



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
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January 18, 2017

Patricia Key, Chief Executive Officer
Harrington Raceway & Casino
18500 S. DuPont Highway
Harrington, DE 19952

Dear Ms. Key:

I am writing on behalf of the State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD), in which I am the Chairperson. Recently, concerns about the lack of accessible parking during special events came from a long-standing member. The issue is that there needs to be an increase the amount of accessible parking available in the asphalt section when events are held that need overflow parking. There typically is not enough accessible parking for events like concerts and the Delaware State Fair. In addition, the Raceway & Casino administration needs to provide alternative trolley service for people with wheelchairs similar to the way trolley service is provided to those who do not use wheelchairs. Please see the attached letter to the Editor posted in the Delaware Coast Press on Wednesday, August 10, 2016.

Members and staff are very willing to offer technical assistance with providing accessible parking and wheelchair accessible trollies that is in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. We can provide assistance with future issues surrounding people with disabilities. Please do not hesitate to contact the staff at SCPD at [302] 739-3620 or me at [302] 535-0243 or email at j.wolfe6@icloud.com. Finally, I would like to invite you to a future SCPD meeting if you find it would be helpful in learning about and receiving technical assistance about disability issues. I look forward to working with you.

With respect,

Jamie Wolfe

Jamie Wolfe
Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities

Attachment

scpd/letters/accessible parking – Delaware State Fairgrounds 1-18-17

Accident victim thanks friends and family

As most of my friends and customers know, I had a farming accident with a rotter tiller on July 5. It could have been a lot worse, and I was very fortunate with only having the blade chip a bone, joint and separated some muscle in my leg.

At this time, I want to thank my dad for finding me in the field. My sister Rose for showing the EMTs, fire company and police where I was.

Speaking of them, I can't thank them enough. The Dagsboro Fire Company responded within just a few minutes of the 911 call.

Thank you to the pilot who flew me to Peninsula Regional Medical Center and the doctors, surgeons and nurses.

I want to especially thank my family, friends and loyal customers for your concerns and prayers. This means so much knowing I'm on so many prayers lists.

Thank you to my band mates Charlie Paperella and John Perdue. Don't worry guys, I'll be playing music with you again.

Last but not least, a very

special thank you to my wife and fellow outdoorsperson, Pam. Don't worry we will be hiking, biking and more again soon.

Thank you all again. Words cannot express how much all your concern and prayers have meant to me.

We live in a great community.

*Charlie Lynch
Charlie's Repair Shop
Dagsboro*

Time for a change at the fair for handicap parking

My wife and I, along with our adult daughter, spent two days at the Delaware State Fair to see Jeff Dunham and Alabama shows. These shows were good and I'm glad we attended.

Unfortunately, what is detailed below made the evenings' experiences such that we will remember them for future thinking on attending our state's fair.

I am 100 percent disabled, paraplegic, combat-wounded veteran of the Vietnam War who uses a wheelchair, and am 81 years old.

Consequently, we need to park in handicap parking. In past years, this has presented no problem.

Not this year. On Saturday, we were directed to the "cow pasture" after being told the handicapped area was full. We were out in section six and I had to board a trailer, which lacked adequate space for my wheelchair.

Passing the handicap parking area, we saw several parking spaces.

After such an ordeal, on Monday, we left home in plenty of time hoping to be able to park in the lot, but we again encountered the same problem.

Mr. DiMondi (the general manager at the fair), what makes us so frustrated with special needs parking is that after seeing in person, a majority of those who drive vehicles with handicapped tags, there should be parking for wheelchair users only.

While we are not naive enough to think that you can control who parks in those spots, why not give serious thought to enlarging the handicap parking area.

Thank you for reading about

our concerns.

*Jack Rine, retired Marine
Ocean View*

Plenty of blame for addiction epidemic

I have been reading many of the articles in the newspapers about the drug epidemic in Delaware.

The recent articles concerning fentanyl and other synthetic pain relievers that are circulating throughout the state are particularly alarming. I am also concerned that the state's extra funding in the governor's budget for drug abuse treatment has been axed because of fiscal constraints. Then we have the issue of addicted mothers having addicted babies.

My question is where did we drop the ball? Aren't we all somehow to blame for what is happening in our state and communities with regards to the drug epidemic in Delaware?

Parents could be more alert about their children's behavior and question what is the source of their changes in behavior. The educational system should

be asking themselves how young men and women who are now in their 20s or 30s are now showing addictive behavior.

Could we have done more to educate children particularly in middle or high school about drugs and the consequences of drug addiction that may lead to losing their lives? What are our counseling departments in our schools doing to not allow students who are demonstrating addictive behaviors to slip through the cracks in our school systems?

We should be increasing state funding to bolster the counseling departments in our schools to deal with the issue. Again, as always, it's about the money. I would think that people's lives are more important than some so-called other priorities for state funding.

We all have to work together to control this drug epidemic in our state; otherwise, we will continue to see obituaries for young men and women who "passed away suddenly" either by suicide, drug overdose or gun violence.

*Joseph Casello
Millsboro*