

# MILFORD LIVE



MILFORD COMMUNITY PARADE  
RETURNS IN OCTOBER



DMV REOPENS



KEMMERLIN TAKES OVER SOCCER

JULY 13, 2021 · VOL. XI · ISSUE 27

HEADLINES .....	2
CULTURE.....	5
EDUCATION.....	8
GOVERNMENT & POLITICS.....	13
HEALTH .....	15
POLICE & FIRE .....	22
SPORTS .....	25
STAY CONNECTED .....	28

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PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN K. LEONARD

# HEADLINES



PHOTO CREDIT: BRIAN K. LEONARD

# MILFORD LOWERS SCHOOL TAX FOR FIFTH YEAR IN A ROW

BY TERRY ROGERS

On July 5, Milford School District Board of Education voted to lower school taxes for the fifth year in a row. Chief Financial Officer Sara Croce presented the tax rate for review at a previous meeting, explaining the components that make up the school tax rate.

“There were no changes from the last presentation, and we feel this is rate is what we will need moving forward,” Croce said. “This year, we are proposing a rate of \$1.6995 per hundred dollars of assessed value in Kent and \$4.8028 per hundred in Sussex. Again, the rates are different for each county due to the way assessments are calculated in each county.”

Five years ago, the property tax rate for Milford School District was \$3.5682 in Sussex County and \$1.9077 in Kent County. In FY2016-17, however, the district was forced to increase the tuition tax significantly to cover the cost of children receiving special services. That same year, there was an operations referendum that also increased taxes slightly, raising it to \$5.3913 in Sussex and \$1.2626.

Since that year, the district has begun offering special services for children within the district in order to reduce the tuition cost to send them out of the district for the same services. They have expanded their Autism programs as well as others that will help them provide federally required services to children with special needs. Doing so helps reduce the tuition cost and has allowed them to slowly lower school taxes over the past five years.

The district has also paid down debt service for capital improvement referendums passed several years ago. As debt service is paid down, the tax rate for that portion of the school tax is also reduced.

“I think we need to recognize that we have been able to reduce our tax rate over the past five years,” board member David Vezmar said.



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Milford High School - 3:30-5:15

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# CULTURE



PHOTO CREDIT: MARCIA REED



# MILFORD COMMUNITY PARADE RETURNS IN OCTOBER

BY TERRY ROGERS

This week, the Milford Community Parade Committee announced that they were moving forward with plans for the parade. The 2021 parade will be held on Wednesday, October 20, stepping off at 6:30 p.m. The theme for this year's parade is "Retro Halloween."

"The Milford tradition returns after cancellation out of caution due to forecasted high winds in 2019 and in

2020 due to pandemic restrictions," Charles Gray, chairman, said. "We are grateful for the awesome work medical professionals and key decision makers processed to keep the community safe. We were saddened by the lives lost locally and globally. Our determination and this announcement comes after much deliberation through this past year. We are equally excited to say we will

See PARADE on page 6



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‘March in October.’”

The parade website, which can be found at [www.milfordparade.com](http://www.milfordparade.com), has information on how individuals, businesses and groups can enter the parade. There is also a map, detour link, list of rules and regulations as well as information on fund raising. The site also recognizes sponsors like I.G. Burton, Burriss Logistics, and Wilson’s Auction and Sales.

“We are honoring our sponsorships from 2019 along with asking for additional sponsors who can sign up at our website,” Carmen Kemper, treasurer, said. “We would like to include a Philadelphia string band performance in this year’s parade. All of our funds are raised by the committee through our fundraisers.”

Any business, organization or family that donates more than \$100 to the parade is provided a professional sign designating them as sponsors which can be displayed in a business window or yard. Donations can be made through the website link which will take them to Eventbrite. The committee has also partnered with the Milford Elks Lodge to hold a Quarter Auction on Saturday, September 11.

“Quarter Mania is an awesome time with friends bidding on items valued from \$10 to \$50, winning them with bids from 25 cents to one dollar per bid,” Mary Jo Gray, secretary, said. “Two Blue Rhino propane tanks will be offered among with many other items like gift cards to area businesses as well as items donated by local companies, individuals and organizations. As if that were not enough fun, a special chip is added where the winner can upgrade their prize to a higher valued item

if the chip is drawn. Milford Elks Lodge will be selling subs and refreshments. The doors open at 6 p.m. and the auction begins at 7 p.m.”

More information is available on the parade website where tickets can be purchased. The first 100 tickets purchased online will receive a commemorative 9/11 lapel pin designed the morning after the attacks. Only 1,000 of the pins were created.

The Milford Community Parade travels 1.7 miles through the center of Milford. Businesses, civic organizations and families are encouraged to enter the parade. Some of the ideas suggested for this year’s theme include comic book heroes, costumes from the ‘70s or ‘80s, retro cartoon characters, adapting a favorite television show from the past, and more.

“This parade is longer than most and even longer than those in amusement parks,” Mr. Gray said. “We have more than ten bands scheduled to appear. With the help of the Milford Lions, each year we have the National Band Judges from Philadelphia judge the bands’ performance. At the conclusion, band directors receive critique sheets to work from strengths and weaknesses the judges shared for their band’s performance. The information is valuable to the directors as they might be seen as subjective to their own band. This affords band directors the opportunity to focus on changes necessary so when they meet the judges in upcoming competitions, including Tournament of the Bands, they are more confident and stronger in their performances. We are proud to offer such an educational tool to the directors and to the band members, both new and senior.”

Mr. Gray explained that the committee expects to see a lot of retro characters, including Scooby Doo, Strawberry Shortcake, Power Rangers, characters from Happy Days plus many more.

“As a community, we have struggled, we have persevered and we have overcome,” Mr. Gray said. “Annually, our goal is to bring the street alive with characters for the fun and enjoyment of all ages. With the help of volunteers, the departments and City Council for the city of Milford, and local fire policemen, the evening is shared among friends and family.”



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# EDUCATION



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# SCHOOL DRESS CODE CHANGES APPROVED



BY TERRY ROGERS

On July 7, the Milford School District Board of Education approved changes to the school dress code for the 2021-22 school year. The changes were based on requests from students and parents over the past few years. Superintendent Dr. Dickerson stated that the district was no longer calling dress requirements a “uniform,” but rather a “dress code.”

“The biggest change is that we will now allow jeans and we will now allow any color collared shirt,” Dickerson said. “We have also changed the code to read “bottoms” instead of skirts and shorts. At this time, we are only allowing high school students to wear hooded sweatshirts. We have adjusted the number of days that a new student coming into the district must come into compliance from five days to 10 days.”

Under the new rule, Milford High School students would be permitted to wear solid-colored hooded sweatshirts, pullovers or polar fleece jackets. Students must keep the hood down while they are in the school building.

“We felt that five days to require a student to come into compliance was just too short,” Dr. Dickerson stated. “We understand that it does take time for them to get the right clothing and, although we do have a closet here where they can get items they need, we thought extending this to 10 days was the right way to go.”

School board member Scott Fitzgerald asked what the point of a solid-color shirt was and why a plaid or striped shirt would not be permitted.

“The policy kind of predates a lot of us as far as approved shirts,” Dr. Dickerson said. “At one time, I believe it was to prevent offensive language and those type of things. It also allowed us to identify our students and improve the look of our students. Because they dressed in a similar fashion, it eliminated whether or not someone had the means to purchase expensive clothing compared to those that did not have the same means. It kind of resolved that perception.”

School board member Jean Wylie, who served as principal of Benjamin Banneker Elementary explained that another reason the strict dress code was implemented was to address bullying.

“Bullying was a big part of the reason this was put into place,” Wylie said. “Not everyone can buy the most expensive clothes, and this made it easier for those parents who couldn’t buy the latest trend in clothing and what have you. When teachers are on field trips, it also makes it much easier to identify our students as we often ask them to wear similar colors when we are leaving school grounds.”

Dr. Dickerson explained that in order to allow parents time to begin shopping for the start of the school year, the changes needed to be implemented or they would revert back to the previous policy. Board Vice President Rony Baltazar-Lopez asked if the dress code would be applied to students who had a medical diagnosis that

See DRESS CODE on page 10

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**DRESS CODE from page 9**

allowed them to remain in remote learning and Dr. Dickerson said the policy was not extended to those students.

“I think it is a good balance between the policy we had before and one that moves forward to give students a little flexibility in their clothing,” Baltazar-Lopez said. “I remember being in tenth grade when the new dress code policy was implemented and that we, as students, were not really pleased with it. I think this is a better compromise for students, parents and teachers.”

Wylie also explained that when the dress code was first implemented, some schools were strictly enforcing the policy while some were not. Administration then required all schools to be strict in enforcement. She also stated that there were some types of clothing that were distracting, and the dress code addressed those types of clothing as well.

“If the intention is to prevent school attire from being distracting and from distracting in education, I think this policy meets the goals we have set,” School Board President Jason Miller said. “

The changes to the dress code passed with a vote of six to zero as School Board member Dr. Adam Brownstein was not present at the meeting. The district will also post on social media as well as their website how to donate to the clothing closet used to help students who may not be able to afford dress code required clothing. Students may also be provided vouchers from the district that may be used to purchase required clothing items if there is nothing available in the clothing closet. Anyone with questions about how to donate to the clothing closet, can contact the district office at 302-422-1600.



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# NEW SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER SWORN IN

BY TERRY ROGERS

On June 29, Dr. Adam Brownstein was sworn in to serve as the newest member of the Milford School District Board of Education. Dr. Brownstein will take over the seat vacated by Renate Wiley. There was no election as Dr. Brownstein ran unopposed. He was sworn in by Vice-President Rony Baltazar-Lopez and will serve Area C.

“Dr. Brownstein was unable to join us this evening,” Dr. Kevin Dickerson, superintendent, said. “I also want to point out that Scott Fitzgerald also recently received his Board Member Certification. We welcome both of these gentlemen to the board.”

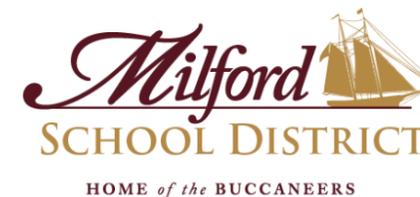
On July 6, the board held its reorganization meeting, appointing the president, vice-president and the executive secretary.

Jason Miller was elected unanimously to serve a second term as president of the board and Baltazar-Lopez was elected unanimously to serve a second term as vice president. Dr. Dickerson will serve as executive secretary.

Baltazar-Lopez stated later in the meeting that there was recent legislation passed in the House of Representatives and Senate to reduce the number of years a school board member could serve from five years to four. It has not been signed by Gov. John Carney as of yet, but it is believed that those who are already serving on boards would be grandfathered in and that the new term of office would begin after the next election cycle. Dr. Dickerson explained that he would bring that information to the board at an upcoming meeting.

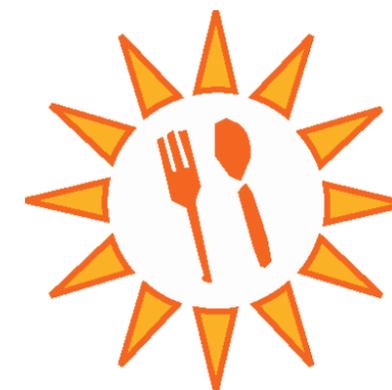
“I remember this meeting last year,” Miller said before the meeting adjourned. “We were sitting at home behind our computers and there were a lot of unknowns. I, for one, was scared. Now we are all together and we are also finishing three hours earlier. One year certainly does make a difference.”

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The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) provides healthy meals and snacks to children when school is not in session. The SFSP is a federally funded program operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and is managed locally by the Delaware Department of Education (DDOE). The goal of the SFSP is to ensure that children receive the nutrition they need to continue to grow, learn and play throughout the summer months!

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- Call 1-866-348-6479
- Log onto <http://www.fns.usda.gov/meals4kids>

# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO CREDIT: J&J PHOTOGRAPHY

## DMV REOPENS: ANOTHER SIGN OF NORMALCY

BY DANIEL LARLHAM, JR.

As Delaware continues to reopen businesses as COVID-19 vaccinations rise, there's one more sign of normalcy: The DMV is returning to normal operations July 13.

That's the same date that Gov. John Carney's State of Emergency order is slated to expire, dropping masking and social distancing mandates statewide. Those who are not vaccinated to continue to wear masks.

The state also has reached a 70.6% vaccination rate, meaning that percentage of those eligible for vaccines have had at least one dose.

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles Thursday announcement follows theaters and music venues announced indoor concerts for the first time in 16 months.

Masking at the DMV will follow Centers for Disease Control guidance, asking those who are not vaccinated to continue to wear masks and social distance.

The full reopening means changes for drivers.

Drive license/vehicle registration suspensions for bad checks will return, along with uninsured motorist customer notifications for any outstanding balance owed to the DMV.

Class D road tests and counter eye exams will resume. Specific guidance has been put in place from the DPH to protect both customers and staff. The DMV asks that customers follow all instructions received from DMV staff when using these services.

The final change coming to the DMV is the that late fees for expired state credentials and vehicle transactions will be assessed starting on Aug 2.

One pandemic-inspired item that will continue is that select DMV transactions, such state-issued credentials and vehicle registrations, can be completed through the [DMV website](#) or by using the self-serve kiosks at Delaware DMV locations.



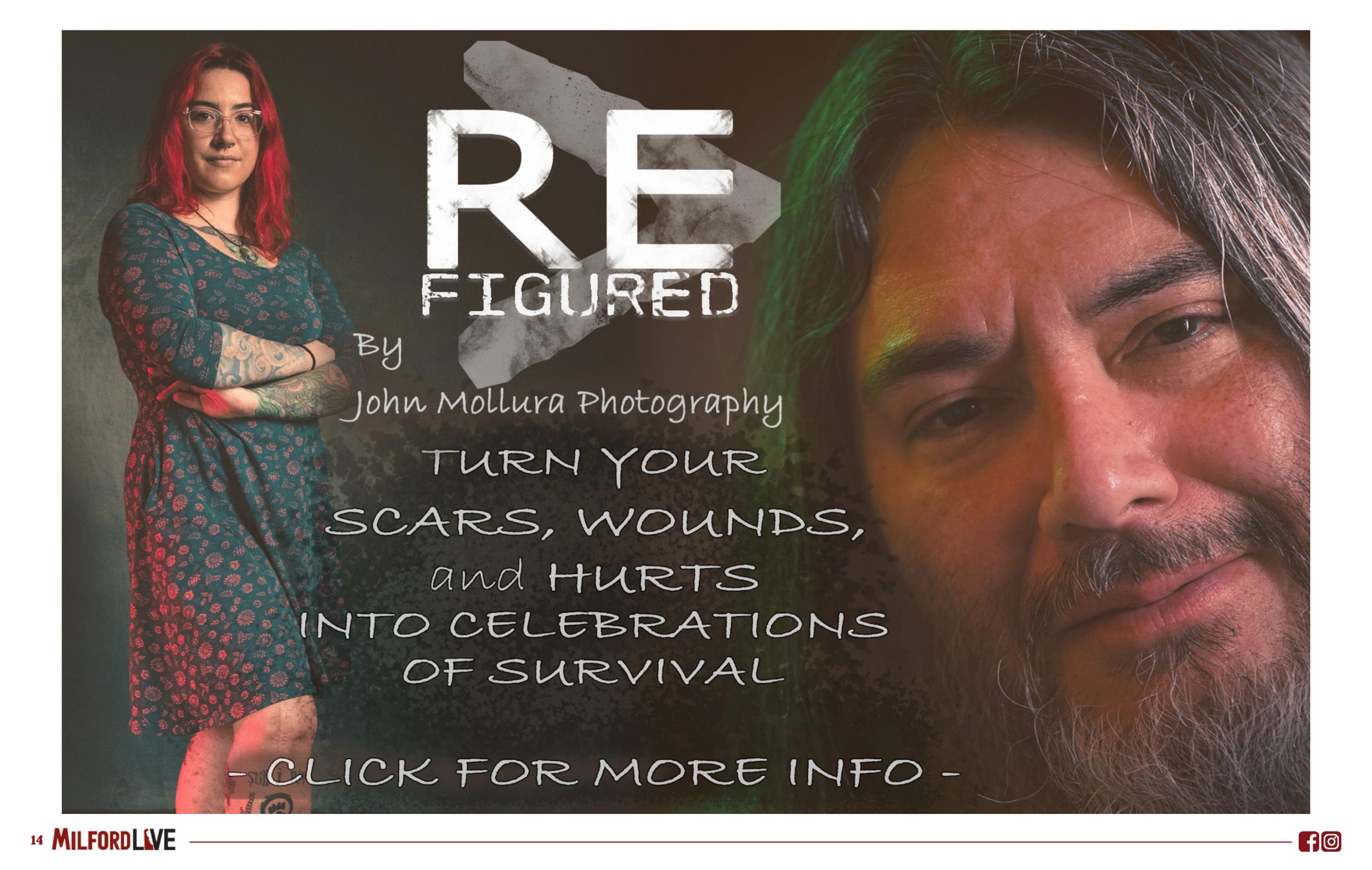
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By

John Mollura Photography

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# HEALTH

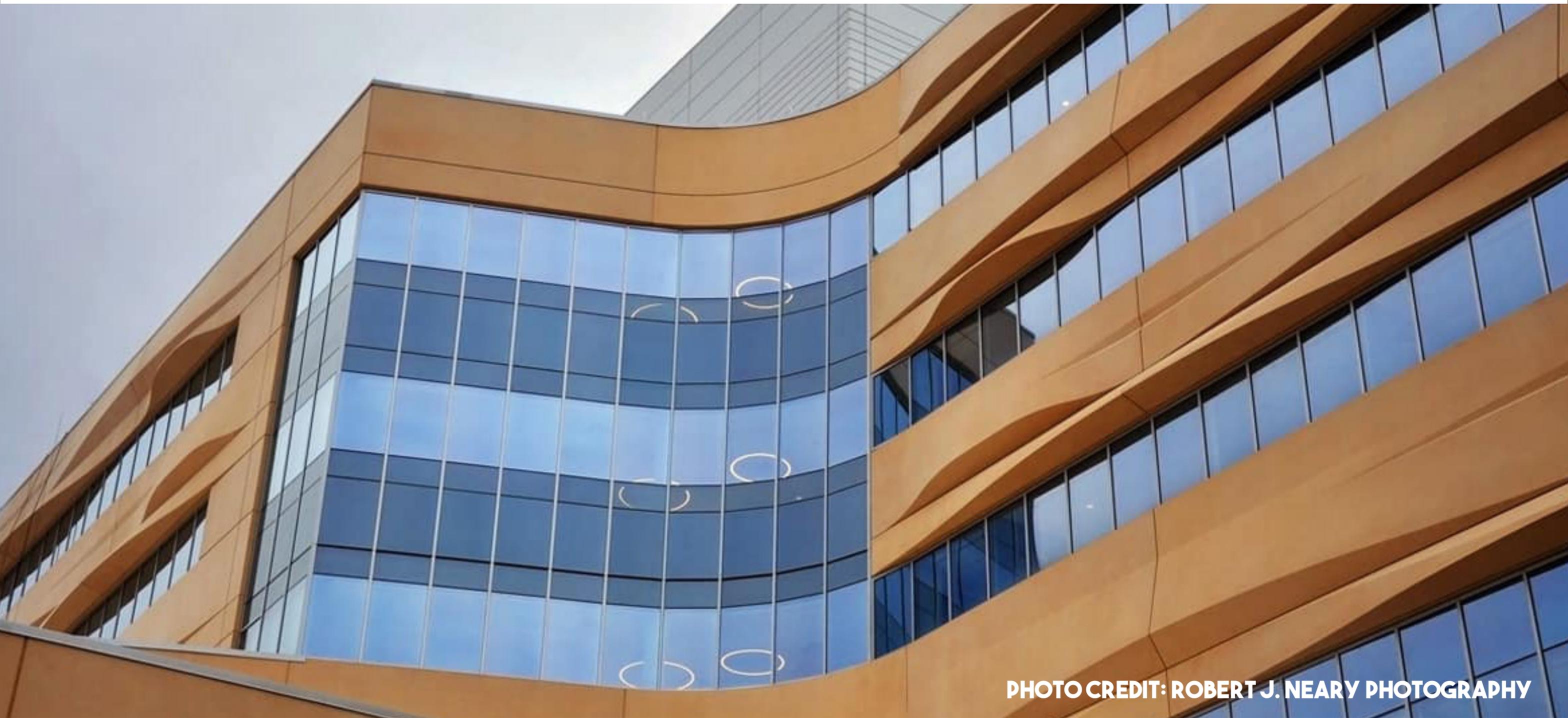


PHOTO CREDIT: ROBERT J. NEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

# DELAWARE RECORDS NO COVID-19 DEATHS IN LAST 7 DAYS

BY BETSY PRICE

While Delaware's percentage of new positive COVID-19 tests continues to drift up, vaccinations do, too.

The Delaware Division of Public Health said Friday in a press release that the state is just 14 cases away from topping the 110,000 mark of COVID-19 cases reported to the state.

The seven-day average of new positive cases decreased to 24.1 as of July 8. That's down one from last week, but up four from the week before.

As of July 6, the seven-day average for the percentage of total tests that were positive was 1.7%, an increase from 1.2% as of June 29.

In addition, 31 individuals are currently hospitalized due to COVID-19, steady from last week, with six critically ill.

Delaware reported July 9 that 70.6% of those eligible for vaccination have received at least one dose; which means 53.5% of the total population have had at least one dose. That also means 455,096 Delawareans are fully vaccinated.

A total of 1,695 Delawareans have passed away due to complications from COVID-19, but none in the last seven days.

Nationwide, health officials are increasingly warning that the majority of those who are dying from COVID-19 are those who were not vaccinated.

There were no COVID-19 deaths reported in the last week.

While COVID-19 cases and deaths are rising in other states, Delaware's variant cases remain steady and low.

The state identified variant cases by testing random positive samples to see which strain of the virus caused the infection. As has been the case for weeks, the U.K. Alpha strain is the most widespread in Delaware, with 956 cases followed by the New York Iota strain with 316. The Indian Delta strain, feared nationally for its ability to infect faster, has shown up 23 times on state testing.



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# ONE DELAWAREAN DIAGNOSED WITH LISTERIA, LIKELY FROM READY-TO-EAT FOOD

BY BETSY PRICE

A Delaware resident has been diagnosed with a case of Listeria, which is a serious food poisoning caused by bacteria.

The Delaware Division of Public Health declined to give any details about the person or how they came in contact with the bacteria.

But it did say the exposure is assumed to have happened in Delaware and that the Delaware case and two cases in Texas were linked to people who were either hospitalized or in a long-term care setting.

The outbreak of Listeria monocytogenes infections have been linked linked to recalled Tyson Foods ready-to-eat chicken products.

Listeria can cause severe illness if the bacteria spreads

beyond the gut to other parts of the body. Pregnant people, adults 65 years or older, and people with weakened immune systems are at higher risk for severe illness.

The Tyson frozen, fully cooked chicken products were produced between Dec. 26, 2020, and April 13, 2021. They are subject to recall. The product labels can be seen [here](#). They bear the establishment number “EST. P-7089” on the product bag or inside the USDA mark of inspection.

Products include frozen, fully cooked chicken strips, diced chicken, chicken wing sections, and fully cooked pizza with chicken and were sold under many brands including Tyson, Jet’s Pizza, Casey’s General Store, Marco’s Pizza and Little Caesars.



The Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) has been connecting and supporting breast cancer survivors, and their families in communities across Delaware for over 30 years!

DBCC offers breast cancer survivors a variety of resources including: financial aid, personalized support, health programs, activities, and events with other breast cancer survivors to foster healing and recovery.



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I gained both peace and strength from observing life through nature during my breast cancer journey. It gives you a wonderful reassurance that nature is a cycle and proof that life and nature do go on in a beautiful way.  
”

To learn more, volunteer, or to donate to support DBCC's work in our communities visit: [debreastcancer.org](http://debreastcancer.org)

See LISTERIA on page 18

## LISTERIA from page 17

These items were shipped nationwide to retailers and institutions, including hospitals, nursing facilities, restaurants, schools, and Department of Defense locations. There is also concern that some products may be in both consumer and institutional freezers.

Consumers who have the product in their freezers should also either throw the product away or return it to the place of purchase.

Listeria monocytogenes can withstand a wide range of conditions including freezing, drying, heat, and relatively high levels of acid, salinity, and alcohol. Unlike most foodborne pathogens, it can grow at standard refrigerator temperature, which makes it a particular problem in ready-to-eat foods that are not cooked before eating.

Symptoms of severe illness usually start one to four weeks after eating contaminated food. However, symptoms can start as late as 10 weeks after. They can include headache, stiff neck, confusion, loss of balance, and convulsions, in addition to fever and muscle aches. Listeria can also cause common food poisoning symptoms, like diarrhea and fever.



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# DELAWARE COVID-19 CASES DRIFT UP A BIT; VACCINES UP, TOO

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware's COVID-19 numbers have crept up slightly in the last 10 days.

July 6's state dashboard said the state is now averaging 27 new cases per day over the last week with a testing rate of 1.5%.

That's up from an average daily case rate of 14.1 the week of June 19-25, when the percentage of positive tests was 1%.

There are 26 hospitalizations (four critical), down from Friday's 31 hospitalizations.

At the same time, 70.5% of those eligible for vaccines have received at least one dose of vaccine and 53.3% of the total population has had at least one shot.

As of July 7, the state has seen 109,900 cases of COVID-19, and 1,1,019,054 doses of the vaccine administered in Delaware.

On July 9, the state said that that the Delta variant of COVID-19 was not making a lot of inroads in Delaware, with only 15 cases confirmed, although it's spreading rapidly in some states that have large unvaccinated areas. That variant originated in India and is said to spread



more easily and be more dangerous than other form.

To determine spread, the Delaware Public Health Laboratory routinely tests some specimens of positive results. Last week it tested 41. In total, it's tested 3,230.

Nationally, health officials are starting to watch out for the Lambda variant, which originates from South America and has been the majority of cases in Peru.

The two most common variants in Delaware are the UK Alpha one, with 947 cases, and the New York Iota strain with 316 cases.

The Delaware Division of Public Health also said Friday that there have been 405 breakthrough cases in people who have been vaccinated, less than one-tenth of 1%. Five of those people have died from it, although not necessarily from COVID-19.

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# DEADLY HEMLOCK SPECIES DISCOVERED IN SUSSEX COUNTY

BY TERRY ROGERS



The Delaware Department of Agriculture is warning Sussex County residents that two species of poison hemlock have

been discovered. The spotted water hemlock, *cicuta maculata* and another form of hemlock, *conicum maculatum*, were discovered in area wetlands.

“Both hemlocks bloom from June through late August,” a press release from the Delaware Department of Agriculture read. “As members of the wild carrot family, both plants have small white flowers in umbrella-like groupings. People may mistake these plants for wild carrot, which is commonly called Queen Anne’s lace, or wild parsnip or celery. People who like to forage for natural foods or cut wildflowers are advised to avoid wild carrot-looking plants to prevent the possibility of being poisoned.”

An invasive biennial, hemlock grows from six to eight feet tall. The plants not only grow in wetlands but may be found in ditches, meadows, pastures and along cultivated fields. The stems are smooth with purple blotches. Leaves are alternately dark glossy green, appear fern-like and are triangular, lacy with veins running through the tips of the leaf serrations. The plant emits an odor, but people should not crush any

part of the plant as toxic alkaline cells can be released, poisoning the person. Hemlock is native to Europe, northern Africa and western Asia, introduced into the United States as an ornamental plant in the 1800s.

Spotted water hemlock grows up to six feet tall and the stems vary between solid green or purple to green with purple stripes or spots. The leaves are fern-like and lacy with veins ending at the base of the notch of the leaf edge.

The Department of Agriculture stated that anyone who believes they have found hemlock or spotted water hemlock should take a photo of the plant and send it to [DDA.marketing@delaware.gov](mailto:DDA.marketing@delaware.gov) for identification. They warned that residents should not try to eradicate the plants themselves as a licensed aquatic pest control company needs to be contacted to treat both hemlock and spotted water hemlock. Always wear long sleeves, long pants and gloves when working with plants that are unknown.

Sap from the plants can cause skin irritation or rash while others may experience serious illness. Mowing can also release toxic particles which may be inhaled. Depending on exposure, whether the hemlock is inhaled, directly contacted or ingested, signs and symptoms of poisoning in humans can occur within 15

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See HEMLOCK on page 21

**HEMLOCK from page 20**

minutes or may not appear for several hours. Symptoms include nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach pain, irregular heartbeat, dilation of the pupils, respiratory distress, muscle damage, renal failure and central nervous system involvement which could lead to seizures as well as death.

The plant is also poisonous to animals which is why eradicating the plant in meadows or fields where livestock graze is critical. Ingestion of hemlock or spotted water hemlock by livestock can lead to death in just two to three hours. Most livestock do not find the leaves palatable, so they may not ingest them if other feed is available. Symptoms that livestock have ingested hemlock or spotted water hemlock usually occur within 30 to 60 minutes and there is no antidote. The toxins affect the nerve impulse transmission to the muscles and the animals die of respiratory failure, usually before the cause is determined.

If you suspect you may have ingested, come in contact with or inhaled hemlock or spotted water hemlock, contact the Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222 or call 911.



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# POLICE & FIRE





# CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY HOLDS DRILL IN DOWNTOWN MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

On July 6, visitors to downtown Milford were treated to a display of the new ladder truck, Tower 42, which was recently placed in service with Carlisle Fire Company. The volunteer fire department held a drill to test the maneuverability of the new apparatus.

“We wanted to test the tower in some of our more constricted areas, such as downtown with the row-type construction of buildings as well as parking on both sides,” Ryan Knowles of Carlisle Fire Company, said. “We plan to do more training throughout other areas of the city.”

Knowles explained that the training was based on a fire which occurred in 2003 which destroyed a large section of the southeastern side of Walnut Street.

“We wanted to test what we learned over the years,” Knowles said.” This also helped us with positioning of

our newer apparatus should we have something of that magnitude again.”

The 2003 fire began shortly after 3 p.m. on May 30, starting in an upstairs apartment over what was then Wiley Hardware and Appliances. Because of the age of the buildings and lack of firewalls, the fire spread quickly, requiring more than 200 firefighters to get the blaze under control.

Although the fire was devastating, it actually led to the rebirth of the downtown area. Today, the buildings that were destroyed or damaged in the fire house Wattay Accounting, Milford Tavern, La Hacienda, and Nancy’s Café.



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BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford School District Superintendent Dr. Kevin Dickerson announced at a recent school board meeting that it was possible that the district would have their resource officer staff reduced from three to one. In the past, Milford Police Department provided three officers to the district, but Chief Kenneth Brown explained that he is expecting some staff shortages in the fall.

“I am hoping this is just temporary, but I need to plan ahead,” Chief Brown said. “We are short a few officers, but it is not down a critical number right now. However, I have four officers who are expecting babies and almost all of them are due in the fall. Those guys are going to be out 12 weeks, although one has promised he would be back to work in two weeks. With those four out and already being a little short, I just can’t guarantee that we can provide three officers to the school this year.”

## MSD RESOURCE OFFICERS REDUCED TO ONE

Dr. Dickerson stated that the one resource officer would be located at Milford High School and Milford Central Academy where they see the most need. Evelyn I. Morris Early Childhood Center already gets support from the Delaware State Police as well as a constable who also works at Banneker Elementary.

“We would like to look at placing constables in other locations,” Dr. Dickerson said. “We have been very fortunate to have had the resource officers for as long as we have, but right now, we may have to manage with just the one.”

Dr. Dickerson stated that there would be postings for two constable positions with the district in the next few weeks in preparation of the loss of the two officers.



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BY KEVIN EICKMAN

With Milford boys' soccer coach Todd French stepping down following last year's spectacular season, the search for his replacement was going to be crucial.

While the search was broad, the first choice to lead the Buccaneers comes from close to home. Prince Kemmerlin was approved by the Milford School Board to become the soccer team's next coach.

When we talk about last season being unprecedented for Milford soccer, they went undefeated, won the Henlopen Conference Championship, before a heart-breaking first round exit from the state tournament, suffering a 2-1 defeat at the hands of Middletown. With

## KEMMERLIN TAKES OVER MILFORD SOCCER HELM

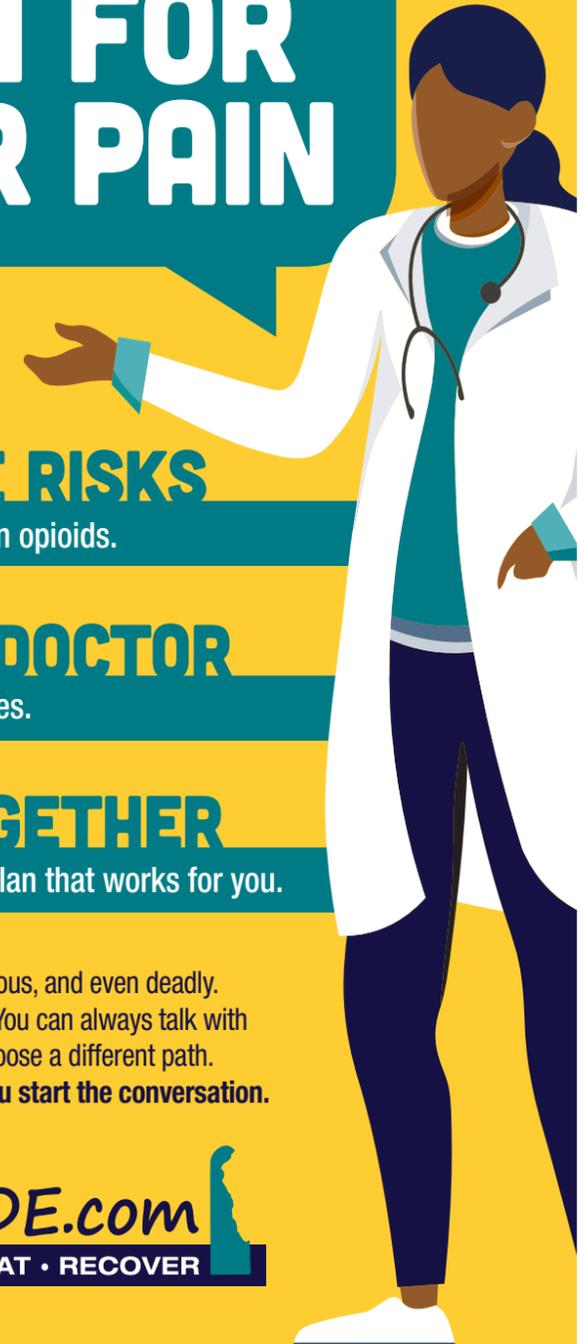
the bar being set, after speaking with Kemmerlin, the feeling is that the program is in good hands. "Last year was arguably the best year ever for Milford soccer, I think that we as a group have put the pieces in place to keep the program headed in the right direction," he said.

Kemmerlin, who was born and raised in Milford, surprisingly came to soccer later in life. During high school he didn't play the sport at all, not really becoming interested in it until college, and only then playing mostly pick-up and club level playing a few small club matches. "Soccer wasn't really a sport I was very interested in when I was younger. Once I started playing it, and understanding it, I fell in love with the game," he stated.

Kemmerlin started his coaching career at Milford Central Academy. When they asked for volunteers, he simply raised his hand and just like that he was a coach. Kemmerlin quickly developed a rapport with his players, connecting not only on the pitch, but as students and people as well. "At this level, you quickly realize that this just isn't about teaching someone how to kick a ball. You begin to understand how much of an influence you have as an educator. You are building young men and women, instilling values that will impact them for the rest of their lives," he added. "You quickly realize you're a teacher first and a coach second, it's a big responsibility."

See **KEMMERLIN** on page 27

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**KEMMERLIN from page 26**

Last season Kemmerlin was the head coach of the Milford girls' soccer team, who turned around recent poor performances and turned in a respectable 8-7 season. "I really enjoyed coaching the girls last season, so when the boys job opened up, I figured why not give it a try," he said. The fact that he was selected, came as a bit of a surprise to him. "I knew I had interviewed well, but you never know. When I first got the news, I was thrilled. It then slowly began to sink in that I now have a tremendous responsibility to build on what Coach French has put together. The one thing that works in our favor at Milford however is, we all work together. There really isn't a boys' and girls' team, there is just Milford soccer, that is how we make it work."

Reminded of last year's success, Kemmerlin was quick to respond when asked how he thought he would do with so many players having graduated. "I know almost every player on this team, I coached them at the Central Academy, so I believe I can keep on making them better." Kemmerlin concluded. "I honestly feel that this is not a short-term blip of success for Milford, we are going to continue to improve on what we have built."

When not acting as a substitute teacher, Kemmerlin loves spending time with his family. He has a son Luka, while his wife Jillian is expecting their second son Caden in about a month. Other than that, he is a big fan of exercise and loves to play disc golf.



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