

# DELAWARE LIVE

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

 Delaware Live

 @DelawareLive

[SUBSCRIBE](#)



May 7, 2023

Vol. 4, Issue 18

photo link: Brandywine Creek State Park



# CONTENTS

photo link: Winterthur Museum, Garden & Library

Headlines .....	3
Business .....	7
Food & Dining .....	12
Government.....	15
Education.....	22
Sports .....	27
Stay Connected .....	29



Here's What Goes Into Keeping Delaware's AAA Rating



Absentee Voting Passes Senate



Deinert Running for Milford School Board


photo link: Visit Delaware



# Headlines

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





## 4TH GRADERS LEAD CHARGE TO STOP SMOKING IN PRIVATE CARS

BY SAM HAUT

Students in Leanna Vitti's fourth grade class at Wilbur Elementary School spoke before the House Health & Human Development committee Monday to advocate for a bill that seeks to stop smoking in cars that contain kids.

**House Bill 118**, sponsored by Rep. Kevin Hensley, R-Odessa, would create a civil citation for people who smoke in a car that also contains someone under the age 18, whether a window is open or not. However, if

the bill becomes law, police won't be able to pull someone over solely for that.

Before the bill unanimously passed the committee, seven different fourth graders talked about how they have been impacted by secondhand smoke and the dangers associated with secondhand smoking.

"One reason is that the smell is very bad and it lingers on the child's clothing... Another reason is that smokers can expose their children to 4,000 different kinds of

chemicals that at least 70 of these chemicals can cause cancer, asthma attacks...that can result from second-hand smoke," said Natalie Dixon. "Also, smoking in the car with children should be banned because it causes accelerated health issues for young children."

Cecily Penland said she's been in a car with a smoker and didn't like it.

"Kids should have the right to be able to breathe clean air while in the car. Children don't have a choice because it's not like they could just say, 'Oh, it's okay. I'll just drive myself,'" Cecily said. "Also, I've been in a car with a smoker before and I really don't like it, it stinks."

Rep. Eric Morrison, D-Glasgow, said he empathizes with the students because his mother, who died three years ago from lung cancer, smoked in the car when he was younger.

"My mother loved us dearly, me and my brother, and we loved our mother dearly, but she smoked with us in the car," Morrison said. "And we both have allergies, my brother's very allergic to cigarette smoke. And it's that addiction that keeps you doing that, and makes it so that you don't always think about other people. But I know that if this were law, she would have obeyed it because she obeyed the law."

The bill has four additional sponsors and cosponsors, three Republicans and one Democrat. There is no fiscal note required for the bill, which now heads to the full House for consideration.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# HURRY UP AND VOTE: HANDGUN PERMIT BILL PASSES THROUGH SENATE

BY SAM HAUT

A grandstanding Sen. Dave Lawson, R-Marydel, ripped up pieces of paper as he ripped into a bill that will require training and permits before Delawareans are allowed to buy a handgun.

“Why do we want to continue to shred our constitutions and trash them? Why do we do that? I fought my entire life to protect this constitution,” Lawson said as he tore up paper. “And I will continue to do that. And the day you come for my guns, I would hate to see, because our citizens have the right to protect themselves. Please don’t put the citizens in this state in a box where they can’t get out.”

The Senate on Tuesday passed along party lines a bill that would require the permit and training. Now it goes to the House side of the General Assembly for a committee hearing.

**Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 2**, sponsored by Senate Majority Whip Elizabeth Lockman, D-Wilmington, also passed the Senate Finance committee earlier Tuesday. The bill would require permits to be given only to a person 21 years old or older who can’t otherwise be prohibited from buying a gun and/or for whom there’s probable cause the buyer could do harm to themselves or others. They also must have completed a firearms training course within the last five years which meets certain requirements.

That training must include instructions on the safe handling of firearms and ammunition, safe storage of firearms and ammunition, and child safety. It must also include shooting fundamentals and skills, a review of state and federal laws, self-defense and confrontation management.

The training also must include live fire shooting exercises conducted on a range using at least 100 rounds of ammunition.

The bill allows for those making at or below 200% of the federal poverty level to be compensated in full by the state for the cost of the training courses.

The original **Senate Bill 2** was passed by the Senate Judiciary committee on April 26. The substitute bill makes the permit valid for one year instead of 180 days, says the Superior Court must hold a hearing where someone believes they wrongfully lost their permit within 15 days instead of 21 days, and extends the implementation time of the bill from a maximum of six months to a maximum of 18 months.

Lockman said in a statement after the bill had passed that it will help to reduce gun death in Delaware.

“Senate Bill 2 is a common-sense public safety bill that will increase the level of responsible gun ownership in Delaware, while reducing the bloodshed and devastation we see here in the First State on an almost daily basis,” she said.

Jeff Hague, president of the Delaware State Sportsmen’s Association, who was called as a witness by the Republicans, said that the bill would make it harder for women to buy guns, which in turn would make them less safe.

“This requirement that they go through a training class, submit to fingerprinting, a background check, and then wait for 30 days, is just an infringement that’s going to take at least three or four months before you’re able to purchase that handgun,” he said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

# HERE'S WHAT GOES INTO KEEPING DELAWARE'S AAA RATINGS

BY BETSY PRICE

The way Delaware handles its budgets, a growing population and efforts to diversify the state economy all help the state continue to earn a AAA bond rating, which means the state pays less when it wants to borrow money.

For example: The state received bids last week for its upcoming sale of \$380 million of AAA-rated General Obligation Bonds and it will pay little more than 1% interest on those bonds—even though the Federal Reserve has raised its benchmark interest rate more than 4% since Delaware last issued bonds.

That rating also allowed the state to have an additional \$1 million in savings by refinancing \$34 million of existing debt, said Secretary of Finance Rick Geisenberger in a press release from Gov. John Carney's office.

Ratings are based on criteria that include the state's financial performance and management, overall debt and approach to long-term issues. The highest ratings, Aaa/AAA, are granted to states that are well managed and prepared to pay their debts during periods of recession or fiscal stress.

JOHN MOLLURA

- PHOTOGRAPHY -

BEAUTY PORTRAITS - HEAD SHOTS  
- FAMILIES -

302.222.6308



Geisenberger told Delaware LIVE that the rating agencies—Moody's, S&P Global Ratings, and Fitch Ratings—always comment on state rules that include limiting the amount of revenue that can be budgeted, putting money into a Rainy Day Fund and also into a Budget Stabilization Fund.

But those ratings also look at state mechanisms such as the Delaware Economic and Financial Advisory Council. It meets five times a year to look at state revenues and expenditures so the General Assembly and governor have an idea about what's coming and can adjust. Because of that, Delaware was able to use some of the Budget Stabilization Fund monies in 2020 after COVID-19 hit revenues for the Fiscal Year 2021 budget.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# Business

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

photo credit: fauxels / PEXELS





## WEIS MARKETS TO ANCHOR BAYBERRY'S MIXED-USE TOWN CENTER

BY BETSY PRICE

Weis Markets will expand into New Castle County as an anchor store for the 280,000-square-foot **Bayberry Town Center** in north Middletown. The grocery store, which will give those living in the area an option other than driving south into Middletown or north to U.S. 40 for food, is expected to begin construction next year and open in 2025, said Blenheim Homes Vice President Simi Senecha. The 64,00-square-foot store will be joined by a Weis gas station, which it refers to as a fuel facility.

The town center will include office, retail and town-home space and Senecha said Blenheim hopes to see small and large casual dining restaurants, health services such as physical therapists, dentists and urgent care, hair and nail salons as well as retail stores offering various wares.

Blenheim has not announced how much the center will cost to build in the Village of Bayberry.

The COVID-19 pandemic really spurred sales and growth in the north Middletown area, which Senecha said has become its own trade area.

“Retail growth has not followed a similar trajectory,” she said. “So we felt that there was a great need for a grocery store to service this area. We’ve heard that from a lot of residents, so we think that Weis (pronounced WICE) will be perfectly positioned to serve this community.”

Weis, which operates 97 stores in Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia and Virginia now has stores in Millsboro, Lewes and Millville.

The Village of Bayberry sits between Middletown’s main business area and the C&D Canal, along Boyds Corner Road (Route 896) between Jamison Corner Road and Routes 1 and 13.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

# Why? Choose?

Del-One Federal Credit Union

*Helping members reach their goals since 1960*



www.Del-One.org | (302) 739-4496







# DIVISION OF ALCOHOL STARTS PROCESS TO CREATE LEGAL POT INDUSTRY

BY SAM HAUT

The legalization of marijuana in Delaware will mean the state's police agencies stop ticketing people for having it, but they'll continue to pull people over for appearing to be under the influence.

Police already had stopped charging people with criminal possession for small amounts of pot in 2019, when Attorney General Kathy Jennings said she would no longer prosecute for misdemeanor possession of marijuana or paraphernalia. Now, agencies will stop giving out the civil citations which had replaced the criminal charges.

In the meantime, all eyes will be on the Division of Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, charged with writing the regulations under which Delaware plans to set up a taxable, regulated industry to grow and sell

marijuana. It requires the appointment of a marijuana commissioner and three members of an appeals commission within 90 days of the bill becoming law.

After House Bill 2 officially became law, the division posted on its [Facebook](#) page that it will be working with the Department of Health and Social Services to implement the two bills and that they'll hire new staff to help with enforcement.

Arshon Howard, public information officer for the state Department of Safety and Homeland Security, which includes the Division of Alcohol, did not elaborate further. Howard said no schedules for public meetings or proceedings have been published.

[House Bill 1](#), which legalizes personal possession of marijuana for those 21 years or older, became law on

April 22. [House Bill 2](#), which sets up a framework to tax the newly legalized marijuana, became law on April 26, after Gov. Carney's decision not to veto or sign either.

The commissioners will have 12 meetings a year where they will work on the rules for marijuana cultivation in Delaware and who will be given any of the 132 licenses that are available for testing, selling, growing, and manufacturing marijuana. The licenses will include 30 for large growing facilities, 30 for smaller growing facilities, 30 for manufacturing marijuana products, 30 for retail stores and five for testing facilities.

About half of each license is a social equity license, which is given at a discount to companies that are more than half owned by someone who lives in a disproportionately impacted area, was convicted of a marijuana related offense, or is married to someone convicted of a marijuana related offense. While the license can be for people convicted of marijuana related offenses, the bill exempts people who delivered marijuana to a minor or were caught with 5000 grams or more of marijuana.

While there are a limited number of licenses initially, after two years, the commissioner can give out more licenses if more stores or facilities are needed or if they haven't given out enough of any specific type of license. License applications will be available in May 2024.

Mat Marshall, a communications officer with the Delaware Department of Justice, said that the bills becoming law won't have much of an impact on the department.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



## ARTESIAN ASKS TO RAISES RATES; AVERAGE BILL WOULD GO UP 7%

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The Artesian Water Co., which supplies water to over a third of Delaware's residents, has filed a request to increase rates. If the Delaware Public Service Commission approves the proposal, the bill for the average residential customer using 4,000 gallons per month would increase \$49.90 to \$56.73. That's not quite 7% higher.

The application to the PSC asks to increase revenue 23.84%, or approximately \$17.54 million, on an annualized basis. It'll be months before the request is implemented.

Artesian's request was announced just a day after [Veolia](#) said it wanted to increase its rates. Both utilities cited the cost of infrastructure investments.

Since Artesian's last request for new rates nine years ago, it will have invested over \$158 million in water infrastructure across all three counties. That includes renewal and replacement of 45 miles of aging water mains (out of the 1,442 miles it has), addition of a major booster station, upgrades of existing stations, a new elevated water storage tank and upgrades to treatment equipment and facilities.

### ARTESIAN'S STRATEGIES

Since that last rate application, Artesian said it has used various strategies to delay the need to raise rates, including:

- Taking advantage of historic low interest rates by issuing new and refinancing existing long-term debt to reduce its average interest rate by 33.7%, from 5.84% to 3.87%.
- Making investments to add sources of supply, booster facilities and transmission mains to reduce its need to purchase water. As a result of these investments, Artesian reduced the required minimum amount of water it purchases from the Chester Water Authority by 83.3%.
- Utilizing a Distribution System Infrastructure Charge between rate applications, which allows up to a 7.5% surcharge on customer bills for select infrastructure improvements, including main replacements, hydraulic improvements and water quality treatment. This enables Artesian to recover investments for necessary projects while avoiding a full rate increase. Artesian has in place the maximum 7.5% surcharge; once a change of rates goes into effect, this surcharge is reset to zero.

"Artesian's entire management team has championed cost-effective solutions, allowing us to continue to deliver the same superior services our customers have always relied on, despite current supply constraints and increased costs," CEO Dian C. Taylor said in a statement.

Its announcement for the rate hike pointed out ways it has helped customers:

- Artesian negotiated for full reimbursement of the \$10 million it invested to treat contaminated water from its Llangollen wellfield. Customers received a \$27 credit on their bill in October 2022, and active customers will receive a similar credit annually through 2025.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

# STATE OPENS PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD ON PAID FAMILY LEAVE RULES

BY BETSY PRICE

The Delaware Department of Labor this week opened the 30-day public comment period on [proposed regulations](#) for the state's new Paid Family and Medical Leave insurance program. It will take effect Jan. 1, 2025, and employees and employers to pay into it before it can be drawn on the following year.

Largely based on the federal Family Medical Leave Act program that has been in place since 1993, it is designed to replace up to 80% of a covered individual's average weekly wage and provide job-protected leave for some family situations. They include bonding with a child during its first year, caring for a family member with a serious health condition or dealing with the impact of a family member's military deployment, among other situations. The new law:

- Provides up to 12 weeks of leave to employees covered by the plan.


- Requires employers with at least 10 employees in Delaware to contribute to the fund.
- Permits companies to make employees responsible for up to half the cost of those contributions.
- Allows employees to start using the paid leave program beginning Jan. 1, 2026.

## FAMILY LEAVE BACKGROUND

Created under the [Healthy Delaware Families Act](#) signed into law in May 2022, the Paid Family and Medical Leave insurance program was part of a national push for these kind of programs, just as huge state revenue surpluses were making funds available to create a new department and program.

The programs are designed to help workers in smaller companies who may not have family leave programs. Companies that do have them are allowed to opt out of the program.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



**Good for the heart  
and soul**

Nothing brings families together like a delicious meal.

Locally owned and operated for more than 25 years, **Kenny Family Shoprites** are delighted to nourish our Delaware community!

[@kennyfamstores](#) [kennyfamilystores](#)

photo credit: Jorge Zapata / PEXELS



# Food & Dining

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





# BARDEA OPENS THE GARDEN, OFFERING RAW BAR, LIGHT BITES

BY PAM GEORGE

The coronavirus pandemic created an increased demand for outdoor dining, which continued after the restriction eased. Today, many Delawareans seek out an alfresco experience. Enter The Garden, an attractive terrace sandwiched between siblings **Bardea Food & Drink** and **Bardea Steak**. The new lounge and eatery had a soft opening Thursday and a launch party is scheduled for Thursday, May 11.

The attractive landscaped area has been in place since Bardea Steak opened last year. Customers could relax near the foundations and fire features while waiting for a table inside the restaurants. However, staffing issues made it difficult for the partners to fully execute the concept.

“Last summer, we just played around,” said Scott Stein, co-owner of Bardea Restaurant Group. “This is what we always envisioned. We are putting all of our energies into this.”

## THE GARDEN LINKS BRAND

Stein’s partner, Antimo DiMeo, crafted a casual menu that showcases the talents of the hospitality group’s kitchens yet is unique to The Garden. (Bardea Restaurant Group also owns Pizzeria Bardea and Taqueria El Chingon in **DE.CO**, a downtown food hall.

The Garden’s pizzas are \$18 to \$20 and snacks include a trendy breadboard with cultured butter and extra-virgin olive oil (\$6), a corn dog with mortadella wagyu (\$15) and bao bun with beef cheek (\$16).

The Garden also offers raw bar selections, including oysters on the half shell, tuna sashimi and salads. The star, however, is The Crossbreed, a dry-aged smash patty made with wagyu, Angus and Piedmontese beef, served on a bun baked in-house.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

LEARN HOW WE CAN SUPPORT YOUR SMALL BUSINESS



[business.delaware.gov](https://business.delaware.gov)





## BING'S BAKE & BREW EXPANDS WITH CAFÉ IN NEWARK

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The family that owns Delaware's oldest bakery has set up a second coffeeshop in downtown Newark, across Main Street from where Bing's Bakery opened in 1871. **Bing's Bake & Brew** bought the Little French Café of Newark.

"It's quaint," Carla Guzzi, who owns Bing's with her husband Tom Guzzi, said of the new location "It has a lot of charm."

It's keeping many items popularized by owner Martha Barrier and adding "a delicious dessert menu from Bing's Bakery," Bing's announced on [Facebook](#).

The new Bake & Brew is at 64 E. Main St. **Bing's Bakery** opened at 57 E. Main and now operates at 253 E. Main St., less than a half-mile to the east. The first Bing's Bake & Brew is in Amstel Square, 57 S. Main St., a half-mile to the west of the new cafe.

Guzzi said the new location features a half-dozen crepes, several sandwiches on croissants, side salads, quiches, fruit cups and desserts. It does not offer bagels because they're already a common choice on Main Street, she said, but she hopes that crepes are a rare and inviting item.


The drinks menu includes eight varieties of espresso, nine frozen and blended drinks, eight drinks over ice, three alternatives (chai, hot chocolate and brewed coffee), four teas and a weekly feature.

Bing's on Main is about 1,000 square feet, compared to 1,500 for Bing's on Amstel Square, so Guzzi said they're looking to focus the menu. "A few things, done well," she said.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



## DOGGIE DAYCARE IN MILFORD

[LEARN MORE](#) 



*We'll Keep Your Fur Baby Happy & Healthy!*



photo credit: Delaware.gov

# Government

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





# 2023 ATTEMPT TO ALTER ABSENTEE VOTING PASSES SENATE

BY SAM HAUT

The Senate voted along party lines 15 to 5 to pass a bill that would amend the Delaware constitution to allow absentee voting for any reason. [Senate Bill 3](#), sponsored by Sen. Darius Brown, D-Wilmington, ultimately would allow absentee voting for any reason. However, it would require voters to sign an oath or affirmation saying they are free from improper influence before voting. The bill required a two-thirds majority because it will change the state constitution.

The legislature had previously implemented no-excuse mail-in voting through [Senate Bill 320](#), which was signed into law last July. But that bill was ruled [unconstitutional](#) by the Delaware Supreme Court in October 2022 in the case *Higgin v. Albence*. So the Democrats are back with another bill.

While Senate Bill 320 had a fiscal note of \$130,000 for the 2023 fiscal year and \$132,600 for the 2025 fiscal year, both from the general fund, Senate Bill 3 doesn't require a fiscal note.

“Simply put, this bill allows individuals in the state of Delaware to vote by absentee without omission,” Brown said. “And we believe that we want to encourage the residents of our state to do so.”

Sen. Brian Pettyjohn, R-Georgetown, said that absentee voting makes it easier for people to improperly influence someone's decision and the Senate should move cautiously.

“If you're doing this through absentee and allowing anybody to absentee vote for whatever reason, part of those protections on the voter side are removed,” Pettyjohn said. “There can be undue significant influence when somebody is allowed to vote for any reason, without the security of the polling place that we go to great lengths to protect on election day and during the early voting period.”

Anthony Delcollo, attorney for Senate Republicans, was asked by Pettyjohn how they could prove the voter is being truthful when signing the affirmation on

improper influence. Delcollo said he wouldn't know how to verify the affirmation's integrity.

“A matter of examining that in any sort of substantive way is something that I'm unaware of,” he said.

Eric Buckson, R-Dover, said he might support no-excuse absentee voting, but the bill presented doesn't offer enough protections.

“If it is a restructuring of the absentee balloting, maybe there is a reason to move away from a just cause,” Buckson said. “If that was the only ask, we could have that conversation, but in the language that's presented in this bill, it's not the only ask.”

“We'll be back, we just will. And that's what concerns me...it's important that all Delawareans have the opportunity to participate in a free and fair election...but we must continue to have guardrails.”

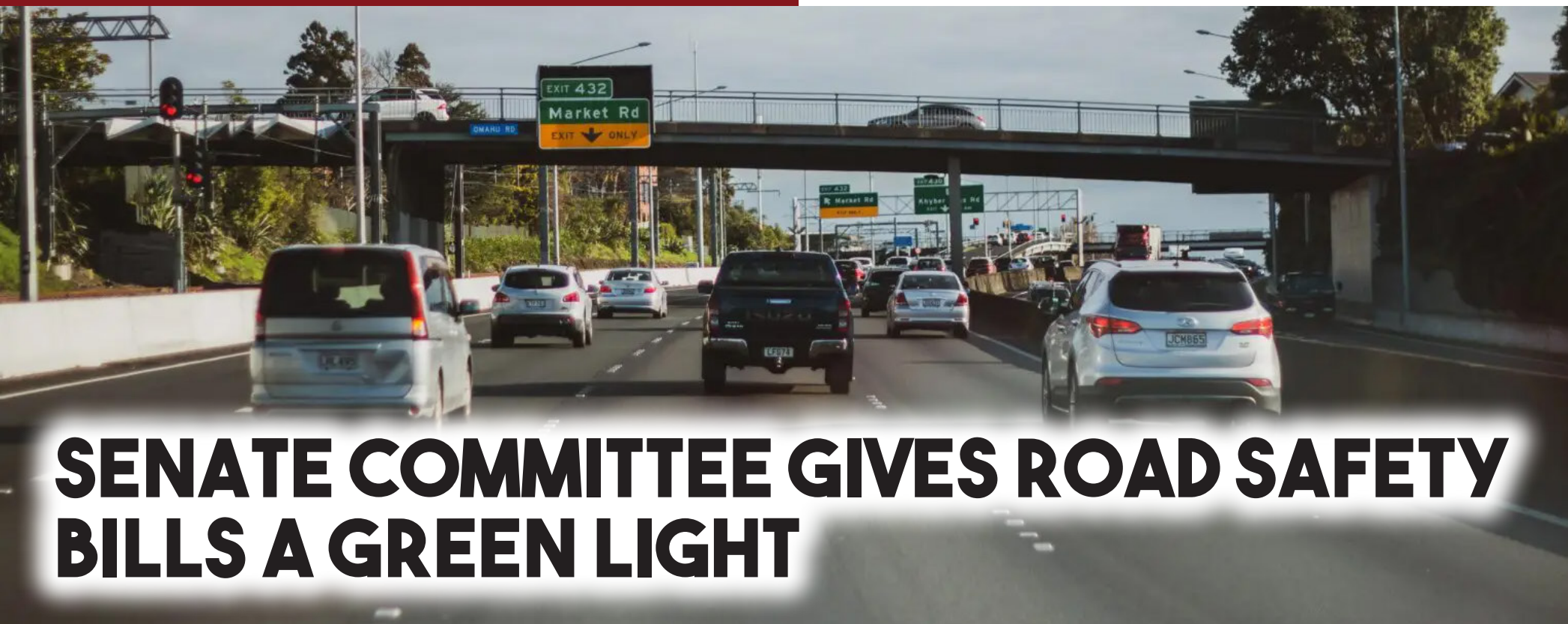
Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Laurel, said he has concerns about the possibility of ballot harvesting.

“I can just imagine a scenario where someone goes to help somebody fill out a ballot and if they didn't like the ballot when they left, might just accidentally get dropped in trash,” Richardson said.

Brown said that all the concerns raised about the bill are already present in Delaware's existing absentee voting law. SB3 has 18 additional sponsors and cosponsors, all Democrats. The bill now heads to the House for consideration.







# SENATE COMMITTEE GIVES ROAD SAFETY BILLS A GREEN LIGHT

BY SAM HAUT

A package of road safety bills are, well, moving on down the road. Four of the six proposed by Gov. John Carney and various Democrats pattered through the Senate Environment, Energy & Transportation Committee Wednesday with little opposition. All four bills have support from both Democrats and Republicans.

**House Bill 92**, sponsored by Rep. Bill Carson, D-Smyrna, would require drivers to either change lanes and slow down or just slow down for any stopped cars with their hazard lights on. Nicole Majeski, secretary of the Delaware Department of Transportation, told the committee that 13 people were killed either in or approaching a vehicle stopped on the side of the road.

Senate committees do not take public votes. Interested parties have to wait and check the bill's tracking page to see whether and how it passed. HB92 received two

votes in favor and five votes on its merits, which means that the voter didn't want to go on record as for or against.

**Senate Bill 89**, sponsored by Sen. Spiros Mantzavinos, D-Elsmere, would allow state-owned snow vehicles to use green lights to be more visible during snow storms. They now are using white or amber light required by law. Majeski said changing the law could help reduce the number of accidents involving snow plows. In the last five years, there have been 53, she said.

The bill passed with three votes in favor and four on its merits.

**Senate Bill 68**, sponsored by Sen. Kyle Gay, D-Elsmere, would change the requirements surrounding child car seats, change the penalty for not following the law, and require the Department of Safety and Homeland Security to create an awareness campaign.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

**We support local because we are local**

moultaire.com

**Stronger together**

**DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION**

View DBCC's Survivorship Programs >



## JULIANNE MURRAY ELECTED REPUBLICAN PARTY CHAIR

BY SAM HAUT

The Delaware Republican Party's convention started off with a speech decrying various ills that Democrats caused, from the electric vehicle mandate to paid family leave, and from early voting to letting 16-year-olds vote in school board elections. That came from Richard Foster, the temporary chair for the convention, meeting April 29 at the Modern Maturity Center in Dover.

Later, Loren Spivack, an author of several books criticizing Democrats, spoke about how people on the left have no principles and that capitalism is superior to socialism.

Each county later broke off into caucuses, where candidates for party leadership made their cases.

Julianne Murray, who was running against incumbent Jane Brady to lead the Delaware GOP, said she

would unite the party and energize Republican voters in the state.

"We need to be talking to two different groups," she said. "Republicans who aren't voting. Republicans who are voting are here. We need to be talking to the ones who aren't voting and how we can get them reengaged. Voting is an emotional response. We [will] find the issue that hooks them."

One Sussex County delegate asked Murray about an incident involving her husband calling Republican leadership RINOs, Republicans in name only, on a radio show. Murray said that she is not her husband, that she supports the Republican Party and she won't control what people say.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

**FAIRNESS.  
EQUITY.  
ACCOUNTABILITY.**

These are the values  
that should be true  
of our institutions.

Instead, in our own  
Chancery Court, we have  
secrecy, disingenuousness,  
and flat-out dishonesty.

**TOGETHER, WE CAN  
#CHANGETHECHANCERY**



PAID FOR BY CITIZENS FOR JUDICIAL FAIRNESS

# BIPARTISAN ATTACKS KILL BILL LOWERING SCHOOL BOARD VOTING AGE

BY JAREK RUTZ

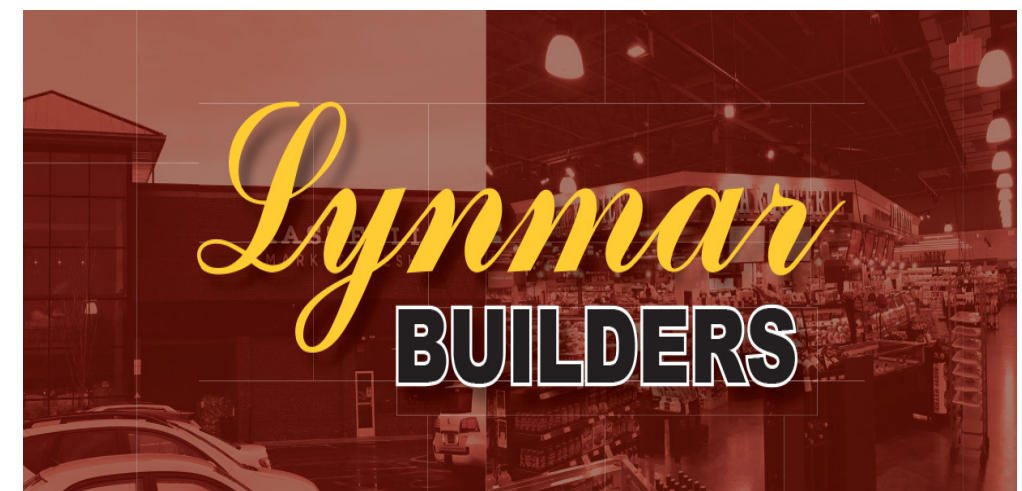
A bill that would lower the voting age to vote in school board elections from 18 to 16 drew heavy criticism from both sides of the aisle in the House Education Committee Wednesday. After an hour-and-a-half conversation filled with both Democrats and Republicans opposing the legislation, **House Bill 96** was tabled Wednesday. That means the committee will take no further action on it. It could be brought up again later, but there is no guarantee it will be.

HB 96, sponsored by Rep. Eric Morrison, D-Glasgow, would lower the voting age to 16 only for school board races. Republican Reps. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek and Rich Collins, R-Millsboro, said that the bill needs to more clearly state that it does not lower the age for district referendums.

“The most important thing the school board does is vote on taxes, property taxes,” Collins said. “16- and 17-year-olds do not pay property taxes unless they happen to own property, which is not very likely.”

Morrison’s talking points were that lowering the age to 16 would expose more people to the importance of Democracy and civic engagement, increase voter turnout for board elections which historically have turnout of less than 10%, allow teenagers to get into the habit of voting and allow students to voice their opinions on a board that makes decisions affecting their lives five days a week.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



**WE BUILD YOUR FUTURE**  
[Lynmar@lynmarbuilders.com](mailto:Lynmar@lynmarbuilders.com)

*Established Over 35 Years*

**Design • Build**

**General Contracting**

**Construction Management**

Servicing: NJ • PA • DE • MD

**856-456-0856**

*Please visit our website at [Lynmarbuilders.com](http://Lynmarbuilders.com)*



# FIRST OF SEVEN CLIMATE CHANGE BILLS MOVES TO HOUSE FLOOR

BY JAREK RUTZ

As part of a suite of other climate bills, the House Natural Resources & Energy Committee approved a bill that would require Delaware to lower its greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and 2050.

**House Bill 99**, which is sponsored by Rep. Deb Heffernan, D-Bellefonte, says net state greenhouse gas emissions must be 50% of the 2005 levels by 2030 and have net zero emissions by 2050. Net emissions in this case doesn't mean no greenhouse gasses are being created, but that if they are, they are paired with systems that remove carbon from the atmosphere, such as planting more trees.

The bill drew opposition from Republicans who said Delaware isn't a big enough state to contribute much to global climate issues and that change could stop manufacturing companies from considering Delaware for projects.

The bill requires that the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, along with the governor's office, produce and update a Climate Action Plan every five years starting in 2025, and a Climate Action Plan Implementation Report every two years starting in 2024. Both will outline what the state is doing to reach its

net emissions goals. Each cabinet level department would be required to have a climate change officer, and each of those officers would meet biannually to talk about the progress being made towards the state's climate goals.

According to the [Center for Climate and Energy Solutions](#), 25 states and the District of Columbia have established some kind of target for reducing greenhouse gas emissions either through executive or legislative action. Rep. Richard Collins, R-Millsboro, said that because Delaware is such a small state, passing this bill wouldn't have a large impact on climate change.

"What can Delaware do: We're one million people out of eight billion," Collins said. "Folks, when the Titanic hit the iceberg, they did the best they could to get to the lifeboats and save as many lives as they could. But you know they could have ordered everybody to take their teacups to start bailing it out, to make a statement. That's what we're trying to do here folks."

Rep. Jeff Hilovsky, R-Long Neck, said he opposes the bill because it doesn't provide enough oversight for the sweeping changes that it proposes.

"I think that when we look at the future of our state in the crystal ball, five years, 10 years, 15 years from now," Hilovsky said. "You have to wonder what sort of, if any, manufacturing is going to want to center in a state that is so regulated by maybe people who don't have to answer to anybody."

This isn't the first time Democrats have tried to pass a climate bill. Last year [Senate Bill 305](#) passed the Senate 13 to 6, but it wasn't heard in the House.

More than two dozen people spoke about the bill during the public comment section of the session. Around 20 people, including members of the Delaware Sierra Club and the The Nature Conservancy in Delaware, spoke for it. About eight people, including members of the Delaware Chamber of Commerce and the Caesar Rodney Institute, spoke against it.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# BILL PROMISES OFFICER FAMILIES DEATH BENEFITS AFTER SUICIDE

BY JAREK RUTZ

A bill that establishes suicide as a line-of-duty death, allowing families of the deceased to receive benefits, passed the House Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee Tuesday. Delaware law now does not list suicide as a line-of-duty death that would enable an officer's family to file for benefits.

**House Bill 133**, sponsored by Rep. Sherry Dorsey-Walker, D-Wilmington, makes clear that suicide is a death in the line of duty for Delaware's first responders, police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, probation officers and the National Guard.

## SUICIDE AMONG SAFETY OFFICIALS

"Suicide is the second-leading cause of death for public safety officials," Dorsey-Walker said.

Nationally, she said, in 2022, there were 143 suicides by law enforcement, after 160 suicides in 2021. In November of 2022, nine law enforcement officials killed themselves nationally, and one, she said, was a Delawarean who lived in her district.

"Suicide is 54% higher than the general public for law enforcement officials," she said. "They have 70% chance of suicide after high stress incident without intervention, however, with intervention, that rate goes down to 3%."

Dorsey-Walker told the committee that one in three correction officers have PTSD and depression.

"I did not know that that was the case, and it absolutely makes me emotional," said Rep. Kendra Johnson, D-Bear. "You're already dealing with such a traumatic loss and then you compound that with how you lost your loved one."

The discussion pointed to resources that police officers have, including Delaware State Police's six and 10 free counseling sessions each year that officers may choose to attend for mental health support. Rep. Ruth Briggs King, R-Georgetown, pointed out that many officers don't want to seek help or other treatments because it's still stigmatized among certain communities.

"Many of them are afraid that they'll be taken off duty," just for seeking help, she said. "So they suffer and they don't seek the help."

She said it's important for the legislation to ensure that there's resources available to line-of-duty officers and that it's clear their careers won't be impacted by taking advantage of help.

HB 133 now heads to the House floor.

Also Tuesday, a bill that extends liability protections for foster children on their driver's license learner's permit, passed to the House.

**Senate Bill 95**, sponsored by Sen. Sarah McBride, D-Claymont, clarifies that during the initial six months of a learner's permit, a foster parent is liable for the negligent driving of the foster child up to the limits of the foster parent's applicable insurance coverage.





INDIAN RIVER  
HIGH SCHOOL

FIRE DEPT.  
CONNECTION

RESERVED  
PARKING

# Education

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.





# LEARNING COLLAB SEEKS PERMISSION TO EXTEND PLANNING PERIOD

BY JAREK RUTZ

The council of the **Wilmington Learning Collaborative** will ask the three participating districts to amend their memorandum of understanding to extend the council’s planning period.

“We’ve got one shot at this,” said councilman Lincoln Hohler, who is **Brandywine School District**’s superintendent. “We can’t come back to the community with another failed initiative and say we want to reboot, we get one shot and we’ve got to get into it right.”

The council also reported that 100 people have applied for the executive director role and a few admonished the state for not giving it what they felt like was enough administrative support during planning.

The Learning Collab, created in November 2022 with the signing of the **memorandum of understanding**,

includes nine Wilmington elementary schools from Brandywine, Christina and Red Clay school districts. Its goal is to improve academic performance for city students while giving families and educators in the city more of a voice in policymaking for their children’s education.

In the original agreement, the 2022-2023 school year was designated as the planning year. During it, the governing council would be formed and an executive director hired, with needs and root-cause assessments conducted at each school and more.

Councilman Dorrell Green, Red Clay’s superintendent, pointed out the council wasn’t formally formed until January, just a few months ago.

[READ MORE HERE](#)

**Do your dollars make sense?**

All DE schools are funded through a strict formula no matter the needs of the students.

The "one-size-fits- all" approach has not worked, right?

If we want DE to get smart like our neighbors...

Join the conversation.

**Click to subscribe to our newsletter.**

FIRST STATE EDUCATE

EXPECT EXCELLENCE · ACT TOGETHER

## URSULINE ACADEMY



**REGISTER TO ATTEND A FALL OPEN HOUSE!**



Upper School | October 3

Lower & Middle | November 11



# SALESIANUM UNITES FOR 5K HONORING FALLEN OFFICER SZCZERBA

BY JAREK RUTZ

Students at the [Salesianum School](#) were geared up for a night of remembrance, community and fundraising as the private all-boys high school hosted its 10th annual Lt. Joseph Szczerba '85 Memorial 5k Thursday.

“I’m running for everyone that puts their lives on the line for us and protect us every day,” said senior Michael Manzi. “That is the police and the military, and also for everyone who’s lost their lives defending our country and protecting us.”

One of those officers who lost his life in the line of duty is the namesake of the 5k, Joseph Szczerba, a 1985 graduate of Salesianum. Szczerba was an 18-year veteran of the [New Castle County Police Department](#) who was killed in the line of duty on September 16, 2011.

To honor his legacy, Salesianum established a scholarship in his name, and proceeds from the 5k will benefit this fund.

“I have a lot of buddies that are going to go into the military and a lot of buddies whose parents are police officers or active military,” Manzi said, “so I’m running for them today.”

He said the race means a lot to the students and local community, saying that his friends look forward to it each year.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



**Goldey-Beacom**  
COLLEGE

## NEW GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

- Certificate in Marketing
- Certificate in Human Resource Management
- Certificate in Health Care Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Information Technology







LOCATION	CONTACT	WEBSITE
4701 Limestone Road Wilmington, DE 19808	302-225-6248 Admissions@gbc.edu	www.gbc.edu/





BY JAREK RUTZ

Danielle Deinert, a candidate for Milford School District's board, fielded questions on key education issues like LGBTQ+ rights, critical race theory and school safety in a forum Wednesday night.

Milford's forum is one of six hosted by [First State Action Fund](#), a local group aiming to reinvent education in Delaware. The series is intended to help voters understand candidate's positions in order to make an informed decision in the May 9 school board elections.

# MILFORD'S DEINERT AGAINST BANNING BOOKS, FOR LGBTQ+ SUPPORT

Although Milford's has four candidates running, Deinert was the only candidate to participate in the forum. Ashlee Connell, Victor "Butch" Elzey III and Jennifer Massotti did not attend.

Deinart, who is a stay-at-home mom from Lincoln, has a bachelor's degree in elementary education and a master's degree in special education, with certifications in severe disabilities and autism. She's worked as a paraprofessional, a teacher of multiple grade levels and an administrator across multiple school districts including Cape Henlopen, Caesar Rodney, and most recently in Milford at Mispillion Elementary.

"In my role as an administrator, I've often rode the school bus and had conversations around discipline, implemented trauma-informed practices and had many other opportunities to work with teachers," she said. "I am also a parent of three children, two of which currently attend Milford schools."

Deinart frequently volunteers in Milford schools, coaches little league sports and is on the [Parent Teacher Partnership](#) leadership team at two schools.

School safety is a top priority for her, and she said the amount of gun deaths in America's youth is alarming.

"We have an estimated 4.6 million children living in a home with at least one loaded unlocked firearm," she said. "I support public awareness campaigns that encourage safe firearm storage practices in order to make sure that our students are safe at home and not having access to firearms."

Training of staff members is key to preventing a crisis, she said, and she plans on working closely with school constables and school resource officers to work on improving safety measures in the district.

She didn't directly say if she supports critical race theory, but she indicated she's against banning books.

"Students need access to a historically accurate education, and my goal is that we are producing students that are able to adapt to our ever evolving world, use critical thinking skills, problem solving skills and collaborate with others," she said. "I feel that this can only be accomplished through providing our students with high-quality literature and reading materials that challenge them to think critically."

Educational materials should be free from censorship, she said, and should lead to open dialogue about America's history.

Training and support measures should be implemented with Milford's staff to make sure they are comfortable having some tough conversations with students, she said, and that teachers are embracing the whole-child approach, focusing on academic, social, physical and emotional wellbeing.

[READ MORE HERE](#)



# DOE WANTS STUDENTS TO SAVE MONEY, TIME WITH NEW CREDIT GUIDE

BY JAREK RUTZ

The state’s new credit for prior learning policy **framework** will reinforce a practice that **WilmU** has been using for more than 30 years, a practice other institutions of higher learning in the First State also follow.

According to the **Department of Education**, the guidelines are intended to help colleges and universities develop policies and procedures for evaluating prior student learning to accurately award credit for college degree programs or advanced placement in apprenticeship programs. Wilmington University has offered credit for prior learning for more than 30 years.

“The reason this is an important issue now is that the pandemic impacted countless employees who either had to find new careers, earn college degrees, or garner new credentials,” said David Caffo, director of experiential learning at WilmU. “Those who don’t have college degrees can complete their programs faster if given credit for prior learning.”

He said WilmU values work, life and military experiences, and those experiences, in many cases, are as viable as coursework. In the past five years, 6,500 students earned credit for prior learning, he said.

“This year, we’ve offered the credits to 1,300 students so far,” Caffo said, “which is already an 18% percent increase over the total number for last year.”

Key components of the 27-page guidelines include:

- Helping increase access to careers that are recession-resistant and wealth-generating
- Outlining the importance of creating credit for prior learning education systems that are timely, financially accessible and community-centered
- Sharing with Delaware institutions ways to best evaluate prior learning and experiences for awarding credit and clock hours in credential, degree and apprenticeship programs

[READ MORE HERE](#)





# Sports

photo by Nick Halliday

**DELAWARE**  
**LIVE**

OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.



# SPRING SPORTS WEEK 6 RANKINGS

BY NICK HALLIDAY

# DELAWARE LIVE SPORTS TOP 10 RANKINGS

[READ MORE HERE](#)

# Stay Connected

**DELAWARE LIVE IS YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION ACROSS ALL OF DELAWARE. STAY CONNECTED WITH US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR SOCIAL MEDIA BY CLICKING ON THE LINKS.**



**PHONE: 302-542-9231**



**For News and Information: [news@delawarelive.com](mailto:news@delawarelive.com)  
To Advertise With Us: [shupe@delawarelive.com](mailto:shupe@delawarelive.com)**



**[instagram.com/delaware.live](https://www.instagram.com/delaware.live)**



**[twitter.com/live\\_delaware](https://twitter.com/live_delaware)**



**[facebook.com/delawarelivenews/](https://www.facebook.com/delawarelivenews/)**



**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



**[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)**



OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

 Delaware Live  @DelawareLive

Without these collaborators, this outlet would not be possible:

Bryan Shupe, CEO

Betsy Price, Editor

Sonja M. Frey, Publisher

*John Mollura Photography*

# Design your 2023 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

*CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com*

