 **PRESS RELEASE**

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***For Immediate Release***

**Kent County Levy Court Joins Cybersecurity Awareness Month Activities**

**October 10, 2023 —** The Kent County Levy Court today announced its commitment to cybersecurity education by participating in its second Annual Cybersecurity Awareness Month. Founded in 2004, Cybersecurity Awareness Month, held each October, is the world’s foremost initiative aimed at promoting cybersecurity awareness and best practices. Cybersecurity Awareness Month is a collaborative effort among businesses, government agencies, colleges and universities, associations, nonprofit organizations, tribal communities, and individuals committed to educating others about online safety.

After a network intrusion on July 8th that affected many of Kent County’s internet-based services and telephone lines, Information Technology Director Joseph Simmons can attest to the value of having cybersecurity measures in place to fend against cyber-attacks. He said, “There is no single cybersecurity tool that can prevent a cyber-attack, but multiple layers of defense start with awareness.”

 From mobile to connected home devices, technology is deeply intertwined with our lives. And while the evolution of technology accelerates, cybercriminals are working just as hard to find ways to compromise technology and disrupt personal and business life. Cybersecurity Awareness Month aims to highlight some of the emerging challenges that exist in the world of cybersecurity today and provide straightforward, actionable guidance that anyone can follow to create a safe and secure digital world for themselves and their loved ones.

 Starting this year, the new theme of Cybersecurity Awareness Month is Secure Our World, with the main messaging revolving around four key cybersecurity best practices:

1. Understanding the benefits of using a password manager and dispelling existing myths around password manager security and ease of use.
2. Turning on multifactor authentication on personal devices and business networks.
3. Recognizing and reporting phishing – still one of the primary threat actions used by cybercriminals today.
4. Installing updates on a regular basis and turning on automated updates.

Cybersecurity Awareness Month continues to build momentum and impact with the goal of providing everyone with the information they need to stay safer and more secure online. **Kent County Levy Court** is proud to support this far-reaching online safety awareness and education initiative which is co-managed by the [Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency](https://www.dhs.gov/CISA) and the [National Cybersecurity Alliance.](https://staysafeonline.org/)

For more information about Cybersecurity Awareness Month 2023 and how to participate in a wide variety of activities, visit [cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month](http://cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month) and [staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/](https://staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/). You can also follow and use the hashtags #CybersecurityAwarenessMonth and #SecureOurWorld on social media throughout the month.

**About Kent County Levy Court**

The July 8th, network intrusion in Kent County, Delaware led to the County having to disinfect and restore its website. Since then, numerous new technologies to improve security with updated firewalls, software that monitors every device in real time, upgraded security systems, including multifactor authentication has been implemented, including policy changes about security and network access to improve security.

**About Cybersecurity Awareness Month**
Cybersecurity Awareness Month is designed to engage and educate public- and private-sector partners through events and initiatives with the goal of raising awareness about cybersecurity to increase the resiliency of the nation in the event of a cyber incident. Since the Presidential proclamation establishing Cybersecurity Awareness Month in 2004, the initiative has been formally recognized by Congress, federal, state, and local governments and leaders from industry and academia. This united effort is necessary to maintain a cyberspace that is safer and more resilient and remains a source of tremendous opportunity and growth for years to come. For more information, visit [cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month](https://www.cisa.gov/cybersecurity-awareness-month) and [staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/](https://staysafeonline.org/cybersecurity-awareness-month/)

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