, and when selecting your system consider factors such as current water usage, potential savings, compatibility with the existing system, and connectivity requirements.

*Phil Budd - Meter Tech
Supervisor*

Hydrant Accessibility Important for Safety

Keeping quick access to fire hydrants can be easily overlooked. We don't typically think of them until they are needed in an emergency. Del-Co Water, in partnership with the Liberty Township Fire Department and your local Fire Departments, would like to remind you that all fire hydrants must have unobstructed access from items such as vehicles, fencing, trash, vegetation, or any other objects that may prevent access to a hydrant. Ohio Fire Code states a clear space around the hydrant of at least 3 feet must be maintained at all times.

Why is this so important? A standard fire engine can hold between 500 - 1,000 gallons of water and can use anywhere from a few hundred gallons to thousands of gallons of water during a fire response. Quick access to a hydrant for a consistent water supply is a crucial step in helping to save lives and protect personal property. A household fire can become uncontrollable within three minutes of ignition, potentially doubling in size every 30 seconds. A rapid response and quick access will help mitigate the fire growth. The minutes lost clearing a path to a hydrant are crucial and make a significant difference in the outcome of an emergency.



Photo Courtesy
www.Pexels.com

Each spring, Fire Department personnel conduct hydrant testing to ensure proper function and identify needed repairs. Let's all do our part this spring and help our Fire Fighters gain quick access to hydrants. Reach out to your local Fire Department or Del-Co Water with any questions or concerns. Thank you to Lieutenant Tim Jensen and the Liberty Township Fire Department for their contributions to this article.

Ben Rogers - Chief Operator