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TOWN SQUARE LIVE

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November 4, 2021 - Vol. 2, Issue 44



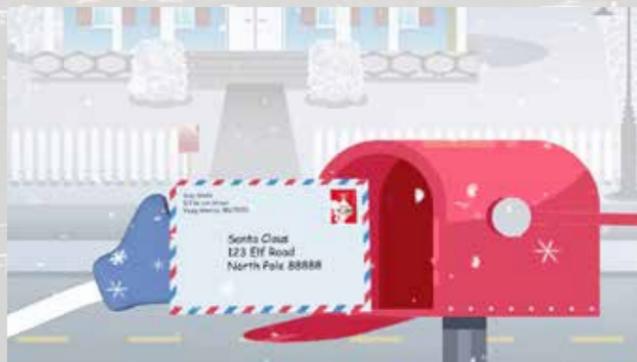
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OPERATION SANTA



POSSIBLE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER STRIKE



APPOQUINIMINK OVER CAPE

photography

PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERS



Community

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



WINTERTHUR'S YULETIDE TO FEATURE JACKIE O TREE, WEDNESDAY NIGHT FIRE PITS

BY BETSY PRICE

As Winterthur Museum's annual Yuletide Tour returns, it will continue its self-guided tours, adding fire pits and jazz on Wednesday nights and a Jackie O tree to honor an upcoming exhibit about the former first lady.

The holiday tours, which begin Nov. 20 and last through Jan. 2, showcase rooms in Henry Francis du Pont's former home decorated for the season, with special displays throughout the house inspired by the du Pont family's celebrations.

Among the decorated trees on view will be the estate's popular 14-foot dried-flower tree, an evergreen decorated with bunches of dried hydrangeas, yarrow, statice, globe amaranth, and other flowers. It will stand in the conservatory entrance to the house. New to the tour this year, a second breathtaking tree designed with dried flowers.

As a nod to the 2022 exhibition "Jacqueline Kennedy and H. F. du Pont: From Winterthur to the White House," a decorated tree recreates the one displayed at the White House in 1962, created by the first lady.

With the theme of a "Children's Christmas," it featured candles, birds, snowflakes, angels, tiny twig stars, small wrapped gifts, reindeer, candy canes, stuffed animals, and a model PT-109 boat commemorating the president's heroic deed during World War II.

That exhibit is based on a paper written by a former Winterthur conservation student and opens May 7.

Special holiday programs throughout the season include Wonderful Wednesdays in December and evening events featuring live jazz performances, caroling and workshops.

In addition to the Wednesday evening festivities, visitors can enjoy live one-man performances of "A Christmas Carol" by Gerald Charles Dickens, the great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens; wine and chocolate tastings; and family events with Santa and Mrs. Claus. For more, go [here](#).

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)



ARDENSINGERS CANCEL FALL GILBERT & SULLIVAN REVUE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Ardensingers today announced the cancellation of their fall Gilbert & Sullivan revenue, scheduled for Nov. 13-14.

“We had hoped to see a more convincing end to the pandemic by then, but with the continuing number of breakthrough infections in our community, we decided that it would be risky for our audiences and the cast to gather in person for these performances,” Ardensingers wrote in an email blast.

Their [website](#) offers refunds to those who have bought tickets, or tickets can be exchanged for their production of “Princess Ida” next spring in Arden.

The Ardensingers’ cancellation contrasts with other local community theater groups, which have started to produce shows by following multiple coronavirus guidelines, including vaccinations, masks and reduced mingling.

[Chapel Street Players](#) in Newark, for example, on Nov. 12-13 is planning “a joyous return to live theater” with “All Together Now,” billed as “an evening of musical theater favorites for community theaters that celebrates the ability of live theater to bring communities together.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

Holidays at Hagley

“Home for the Holidays: A Celebration of Family”

Gingerbread House Contest – November 26 to January 2
Santa Days - December 4 & 11
Twilight Tours – December 14, 15, 21, 22, 28 & 29.

Hagley

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LEARN MORE



USPS OPERATION SANTA NOW ACCEPTING LETTERS FOR 2021 PROGRAM

BY TERRY ROGERS

Starting today, the Postal Service is accepting letters for the 109-year-old USPS Operation Santa program. Letters must be postmarked by Dec. 10, and will be uploaded to www.USPSOperationSanta.com through Dec. 15 for potential adoption.

Every day can be a challenge for some families simply trying to make ends meet.

Holiday expectations put extra pressure on those same families who want to make it a special time, but just can't. That's where the USPS Operation Santa program—and generous Postal Service customers—can help make the holidays a joyous and magical time. Since the program began, hundreds of thousands of less-fortunate children and their families have been helped by the kindness of others.

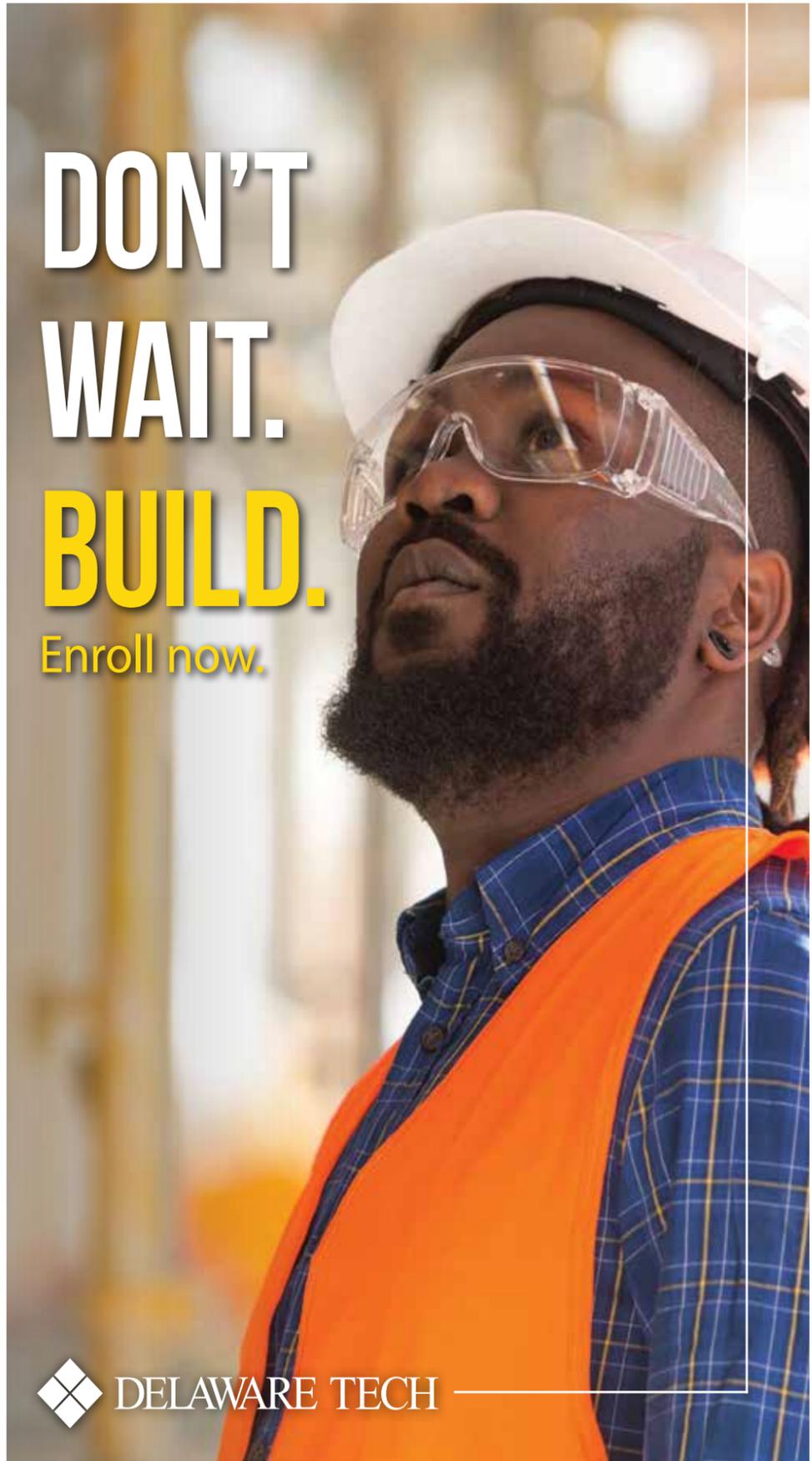
USPS Operation Santa was established by the Postal Service to help those in need during the holidays.

Whether you believe in Santa or not, the nondenominational program is intended to help as many deserving families as possible experience a happy holiday season. And that can only happen if there are letters to post on USPSOperationSanta.com.

Participation in USPS Operation Santa is simple. All you have to do is write a letter, put it in an envelope affixed with a First-Class Mail Forever stamp, and make sure you include your full return address—apartment number, directional information (i.e., E Main St, Apt 103) and zip code—and send it to Santa's official workshop address: Santa Claus, 123 Elf Road, North Pole, 88888

Letters without full return addresses or names will not be posted for adoption.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)



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 DELAWARE TECH



FOUR MORE DELMARVA FOX SQUIRRELS MOVED TO DELAWARE

BY KEN MAMMERELLA

The Delmarva fox squirrel, a rare species in Delaware that has recovered in much

of its regional range, has received another boost, with two male and two female squirrels translocated from Maryland to the Redden State Forest, north of Georgetown.

Delmarva fox squirrels are now abundant on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. Still, these large, silver-gray squirrels remain rare in Delaware, with only three established populations known in the state.

Delaware's populations of Delmarva fox squirrel are all in Sussex County, with one population the result of translocations to Assawoman Wildlife Area in the fall of 2020 and spring of 2021, another the result of a translocation to Prime Hook National Wildlife Refuge in the 1980s and a third, naturally occurring population, at the Nanticoke Wildlife Area and surrounding lands. The squirrels released at Assawoman Wildlife Area this past spring and last fall appear to be thriving, with the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control Division of Fish and Wildlife noting at least one female produced young this past summer.

Unlike many of its squirrel relatives, the Delmarva fox squirrel is very slow to expand its range. In 2014, the Division of Fish and Wildlife developed a plan to increase

the number of Delmarva fox squirrels in Delaware. The **plan** includes translocating at least 15 squirrels to Delaware next spring.

Translocations, habitat management and land protection have helped Delmarva fox squirrel populations recover regionally to the extent that the species was removed from the federal endangered species list in 2015.

“Delaware landowners should not be concerned if they see the Delmarva fox squirrels on their property,” DNREC said in announcing the translocation. “Since Delmarva fox squirrels are no longer a federally listed endangered species, program restrictions on habitat impacts are no longer applicable. However, hunting Delmarva fox squirrels in Delaware is prohibited since they are still a state-listed endangered species.”

Delaware does have a **hunting season** for eastern gray squirrels, so it's important to know how to **distinguish** them.



EZ PASS LANES ON I-95 CLOSED THIS WEEK

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

The EZ Pass lanes in both directions at the I-95 Newark Toll Plaza are closed this week for patching and striping.

During the work, motorists will utilize the CASH lanes, and the Delaware Department of Transportation advises anticipating lane shifts and slowdowns.

The work is scheduled to end at 5 a.m. Friday, pending the weather.





LET US INTRODUCE YOU TO THE GHOST OF UD'S OLD COLLEGE

BY DANIEL LARLHAM JR.

Ed Okonowicz, a writer and former University of Delaware professor, used to give ghost tours through the campus. His first stop was always Old College.

That's where the life of John Edward Roach ended on March 30, 1858, and the stories of his ghost began with tales of strange occurrences in the building.

Roach was surrounded by a large group of students when he died, according to Okonowicz and other sources, and he died on an infamous spot.

"I think it was the Choctaw Indians that came to campus on an exchange program from the Midwest to the East Coast," Okonowicz said. "There were about 11 of them on campus, and this guy fell down the steps of the Old College and had his head cracked open and he died."

Roach died on the same spot, Okonowicz said.

Richard C. Quick chronicled Roach's death for the now-defunct journal "Delaware Notes" in 1858.

The yearly Junior Oratory, an event at which junior classmen would deliver addresses to show off what they had been learning to family and friends, had just been announced by the Delaware Gazette.

The oratory for that year was different than previous ones because it combined the junior and sophomore classes. The doubling up reflected the bad finances of Delaware College—UD's predecessor.

"The financial issues weighed much more heavily on the Board and tiny Faculty of Delaware College at that time, as one can see fiscal problems mentioned in the Board's and the Faculty's respective minutes," said Lisa Gensel, coordinator of UD Archives, in an email.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

Cancer isn't waiting for COVID-19 to be over.

One in three Delawareans will get cancer. Unfortunately, many have put off their cancer screenings in the past year. Screenings detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. If you've skipped or canceled a screening due to the pandemic — for breast, cervical, colon, lung, or prostate cancer — don't wait one more day. **Call your health care provider to schedule your cancer screenings today.**

If you don't have a provider, we can help. If you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for free screenings. To learn more about eligibility requirements and recommended cancer screenings, and other information, please visit HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer.

To schedule your cancer screening by phone:

Call your health care provider, dial 2-1-1, or speak directly with a nurse navigator at the health system nearest you, below.

- ChristianaCare: 302-216-3557**
- Bayhealth: 302-216-8328**
- Beebe Healthcare: 302-291-4380**

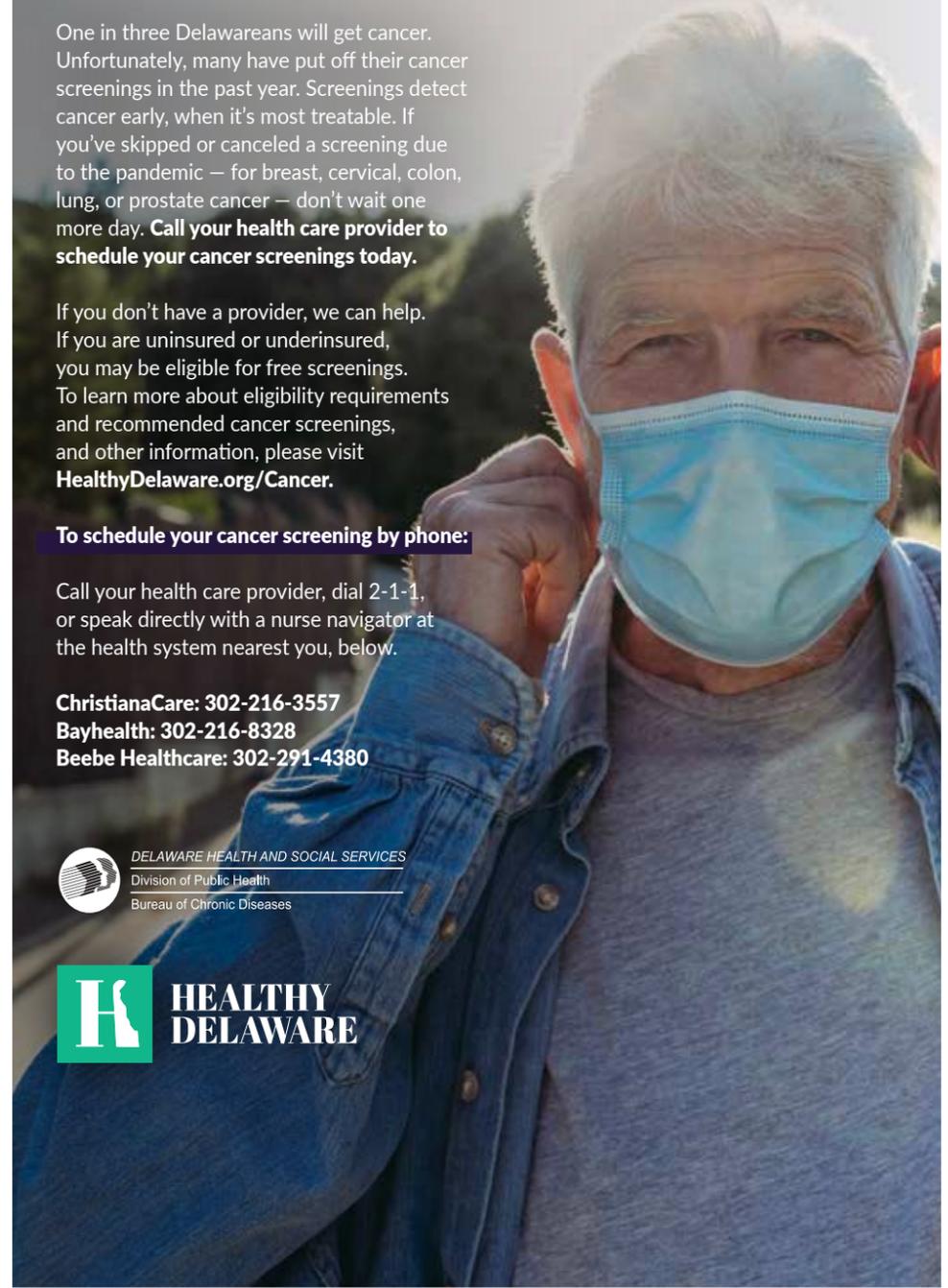


PHOTO BY BRIAN K. LEONARD



Government

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



NEW CASTLE COUNTY TO REQUIRE NEW HOMES TO BE EV-CHARGER READY

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

All new residential units in New Castle County will be required to have the infrastructure to support electric vehicle charging, thanks to an ordinance passed by the County Council last week.

The ordinance, sponsored by Councilwoman Dee Durham, D-District 2, will help new home buyers more easily and less expensively add a charging system, according to a press release from the county.

What the ordinance does

The updated code does not require that new homes be equipped with an EV charger but it does require all new residences built after July 1, 2022, to have enough room in the electric panel and conduit in the walls to ensure that installing an EV charger will be as easy and inexpensive as possible.

If a single-family or townhome’s electric service panel is not in the garage, the ordinance mandates that builders run a raceway conduit to within five feet of a parking spot in the garage, if the house has one.

If the new residence does not have a garage, a raceway for EV charger wiring must be run out to any designated off-street parking space, sealed against the weather, and marked for future use.

The ordinance also addresses what the county calls “a growing concern that the EV future will be inequitable.”

“Those who live in apartments do not typically have access to the type of dedicated 220-volt outlet to charge an EV overnight,” the release says.

To ensure apartment dwellers can charge their EVs, the ordinance requires at least 10% of parking spaces in

new multi-family residential units buildings to be EV-capable, including at least one handicap-accessible spot.

What the ordinance doesn’t do

If the ordinance had passed as it was originally written, new homes would have been required to include the electrical infrastructure to support level-2 EV charging. Level-2 charging is significantly faster than plugging a vehicle into a normal household outlet.

The ordinance would have also required 50% of the parking spaces at new multi-unit buildings to be EV-ready, with 5% of the spaces already having chargers installed.

Those proposals failed to gather the support the council after many expressed concern about the impact the ordinance would have on construction costs.

Under the new bill, the 50% EV-ready and 5% pre-installed charger requirements were dropped.

Why it matters

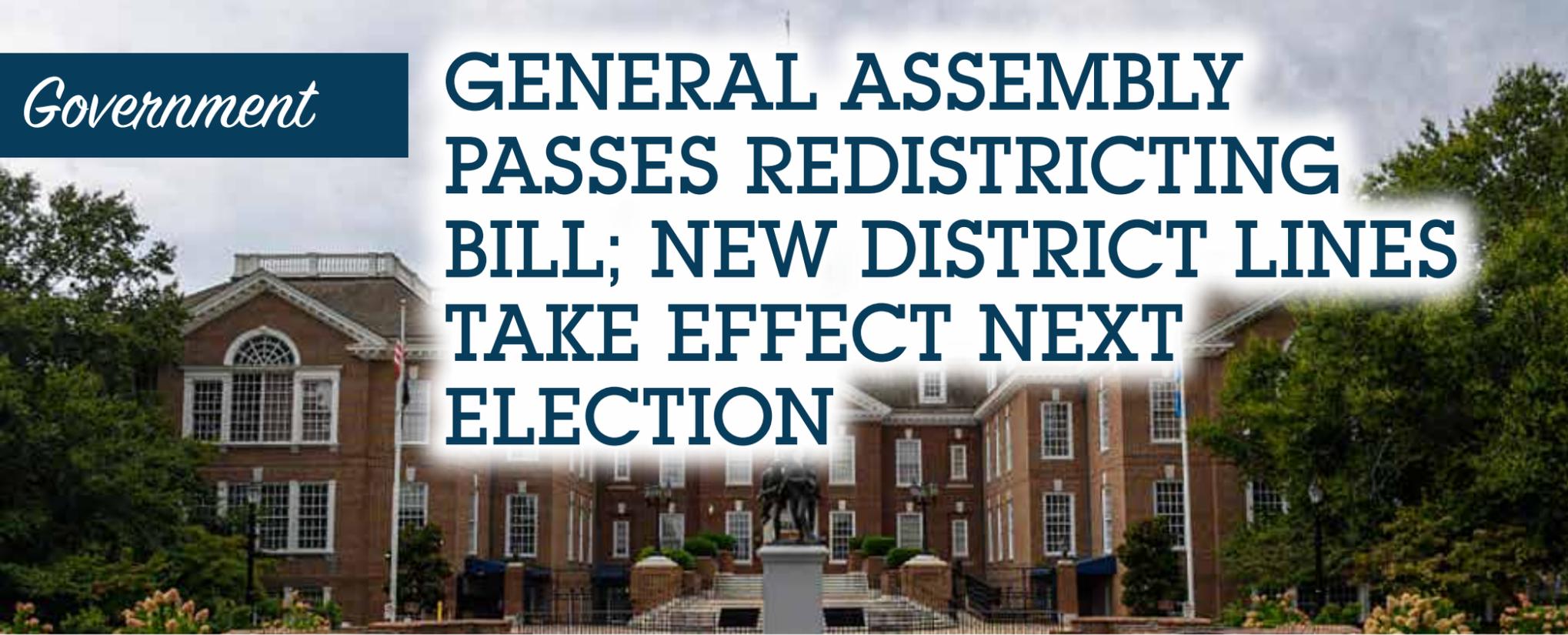
“In less than 10 years, any new car or truck that you buy will very likely be an electric vehicle,” the county said in a press release. “Sales of EVs in 2030 is anticipated to be 30% of new car sales, and cumulative ownership will mean an even higher percentage on the road.”

Durham said the code changes put New Castle County in line with much of the country, where EV-ready and EV-capable setups in new construction are becoming more commonplace.

Industry experts estimate that pre-installing EV charging infrastructure during construction would, at most, add up to \$400 to the cost of building a new home. That’s about 0.13% of the median new home price in New Castle County.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

GENERAL ASSEMBLY PASSES REDISTRICTING BILL; NEW DISTRICT LINES TAKE EFFECT NEXT ELECTION



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

When Delawareans vote for their state representatives and senators a year from now, they could find out that they live in a new legislative district.

That's because during a special session of the General Assembly on Monday, both chambers approved [Senate Bill 199](#), which redraws those district boundaries.

The bill passed 14-7 along party lines in the Senate, with all seven Republicans voting against the measure. It passed in the House 40-1, with Rep. Mike Smith, R-Pike Creek, casting the sole "no" vote.

Now, it heads to Democratic Gov. John Carney, who is expected to sign the bill.

To view the new House districts, click [here](#). To view the new Senate districts, click [here](#).

Monday's session happened just one week before the legislature's deadline to finalize the maps, given that candidates must live in their districts for at least one year prior to the Nov. 8, 2022 general election.

The redistricting process ordinarily happens in the spring following the decennial census, but this year's process was delayed because of COVID-19, legal challenges involving the census and flawed data from the federal government.

Some concerned citizens and advocacy groups complained that the process was rushed, that there wasn't enough time for the public to review and provide feedback on the maps and that incumbent legislators were being protected at the expense of fairer district maps.

What happened in the Senate

Senate President Pro Tempore Dave Sokola, D-Newark, sought to soothe those concerns while introducing the bill.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

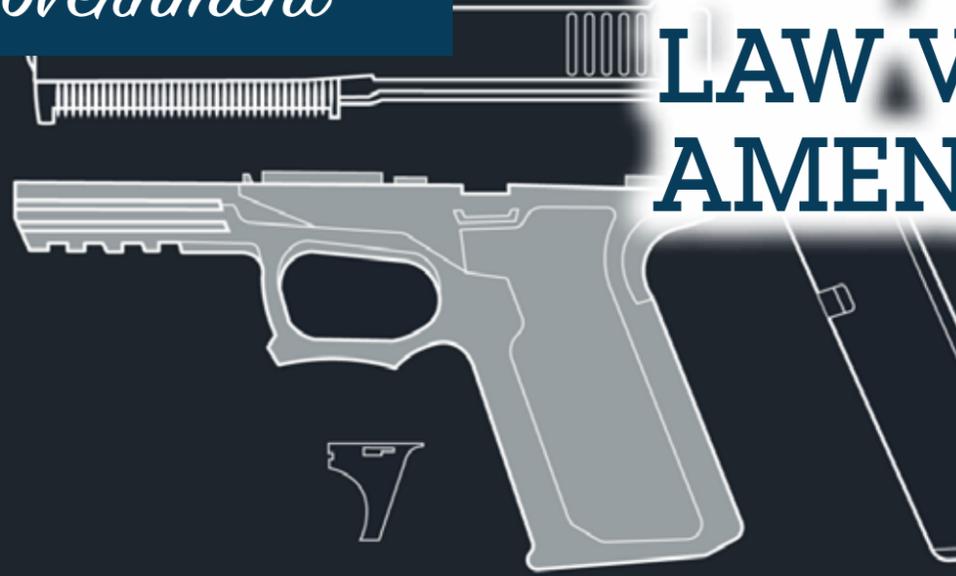
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NEW DEL. 'GHOST GUN' LAW VIOLATES 1ST, 2ND AMENDMENTS, SUIT SAYS



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Two Delawareans have filed a federal lawsuit against Gov. John Carney and Attorney General Kathy Jennings alleging that a state law signed last month violates their First and Second Amendment rights.

The suit alleges violations of the First Amendment right to free speech by criminalizing the sharing of information in the form of self-manufactured gun blueprints, schematics and 3D printing files. The law also violates Delawareans' Second Amendment right to bear arms, the suit says.

"The basic right of individuals to self-manufacture arms for self-defense, along with the possession of the parts and information necessary to exercise that right, is protected by the Constitution, period," said Adam Kraut, senior director of legal operations at the Firearms Policy Coalition, which filed the suit on behalf of Delawareans John Rigby and Alan Knight.

"Delaware's new laws make exercising these rights a crime, which is unconstitutional and something we cannot allow to go unchallenged," he said.

Carney and Jennings did not reply to requests for comment Wednesday.

What the law says

House Bill 125, sponsored by House Minority Leader Valerie Longhurst, D-Delaware City, criminalizes the possession or manufacturing of what are colloquially called "ghost guns."

A ghost gun isn't marked with an individualized serial number, either because that number has been illegally removed or because the firearm is exempt from federal laws that require those markings.

Law enforcement agencies often use those serial numbers to track guns associated with crimes back to their point of purchase or last known lawful owner.

The term most commonly describes an unmarked firearm, made by private individuals for personal use, often using prefabricated or partially unfinished firearm parts.

Ghost guns are often manufactured using 3D printers, thereby making them unnoticeable to metal detectors.

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RESOLUTION CONDEMNING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR SCHOOL BOARD OVERREACH FAILS IN SENATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

A Republican resolution to condemn federal action against parents at school board meetings and reaffirm their rights to bring grievances to local boards of education failed Monday in the Delaware Senate along party lines.

On Oct. 4, the federal Department of Justice issued a one-page memo instructing the FBI and U.S. Attorneys' Offices to meet with federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to discuss strategies for addressing harassment, intimidation and threats of violence against school board members.

The memo came after months of raucous school board meetings becoming battlegrounds over hot-button issues like masking in schools and the perceived introduction of critical race theory into curricula.

"Threats against public servants are not only illegal, they run counter to our nation's core values," wrote Attorney General Merrick Garland. "Those who dedicate their

time and energy to ensuring that our children receive a proper education in a safe environment deserve to be able to do their work without fear for their safety."

The resolution

Senate Resolution 22, introduced by Sen. Colin Bonini, R-Little Creek, said the DOJ memo "does not accurately reflect the reality of what is occurring nationally and in Delaware."

While introducing the resolution, Bonini said he included language to condemn violence and harassment but argued that the federal government should not be intervening in matters of free speech at the local level.

"If I disagree with you, I will absolutely defend your right to say what you want to say and I'll defend your right to condemn whatever I say," Bonini told the Senate. "But when the federal government—think about the power of the federal government—says we're going to keep a special eye on you, we should all be very, very concerned."

He said he and his team worked hard to draft a resolution that could garner bipartisan support and argued that if the same thing happened under a Republican administration, he'd run the same resolution.

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HOUSE, SENATE SEEK ADVICE ON MCGUINNESS REMOVAL, BUT FAIL TO FINISH JOB

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Two separate resolutions passed in the House and Senate requesting the Delaware Supreme Court issue an advisory opinion on the General Assembly’s authority to remove indicted State Auditor Kathy McGuinness.

The auditor was indicted in October on a slew of felony and misdemeanor corruption charges alleging nepotism, fraud, theft and witness intimidation. She has pled not guilty to all charges.

Neither resolution will move forward at the moment, though, because the House Concurrent Resolution was introduced after the Senate had already gone home for the day and the House didn’t bring the Senate Concurrent Resolution to a vote.

Both were introduced during a special session to pass redistricting legislation.

Article III, Section 13 of the Delaware Constitution says that the governor may “for any reasonable cause” remove any officer of the state government, except the Lieutenant-Governor and members of the General Assembly, upon the request of two-thirds of all the members elected to the House and Senate.

What happened in the Senate

Senate Concurrent Resolution 63 states that the General Assembly does not believe it has ever made such a request to the governor and therefore seeks an opinion from the court to determine what constitutes “reasonable cause,” among other things, including:

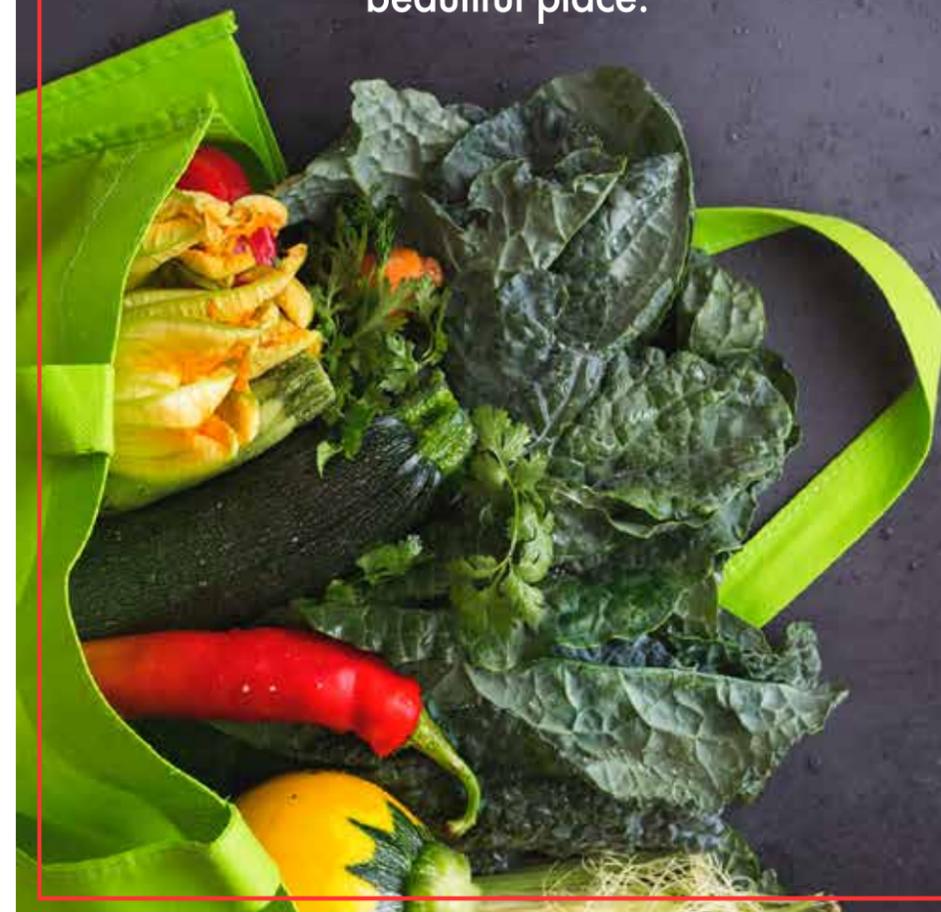
- Does the authority under Section 13 to remove a public official implicitly include the authority to take a lesser action, such as suspension of that public official?
- If Section 13 does implicitly include the authority to take a lesser action, must the General Assembly address the governor on the lesser action or can the governor choose to take a lesser action than that addressed to the governor?
- Does the application of Section 13 require a hearing on the matter prior to a vote in either House to address the governor to remove an officer?
- If the application of Section 13 requires a hearing, must each House hold a hearing prior to its respective vote to address the governor, or does a hearing in the first House satisfy the requirement?
- If the application of Section 13 requires a hearing in each House, would a joint hearing satisfy the requirement?

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Thank you for your commitment to reducing plastic waste in our community, making our world a cleaner, more beautiful place.





REPUBLICAN SEN. COLIN BONINI ANNOUNCES RE-ELECTION BID

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Longtime Republican State Senator Colin Bonini has announced he will seek another term in the Delaware Senate.

First elected in 1994,

Bonini has forged a firebrand image of staunch conservatism and fiscal scrutiny. He is best known for never once voting in favor of a state budget.

Bonini's 16th Senate District sits predominantly east of Dover, including Dover Air Force Base, Frederica, Rising Sun, Little Creek and Bowers Beach.

"We live in unprecedented times and now, more than ever, we need a strong, consistent, conservative voice to help guide us," Bonini said in a press release announcing his candidacy. "During my time in the Delaware State Senate, I have vigorously fought to contain out-of-control spending, strengthen public safety, and preserve The People's constitutional rights."

The release emphasized Bonini's record on fiscal responsibility, public safety and education.

"He has never voted for a budget during his tenure in the Senate," his campaign says. "They are consistently bloated with wasteful spending, especially in years when the state has large surpluses."

Bonini said surplus money is better served in the pockets of the taxpayers. In 2020, he introduced Senate Bill 196, which would have given Delawareans a \$500 tax rebate. That bill stalled in the Senate Executive Committee.

He also pointed to his Senate Bill 222, which would have repealed a 2018 law that decreases the state's use of monetary bail while releasing more defendants who are awaiting trial from jail.

Bonini believes that law has failed, resulting in more violent criminals being released only to commit additional crimes while awaiting trial.

He called the effects of the law "maddening." Senate Bill 222 was laid on the table and is considered dead, as the current General Assembly has ended.

The final pillar of Bonini's re-election campaign will be education.

He argues that parents have the right to know what is being taught in classrooms and voice their opinions during local school board meetings.

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PHOTO BY TIMA MIROSHNICHENKO FROM PEXELS



Education

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BY CHARLES MEGGINSON

Appoquinimink School District may have to transition its high schools to virtual-only instruction, but not because of COVID-19.

In an email sent to parents Friday, Middletown High School principal Amanda Conley said that First Student Busing, who the district contracts for student transportation services, may be facing an employee strike.

“We recently received notice that the drivers from one of our contracted transportation companies, First Student, are threatening to go on strike against the company,” Conley wrote. “If that happens, we will not have enough buses to transport all students to school.”

She said that if drivers do go on strike, the district would be forced to transition its high schools to virtual instruction until the drivers come back to work.

Conley advised parents that teachers are prepared to make the transition. She emphasized that her email is only a precaution and she hopes the strike doesn’t happen “for the sake of our students and our school.”

POSSIBLE SCHOOL BUS DRIVER STRIKE THREATENS TO SEND APPO. STUDENTS BACK TO VIRTUAL LEARNING

Appoquinimink School District could not be reached for comment Wednesday afternoon.

The busing contractor, First Student, faced an employee strike in Rhode Island near the end of October after drivers complained of unsatisfactory pay and benefits.

That strike ended last Friday after union leaders and First Student struck a deal including “generous pay raises ...increased 401(k) contributions, and other benefit improvements for our valued, hardworking Warwick school bus drivers,” according to WPRI Providence, who reported on the deal.

In Delaware, bus drivers have long complained of poor working conditions, low pay and scant benefits, but school districts are limited from offering contractors better deals because the state dictates the rate school bus contractors can be paid.

Delaware is also in the midst of a school bus driver shortage so extreme that the state has increased bus driver compensation and created additional financial incentives, such as double tier and triple tier allowances to more accurately compensate drivers that service more than one route.

EastSide Charter School in Wilmington has even begun paying parents \$700 per student to transport their children to and from school.

Christina Dietrich, who has one student in an Appoquinimink School District high school, said a transition back to virtual learning would be “unconscionable” for her and her family.

“The transition to virtual school would have been unthinkable before the COVID pandemic and we need to try to find other solutions,” Dietrich said. “Maybe community-based solutions. Are there churches? Are there families who are willing to carpool?”

She said transitioning to virtual learning cannot be the only answer, and that any transition would likely end up lasting longer than a few days because of the existing school bus driver shortage.

“The first resort cannot be to just close down the schools,” she said.

This is a breaking story. Check back later for updates.



CHILD CARE PROVIDERS, DSU TO RECEIVE MILLIONS IN COVID-19 RELIEF FUNDS



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

With Delaware's unemployment rate hovering around five percent, state leaders have announced a new plan to get people back to work: investing in childcare and early childhood development.

"We wouldn't be able to keep our economy going without frontline workers," said Gov. John Carney, while announcing a \$120 million investment in relief for Delaware's childcare industry. "One of the things that I've learned is, in order for all those frontline workers to go to work, there have to be people that are caring and educating their children."

Sixty-six million of the \$120 million announced during a press event Monday has already been spent. That money was made available in direct grants for eligible early child care and education programs through The Delaware Early Education and Child Care Stabilization Fund.

The remaining investment will be paid for using funds from the American Rescue Plan Act, a federal stimulus package aimed at hastening the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Delaware received nearly \$1 billion in discretionary funds from the act.

ARPA investments in childcare announced on Monday include \$24 million more in Child Care Stabilization grants to help childcare providers statewide remain open and \$10.6 million in direct financial relief for Delaware childcare workers.

Carney and Delaware State University president Tony Allen also announced \$10.6 million in ARPA funds for the university's new Early Childhood Innovation Center. The state will pay the university \$30.6 million over five years to develop the center, with the remaining \$20 million coming from other state funds.

The investment is the university's largest grant received to date, surpassing philanthropist MacKenzie Scott's donation of \$20 million last year.

"This new funding from the American Rescue Plan will support childcare providers, help providers keep their doors open, and help them attract and retain staff," Carney said during the announcement at DSU.

"We're excited about our new partnership at Delaware State University, which will build on workforce development efforts statewide to support current and future early childhood staff."

Under terms of the partnership between DSU, the Delaware Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services, the university will develop statewide infrastructure for Delawareans seeking careers in childcare.

The funding will also expand scholarship opportunities to support working professionals who are seeking additional education.

Melanie Thomas-Price, founder and administrator of A Leap of Faith Child Development Center in Wilmington, said she has never been so excited as she was when she heard about the investment.

Throughout the pandemic, she said, parents and workers relied on childcare to remain open to care for their children. She said at every turn, her industry answered the call.

"Now, we are making the call," she said. "And it looks like to me like I'm in the right place because we don't really have to make the call—you guys have already decided that we are worthy. We are worthy to move forward to raise up the children and to also help parents in our community."

Thomas-Price said the funding will keep centers open, staff members paid and children cared for, but that there are other implications from the pandemic that can no longer be ignored.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

PHOTO YAN KRUKOV FOR PEXELS



Health

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



Health

IT'S OPEN ENROLLMENT TIME ON DEL. HEALTH INSURANCE MARKETPLACE

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Enrollment is now open for 2022 health insurance under the Affordable Care Act, and it runs through Jan. 15 at www.HealthCare.gov.

Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield Delaware is the only insurer offering plans—13 of them—on Delaware’s Health Insurance Marketplace.

Plans are offered in five tiers—bronze, silver, gold, platinum, catastrophic—and are based on how enrollees choose to split the costs of care with Highmark.

The choice of the plan, tax credits and financial assistance dramatically affect how much coverage costs for Delaware’s 30,000 marketplace enrollees. The overall average monthly premium in Delaware is \$675, with the average premium reduced to \$211 per month after tax credits, the state said. For the 81% of Delawareans who receive financial help, the average premium after tax credit is \$119 per month.

“More than 20% of Delaware Marketplace participants were enrolled in a plan costing \$10 or less a month in

the past year,” Delaware Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro said in announcing the open enrollment.

For any marketplace plan in 2022, individual consumers can’t pay more than \$8,700 in out-of-pocket medical costs and families can’t pay more than \$17,400.

All that said, Highmark is raising premiums by an average of 3% for 2022.

Two dental insurers—Delta Dental of Delaware, Inc. and Dominion Dental Services, Inc.—will offer a collective 12 stand-alone dental plans on the marketplace. Some Highmark plans include vision and dental coverage.

Signing up and getting help

Consumers can go to www.choosehealthde.com, www.healthcare.gov or www.cuidadodesalud.gov/es/

Free in-person assistance is available from federally funded and trained specialists at Westside Family Healthcare (statewide) and Quality Insights (New Castle and Sussex counties) and by certified application counselors at Henrietta Johnson Medical Center in Wilmington and La Red Health Center in Georgetown.

State-licensed insurance agents and brokers are also available to help individuals re-enroll and to help employers update their coverage, at no extra charge.

As usual, consumers are urged not to delay, even though many do: About 74% of Delaware’s enrollees signed up during the final three weeks of open enrollment in 2020.

In addition to the marketplace, some Delawareans might be eligible for coverage through the state’s expanded Medicaid program, which is open year-round. More than 10,000 Delawareans receive coverage under the Medicaid expansion each year.

These programs have helped to reduce Delaware’s uninsured rate from 10% in 2008 to 6.6% in 2019, according to the Census Bureau.



The season of giving, thankfulness, and hope are upon us. Give thanks for your health by donating in honor of those who are battling breast cancer this holiday season.

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DEL. ANNOUNCES FIRST TWO CASES OF FLU AND ENCOURAGES VACCINES

BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Delaware today announced the season’s first confirmed cases of influenza: a Kent County child under age five, infected with influenza strain B, who was hospitalized, and a 26-year-old Sussex County woman, with influenza strain A, who was not hospitalized. Neither individual had received the flu vaccine, Delaware Division of Public Health pointed out.

The division used the announcement to encourage flu vaccines, with details available at flu.delaware.gov. The vaccine is recommended for Delawareans six months of age and older and can be administered at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine, the state said. Flu vaccines take two weeks to become effective.

The division is offering flu and COVID-19 vaccines at community-based **events**, and it runs **clinics** for uninsured and underinsured individuals.

The flu virtually disappeared in Delaware last season, with so many people sheltering in place and large gatherings limited by pandemic guidelines. The 2020-2021 flu

season had 26 confirmed cases of the flu, one hospitalization and one death from flu complications.

Compare that to the 2019-2020 flu season: Delaware recorded more than 7,000 confirmed cases, nearly 400 hospitalizations and 11 deaths.

“We must not get lulled into a false sense of security with last year’s unusually low case numbers,” said Dr. Karyl Rattay, the division’s director. With Delawareans resuming pre-pandemic activities, the flu is a definite threat to our health.”

The flu and COVID-19 have many similar symptoms. They include fever or feeling feverish, chills, cough, shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, fatigue, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle pain, body aches and headaches. COVID-19 differs from flu in causing a change in or loss of taste or smell.

“
We saw a boost in website referrals from Delaware LIVE during our admission season.
”
 - URSULINE ACADEMY



KENT WOMAN DIAGNOSED WITH WEST NILE; STATE'S THIRD CASE THIS YEAR

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Division of Public Health has announced that an 87-year-old Kent County woman has become infected with West Nile virus. This marks the state's third case of a Delawarean contracting the virus in 2021.

The woman indicated no travel history that could have led to transmission, meaning she contracted the virus in Delaware.

To protect the patient's privacy, DPH is not providing additional information on this case.

West Nile Virus is a mosquito-borne illness that can cause serious health problems. It is transmitted by mosquitoes, generally in summer and fall, with a peak period for disease transmissions from mid-August to mid-October.

Nearly 80% of people infected with West Nile will not become ill. While only a little less than 20% of those infected with the virus will develop West Nile fever with mild symptoms (fever, headache, body aches, a skin rash on the chest or back and swollen lymph glands), one in 150 people infected will develop severe infection (West Nile encephalitis or meningitis).

Symptoms of severe infection include headache, high fever, stiff neck, and/or tremors and muscle weakness. The elderly and those with weakened immune systems are most at risk. Anyone who experiences any of these severe symptoms should seek medical help immediately. Symptoms may progress to stupor, disorientation, coma, convulsions, paralysis and possibly death.

The mosquitoes that cause viral bite are prevalent primarily from dusk to dawn. However, other mosquitoes that cause diseases—such as chikungunya, dengue fever and Zika—can bite during the day.

DPH notes that it is important to protect yourself by wearing insect repellent whenever you go outdoors. They also recommend wearing light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants to protect your limbs from insect bites.

In addition to the three human West Nile cases, there has been one confirmed case of West Nile virus in a Kent County horse.

West Nile virus and Eastern equine encephalitis are diseases transmitted to horses via the bites of mosquitoes. Humans can also be infected with these diseases, but transmission requires a mosquito bite, and the virus cannot be directly transmitted between horses, or between horses and people.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE!](#)

URSULINE ACADEMY

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CHILDREN AGES 5-11 NOW ELIGIBLE FOR PFIZER COVID-19 VACCINE

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After dilution each vial contains
10 doses of 0.2 mL
For age 5 years to < 12 years
BIONTECH Pfizer



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Children ages five through 11 are now eligible to receive the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 pediatric vaccine in Delaware. The Delaware Division of Public Health announced Wednesday that providers can begin administering the vaccine immediately.

The announcement comes after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration last week gave its approval to expand the emergency use authorization to allow for the Pfizer vaccine to be administered to children in that age group.

“This is very exciting news for Delaware in the ongoing fight against COVID,” said DPH director Dr. Karyl Rattay. “We have been waiting for the day when we could give our younger school-aged children this very effective layer of protection and let them get back to a more normal childhood.”

Rattay said it’s natural for parents to be concerned about rare adverse reactions, but said the benefits of the

vaccine far outweigh the “extremely rare chance of a bad reaction.”

She said if her children were in the 5-11 age group, she would vaccinate them right away.

Pfizer’s pediatric COVID-19 vaccine differs from the original in that the dose has been reduced for children under 12 years old.

In a press release, the Division of Public Health cited nationwide clinical trials involving more than 3,000 children ages 5-11. In those trials, the vaccine was found to be more than 90% protective against developing symptomatic cases of COVID-19.

“No severe vaccine-related side effects such as myocarditis or severe allergic reactions were identified,” the release said. “Side effects were found to be similar to, or fewer than, those experienced by adults and included sore arms, fatigue, headaches, muscle pain, chills, and low-grade fevers lasting a day or two.”

The agency said there will be plenty of doses to accommodate Delaware’s 77,500 residents in that age group.

Parents or guardians are being encouraged to first contact their child’s pediatrician to see if they are administering the vaccine.

Vaccines will also be available at federally qualified health centers and standing Division of Public Health vaccine sites, including:

- Blue Hen Corporate Center: 655 S. Bay Road, Dover
- Georgetown Plaza: 19 Georgetown Plaza, Georgetown
- Canby Park: 1920 Maryland Ave., Wilmington,
- University Plaza, 256 Chapman Road, Suite 100, Newark

Additionally, vaccines will be available to patients of pediatric health care providers and a limited number of large chain pharmacies initially until vaccine supply opens up. DPH recommends parents check pharmacy websites for scheduling options and availability before going.

For a complete list of locations where vaccines are available, visit www.de.gov/getmyvaccine.

Written parental consent is required for people younger than 18 to receive the vaccine, but either a parent or other adult may attend with the child. Those with concerns should speak to their family physician.



BEEBE TO HOLD JOB FAIRS IN LEWES AND DOVER



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Beebe Healthcare is planning two job fairs in November in Lewes and Dover.

The Lewes event will be held on Monday, Nov. 15, and Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Sunshine Cafe on its Margaret H. Rollins Lewes Campus, 424 Savannah Road, Lewes.

For that event, Beebe is searching for full-time and part-time candidates for their nutritional services and environmental services departments.

In early October, Beebe announced that it is mandating the COVID vaccine for all new employees. “Starting Oct. 1, Beebe mandated that all team members receive the COVID vaccine or submit to weekly testing and reporting on their own time and at their own expense,” the announcement said.

The Dover event will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 17 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn, 1706 N. du Pont Highway, Dover. Beebe has clinical team openings at the Dover event for:

- RNs: Ortho, critical care, float, OR, PACU and cath lab
- Home health RNs
- CNAs
- LPNs
- Laboratory: Med techs (ASCP), histotechs, cytotechs and clinical lab techs
- Ultrasound techs
- Respiratory care practitioners
- Radiation techs

All applicants are encouraged to RSVP to attend the job fair by calling (302) 645-3336 or emailing employment@beebehealthcare.org.

All applicants must bring copies of their résumés and must wear a mask during the job fair.

Beebe has a complete list of job opportunities [online](#).



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Sports

TOWN SQUARE LIVE



BIG PLAYS KEY FOR APPOQUINIMINK'S WIN OVER CAPE

BY GLENN FRAZER

Cape Henlopen won the statistical battle Oct. 28, but fell victim to turnovers and big plays by Appoquinimink early in a 55-27 loss in Middletown. The Vikings outgained the Jaguars 526 to 440 in total yards, but committed some early mistakes and the Jags took full advantage.

Cape recovered a fumble on the Jags initial drive of the game at the 32-yard line and drove to the five, but the drive stalled and it lined up for a 26-yard field goal attempt. Elijah Husser blocked the kick and Naseam Griffin scooped up the loose ball and raced 66 yards for a touchdown and a 7-0 lead. On the Vikings next possession, they drove from their 33-yard line to the Appo 11 thanks to a long run of 36 yards by freshman Maurki James. Under pressure from the defensive pass rush, Hank D'Ambrogi was intercepted by Dillon Griffin at the eight and returned 84 yards to the Cape eight. That was Griffin's team-leading fourth interception of the season and led directly to an eight-yard touchdown run

by quarterback Ryan vonBrandt and a 14-0 advantage to end the opening quarter.

Following Cape's third turnover of the first half (fumble), the Jaguars drove 76 yards aided by yet another "big play," a 69 yard catch and run by Ethan Osiegbu to increase the lead to 20-0 as Daniel McConomey ran the final seven yards for the score with 10:08 left in the half. Then Appo executed a perfect onside kick, as Devon Wilson recovered the ball at the Cape 43. That led to an 18-yard touchdown pass from vonBrandt to Jaden Weatherspoon for a 27-0 lead. Cape finally got on the board late in the second quarter as D'Ambrogi connected with speedy Chancler Johnson for 65 yards, cutting the deficit to 27-7 at the half.

The two teams traded touchdowns in a very exciting third quarter as Cape scored on a 33-yard run by Saez and another pass from D'Ambrogi to Johnson of 28 yards and Appo countered with a 28-yard run by vonBrandt and a 60-yard scamper by McConomey to make the score 41-20 heading to the fourth and final quarter.

Cape's Johnson intercepted a vonBrandt pass early in the fourth quarter and returned it to the Jags 47. Then Cape called a "guard-trap" play for James and he sprinted 43 yards to set up first and goal from the four.

Appo's defense stiffened, forcing a fourth and goal play from the one, but D'Ambrogi dove in for the score to make it 41-27 and a two-possession ball game. The

following kickoff was made by Nickolas Trewartha and not Cape's normal kicker (D'Ambrogi). Trewartha nailed a spinning onside kick that appeared to be legally tipped by Thomas Messick and recovered by the Vikings' Keshawn Mansfield at the Appo 45. Cape would have had the ball down by two scores with 7:50 left in the game, but the ball was awarded to the Jags instead and they would score with 4:11 left on a 15 yard run by Weatherspoon to essentially "ice" the win. Appo would add another late touchdown on a 16 yard run by McConomey to make the final 55-27 and give the Jaguars their fourth straight win and an overall record of 5-3.

The Jags were led by McConomey with 148 yards rushing on 16 carries and three touchdowns. vonBrandt gained 109 yards on the ground and two scores plus he passed for 135 yards and a touchdown. Cape's offense was paced by James with 155 yards on 18 carries, while D'Ambrogi rushed for 99 yards and a touchdown and connected on 10 of his 20 pass attempts for 193 yards and two scores.

The Jaguars travel to Smyrna Friday and finish the regular season on Nov. 12, with a home game against Salesianum. Cape travels to St. George's Tech Saturday for a noon kickoff before completing the regular season with a home game against Smyrna.





SMRYNA BATTLES THE ELEMENTS AND SALESIANUM FOR THE VICTORY

BY JASON WINCHELL

Smyrna wasn't going to let a little rain get in the way when it took the field against Salesianum on Oct. 29 at Abessinio Stadium. A little rain, or a lot of rain, or a whole lot of rain with a stiff wind thrown in for good measure.

The weather was not the greatest, but the show went on, and for the Eagles, that show revolves around the running back, Wayne Knight; the quarterback, Cameron Edge; and the wide receiver, Devin Demoe. All three played pivotal roles in the Eagles' 28-7 victory over the Sals.

The night didn't begin particularly well for Smyrna, as Edge had the ball knocked from his grip on the Eagles'

first drive, setting the Sals up at the Smyrna 17-yard line. It took them just three plays and less than a minute to reach the end zone as quarterback Conor Campbell took the snap in the shotgun and powered his way just across the goal line to give the Sals a 7-0 lead with 9:29 to go in the first.

The Eagles answered immediately, taking the lead on a 71-yard drive that took almost four minutes off the clock. Edge began the drive with a nine-yard scramble, but Knight did the rest of the damage on the ground, including a 22-yard pickup on fourth and eight. A few plays later, on fourth and 14, Edge threaded a pass to Demoe at the Salesianum five. Knight finished the drive with a three-yard run and a two-point conversion to give the Eagles the 8-7 lead.

The Sals recovered Smyrna's onside kick at their own 48, but they were unable to muster anything on offense. It was that way most of the night, as the Sals struggled with the wet football, numerous penalties and a strong performance by the Eagles' defense.

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