

# MILFORD LIVE



VINYARD SHIPYARD

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HONORED

MILFORD HIGH CROSS COUNTRY

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PHOTO BY MARCIA REED

# HEADLINES

A close-up photograph of a mallard duck swimming on a pond. The duck is facing right, its dark green head and neck contrasting with its yellow bill and a white patch near its eye. Its body is covered in brown feathers with dark spots. The water is slightly rippled, and the background shows tall, thin reeds.

PHOTO BY JOANN KINGSLEY



**BY TERRY ROGERS**

The Downtown Milford, Inc. (DMI) Vinyard Shipyard Task Force continues to work toward a private-public partnership that would expand the Mispillion Greenway. The task force, which has been working on the project for three years, hopes to create a tourism center for the city.

"Right now, you have to kind of walk from the park through the church and back around to get to the Riverwalk," Matthew Babbitt, site director at Abbott's Mill Nature Center and a member of the task force, said. "I know that Parks and Rec has received grant funds that are contingent on the switching of the shipyard from private to public in order to extend the Riverwalk down along the river and through the parcel there which would be great."

Babbitt explained that the task force has spent a lot of time bringing in constituents and fund raisers to seek funding as well as support for the project. A business

## VINYARD SHIPYARD PLANS CONTINUE

plan has been created and an appraisal completed.

"There has been support all the way to the Governor's office," Babbitt said. "Recently, we were awarded \$800,000 from the Community Development Fund which is part of the Bond Bill courtesy of Sen. (Dave) Wilson. That money will be used as a starting fund so we can go after larger funding from organizations like the Longwood Foundation and other private foundations. Our goal is to build up to the appraisal price which is \$3 million and that is just to purchase the shipyard. We would still need operating funds as well as a master plan to create a tourism center for the town. It would be a very beautiful event space and the shipyard activities could still continue."

According to Babbitt, the task force has spoken to several non-profits in the area who would continue the daily activities of the shipyard. There are plans to create an apprenticeship program which would create workforce development opportunities for the community. The group also hopes to use the shipyard for eco-tourism.

"Abbott's Mill has been partnering with Milford Parks and Rec this whole year, leading four kayaking trips each month on the Mispillion River and the millponds," Babbitt said. "This was birthed from the shipyard task force. We are seeing tourism coming. We had a young couple who was in town from Cincinnati for Firefly. They ended up joining the kayaking trip just a few weeks ago. We see visitors from DE Turf and the booming beach traffic. Tourism is growing here in Milford and we see the shipyard as a central piece for that. It can really be everything, an event space, workforce development,

tourist area, the expansion of the Riverwalk and public facilities as well as a draw for other economic development in the area."

Babbitt explained that the task force is working with local colleges, including Delaware Technical and Community College as well as the University of Delaware to build up the workforce development portion of the project. They have also met with leaders in St. Michael's and are working to bring them to the shipyard to gain an understanding of how to capitalize on the area. The task force has also visited the Riverfront Development Corporation in Wilmington to learn what they did to grow that area.

"Obviously, our Riverwalk is not as industrialized as Wilmington, but it is the same model," Babbitt said. "We would use the Riverwalk to draw people in and make it an active part of Milford life."

The Vinyard Shipyard is the last remaining shipyard in Milford, restored by Sudler and Joan Lofland. In the late 18th century, Milford was known for the ships constructed along the shores of the Mispillion. The Vinyard Shipyard was known for building high quality sailing vessels and tugboats. When World War I began, the shipyard created wooden sub chasers for the Navy and during Prohibition, built rum runners for the Coast Guard. During World War II, the shipyard built wooden-hull sub chasers. From 1927 until 1951, Vinyard built luxury yachts. The shipyard continued repairing ships and building wooden boats until 1973. Delaware Marine

**See VINYARD on page 4**

## VINYARD from page 3

& Manufacturing took over the shipyard, building boats there until 1983 when it was abandoned. The Loflands purchased the property and restored the shipyard. It was designated as historic in 2016.



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# CULTURE



PHOTO BY SCOTT EVERE

# HOLIDAY STROLL SHIFTS TO SATURDAY

BY TERRY ROGERS

For the first time in its 16-year history, Milford's Holiday Stroll will take place on Saturday rather than Friday. The event is planned, snow or shine, on Dec. 4, from 4 to 9 p.m.

"We decided to move to Saturday due to feedback from a new merchant group," Lang Redden, a member of the Holiday Stroll committee, said. "They felt more people and families could attend on a Saturday. The theory is that on Fridays, families are tired coming home from work and school, but would be more energized and motivated to come on Saturday. The timing is also earlier for those that would like to attend but have a harder time driving during the dark hours."

The Holiday Stroll is designed as an old-fashioned holiday celebration with beautifully decorated shops, bakeries, restaurants and art galleries downtown. Businesses offer complimentary treats, there is live holiday music and an outdoor Christmas Market along the Riverwalk. There will be wagon rides, children's activities and a firepit with s'mores at the library amphitheater.

"This year, we are coming out with a "Golden Ticket" showcasing our event sponsors," Redden said. "Pick up a brochure at participating locations on Nov. 15 and drop by their store to get a stamp anytime between Nov. 15 and Dec. 4. Participants can then drop off their completed ticket at the DMI table during the Holiday Stroll to receive a prize."

The Christmas Market will include items created by local artisans. Downtown merchants will be open late that evening for holiday shopping and Carlisle Fire Hall will be there with emergency vehicles. There will be Irish dancers, miniature horses and the Milford Museum will be open late for tours as well.

Masks and six-foot spacing is encouraged but not mandatory as most events will be outside.

"Visitors will be able to see Santa and his elves through the large windows in a special Santa display," Redden said. "Onlookers are welcome to take photos and leave letters for Santa."

Santa will arrive downtown on Small Business Saturday, Nov. 27. He will be in his house every Saturday from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. until Dec. 18. During the Holiday Stroll, Santa will be located at the Delaware Music School where strollers can watch he and his elves behind the large glass windows. Children can leave letters for Santa and families are welcome to take photos.

For more information about the Holiday Stroll, contact DMI at 302-839-1180 or email director@down-townmilford.org.



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# FRIENDS RALLY AROUND FRENCH FAMILY



BY TERRY ROGERS

Todd and Lauren French are familiar faces in the Milford community. Both teachers, the two have touched many lives in their classrooms as well as on the soccer field. Todd served as head soccer coach in Milford while both Frenchs helped with "Girls on the Run." However, today, the couple is facing significant medical obstacles, leading friends to create a GoFundMe to help support their growing family.

"Many of you know Todd and Lauren French and have had your life touched by them in some way," the GoFundMe, created by the Friends of Todd and Lauren, reads. "Maybe you grew up with them in Milford or went to school with Lauren at UD or Todd at Eastern (or one of the other 10 schools Todd has a degree from). Maybe your son or daughter was lucky enough to be taught by Todd or Lauren or coached by them in soccer or Girls on the Run. However you know them, you know they are the kindest, most caring, compassionate and

dedicated individuals and that they make this town, our lives and this world a brighter and better place."

Seven years ago, Todd was diagnosed with cardiac sarcoidosis, a rare inflammatory disease that can impact any organ, but is especially dangerous in the heart. The disease causes immune cells to form granulomas in the heart, leading to arrhythmia and potential heart failure. A device that acts as a pacemaker and defibrillator was implanted in Todd's heart to try to keep his heart beating in a normal rhythm. He has also undergone ablations where doctors burn parts of the heart to try to force it into a normal rhythm. This has led to many helicopter rides to Penn Hospital, long stays in the hospital, many of them alone due to COVID. Recently, Todd was placed on the national transplant list as a Status 2 patient which normally means he could have a new heart within one or two months. Until a heart is found, however, he must remain at Penn Hospital.

"In late October, the Frenchs were told that there were two hearts available," the GoFundMe reads. "The team passed on one only to discover that the second one was unacceptable. They had barely enough time to process that information when Lauren gave birth to their second child, Penelope Rose "Penny" French who was born on Oct. 20. Penny met her big brother, Teddy, a few days later while Todd watched via Facetime."

In an effort to support this growing family, friends are trying to raise \$100,000 to take some of the burden from Lauren while Todd remains in the hospital. Several

businesses have contributed to the fundraiser, including Baked on Eighth, the Nashville bakery owned by Adam and Leah Carmean as well as Radka's Boutique in Lewes, owned by Chelsea Carmean. Currently, the group has raised almost \$41,000.

"Waiting is getting tough, and we are all growing anxious," Lauren posted on social media on Nov. 7. "Two calls for hearts that did not pan out in two weeks has been a lot on our spirits. One doctor let Todd know that it is extremely rare to occur. Praying the next heart is the one. Now for the good stuff, Penny and Todd met in person today. Moments like these are helping us push through."

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# A HOLIDAY CLASSIC COMES TO THE STAGE IN MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

The story in Second Street Players' holiday selection this year will be familiar to many as it presents the stage version of "It's a Wonderful Life".

Directed by Thom Harris, this version is true to the classic film, featuring the

heartwarming saga of George Bailey (played by Alex Lloyd-Wood), the everyman from the small town of Bedford Falls whose dreams of escape and adventure have been repeatedly quashed by notions of family obligation and civic duty.

It is Christmas Eve and George's guardian angel Clarence (played by Bernard Noeller) descends to save him from despair and to remind him—by showing him what the world would have been like had he never been born—that it has been, after all, a wonderful life. This sparkling and magical play not only celebrates the season, it also celebrates the American philosophy of life: that hard work, fair play, and the love and support of family and community will be rewarded.

All performances of "It's a Wonderful Life" will be at the Riverfront Theater, 2 South Walnut Street in Milford, and are scheduled for Nov. 26, 27, 28 and Dec.



3, 4, 5. Friday and Saturday shows begin at 7 p.m. and Sunday shows begin at 2 p.m. Seats are \$20 with a \$1 discount available to seniors, military, students, and our members. To purchase tickets or for more information, visit [www.secondstreetplayers.com](http://www.secondstreetplayers.com). Patrons who need assistance with the ticketing website or with other questions may email info@secondstreetplayers.com, or leave a message at (302) 422-0220.

"It's a Wonderful Life" is produced by special arrangement with The Dramatic Publishing Company of Woodstock, Illinois ([www.dramaticpublishing.com](http://www.dramaticpublishing.com)). The show is supported, in part, by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowments of the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [www.DelawareScene.com](http://www.DelawareScene.com).

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**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Partnering with Three Rivers Wreath & Plant Company, Downtown Milford Inc.'s (DMI) Design Committee is offering fresh and fragrant wreaths, garlands, swags and kissing balls for the holiday season. The Design Committee created "Milford in Bloom," which provides downtown with the annual installation of flowers on lamp posts and baskets as well as seasonal greens in the fall.

"Milford In Bloom has been running seasonal fundraisers for over five years and 100 percent of the profit

## DMI DESIGN COMMITTEE HOLDS WREATH SALE

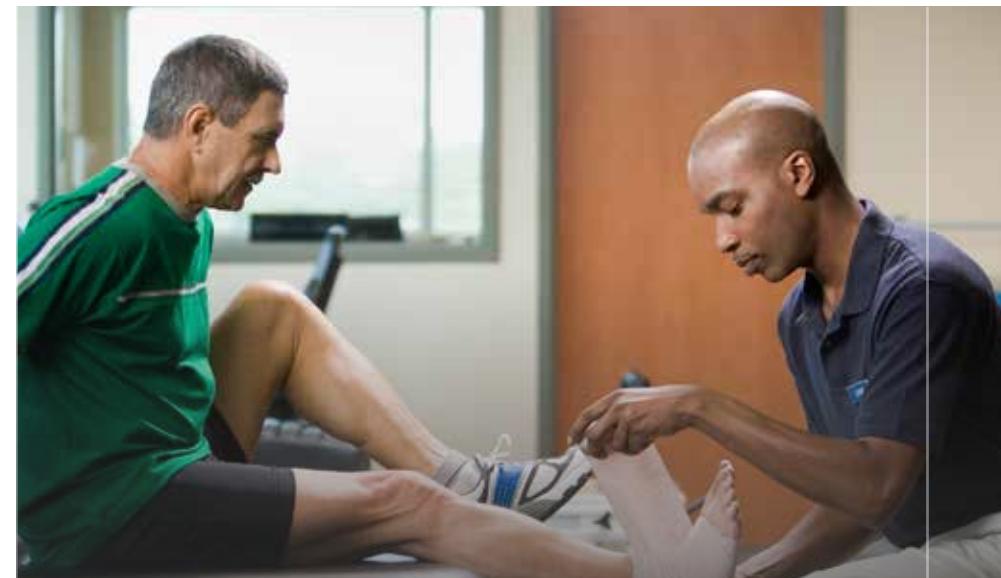
goes toward the purchase of the annual plants," Dave Pickrell, a member of the committee said. "I don't think anyone would disagree that this program needs to continue, not only for the enjoyment of our residents, but because of the positive visual experience the plants provide for visitors as well."

The fundraiser offers several different types of wreaths as well as door swags, tabletop plants and kissing balls. Pickrell explained that DMI discovered Three Rivers just this year and chose them because they are located close to the Northeast.

"They own and operate their own nursery and tree farm," Pickrell said. "They specialize in direct sale fundraising programs for schools and non-profits. Since COVID, we discovered that direct sale and ship methods were a safer avenue for the customer, and they eliminate waste."

The fundraiser began Oct. 28 and runs through Dec. 5. This year, buyers can choose a shipping date when they place their order. Flyers have been placed around town with a QR code that anyone interested can scan or orders can be placed by visiting <https://threerivers-fundraising.com/fund/dminc-wr21>.

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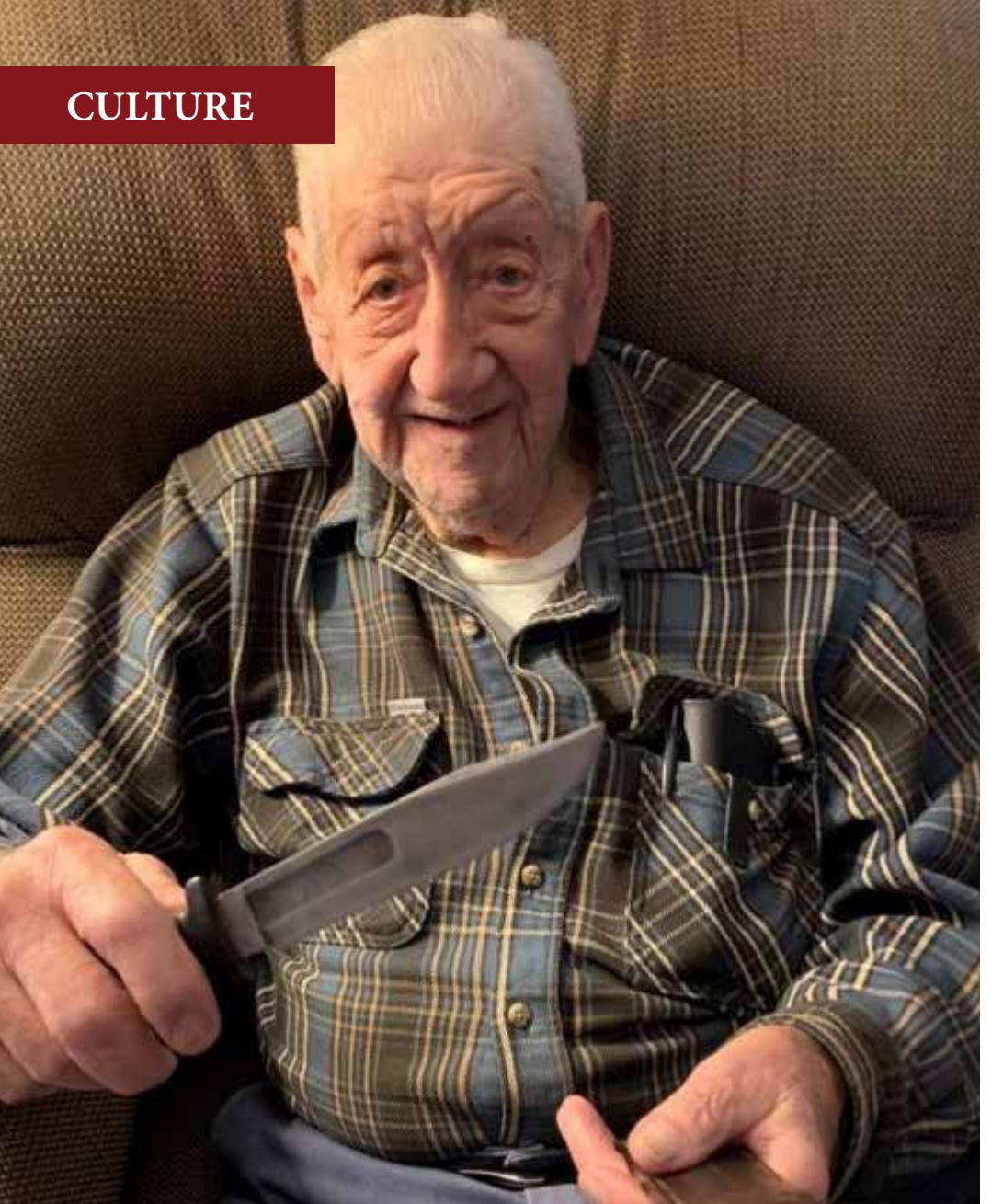
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 DELAWARE TECH



BY BETSY PRICE

Tom Maloney and his commanding officer were the first off their landing craft at Utah Beach during the 1944 D-Day invasion of Normandy.

They dropped into 10 feet of water. Both were forced to ditch their packs and guns to reach the surface again.

Able to climb back on the transport, Maloney's enraged captain grabbed a gun off one of his men and put it to the head of the sailor who had landed the boat.

# MILFORD MAN'S WWII SERVICE TOOK HIM AROUND WORLD, INTO D-DAY INVASION

"I'll blow your damn head off," the captain told the sailor. "You back this boat up. Next time she stops, she better be high and dry."

She was, and the troops raced across the sand amid bullets and bombs. The only thing Maloney carried was a hunting knife his daddy had given him before he left for war.

He didn't fret.

"You're always going to find somebody dead, and he would have rations and stuff," the 98-year-old Milford resident said. "And I knew guns and stuff like that were plentiful."

Participating in D-Day is one of many dramatic memories that Thomas Andrew Maloney has of his three years overseas during World War II as a member of the 295 Combat Engineers. His crew built roads and bridges for troops to pass over.

He can still reel off his serial number: "32. 75. 48. 48. You never forget that."

Maloney was 19 when he was drafted in 1942. Raised on a farm in Milford Neck, a few miles east of Milford, he had dropped out of high school in 11th grade and was working at a bomber factory in Baltimore, fitting ball turrets into planes on an assembly line.

The oldest of six boys, he was the first of five to go to war. His war would take him to Africa, Italy, the British Isles, Belgium, France and Germany.

He'd help burn wool uniforms in Africa, suffer through the Battle of the Bulge without winter clothes, single-handedly shoot down a strafing German plane on Utah Beach, blow up a bunny he thought was a Nazi, hunt deer for fresh meat with a Native American sergeant who called him "country boy," and sleep under trucks or in old buildings, but never in a tent, which he called "not much good."

Neither was a chicken coop he chose on the way to Germany. He leaned a board up against a wall so he could sleep on it.

"Within about 15 minutes I had about 1,000 chicken lice on me," he said. "Man, I couldn't stand it."

Maloney's wife of 75 years, Gladys, and son Barry say Maloney didn't talk much about the war for decades. Then about 25 years ago, the child of a neighbor asked Maloney to come to his class at nearby Lulu B. Ross Elementary for show-and-tell.

That seemed to loosen the tide of memories. Now he talks more freely about it.

"They said you had a choice," Maloney said of being drafted. "I told them I wanted to be a sailor. They put me in the Army."

He met other draftees at the Milford train station to travel to Fort Dix, where they were inducted. Maloney was put on a train to Camp Walker in Texas, a former cavalry post turned troop-training camp.

**See SERVICE on page 11**

## SERVICE from page 10

"We rode three days and nights," Maloney remembers. "We'd ride forward all day and then back up half the night. I guess it was due to military traffic."

Training wasn't difficult for a farm boy, he said, but it also wasn't exciting to be in the Army. "Just hard work," he said.

Maloney went with the flow. He was in good physical shape. He passed the 30-mile march test with no problems. And he'd used a gun to shoot rabbits back home, so he rated high for marksmanship.

Maloney was sent to radio school, where he studied codes and more. He didn't like it, saying he went in "dumber than the devil and come out dumber."

Between the radio training and his marksmanship rating, he was assigned to stay with the commanding officer of the company, "practically in his pocket, you know? Everywhere he'd go, I had to go."

After training, the troops were allowed to go home to see their families. On the train ride back to Delaware, he and a buddy—"Joe Jonas's son from over to Harrington"—decided in St. Louis that they wanted a beer. The conductor helpfully pointed out a joint right around the corner where they could get one.

As they opened the doors of the bar, they glanced back to see their train pulling out. But because they were in uniform, they could ride any train and found a Flyer headed to Philadelphia. They beat the troop train by five hours.

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# STATE HOPES TO INSPIRE DELAWAREANS TO PLANT TREE FOR EVERY RESIDENT



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

In the state's new initiative to plant a tree for every Delawarean, 20,110 are in the ground or will be soon.

That leaves about 950,000 trees yet to be planted.

The Tree for Every Delawarean initiative, called TEDI for short, was originally announced in Gov. John Carney's 2020 State of the State address and discussed in Delaware's Climate Action Plan as a strategy to support local communities' enhancement of urban greenspaces.

The state of the MidAtlantic's tree canopy and the benefit that trees offer to society both as nature itself and in helping cool the planet and cope with pollution has long been a topic.

The Pennsylvania Horticulture Society a decade ago adopted a program to plant 1 million trees in the Philadelphia region, South Jersey and Delaware by 2020.

The Delaware Horticulture Society focuses on planting trees, particularly in Wilmington, as a way to offer shade, cut power costs and beautify the area, among other reasons. Now the state of Delaware officially will join the effort.

DNREC and the Delaware Department of Agriculture partnered to develop a new website where residents can access information on selecting, planting and caring for their trees.

**See TREES on page 13**

OUTDOOR CHRISTMAS CONCERT & LIVE NATIVITY SCENE  
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## TREES from page 12

In addition, residents, non-profit organizations and municipalities can visit the site to enter information and photos of their tree plantings to help count the trees planted throughout the state.

"Healthy and resilient forests are a vital part of the efforts to combat the negative impacts of climate change," a press release announcing the initiative said. "Planting and nurturing trees is a nature-based solution to reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere."

According to the release, urban trees and forests help decrease energy use and emissions by providing shade, cooling temperatures and changing wind speeds. Studies have shown trees can reduce temperatures by nine degrees and energy and heating costs by \$7.8 billion a year in the United States.

Encompassing 1.25 million acres, Delaware has nearly 360,000 forested acres.

With 78 percent of the state's forests privately owned, the Delaware Forest Service provides technical assistance, funding and education to serve as a foundation for tree planting, conservation, reforestation, forest management and wildlife protection throughout Delaware.

On Tuesday, DNREC Secretary Shawn M. Garvin and Delaware Department of Agriculture Secretary Michael T. Scuse joined Gov. Carney, Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall-Long, state and county officials, and stakeholders at a tree planting at Lt. Joseph L. Szczerba Memorial Park at Penn Acres to draw attention to the effort.





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**OUR LOCATIONS**

# MILFORD ADVOCACY FOR THE HOMELESS ANNOUNCES UPCOMING EVENTS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Advocacy for the Homeless, a 501(c)3 charitable organization founded last November for the purpose of assisting Milford's homeless population by advocating to provide meals, tents, sleeping bags, bicycles, and hygienic products in association with other service centers has announced the following events and fundraisers:

## *MAH Quarter Auction*

Join MAH for an evening of fun on Nov. 20, that will raise critical funds for the purchase of food, tents, blankets, sleeping bags, etc. for the homeless in Milford, DE. The event will be held at the Elks Lodge on Elks Lodge Rd. Doors open at 5 p.m. and the auction begins at 6. Photos of a selection of auction items can be found on MAH's Facebook page under the Events tab.

All-In Paddles: \$40, no need to bring quarters—with the purchase of an All-In paddle, you are automatically entered in each auction item draw.

\$15 Paddle: requires quarters to bid on auction items—rolls of quarters will be available for your purchase.

\$5 Paddles: each additional paddle price after the purchase of a \$15 paddle or All-In paddle—quarters required to bid.

## *Thanksgiving Dinner*

MAH will be serving Thanksgiving Dinner in conjunction with Jesus Love Temple's Outreach Ministry, The House of David. Dinner will be served from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Further details will be released shortly.

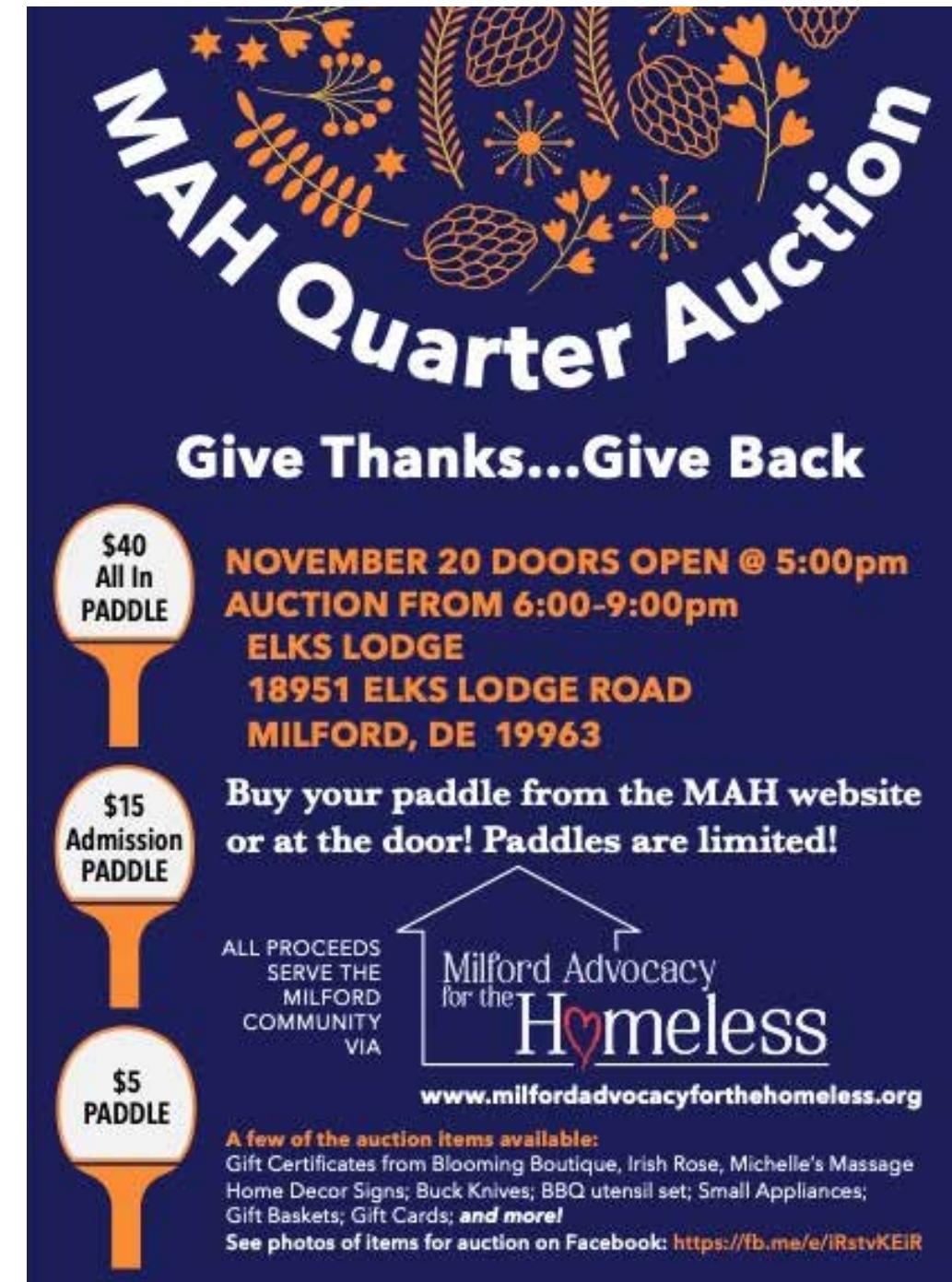
## *Shoeboxes for the Homeless*

Christmas can be an especially lonely time for the homeless. Join MAH in filling shoeboxes with essential items such as:

- Soap/Shampoo/Toothpaste/Deodorant/Lotion
- Toothbrush/Hairbrush/Comb
- Lip balm/Band-Aids/Antibiotic Ointment
- Feminine Hygiene products
- Rain Ponchos/Gift Cards for Food

Please do not include sewing kits, medicines or used/opened items.

Get creative with your family and friends and decorate the box, include a Christmas card and tape a note indicating if the box is for male or female. All boxes can be dropped off on or before Dec. 15 at 141 Aspen Ct. (Building 26) Milford, DE.



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# BUSINESS



PHOTO CREDIT: ANN LEBENGOOD

# DEL. UTILITY WORKERS FIGHT LABELING AS FEDERAL CONTRACTORS, VACCINE MANDATE

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Local utility workers are talking to their unions and elected officials about how to change their designation as federal contractors who must be vaccinated against COVID-19 by Jan. 4, 2022.

The workers say they aren't necessarily opposed to vaccinations, but they are opposed to being designated as federal contractors when most rarely work on federal projects.

"Our fight is not with Delmarva Power or the Exelon Corp.," said lineman Jamin Smith. "Our fight is with the federal government."

Delmarva Power is a subsidiary of Pepco Holdings, which is owned by Exelon.

The issue arose after President Joe Biden on Sept. 9 signed an executive order that requires any company

that holds federal contracts or performs work on any federal property to mandate vaccines for their employees.

Under the mandate, there is no option for weekly COVID-19 testing and medical and religious exemptions are limited.

Separately, the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has implemented a policy—also set to take effect on Jan. 4—requiring all companies with 100 employees or more to require vaccinations or weekly COVID testing. Exelon and its subsidiaries, such as Delmarva Power, will be required to abide by that mandate too.

That policy is expected to cover 84 million workers, roughly 31 million of whom are unvaccinated.

Nearly 100 members of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 1238 gathered Tuesday eve-



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- SOUTHERN STATES

# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO BY ANN LEBENGOOD

# COMMUNITY BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PROVIDES FUNDING FOR HOME IMPROVEMENTS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council held a public hearing on Monday, Nov. 8 to provide information about the Delaware Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The program operates with the cooperation of Sussex County Council, Kent County Levy Court, Delaware State Housing Authority and local municipalities to provide over \$2 million in grants to low- and moderate-income property owners whose primary residences need repair.

“Some of the projects we have completed include housing rehabilitation, sewer and water hookups, demolition as well as infrastructure,” Brandy Nauman, director of Sussex County Community Development, said. “All infrastructure projects must benefit low- to moderate-income households. For instance, in order for the funds to be used for street repair, 80 percent of the street must have a median income that meets the program thresholds. That is determined with a door-to-door survey.”

Nauman explained that the program’s goal is to maintain existing housing stock in a town and that the majority of projects are small repairs, including roofing, doors, windows, electrical upgrades or repairs and more. The home must be owner-occupied, and it must be the primary residence. The income threshold for a family of four in Sussex County is \$60,100 while in Kent County it is \$55,200. A lien is placed on the property for five or 10 years, depending on the cost of the project. The liens are placed to prevent an owner from flipping a property

using grant funds. As long as the property owner remains in their home, the lien is forgiven at the end of the five- or 10-year period.

“This year, the Sussex portion of Milford received \$105,000 in funding for projects,” Mike Jones, Rehabilitation Program Coordinator for the program, said. “Over the past five years, we have provided \$315,000 in funding in Milford, helping at least 15 households. We are hoping to fund four or five projects this year. We have 10 people on the waiting list but we are always looking to add more. The program is successful in many ways. No one wants to have the ugly duckling house on the street. We come in and fix one house, so it looks better, then the house next door decides it does not want to be the ugly duckling, so they spend money to fix their home, helping to improve the neighborhood overall.”

Mike Miles, Kent County Levy Court Housing and Community Development Director explained that there are about 15 people on the waiting list in Kent County and some of these are people who have been assisted before.

“We try to take care of those who have not received assistance in the past before we go back to help those who have,” Miles said. “We applied for \$80,000 in funding for some Milford projects, but they were not funded last year. Because we have more people on the waiting list this year, we are hoping our request will get approval for this year.”

Mayor Archie Campbell asked about people who had received funding applying for additional funding from the program.

“It happens quite frequently,” Miles said. “We provide assistance that puts a lien on the property. Once that lien is forgiven, they sometimes come back and ask for assistance. There have been instances where we have performed repairs or maintenance on a property and folks don’t take care of it, which may require additional help down the road.”

Councilwoman Katrina Wilson stated that families she is familiar with who have received funding from the program were only given a certain amount of funding that may not have covered everything that needed to be repaired.

“Their income has not changed, so when the lien is forgiven, they apply again to get the next project covered,” Councilwoman Wilson said. “Many of those who use this program are elderly and it is extremely helpful to them.”

Miles explained that each project is designed to bring a home up to the minimum building code standard. An older home may need lead remediation along with new roofing, windows or doors.

“We try to take care of as much as we can with the limits we have,” Miles said. “We are limited on what we can spend although DHSA has raised their thresholds this year. For stick-built homes, we can spend up to

**See FUNDING on page 20**

## FUNDING from page 19

\$40,000 while a mobile home is limited to \$30,000."

Councilwoman Wilson expressed support for the program. "I do know a lot of our residents benefit from this program," Councilwoman Wilson said. "It is a wonderful program, especially for our seniors. Their income doesn't change much year-to-year, so this program is very helpful to them."

Council voted unanimously to approve two resolutions that would allow property owners to apply for the grants for the upcoming year. Anyone interested in applying for the grants can contact the Planning Office at 302-424-8396, Extension 1311.



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# MCGUINNESS CORRUPTION TRIAL SET FOR MAY 2022

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Delaware State Auditor Kathy McGuiness will face trial on corruption charges in May 2022. A court order establishing the trial date was issued following a private scheduling conference with McGuiness' legal team, prosecutors and Superior Court Judge William Carpenter.

In October, McGuiness was charged with two felonies and multiple misdemeanors alleging conflict of interest, felony theft, non-compliance with procurement law, official misconduct and felony witness intimidation.

She's accused of arranging public payments to a campaign consultant to avoid regulator scrutiny, firing workers in her office to hire her daughter, who she allowed to use a state car and kept paying while the daughter was in college and not working, and attempting to intimidate employees who might help investigators looking into her conduct.

If found guilty, McGuiness could face up to 13 years in jail. She has pleaded not guilty on all charges.

Included in the scheduling order are deadlines for prosecutors to share their evidence with McGuiness's attorney, Steve Wood, as well as due dates for pretrial motions.

### *Where the case stands*

Last month, McGuiness unsuccessfully sought to have the public pay for her legal representation at a cost of \$550 per hour.

The prosecution argued that the auditor is, by law, entitled to a publicly funded defense, but only in the form of a public defender—not an expensive private attorney from a white-shoe law firm.

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## DMV PICKS VETERANS DAY TO LAUNCH NEW SITE FOR VETERANS



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles has launched a new webpage to provide easy access to services for veterans.

Services provided on the [webpage](#) include driver license renewal for active-duty service members, applications for military, handicap and traditional license plates and a veteran ID card application portal.

The site also includes a link to apply for the state's 'Heroes on the Highway' program, a commercial driver license program designed to assist qualified, active military and recently discharged veterans with obtaining their CDL.

The program requires applicants to either be currently serving in the Armed Forces or have recently been

discharged. Applicants must apply for the waiver at DMV within 12 months of their discharge date and have two years experience operating a military commercial motor vehicle.

The initiative was created to assist in securing local employment for veterans, according to DMV director Jana Simpler.

"The Division strives to support our dedicated military and veteran community in Delaware," Simpler said in a press release. "From navigating residency guidelines while on active duty to obtaining a CDL after, we are here to help."

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# EDUCATION





## CARNEY EXTENDS SCHOOL MASK MANDATE THROUGH FEB. 8

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Faculty, staff, students and visitors in Delaware's K-12 public and private schools will be required to wear masks inside school buildings until at least Feb. 8, 2022.

Gov. John Carney announced Nov. 3 that he will extend the emergency mandate in order to keep children protected against COVID-19 and keep them in schools.

The mandate currently in effect was set to expire on Dec. 10 but includes a provision allowing the governor to extend the order by 60 days.

Carney said in a press release that he hopes the state will be in a position to eliminate the school mask requirement by Feb. 8.

He attributed the extension to Delaware's effectively stagnant vaccination rates.

Currently, 65% of Delawareans over the age of 12 are fully vaccinated and 73% of those eligible before shots were OK'd for children have received at least one dose of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Factoring in children under the age of 12, only 56 percent of the state's population are fully vaccinated and 63.2 percent have received at least one dose.

At the state's peak in March and April, 10,627 individuals received their first dose in a single day on March 19 and 8,497 received their second dose on April 16.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# THANK YOU!

THE MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT WOULD LIKE TO SINCERELY THANK OUR DISTRICT-COMMUNITY MEMBERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE REFERENDUM VOTE. WE ARE VERY EXCITED AND APPRECIATIVE FOR OUR DISTRICT-COMMUNITY'S SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT AND SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME. THIS PROJECT WILL SIGNIFICANTLY BENEFIT OUR STUDENTS, FIRST AND FOREMOST, AND ENTIRE DISTRICT-COMMUNITY. WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT STEPS LEADING TO THE RENOVATION OF THE SCHOOL AND REVITALIZATION OF THE SITE.





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BY

John Mollura Photography

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# HEALTH

A photograph of a modern architectural structure, likely a hospital or medical facility. The building features a curved design with a combination of light-colored wood paneling and large, dark-tinted windows. The perspective is from below, looking up at the building's exterior.

PHOTO BY ROBERT J. NEARY PHOTOGRAPHY



# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MILFORD CENTER HONORED BY MAYORS OF MILFORD AND DOVER

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Center, a skilled nursing facility affiliated with Genesis HealthCare, is proud to announce that Brian Zaragoza, the Center's executive director, was honored by Milford Mayor Arthur Campbell for his achievement and contribution to the residents and families of Milford Center. Dover Mayor, Robin Christiansen, also honored Mr. Zaragoza for his commitment and dedication to serving the community. A special award presentation was held on Friday, Nov. 5, for Mr. Zaragoza and Center Nurse Executive Paige Cathell at the center.

Last month, Certified Nurse Aide Tracey Pridgen contacted both Mayor Campbell and Mayor Christiansen to share that the employees wanted to recognize both Mr. Zaragoza and Ms. Cathell for their dedication, commitment and compassion to not only the patients and residents of Milford Center but also to all of the staff members. Mr. Zaragoza and Ms. Cathell joined Milford Center in August 2021 and have been instrumental in turning the center around after the heart of the pandemic.

"We cannot thank Brian and Paige enough for their leadership at Milford Center," states Ms. Pridgen. "Both have gone above and beyond for our patients and residents as the pandemic continues. But they have also

been there for us, the staff members, through this very difficult time. We are truly blessed to have such caring and experienced leaders of our team."

Milford Center is a skilled nursing facility offering post-hospital, short-term rehabilitation as well as long-term and respite care. We also offer a dedicated memory support unit for residents with Alzheimer's or dementia. We accept Medicare, Medicaid, and most private insurances. Our staff is dedicated to serving the medical and rehabilitation needs of individuals recovering from illness or injury. Milford Center is a We Honor Veterans community partner! To learn more, visit [www.genesishcc.com/milford](http://www.genesishcc.com/milford).

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# BAYHEALTH WELCOMES PLASTIC AND RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGEON JONATHAN SARIK, MD

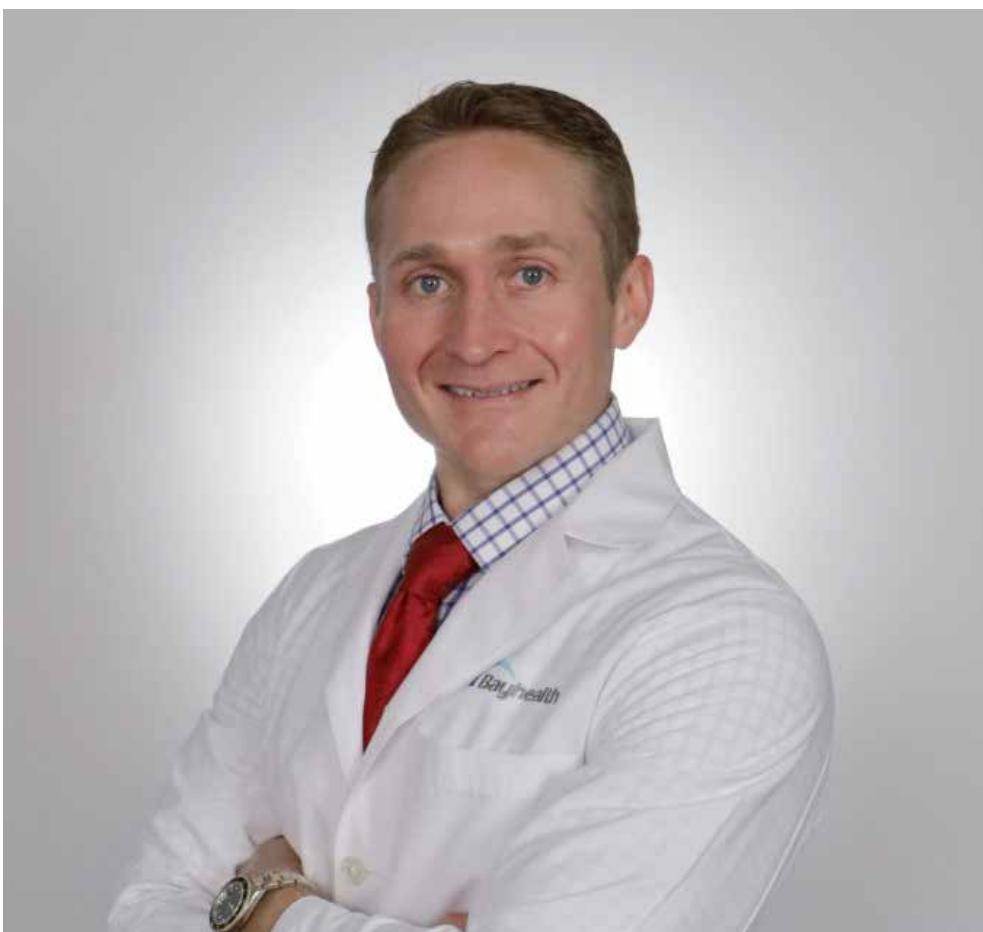
BY TERRY ROGERS

As a regional healthcare leader committed to high-quality care for our communities, Bayhealth continues to recruit talented physicians in a range of specialties. Jonathan Sarik, MD, is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon who is the newest doctor to join the team. He is accepting new patients at Bayhealth Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Sussex Campus, located in Milford. This practice is part of Bayhealth Medical Group, a partnership of highly trained physicians, their clinical staff, and an administrative support team that operates practices throughout central and southern Delaware.

"We're thrilled to welcome Dr. Sarik to Bayhealth Medical Group," said Practice Manager Gina Skipper, MBA, FACHE, CMPE. "Dr. Sarik is highly-trained in a variety of plastic surgery and advanced reconstructive techniques, including microsurgery. He also has a kind and personable bedside manner. We know the care he provides will benefit many in our community."

Dr. Sarik has a medical degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He then completed a general surgery residency at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital where he was twice named a nominee for Excellence in Trauma Residency. He went on to complete a fellowship in plastic and reconstructive surgery at Cleveland Clinic Florida.

Dr. Sarik sees patients at the new Bayhealth Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery, Sussex Campus, practice. It is in the Nemours Building, Sussex Campus and the address is 101 Wellness Way, Suite 300 in Milford. Visit [www.Bayhealth.org/Medical-Group](http://www.Bayhealth.org/Medical-Group) to learn more or call 302-503-3010 to schedule an appointment with Dr. Sarik.



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# A CALL FOR KINDNESS

BY TERRY ROGERS

By the end of 2021, 990 Delawareans will receive a diagnosis of breast cancer, a diagnosis that will forever change their lives. Sadly, another 160 will die of the disease.

"In our small and familiar state, these are likely people you and I know," Francesca Vogel, executive director of Delaware

Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC), said. "Neighbors, friends, wives, sisters, mothers and even husbands, sons and brothers."

Breast cancer diagnoses and deaths are on the rise in Delaware, for the first-time surpassing lung cancer as the most diagnosed cancer worldwide. Unfortunately, this means many families are preparing to spend the holidays without loved ones, whether due to treatment, surgery, recovery or the loss of a loved one to breast cancer. For this reason, DBCC is issuing a "Call for Kindness," asking that Delawareans share a donation or gift in the name of someone they have lost or someone who is battling breast cancer currently.

"Breast cancer patients have, perhaps, experienced more than their fair share of burdens," Vogel said. "With the global pandemic, many have nearly reached a breaking point with the added concerns of their diagnosis and

treatment. DBCC has soldiered on to help individuals and their families who have been impacted by this devastating illness."

For over 30 years, DBCC has offered public health services, hope and support to thousands, empowering them to fight breast cancer. For many, DBCC's programs are seen as a place of refuge where they can discuss worries, openly share and discuss issues with others who have been in their situation, allowing them to shield their family and loved ones from the very real impacts of breast cancer.

"Some come to us to seek energy, excitement and healthy habits our social and outdoor programs inspire," Vogel said. "Others seek friendships with those who have walked that very personal journey themselves. Many of them form lifelong bonds that can help fight depression, loneliness and isolation."

Since 1991, DBCC has offered statewide support, screening, education and financial assistance programs, providing breast cancer patients and survivors with hope and healing. It has also become the state's most trusted source on breast cancer.

"Our volunteers graciously create and donate pillows, which we pair with a soft DBCC-branded blanket and a DBCC Pink folder filled with resources for those who have been newly diagnosed," Vogel said. "All of this is packed into a reusable tote bag for easy transportation to and from chemotherapy appointments.

The season of giving, thankfulness, and hope are upon us. Give thanks for your health by donating in honor of those who are battling breast cancer this holiday season.



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Our DBCC team works to distribute these bags to cancer centers around the state so that no one going through chemotherapy for breast cancer feels cold or alone during what is often a very rigorous treatment."

Vogel explained that, as a non-profit, DBCC relies on the support of individuals to be part of the solution. Without DBCC, 633 fewer women would have been screened, 3,344 survivors would not have received the support they needed, and 142 newly diagnosed survivors would not have had peer mentors, support or financial assistance. Most importantly, donations remain local, helping those who call Delaware home.

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PHOTO BY KEVIN EICKMAN

# CONGRATULATIONS MILFORD HIGH SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Congratulations to Milford High School's Cross Country teams for competing in the State Championships Saturday at a soggy Brandywine State Park. Milford boys finished eighth out of 18 teams in Division 1 while the girls finished ninth. Milford's top performance was Eric Perry who crossed the finish line 22nd overall. The 2021 season has wrapped up and the team is already looking forward to next year.



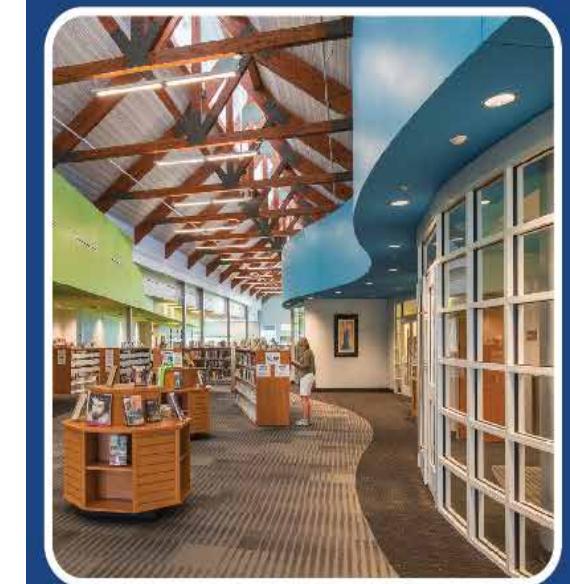
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# BUCS FALL AT MOUNT PLEASANT 41-7

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

It was not the way the Milford football team wanted their season to end. However, at the end of it all the game was a microcosm of the recently completed 3-6 season. While there were opportunities, there were mistakes from this mostly young group of Buccaneers. The offense was inconsistent and somehow always seemed to make a mistake at a crucial moment. While the defense faired well in the first half, creating four turnovers. There were times when their lack of experience was on display as well “We knew that this season was going to be an adventure heading into the season, so we just played the best we could.” Coach Shaun Strickland continued “After last year, it was good to get almost all of our games in and we have some younger players that really got some good playing time and proved that they are going to be leaders for this team going forward.”

At the beginning of the contest, Milford looked as if they were ready to play, as the defense held Mount to a three-and-out on the game’s first series. Milford would find themselves setting up shop on their own 13-yard line on their initial possession. The offense was held in check by a stout Green Knight’s defense who would be tough all day. With Milford forced to punt, Mount found themselves setting up shop at the Milford 45-yard line.

Mount wasted little time marching down the field, running mostly to the outside, with the Milford defense unable to set the edge. Even on times when they were able to force the play back inside, there were a few missed tackles and assignments that always seemed to lead to a

positive outcome for the Green Knight’s “You have to give them credit [Mount Pleasant] they really controlled the line of scrimmage today. They are a very tough team and showed it today. On the other hand, I come back to the fact that this season has been a learning experience for our younger guys.” Coach Strickland said. The 45-yard drive would culminate on an eight-yard touchdown pass for Mount, gaining the lead at 7-0, with 6:24 remaining in the first quarter, which they would never relinquish.

Milford would start their next possession on their own 40-yard line after a nice kick return by Milford senior Jordan Norman. However, Milford would go nowhere, but a good punt would force Mount to start the next series on their own 23-yard line. The Green Knight’s were once again able to move the ball on Milford, working the ball deep into Buccaneer territory. It was there that Milford would force the first of four first half turnovers, taking over at their own 19-yard line as time was winding down in the first quarter.

Unfortunately, Milford could only gain one first down on the ensuing series and was forced to punt. Once again Milford forced a turnover, and once again could not move the ball, this time it was a false start penalty on third and short, which doomed them. The Buccaneers would punt to Mount and this time, the hosts would take advantage of their opportunity. Moving down the field quickly and capping off the drive with a 29-yard touchdown run, which would give Mount the



14-0 lead they would take into the locker room.

Unfortunately, things did not improve in the second half for Milford as on their very first possession of the second half, a deep pass would go through the hands of two Milford defenders, into the waiting arms of Mount junior James Simmons, for his second touchdown of the game “It is plays like that which we have to make. That should have been an interception for us, but instead it turns into an 82-yard touchdown catch.” Strickland said.

It would be all downhill from there as Mount took control of the game, scoring 20 unanswered points in the third quarter and another in the fourth. Milford would finally get on the board in the closing minutes as Aaron Sivels would take it in from 35 yards, gaining his final touchdown as a Buccaneer.

While finishing 3-6 was not what the Bucs wanted, they are hopeful that the experience the younger players gained this year, will payoff next season “We had a lot of juniors, sophomores out there this year and they gained a lot of experience. I think with a solid off-season in the weight room, we can be competitive next year.” Strickland concluded.

**See FOOTBALL on page 34**



**CLICK HERE FOR MORE PHOTOS**

# MILFORD PARKS & RECREATION ANNOUNCES WINTER PROGRAMS



BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Parks and Recreation recently released information on its upcoming winter programs. This winter, it will offer programs for both children and adults.

"Registration is open," Nan Martino, program coordinator, said. "Program decisions are made about a week before the program start date, so help our programs continue by registering early. All programs are all-inclusive and open to everyone, but space is limited."

Youth Indoor Soccer will have games on Sundays starting Jan. 9 and running through Feb. 20, except for Jan. 16 and Feb. 20. Leagues are available for children under eight, under 10 and under 12. There is also an instructional program available for children under six. The cost is \$50 per player.

With tryouts starting in December, the Youth Basket-

ball program will have practice on either Wednesday or Thursday and games on Saturday, starting in January and February. Leagues are available for under 10, 12, and 15. Children under seven can register for an instructional program which will be held on Tuesdays. The cost is \$60 per player.

"Anyone who is interested in coaching basketball should contact us," Martino said.

Taekwondo for youth will be held on Wednesdays beginning Feb. 16 and running through Mar. 24. The program is open to children seven and older. Each child will learn basic blocks, strikes and self-defense skills. The cost is \$50 per person.

Youth wrestling will be held on Tuesdays and Thursdays starting Dec. 14 and running through Feb. 24. The program is for children aged seven to 13 and the cost is \$60 per person with uniforms and tournaments a separate cost.

On Dec. 12, Parks & Recreation will sponsor a Holiday Dance Party from 2 to 4:30 p.m.

"Dress in your best and join us for dancing and games," Martino said. "Light refreshments will be provided. The dance is for children aged eight to 12 and the cost is \$15." There will also be a Christmas Painting program on Wednesday, Dec. 22, starting at 1 p.m. There will be instruction and the event is for children seven and older. The cost is \$15.

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# POP WARNER CHEERLEADERS HEAD TO NATIONALS



**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Pop Warner's PeeWee Cheerleader Team are heading to Nationals to compete in a Level 3 Skills Routine after successful competitions at the Henlopen and Regional competitions. Nationals will be held Dec. 4-10.

"It costs a significant amount of money for each cheerleader to get to Nationals," Kristy Wise said. "In order to raise funds, they are holding tag nights at Grotto Pizza in Milford and Williamsville Store. They have placed donation jars in a few businesses. We have been seeking donations on Facebook, reaching out to local businesses and holding bake sales."

According to Wise, cheerleading provides many benefits to both boys and girls, including team building skills, social connections and relationships.

"Cheerleaders incorporate strength training and physical endurance as well," Wise said. "The sport requires focus, coordination and skill along with athleticism and discipline."

The cheerleaders heading to nationals also agree that the sport is important. Delay Weissberg stated that her favorite part of cheerleading is the stunts while Riley Robinson said that practice was "hard but worth it."

"I used to think cheer was competition, but after these few years I have begun to realize it's more than that," Dakota Wise said. "It's spending time with your friends and having fun. I have bonded with these girls and cheer has changed my life. All of my life, I wanted to be a cheerleader and here I am, cheering with the people that I love and having more fun than I have had in a while. I will always look back at my past and remember when I cheered, and I will always remember these girls."

Blanka Thornton echoed Dakota's sentiments.

"Cheer has changed my life," Thornton said. "You think it's something to do after school, but now they are your family and your team you can always count on after all the school stress. I have been doing cheer for three years and each year I get closer and closer to my team for the better. You always know when you have your true friends and you always feel welcome here."

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## NEW FACILITY. MORE SERVICES.

Nemours Children's Health System at the Bayhealth Sussex Campus is open!

Nemours and Bayhealth are working together to bring comprehensive care for all ages to one convenient location on the Bayhealth Sussex Campus. Just steps away from the new Bayhealth Hospital and Outpatient Center and easily accessible from Route 1, this brand new location will provide a variety of services closer to home for the diverse, growing communities we serve.



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# POLICE & FIRE



# PRO-BUSINESS GROUP, ACLU TO RALLY TO OPEN POLICE MISCONDUCT RECORDS



BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

*UPDATE: This rally has been postponed to Monday, Nov. 22, at 1 p.m.*

A business group that promotes government transparency plans to hold a rally at Legislative Hall to advocate for the passage of a bill that would make police misconduct records open to the public.

Citizens for a Pro-Business Delaware will hold the rally at the state capitol in collaboration with the ACLU of Delaware on Monday, Nov. 22 at 1 p.m.

The rally will feature local faith leaders, families affected by police misconduct and civil rights activist Rev. Al Sharpton.

The purpose of the rally is to encourage the passage of Senate Bill 149, sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth ‘Tizzy’ Lockman, D-Wilmington.

That bill would allow members of the public and media access to police misconduct records that are currently kept secret under the state’s Law Enforcement Officers’ Bill of Rights. Police records would also be able to be used in court proceedings and police agencies would be barred from destroying or discarding those records.

The bill would also empower state and local governments to establish civilian review boards, comprised of non-officers, to review instances of alleged misconduct and help determine disciplinary actions.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

## Cancer isn't waiting for COVID-19 to be over.

One in three Delawareans will get cancer. Unfortunately, many have put off their cancer screenings in the past year. Screenings detect cancer early, when it's most treatable. If you've skipped or canceled a screening due to the pandemic — for breast, cervical, colon, lung, or prostate cancer — don't wait one more day. **Call your health care provider to schedule your cancer screenings today.**

If you don't have a provider, we can help. If you are uninsured or underinsured, you may be eligible for free screenings. To learn more about eligibility requirements and recommended cancer screenings, and other information, please visit [HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer](http://HealthyDelaware.org/Cancer).

**To schedule your cancer screening by phone:**

Call your health care provider, dial 2-1-1, or speak directly with a nurse navigator at the health system nearest you, below.

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# STAY CONNECTED

A wide-angle photograph of a sunset over a wetland area. The sky is filled with vibrant orange, yellow, and purple clouds. The sun is low on the horizon, casting a bright glow. In the foreground, there's a body of water with tall, greenish-brown reeds or grasses growing along its edge. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and scenic.

PHOTO BY HILLEL BRANDES

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