



W³



WHAT WOMEN WANT FEST



Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM
Wild Quail Golf & Country Club



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Time To Unwind With WHAT WOMEN WANT!

Hello Ladies,

We are excited to invite you to another amazing event designed for women of all ages to come together and enjoy a day full of fun and inspiration! There's still time to grab your tickets—either online at DelmarvaEvents.net or at the door—for an unforgettable girl's day out at the W3 What Women Want Fest happening on Saturday, March 22, at Wild Quail Golf & Country Club, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event is made possible thanks to our generous returning sponsors: Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore, DEMEC, Talbots, and Wild Quail Golf & Country Club. Advance tickets are just \$15, or you can purchase them for \$20 at the door.

VIP tickets are sold out, but those lucky ladies will enjoy an exclusive sit-down meal, a mini spa experience, and an incredible swag bag! The spa

experience includes Merle Norman Cosmetics & Day Spa, Mary Kay, Wholehearted Healing and Readings, and a coffee treat from The House of Coffi.

Every year, we see guests eagerly lining up before the doors open, excited to experience everything the event has to offer.

Upon entry, each guest will receive an event tote, a publication, a door prize slip (no need to be present to win), and a drink ticket courtesy of Wild Quail.

Once inside the main ballroom, you'll find a variety of vendors showcasing their services, as well as delicious breakfast treats, passed hors d'oeuvres, and afternoon desserts. Talbots will present a stunning fashion show featuring local women who are making a difference in our community. Additionally, the Dover YMCA will offer energizing Zumba and Stretching sessions for our guests.

You'll also enjoy a Double Dutch Therapy demonstration, bringing joy and movement to fitness.

Our vendors are ready to provide expert advice and answer any questions you may have. From food and financial security to cosmetics, health & fitness, travel, and much more—there's something for everyone! Be sure to bring your wallets, as you won't want to miss out on all the fantastic items available for purchase.

We can't wait to see you there!



Tonda L. Parks
Associate Publisher
Daily State News
BayToBayNews.com



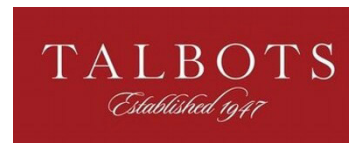
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W³ WHAT WOMEN WANT FEST

Saturday, March 22, 2025, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Wild Quail Golf & Country Club
Camden-Wyoming, Del.

VISIT [DELMARVAEVENTS.NET](https://delmarvaevents.net) FOR TICKETS & UPDATES

W3 FEST 2025 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

10:00 a.m.	Doors Open. WELCOME!
10:00 – 3:00 p.m.	Shopping and light refreshments
10:00 – 3:00 p.m.	VIP Mini Spa Experience*
11:00 a.m.	Zumba presented by Dover YMCA
12:00 p.m.	VIP LUNCH*
12:00 p.m.	Demonstration presented by Double Dutch Therapy
1:00 p.m.	FASHION SHOW featuring fashions by Talbots of Dover
2:00 p.m.	Stretching presented by Dover YMCA
3:00 p.m.	Event Closes. Thank you for joining us!

*VIP only events

VENDORS INCLUDE:

A-FAB Property Professionals | All Pro Kustomz LLC
CNU Fit | Delaware Council on Gambling Problem
Delaware Fraud and Consumer Protection Division
Delaware Senior Medicare Patrol
Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation
Dover YMCA | Dream Vacations – Elaine Nolan
Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore
Jessie's Bags, LLC | Merle Norman Cosmetics and Day Spa
Please Let Them Know, LLC | Sugar Snaps, LLC

VIP Swag Bags

Thank you to these local businesses and organizations for supplying goodies for our VIP Swag Bags:

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Dover Jazzercise
Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore
Fifer Orchards
Food Bank of Delaware
La Baguette French Bakery
Mary Kay – Tammy West-Murrian
Meals on Wheels Delaware
The House of Coffi

TICKETS:

Tickets are available online at [DelmarvaEvents.net](https://delmarvaevents.net). They are **\$15 each**. Tickets can also be purchased at the door the day of the event for **\$20 each**. If VIP Tickets are still available, they can be purchased online at [DelmarvaEvents.net](https://delmarvaevents.net) for **\$55 each**. VIP tickets are not available for purchase the day of the event.

DOOR PRIZES:

Thank you to our sponsors and vendors for providing us with a large number of door prizes to be presented throughout the day and a variety of giveaways that can be collected at each of their tables.

Classic & Chic: Elevating timeless style with Talbots personalized shopping service

Fashion, ahoy! Talbots will be hosting the afternoon fashion show at What Women Want, bringing their elegant and enticing style to the runway. Talbots has been dressing ladies at its current Dover location since 1999.

It's a national brand with a boutique feel at the local level. "Classic with a modern twist," they promise, with an emphasis on "fit, fabric, print, pattern and irresistible color ... We're here to wow our customers with great style and exceptional service every time."

The Dover team offers personalized attention, too. A shopper can ask for advice—or schedule an entire personal styling session (at no cost).

"Turn it over to us. Honestly, that's what we do every day," said Store Manager Vickie McGown at the Route 8 location. Anyone who feels hesitant to shop can just ask for advice from the staff. "We're comfortable styling people, getting them out of their box."

The team can also share the best ways to wear an item, from tying a pretty scarf to zhuzhing up an outfit with the perfect piece of jewelry or jacket.

Designs are fashioned to appeal to a range of ages, from young college-aged people or first jobs to older women. "Talbots stays trendy, but keeps the classics. As long as you take care of them,



they're going to last for years," McGown emphasized.

Talbots often releases complimentary colors and designs, so a person could mix and match a few nice pieces to create a week's worth of outfits. A wide range of accessories is also icing on the cake for shoppers, great for gifts or a personal treat.

Talbots also hosts shopping parties and workshops.

"It can be 2 to 20 people ... and we have extra staff to help you, and it's a lot of fun," McGown said. For example, the store might open an hour earlier

than usual for a teachers' back-to-school shopping experience, "so they have run of the store, and we can focus more on what you want."

"We've done different workshops here, like a scarf-tying workshop or pants fitting workshop—which is the hardest thing to fit because each one fits so differently," she recalled. "Once you find a pant that works for you, that's your go-to."

Of course, the Route 8 shop is part of the company's national system, so the local staff can help customers select even more inventory options. "So, for the

customer, you don't have to worry about your size selling out right away, and more styles that are in the catalog are available," said McGown.

"Anything you see in the catalog, we can order, free shipping, to your door," McGown emphasized. "And if we do the order for the customer, the store gets credit for the sale ... We have people calling every day, they want to help us out. If you allow us to do it, we can get free shipping to your door, and it helps us stick around."

Woman-centric charitable organizations also benefit from the Talbots company. March 2025 marks the 11th anniversary of the company's partnership with Dress for Success, which was originally founded to help provide women with professional attire to help improve their lives, such as for a job interview. Today it "empowers women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire and the development tools to help women thrive in work and in life." In 2024, Talbots also lent fundraising efforts to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation.

Talbots and the spring line are found at 1404 Forrest Avenue, Dover, Del. Learn more at (302) 677-1899. There is also a shopper loyalty program available.

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SPEAK UP!

Easterseals leader shares her life in advocacy, advice for the public

By Laura Walter

Verna Hensley has been a longtime advocate: in government, in her career and for her children. Today, much of her energy goes toward the organization that supports her own daughter: Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore.

"I was drawn to get involved in this community because I had a personal connection to it. And I've been here 20 years!" said the Easterseals VP of Public Affairs & Communications.

For the past 75-plus years, Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore has provided direct services for families living with disabilities and seniors. Services are incredibly broad: occupational therapy, supported employment, day services, personal attendants, memory care—plus and assistive technology and caregiver support programs.

"Last year, we served people from 4 weeks to 108 years old—from the littlest child maybe struggling with their developmental milestones—literally to the end of life, when you have an older person maybe struggling with Alzheimer's or dementia," Hensley said. "It's the intersection of my previous career in government—I worked for the late Sen. Bill Roth for about 20 years—and the birth of my daughter, who has a disability, and the marketing and communications side from the first part of my career," said Hensley.

Answers have been edited for clarity and length.

Q: It sounds like this is more than a career—it's a personal mission. Is that correct?

V.H.: "Absolutely. When you have

a personal connection to a disability, it makes it more real, you have an understanding of what that disability is, and I think it fuels that passion I have.

"Easterseals was just a natural home for me because I so respect the organization that has a long history here. It's not hard to advocate because of the quality of services and difference it makes in the community every single day. I benefit from that personally because my daughter benefits from Easterseals. She's part of a pre-vocational work training program, and she loves what she does. She's quite a social butterfly, and she loves being out in the community, being with her peers and feeling like she has purpose—and that's really possible because she's supported by Easterseals staff at those jobs.

"And that feeds into my advocacy because, as an example: The staff works for Easterseals, but we're contracted by the State to provide services to people like my daughter in the community. But the contracts don't pay the full cost of these services, which is why we have to fundraise.

"We went to the [Delaware] Joint Finance Committee last month, and my daughter testified about why her direct support staff was so important to her. It's all about putting a face to the need—I don't care what you're advocating for, the most important thing you can do when advocating is put a face with the issue—help them understand why what they're discussing impacts people in the community every day."

Q: How did you share that passion of advocacy with your daughter, Julia?

V.H.: "When you have a child with a disability, teaching them to be an advocate for themselves is one of the



Verna Hensley and her daughter after being presented with the Delaware Academy of Medicine's "Lewis B. Flinn President's Award" in 2022 for her advocacy on behalf of the disability community.

most important things you can do as a parent—I think that's true whether they have a disability or not. You do that by instilling confidence in who they are as an individual and having open communication with them, starting when they're very young. It's helping them be self-empowered. Also teaching them to listen—because I think the other important part of advocacy is to also listen to make sure you're as informed as you need to be, because that's how you learn and how you grow."

Q: Easterseals services are so wide-ranging. What else do you want people to know about the services, or the staff?

V.H.: "We have this wide range of services, literally from birth literally to end of life, and I don't know that people realize that. We really can help at just about any stage of life and any age. And the staff is amazing. They care so much about what they do and the people they're working to serve. It is so clear how vital they are to the community and the state."

Q: What is your advice for people who have opinions on the government,

but don't know how to speak up?

V.H.: "I think it comes back to sharing your story and putting a human face on the issues—what is it that fuels your passion as an advocate? And of course, legislators are more interested in hearing from people who are in their district ... a potential voter! In Delaware, especially, our elected officials are so accessible. Showing up at a town hall meeting, calling an office, asking 'hey, can I meet you in the district?' I think they're very responsive."

"Also, listening: that's how you get a productive conversation going. Maybe it's an issue they don't agree with you on—why is that? Having curiosity is such an important part of advocacy because as people seek information, it helps people to be more empathetic. You may not agree with them in the end, but it helps to see what's behind that position."

Q: This event is called What Women Want. So, what do you want, or what do you hope for yourself, or the community, or the world?

V.H.: "I think it gets back to less scrolling and more conversations. If the natural inclination could be to seek out information, then that leads to more understanding. If you don't agree, at least you become more informed, and I think ultimately that can lead to more kindness. And hopefully that makes a difference! My daughter's first inclination is to be kind and engage and learn about the person. I think that's a wonderful model for just about everyone else too."

Learn more about Easterseals Delaware and Maryland's Eastern Shore at (302) 324-4444 and demd.easterseals.com.

Putting on a party at Wild Quail Golf & Country Club

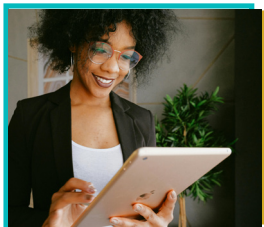


What Women Want gladly returns for another year at Wild Quail Golf & Country Club. Established in 1990, Wild Quail has been providing its members with the very best golf and social amenities in central Delaware. Nestled in the rolling farmlands just off the beaten path of Dover, you will find its challenging and picturesque 18-hole championship golf course. With multiple practice facilities and golf instruction provided by PGA instructors, they can help players of all levels improve and challenge their game. The golf course is accompanied by a sprawling and spacious clubhouse, providing a calendar full of social events for the club membership. Whether you're looking for fine dining, a night out with friends, or just enjoying a

cocktail on the patio while watching the sunset over the eighteenth hole, Wild Quail provides top-notch golf and dining in the First State! Looking to host a major event of your own? Wild Quail Golf and Country Club offers bright, beautiful space to host weddings, reunions, birthday parties, retirement parties, showers, memorials and celebrations of life. From the ballroom to the outside patio area overlooking the golf course, special occasions can range from 2 to 200 guests. Wild Quail Golf & Country Club is located at 1 Clubhouse Drive, Camden-Wyoming, Del. Learn more at (302) 697-4660 or www.wildquailcc.com.

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Energy efficiency tips by DEMEC

By Laura Walter

People can save money by using electricity a bit more responsibly or replacing appliances that don't.

Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC) is a not-for-profit utility partnership of eight municipalities. Each of these towns (Milford, Middletown, Smyrna and more) provides power to local homes and businesses, but they partner through DEMEC to increase their purchasing power and services to each community.

"Many of our member communities have been serving power for over 100 years," said Heather Contant, Director of Government & Community Relations. "It's a unique business model because we're constantly looking for ways to ... save them money and energy."

"Prices everywhere have gone up, so we're trying to reduce the impact on that energy bill that they get monthly. We want to help customers find simple little things that they can lower their energy bill and take control of their usage."

So DEMEC offers these tips to improve your energy efficiency:

- Close window blinds and curtains

during hot days, so extra heat and sunlight don't seep inside. This will keep things cooler and reduce air conditioner use.

- Use a room fan instead of the AC. In summer, switch ceiling fans to turn counterclockwise, pulling the heat away and keeping cool air down.

- Use a drying rack or clothesline instead of the clothes dryer. Large appliances like washers or dryers can use up a lot of energy, so air dry to save energy. (Similarly, let dishes air dry instead of using the heat setting on your dishwasher.)

- Clear air vents inside and outside the home. Inside, check your air filters and replace them every 3 months. Reducing that dust and blockage from the system helps your HVAC move air more effectively. Outside, keep your AC unit clear of debris, plants and lawn care equipment, so it gets good airflow.

- Ovens are toasty in winter—and in summer. Instead of using the stove (another major appliance), cook outdoors on the grill or eat something cool like a salad or sandwich. Or cook during cooler hours of the morning or night. This both saves energy and avoids putting extra heat into your

home when you're already trying to stay cool.

- Meal prepping can save energy because when you cook all of your meals at once, you're only preheating your oven or stove once a week (then hopefully using less energy to quickly reheat the meal).

- Consider installing a programmable thermostat in order to control temperatures precisely.

Visit the website demecinc.net for even more suggestions. Even non-customers can get excellent insights to their energy usage with online tools. (Click "Development," click any community link, and then scroll to "Residential Customer Energy Savings Tools.")

Numbers may be more accurate for residents of these member cities, but the online tools are insightful for anyone, regardless of their electric company.

The Residential Energy Advisor tool is especially fascinating. The online quiz considers the precise details of a person's house, like size, location and appliance age. "It will only take a couple minutes, and at the end, it will give them savings tips and ... link them to local, state and federal

programs that can provide additional financial incentives [tax rebates, etc.]," Contant said.

"You can see the difference and start to understand the real impact that's having on your annual costs."

Playing with the various energy calculators, "I think the biggest surprise was the impact a space heater has on your electric costs. Just using two space heaters for a month was about \$40 per space heater, if you were using them to heat your bedroom every night ... You could be taking that money and investing in upgrades or making your home more energy efficiency," she said, especially when "HVAC is about 50 percent of a person's energy costs. It is the biggest user of energy by far in a person's home."

DEMEC customers can also benefit from equipment rebates at EfficiencySmart.org, from lightbulbs to bigger appliances.

People should call their local electric utility or provider to learn more about their energy efficiency programs and ways to save money and energy all year.

Learn more about DEMEC in Smyrna at (302) 653-2733 and www.demecinc.net.

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Meet the Models 2025

The Talbots fashion show is a fun way to highlight some of the powerhouse women who support and lead this community. Making deals or making a difference, they make Delaware a better place. We're honored to introduce them here.



Keri Knorr
Delaware Municipal Electric
Corporation (DEMEC)
Administrative Assistant

Other noteworthy roles in your life:
Before joining DEMEC in April of 2024, I worked for 4 years with the Delaware Department

of Natural Resources (DNREC) in the Division of Climate Coastal and Energy. At the State, I most recently served as the Green Energy Program Manager, serving in renewable energy rebates and incentives for other energy efficiency projects. Simultaneously, I also served as an Adjunct Professor at Delaware Technical Community College (DTCC), teaching energy.

Something that brought you joy in the past year:

In October 2024, DEMEC sent a crew of lineworkers from our member communities to provide mutual aid after Hurricane Milton hit Florida. I was able to build "go bags" for the lineworkers ahead of their journey to provide much needed supplies for the team while they were working.

Tell us how you make your world a better place:

I find joy in giving my time and energy to the people around me and my community. Whether it's supporting local events, working for a not-for-profit organization like DEMEC that advocates for lower cost power supply for electric customers, or picking up a cup of coffee for a friend, I feel like I am making the world around me a better place.



Tiffany Shipe
CenDel Foundation
Board Member

Other noteworthy roles in your life:
Branch Manager at Shore United Bank, Board Member of the Milford Museum, and Board Member/ Fundraising Chair for Paige's Kindness Project

Something that brought you joy in the past year:
My work in my community and the nonprofits I support.

Tell us how you make your world a better place:
By giving back to the community and being kind.

Encouraging Others 1 Bag @ A Time





Jenifer Batog
Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's
Eastern Shore
Director of Marketing

Other noteworthy roles in your life:

In addition to being a mom, I have spent a good deal of my work life in digital marketing. I was the Digital Sales Director at Digital First Media as well as a Digital Operations Director for Forever

Media and the Delaware Broadcasting Company. And while my current responsibilities include all types of marketing, I do have a passion for digital platforms, and I'm grateful to use my skills with such a great nonprofit that does so much good for the community. I am currently working towards my MBA with a marketing focus.

Something that brought you joy in the past year:

Our first grandson, Ollie, has brought me so much joy in the past year! Our time with him is priceless. I also enjoy binge-watching Netflix, having great cocktails while hanging out at the pool with my family, cheering on Penn State football, traveling with my husband, and my favorite: going to concerts. Music is a big part of my "happy place"

Tell us how you make your world a better place:

I always try to do my best to help my family and friends and bring happiness to them.



Jennifer Sutter
Central Delaware Chamber of Commerce
Director of Membership and Retention

Other noteworthy roles in your life:

I Other noteworthy roles in your life: Prior to the CDCC, I worked at Bayhealth Medical Center for 23 years, where my last position was Occupational Health Consultant (liaison between the hospital and corporate clients).

Something that brought you joy in the past year:

I have had a lot of joy over this past year with a new job position. But most importantly my son, Kyle, has just turned 22 years old, and I have felt so much pride in watching him become the kindhearted man he is today. It's my honor to be his mother!

Tell us how you make your world a better place:

I am always available for people who need me in their lives, whether it be serving on committees, helping to make business connections, or just helping a friend out with tasks and projects. I am a giver, I am a teacher, and quite often a fixer of problems.

Kaitlyn Cupelli

Daily State News
BayToBayNews.com
Staff Writer/Reporter

Other noteworthy roles in your life:

I also run the social media accounts and do website editing for the East Coast branch of a talent agency called Omnipop Talent Group.

Something that brought you joy in the past year: Spending time with loved ones always brings me joy! Whether that be my parents, grandparents or best friend.

Tell us how you make your world a better place: I enjoy helping people. That's part of the reason why I'm so excited to be reporting for the Daily State News. I want to share people's stories and bring attention to important causes in Dover and Kent County.



Nancy Curley

Daily State News
BayToBayNews.com
Marketing Consultant

Other noteworthy roles in your life:

42 years in the newspaper/media industry. I've held numerous positions over the years including Production Coordinator and Assistant Plant Manager of the printing facility.

Something that brought you joy in the past year:

The birth of my first grandchild in October, a baby girl named Sheridan!

Tell us how you make your world a better place: I like to treat everyone with kindness and treat everyone like I would want to be treated.



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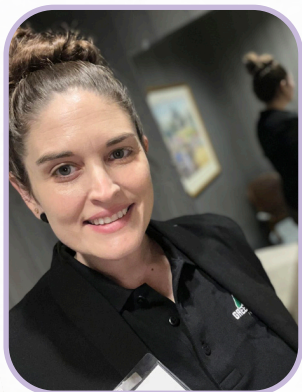
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Tara Lawrence

Green Beret Project
State Director

Other noteworthy roles in your life:

I am a proud mother of two teenage sons, and my passion for nurturing the next generation extends into my work with the Green Beret Project. Throughout Delaware, particularly in the Dover areas of public housing, I coach and support at-risk youth, helping them to navigate challenges and realize their potential. I help ensure that all four of our pulse points run smoothly and efficiently by coordinating

volunteers as well as managing funds and monthly reportings.

Something that brought you joy in the past year:

This past year brought much joy as I spent quality time kayaking with my sons and cherishing the last few summers of their youth. I also had a fantastic experience white water rafting with 13 girls from the Green Beret Project during our summer camping trip to West Virginia, where we built lasting friendships and embraced the excitement of the outdoors together.

Tell us how you make your world a better place:

My world would be a better place if everyone could take a moment out of their day and genuinely care about another person, even for just a few minutes. Care about their future, their ambitions, their sorrows ... consistently care.



Tetra Shockley

Mrs. Delaware America 2024
Partner at Benton & Shockley Law

Other noteworthy roles in your life:

I am a three-time Mrs. Delaware America (2016, 2021, 2024) and the only woman to hold the title more than once. I was a Top 15 Semi-finalist at the 2024 Mrs. America Pageant. I am a member of the Board of Trustees for Delaware State University, my alma mater. I am a Partner at Benton

Shockley Law where I practice in the areas of Family Law and Personal Injury. My favorite role is wife and mother to my husband, Jerome, and my children, Tierra and Jaden.

Something that brought you joy in the past year: My daughter is in her senior year of high school and preparing to go to college. While this transition is somewhat sad for my "mommy heart," I am also excited and proud to watch my daughter grow into the woman she is purposed to be.

Tell us how you make your world a better place: I am the owner of You Are the Crown, Inc. Through You Are the Crown, I host workshops and conferences and do public speaking events to empower and inspire women to discover their identity and purpose so they can make in impact in their world.

Marilyn J. Smith

Dover/Kent County Metropolitan Planning
Organization (MPO)
Executive Director



Other noteworthy roles in your life:

Board Member of the CenDel Foundation; Adjunct Professor at Purdue Global University; married for 39 years; mother, grandmother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend.

Something that brought you joy in the past year: My son and his partner bought their first house together; kayaking with my husband.

Tell us how you make your world a better place: Volunteering at the Food Bank and planning safe places for people to walk and bike.

Tonda Parks

Daily State News
BayToBayNews.com
Associate Publisher



Other noteworthy roles in your life:

Mentor to a variety of peeps, Charitable fundraising volunteer, and of course, being a wife, mother and Nonna are among my most favorite titles! I'm proud to have been named the associate publisher to the Daily State News in the past year, also.

Something that brought you joy in the past year:

My annual holiday cookie baking with my grands continues to be one of the highlights of my life—my grands are in their 20s, but they still enjoy coming to the house to bake Christmas cookies!

Tell us how you make your world a better place: I'm grateful that many local charities have benefited from my ability to raise funds and awareness for their causes—it's my hope that I can always help make an impact!

THERE'S NO JACKPOT WHEN YOU HAVE A GAMBLING PROBLEM.



Problem gambling can affect anyone. Male or female. Young or old. All races and creeds. If you or a loved one has a gambling problem, call us for help and support. Services available statewide.



DEProblemGambling.org
888.850.8888
24/7 - Free & Confidential

Information is current as of publication, and is subject to change.

Powering Your *Family's Future*



Concerned about climate change? DEMEC and our member communities continue to work on behalf of customers to reduce negative impacts to our planet. DEMEC members operate utilities throughout Delaware that are run by friends, neighbors, & family members of the community.

Their hard work has resulted in reducing carbon emissions 50% since 2005, with new sustainability projects in development. All of this is done with your family's wellbeing in mind.

In addition to these efforts, over 92% of all power delivered by DEMEC is low to no emissions, paving the way to a cleaner and healthier future for generations to come.

To learn more about how DEMEC powers your family's future, visit
PublicPowerDE.com

DEMEC

Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation

