

**Name**

George William Sweeney, Nickname "Jody"

Age

47

Town/neighborhood

Rural Camden-Wyoming

What I am excited about and why

I am excited about this year's Polytech Girls Soccer team. As the Coach, I see a good opportunity for the team to excel.

I am also excited about this year's general election and the chance to get out and meet many new people.

What I do

I am the Information Technology Services Manager for DeIDOT. In that position, I am responsible for the Department's computers systems, network, and phones.

What I like most about what I do

I believe in technology and how it can make our lives better and easier. I hope that I am making DeIDOT a better agency with the technology that is available.

If I had picked a different occupation, it might have been

I would like to be a Teacher. My father was a teacher for many years at the Kent Vo-Tech school. As a coach, I like to think I am teaching life lessons through athletics. I would love to retire from State service and be a teacher or professor in a local institution. I would prefer to teach History but would also teach in the computer field. Almost every successful person will point to a teacher as the person who inspired them the most.

What I like most about living here

I love living in Kent County because I get the benefit of living in a rural community, but I am not far from the cultural, sports, historical, or entertainment areas of Washington, DC, Philadelphia, or Baltimore. In less than 90 minutes, I can be at the nation's capital, a professional football or baseball game, a major concert or enjoying the sun and fun at the Boardwalk.

Changes I'd like to see in this area

No offense to my DelDOT co-workers, but I would like to see more attention to rural roads. I understand the need to move the heaviest traffic from the north to the south and west to east on Fridays, and vice versa on Sundays, but those of us who live here in Kent County are suffering on a daily basis on roads that are too narrow for the volume and speed of traffic. I would also like to see continued control on growth in the area to maintain what I like most about living here.

Favorite community cause and why

I am concerned about the environment. My family and I have planted hundreds of trees and recycle everything we can. We deliver our recyclables to the local recycling bells on a regular basis. I have designed and built a rainwater capture system on a shed in my back yard. We use the captured rainwater to water plants throughout the yard when we have a dry spell. I hope to expand the system this summer to capture even more, using recycled barrels from my daughter-in-law's family farm.

My family

I have been married to Crystal Reed for more than 20 years. I have four children, two from a previous marriage and two with Crystal (Billy, Amy, Cameron, and Skyler). Billy and his wife live here in the county and are expecting a child this summer. Amy and her husband are living in Germany with our grandson, Cole. Cameron is a freshman at the University of Delaware, in the SEEDS program. Skyler is a sophomore at Polytech High School.

My interests and hobbies

I enjoy coaching soccer, reading books, and camping.

The best and/or worst time in my life

The best time in my life is right now, or at any moment I am living in. I have a successful career, a wonderful family, four children who are successful or growing into respected adults. I am very happy being involved in the community and making decisions that will continue to improve my family's future.

The trait(s) I admire in others

I like when people get involved in their future. Whether it is students studying hard in school or residents attending public meetings; they are expressing their right to have a say in how their lives are going to end up. Those that “stand outside the fire” have no idea what they are missing.

People who inspired me (and how)

My 10th grade English teacher at Caesar Rodney, Judy Heritage. She taught me how to succeed and to push myself to be better.

My Kent Vo-Tech Data Processing teacher, Vera Bures, who gave me my lifelong love of technology and made it easy to love what I do.

My wife Crystal, who for 20+ years has kept me grounded with a desire to be a better husband and father.

My guiding philosophy

I try to keep a positive outlook on everything I do. I look for the good in people and will usually give them the benefit of the doubt that they are doing what they think is right even if we disagree.

My advice to today's youth

Don't waste any opportunities you have. I encourage you to get involved with life. Delaware's public schools offer many ways for you to become a better person. After high school, try to attend college. If money is a problem, take advantage of the Student Excellence Equals Degree (SEED) program and the newly proposed Student Academic Reward Scholarship (STAR). These programs only require you to be a hard-worker and to stay out of trouble with the law. The reward is the opportunity for a successful career without the burden of college tuition or loans. If you do that for yourself, I will do what I can to make sure that the job opportunities are available in Kent County for you to stay and make your life here.