

# MILFORD LIVE

PHOTO BY MARCIA REED



 MilfordLive

 @Milfordlive

**SUBSCRIBE**  


**JUNE 21, 2022**  
**VOL. 12 · ISSUE 25**

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Headlines .....      | 2  |
| Culture.....         | 8  |
| Business .....       | 13 |
| Government.....      | 15 |
| Education.....       | 19 |
| Health .....         | 22 |
| Sports.....          | 24 |
| Police & Fire.....   | 29 |
| Stay Connected ..... | 32 |



**AUDITORIUM NAMED IN HONOR OF  
JERRY THOMPSON**



**PUBLIC COMMENTS TO BE ALLOWED AT  
FUTURE MEETINGS**



**MILFORD RESIDENT SUCCESSFUL AT  
USA GAMES**

# HEADLINES

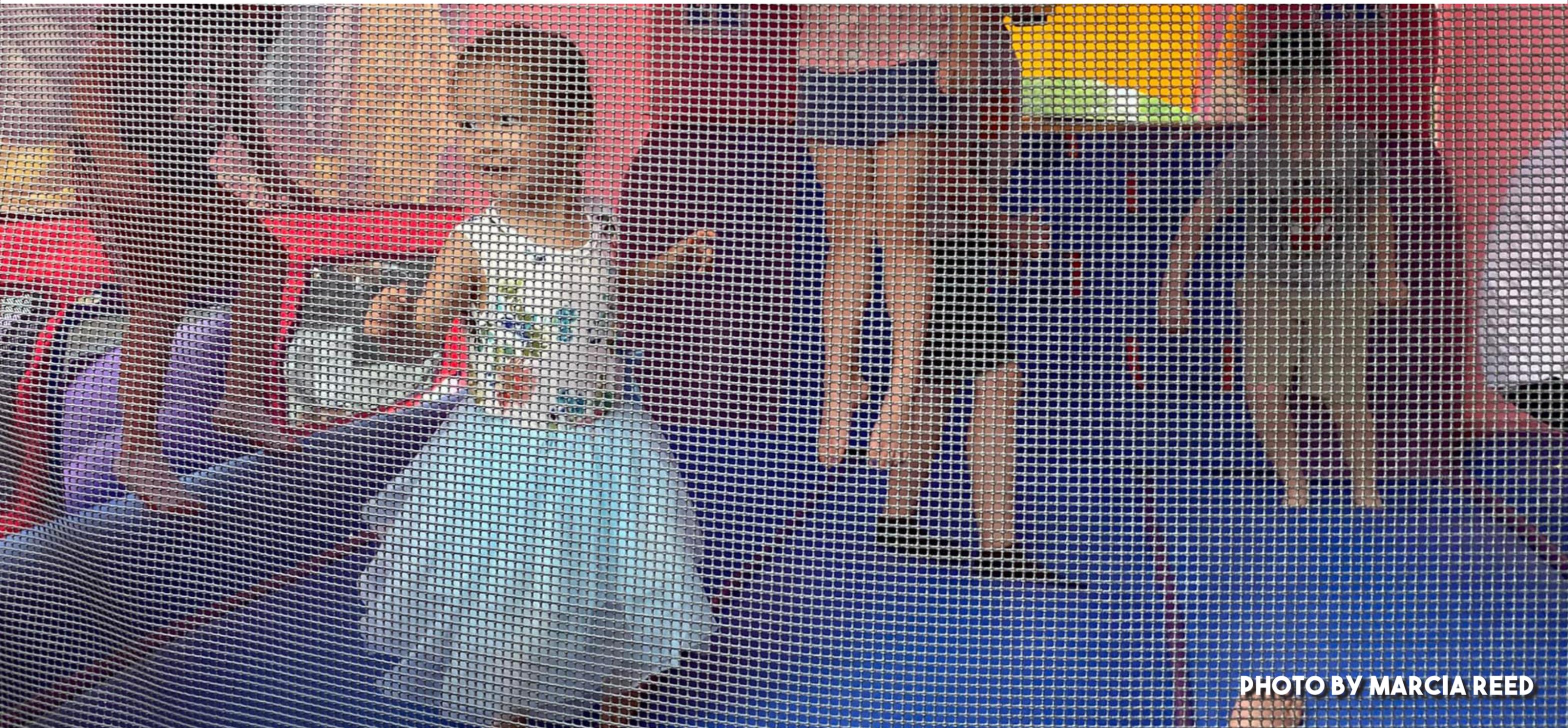


PHOTO BY MARCIA REED



**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Milford School District Board of Education unanimously voted to name the Milford High School Auditorium in honor of long-time band director, the late Jerry Thompson. The vote was to name the auditorium in his honor, but the official name will be determined at a later date. The decision was made after many people spoke in favor of the change, including Tricia Rescigno who sang the last song she sang at Milford High School with Thompson in the pits, “Home” by Stephanie Mills.

“I’m here to honor Dr. Gerald Thompson and show just how much he meant to me. He was so special. He made a difference, and he was just the coolest. He found

## MHS AUDITORIUM TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF JERRY THOMPSON

a way to give us independence. He believed in us and supported our creative sides. Thanks to Mr. Thompson, I have a closer relationship with my parents. He gave us great sayings like ‘failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on mine.’ Let us not forget the glide step that saved me in Manhattan just a few days ago. And thanks to T, I even found my first love.” Paula Bragg, who submitted the petition to the board with 1,010 signatures to rename the auditorium. “When he passed I couldn’t find the right words, but I knew how deeply his loss is felt by so many and that we needed to do more. I had great conversation with lots of friends and the obvious choice seemed to dedicate the auditorium, a place where he spent so much time and all of us who have been theater did as well.”

Bragg shared several social media comments on a post about the proposed renaming of the auditorium, all in support of the measure. Some on social media questioned the need for public comment. Board member David Vezmar commented that the board took naming buildings and areas of the campus seriously and did not want to make a decision without official public comment on the record. Many who spoke shared memories of Thompson and how his teaching methods inspired them.

**See THOMPSON on page 4**

An advertisement for Del-One Federal Credit Union. The background is a solid yellow color. At the top, the words "Why? Choose?" are written in a large, dark blue, cursive font. Below this, the text "Del-One Federal Credit Union" is written in a bold, dark blue sans-serif font. Underneath that, the tagline "Helping members reach their goals since 1960" is written in a smaller, gold-colored sans-serif font. The Del-One logo, which consists of a stylized tree icon and the text "Del-One Federal Credit Union", is centered below the tagline. At the bottom of the ad, a woman with curly hair, wearing a yellow ribbed sweater, is smiling and making a heart shape with her hands. The website address "www.Del-One.org | (302) 739-4496" is printed in a small, dark blue font below the logo.

**THOMPSON from page 3**

“On Oct. 9, 1990, Mr. Thompson brought out a radio and he said, I believe it around 11 a.m., he was going to turn on the radio, and we’re going to listen to John Lennon’s “Imagine” because it was his 50th birthday,” Dan Hartman said. “And they were going to play the song at the same time around the world and I don’t think I’d ever heard that song before. But it was just, to me, it was kind of a magical moment because I feel as though we were the only class in the school at that time doing what everybody else around the world was doing. At 11 o’clock a.m. on Oct. 9, but there was not only that, I’m a cartoonist, somewhat actor, but he was the first one to encourage me to do any of that. So, this auditorium should be named after Mr. Thompson.”

John Ranney, who worked with Thompson as a choreographer on many of the school musicals, also spoke on behalf of his friend and colleague.

“When I came to Milford in 1978, I offered to help with their high school musical as the choreographer and went on to choreograph 25 or plus musicals with Dr. Thompson. So, I know firsthand how many hours were spent in this auditorium bringing out the best for the students,” Ranney said. “And many of you have gone on to have, not careers in theater, but experience in theater that they would not have had without this musical experience at Milford High School. He always wanted to bring out the best out in the students and it was all about the students. Not one time did he ever take a curtain call at the end of the show, because it was about the students’ performance, not ours. There was one time when he tricked me during the show. During

**See THOMPSON on page 5**



*Caring for Your Kids  
is Our business*

**New Physician's Assistant on Board!**

**Welcome Ashley E. Poole, PA-C**

*Now Open to New Patients!*



Dr. Lowell Scott  
**SCOTT PEDIATRICS**  
611 Federal St., Milton, DE 19968  
**(302) 684-1119 • Fax (302) 684-1187**  
**[www.scottpediatrics.com](http://www.scottpediatrics.com)**

**THOMPSON from page 4**

“Bye-Bye, Birdie,” we were supposed to get somebody to sing the Teenager Song and he kept telling me that it was going to work out and turns out it was me he planned to sing it. And so that night I was thrust out on the stage to sing “Teenager.” And fortunately, I knew the choreography and the words. But he was a schemer like that. We think it’d be wonderful honor to have his name on this auditorium which he spent countless hours in and in this pit. He wanted the best of the students for Milford, Delaware in the community.”

Former Milford High School principal, Rob Rescigno also commented on Thompson’s love of theater as well as his mischievous side.

“Jerry had passion for everything he did. He had an uncanny ability to organize and above all, he always found a way to reach an individual student and bring out the best in them. Jerry never did anything half-hearted. He was passionate about theater. Each summer, he would draw his vision for the sets of the musical down to the very last detail. He would say ‘Rob It’s all about illusion. Theater is about illusion, creating a sense that something is real on that stage.’ The great thing about passion, it’s contagious. And you saw that in everything he did, and every student that was on that stage and no one was going to be let down because they knew he would not let them down,” Rescigno said. “This passion would sometimes create challenges for the principal. One day, he built a ship’s deck right there. And on Wednesday, two days before the opening of the show, we found out that it didn’t have the right building code. Well, I didn’t know that you could find enough two by

**See THOMPSON on page 6**



**COLDWELL BANKER**

**RESORT  
REALTY**

**PROUDLY SERVICING ALL OF  
CENTRAL DELAWARE**



**STOP BY OUR OFFICE ANYTIME TO SAY HELLO,  
OR GIVE US A CALL SO WE CAN HELP WITH ALL YOUR  
REAL ESTATE NEEDS!**

**711 N. DUPONT BLVD, MILFORD, DE 19963 | 302-422-8200**

fours in Lowe's that were straight enough to fix the problem, but he did. Jerry was always creating what he called Broadway on the Mispillion in his temple, the Milford High School Auditorium, always creating the greatest experience for the students and the community. If something came up, he always worked a way to a solution the audience never knew."

Rescigno stated that Thompson had a gift to make people feel good about themselves, the ability to guide students whether they were honor students or had special learning needs. Rescigno explained that Thompson was able to make students feel as if they were part of something bigger than themselves, teaching them life lessons of commitment, hard work and that effort paid off. He taught that even if someone failed the first time, they will learn and make it better the next time.

"Tonight, I'd like to speak on behalf of my father. Because I think, at this time, he would want all of you to know how much he enjoyed his job, band members and boosters, members of the drama department and the rock ensemble and other music students," Gretchen Pikus, Thompson's daughter, said. "He always told me to get a job that you enjoy, so I did that. So, I would just like to end with his favorite song that he brought from Westchester to Milford High School, and it goes 'with all your strength, hey win, we can. So here we go again. Rah rah rah Milford Buccaneers.'"

Connie Fox, who was a band booster while her daughter was in band, explained that she was part of Thompson's "roadies." They did the things that Thompson asked them to do, like moving instruments, moving students

out of hallways on band trips, watching what the students were doing and keeping them out of trouble. She stated that they kept things calm so Thompson didn't have to do it. Another former student stated that he had dropped out of school and Thompson brought him back by recruiting him for jazz band. He stated that Thompson made a difference in his life because he validated him as a person, connecting with a student who loved music in order to help him grow.

"Some of you may not know that [Thompson] is also the reason we have the Milford Community Band. My grandfather, Joe Lear, volunteered for Mr. Thompson when he was the band director. He would complain that there was no way or anywhere that he could play band as an adult, Thompson answered without missing a beat, 'And why don't you start one.' Well, my grandfather took that challenge and created the Milford Community Band 30 years ago," Jessica Rash, an English teacher with Milford School District, said. "This band has been a musical sanctuary to all ages including our Milford School District students. In honor of him, we should continue his legacy. We need to embody his values and to go forward in the future of the Milford School District. We need to make sure that we are teaching the whole child making decisions that are in the best interest of our students in their future and challenge ourselves to do more, be more and be the change we want to see in our community. For Mr. Thompson, our family and, in granddad's memory, we support honoring Dr. Thompson's legacy in this way."

Eric Camper recalled trying out for jazz band and being nervous because he was performing in front of Thompson. After the tryout, he said that Thompson came up to him, pointed and winked, telling him he would see him soon. Camper explained that he saw Thompson again recently and he recalled Thompson again telling him to be good and he said "I will see you soon." Thompson's granddaughter, Emma Pikus, spoke from her college in Florida.

"I decided to join this meeting after I heard and saw all the shares on Facebook, being tagged in them, being shared with them, with my mom, my aunt and a lot of other people from the city of Milford and state of Delaware," Emma said. "I, being young, didn't realize how many lives my grandfather touched. But recently, a lot of people have shared their stories and it's touched my heart because my grandfather's probably the most talented, knowledgeable person I've ever met in my entire life, and it would be such an honor to have this auditorium named after him."

Even some of the board members had something to say about how Thompson touched their lives.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# JOHN MOLLURA

- PHOTOGRAPHY -

BEAUTY PORTRAITS - HEAD SHOTS  
- FAMILIES -

302.222.6308

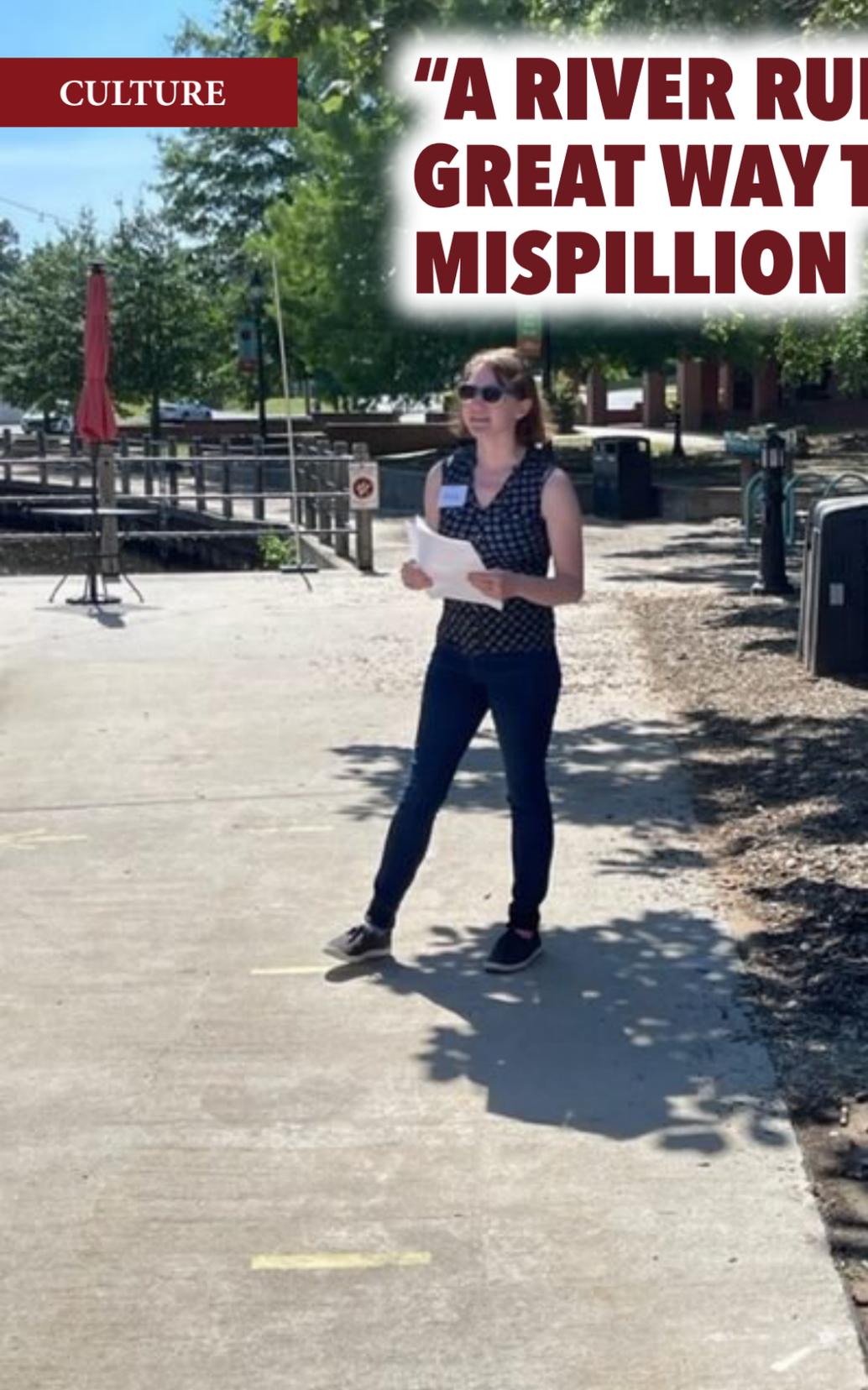


# CULTURE



PHOTO BY VINCENT J. DESKIEWICZ SR.

# “A RIVER RUNS THROUGH IT” TOUR GREAT WAY TO LEARN ABOUT THE MISPILLION



BY TERRY ROGERS

Delmarva Discovery Tours recently began offering “A River Runs Through It,” a history-eco tour along the Mispillion River. The tour includes stops at the Milford Museum, DuPont Nature Center and Abbott’s Grill. Recently, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford (CCGM) and Delmarva Discovery Tours partnered to offer a special media tour in order to get information out to the general public.

“The tours are a collaborative effort between the DuPont Nature Center, the Milford Museum, Abbott’s Mill Nature Center and the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford,” Janis Markopoulos of Delmarva Discovery Tours, said. “The goal is to focus on the history of the Mispillion River, a resource that connects all three venues we visit.”

The actual tours, which are available every Wednesday through September, originate in the beach area and Delmarva Discovery Tours brings those who sign up to Milford in one of their vans. They have two available, one that seats 14 and one that seats 11. However, there are discounted tickets for those who live in the Milford area and meet the van at the Milford Museum. Each tour starts at the museum with a walk along the river where a tour guide will provide information on the history of the river and its importance to Milford. The

See TOUR on page 10

**db** DELAWARE BREAST CANCER COALITION

Supporting breast cancer survivors through out their journey.

Learn More >

Delaware's Most Trusted Breast Cancer Resource

The next generation of farmers starts here

Family Owned & Operated Since 1954  
**Mountaire**  
Premium  
Fresh Young Chicken

mountaire.com

## TOUR from page 9

media tour was led by the museum operations director, Nicole Rogers. After talking about the museum building itself, the group headed outside where Rogers explained the importance of the ladybug to the city of Milford and then heading to the Walnut Street bridge.

“This museum portion of the tour begins inside the Milford Museum, which is housed in the first post office built in town,” Rogers, operations director of the museum, said. “We then walk down to the Riverwalk where we talk about how the Mispillion got its name. We also provide information about the Lenape who used this area as their summer camp as well as William Penn who is quoted as saying the river was ‘a creed suitable for sloops of good berthen,’ which translates to ‘boats that are big.’ We then head across the Riverwalk bridge where we provide details on the shipbuilding industry in Milford. We allow for a lot of time for questions throughout the tour, too.”

Once the museum portion ends, those on the tour are provided about an hour and a half to explore downtown Milford on their own. At that time, they can grab lunch, do some shopping or simply enjoy the Riverwalk. They return to the museum and board the van to head to DuPont Nature Center.

“At the DuPont Nature Center, we allow some time for photos outside as the views are so spectacular,” Lynne Pusey of the DuPont Nature Center, said. “We explain that this center is located on the mouth of the Mispillion River and the Delaware Bay. On one side is the river and on the other is Cedar Creek, both tributaries to the bay. We then provide some history of the

area, including details on the Mispillion Lighthouse and the restaurant that used to be housed in our building. Those on the tour also learn about migrating birds who travel through our area as well as the massive horseshoe crab population that enjoy our area. After a short slide presentation, the tour participants can wander around the nature center to see our exhibits, look at our osprey camera and just enjoy the beauty that surrounds us before they head to Abbott’s Mill which is located at the other end of the Mispillion.”

Upon arrival at Abbott’s Mill, the media tour group was greeted by Steve Childers who provided additional information about the natural beauty of the area.

“We have several miles of trails out here and after the mill tour is finished, I hope you take time to take this short trail off the parking lot,” Childers said. “If you travel around Delaware, you’ll see ponds everywhere. They are all mill ponds. There are no natural ponds, and they all had a mill or, in a lot of cases, more than one. We are in the Mispillion River Watershed, and we have the least amount of water.”

There is an historical sign on the mill property that explains the mill was originally built by Nathaniel Whiley in 1795 who ran a sawmill on the location. In 1808, the mill was converted to a grist mill which was purchased by Ainsworth Abbott in 1919. According to Childers, Abbott had a fifth grade education but operated the mill with just one employee until the 1960s. When he purchased the mill, it used a water wheel to power the machinery, but because the water levels were so erratic, the wheel was replaced with a water turbine.



## 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.



[LEARN MORE >>](#)

See TOUR on page 11

## TOUR from page 10

After purchasing the mill, Abbott converted the turbine to a diesel engine and this engine still operates the mill today.

During the tour, Childers demonstrated how the mill operated using a scale model of the mill he built himself. The mill is operational, and Childers said they run it once each month. The mill has only been used to actually grind grain once since it was retired in 1963.

“A few years ago, we got an opportunity to grind some grain for Dogfish Head Brewery,” Childers said. “We poured 13 bags of Canadian barley through those roller mills, just one of them. All they wanted was the grain to be broken up into smaller pieces and they didn’t want to ground up real fine. They turned it into what they call DNA, which stood for Delaware Native Pale Ale. Everything in it had some connection to Delaware. Although the grain came from Canada, we ground it here.”

After the tour of the mill, the group boarded the van and returned to the museum. Delmarva Discovery Tours provides a gift bag to those who take tours as a thank you. In addition to offering the History/Eco-Tour, they also offer tours of wineries and breweries as well as other tours of the area. According to the company, farm tours are growing in popularity, and they are now offering an antiques trail tour as well. For more information about taking the “A River Runs Through It” tour, contact Delmarva Discovery Tours by calling 302-260-9008 or visiting [www.delmarvadiscoverytours.com](http://www.delmarvadiscoverytours.com).



**AQUACARE**  
Physical Therapy, Inc.

Creating a Wave in the  
Future of Rehabilitation

Facebook.com/AquacarePT @AquacarePT @AquacarePT

[MILFORDLIFESTYLEFITNESSCENTER.COM](http://MILFORDLIFESTYLEFITNESSCENTER.COM)

**302.491.4196**

[AQUACAREPHYSICALTHERAPY.COM](http://AQUACAREPHYSICALTHERAPY.COM)

Millsboro  
302.945.4250

Millville  
302.539.3110

Milford  
302.491.4196

Seaford  
302.536.1774

Lewes (RT.24)  
302.945.0200

Lewes (King St Row)  
302.200.9920





# MISPILLION ART LEAGUE'S 6×6 SILENT AUCTION FUNDRAISER

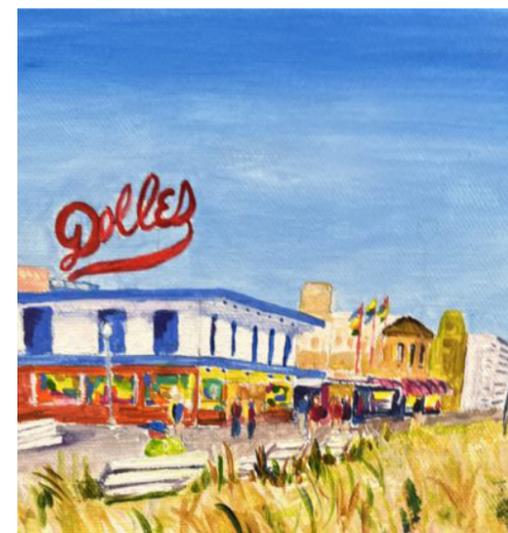
BY TERRY ROGERS

Mispillion Art League (MAL) is exhibiting its annual 6×6 Silent Auction. Stop in any time from now through June 25 to place your bids! The beautiful art in this show was created by MAL members and members of the public and then donated to the Art League for this very popular fundraiser. Bidding starts at \$25 and increases in \$5 increments. Put down \$250 and it's yours—all bidding stops! The final bidding and reception is Saturday, June 25 from 6–8 p.m. Grab your friends and family, have some dinner downtown, and then stop in and bid away!

MAL also offers art classes in many different disciplines for ages pre-K through adults. Class details and registration can be found on our website [www.mispillion-arts.org](http://www.mispillion-arts.org), on Facebook and Instagram (@MispillionArts), and on [www.delawarescene.com](http://www.delawarescene.com). Located at 5 N Walnut Street in Milford, MAL is open Tuesday–Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Mispillion Art League is an exempt organization as described in Section 501(c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code. This organization is supported in part by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [www.DelawareScene.com](http://www.DelawareScene.com).

MILFORD  
LIVE



# BUSINESS



Q2 PHOTO BY MARCIA REED



# SUPERHEROES ABOUND IN DOWNTOWN MILFORD FOR THIRD THURSDAY

BY TERRY ROGERS

Downtown Milford was filled with superheroes on the most recent Third Thursday. The event, held every month on the third Thursday of the month, had downtown merchants open late, food trucks and live music as superheroes wandered around the streets.

“This is such a great way for people to come out, meet up with friends, family and neighbors while also enjoying some of the fun events we have downtown,” Janne Collins, executive director of Downtown Milford Inc., said. “We appreciate all the vendors and businesses who help us create this monthly event and would love to see it grow even larger.”

Evolve Fitness offered “superhero training” with a rope and two jumping challenges. Children of all ages enjoyed hopping over the yellow barriers and shaking two large ropes as Captain Marvel counted down the time. There was also a standing box jump for children to attempt. Several food trucks were available, and the North Pole Creamery offered their delicious ice cream.

“We absolutely love participating in this event,” Nicole Rogers, operations director for the Milford Museum, said. “It is such fun connecting each theme to history each month.”

In celebration of the theme, the General A.T.A. Torbert statue outside the museum was adorned with a Superman cape and mask. The museum table downtown offered a Superhero activity book and a poster displaying “Milford Heroes” which included General Torbert, John Clayton, Mary Louise Marshall, the Milford Eleven, the Milford Seven and more. Tax Chicks offered children the opportunity to play a tossing game in order to win prizes.

“We are looking forward to next month’s Third Thursday,” Miranda Collins, event coordinator for DMI, said. “Next month’s theme is Dog Days of Summer and we are encouraging everyone to visit downtown with their four-legged family members. Keep an eye out for some special activities downtown that are dog-related!”

The July Third Thursday event will be held July 21 and DMI plans to partner with Fur Baby Pet Resort.

MILFORD  
LIVE

# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO BY ANN LEBENGOOD

MILFORDLIVE

 MilfordLive

 @Milfordlive

MilfordLive.com



# CITY COUNCIL TO ALLOW PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA ITEMS AT FUTURE MEETINGS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council recently updated its council meeting policies and procedures in order to streamline the meetings and to allow the public additional opportunities to address council about their concerns. The new procedure will allow a 15-minute public comment period at every meeting. All public comments must be related to an agenda item and each speaker will be limited to three minutes of speaking time.

“During a workshop and subsequently during a meeting, it was discussed about updating or revising the rules and procedures,” City Solicitor David Rutt said. “And what you have in your packet is what came out of those discussions. So, before the Council on whether you wish to adopt the new rules.” In addition to adding a public comment section, council approved adjustments to the agenda and provided clarification on other rules of conduct for council meetings.

One change that has already been implemented has the city solicitor handling any public comment portion of a meeting. The changes included a clause that the order of roll call votes would change with each vote. Councilman Michael Boyle asked if that was necessary.

“It is not necessary,” Rutt said. “Sometimes it gives the mayor the flexibility. It could be amended to say the order of the roll call may be changed at the discretion of the mayor. Because that way, Dan doesn’t have to be first all the time if he doesn’t want to be.” City Clerk Terri Hudson stated that this was included in the previous council rules and procedures as well.

Councilman Jason James stated that he felt that the mayor should be able to take the roll call vote in any order he chose, and Councilman Todd Culotta agreed it should be at the mayor’s discretion.

“Yeah, I don’t oppose one way or the other but I do understand why. Because they went First Ward, Second Ward, Third Ward, Fourth Ward. That’s that was the reason why it was done,” Councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. “The mayor should have the right to do it

See COMMENT on page 17



EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE FOR THE SUCCESS OF ALL STUDENTS



The mission of Milford School District is to ensure that all students receive a comprehensive, personalized and quality education in a safe, supportive learning environment where students can gain the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and values that will enable each of them to achieve success in their life pursuits.



[MILFORDSCHOOLDISTRICT.ORG](http://MILFORDSCHOOLDISTRICT.ORG)

**COMMENT from page 16**

any way he wants. But he also has to be aware of who he started with to make life easier for himself. You know what I mean? Depending on the climate of what's being voted on, you got to know who's first, second, third, who's on first, who's on second. who's other. So, it's going to cause you to be sharper as well."

Rutt suggested that the policy change to read that the mayor had the discretion of the order of the roll call vote.

"He does change the order periodically, I think inadvertently. I just don't see why, you know, we should always be one to four that to me that something that doesn't make sense to me," Councilman James said. "It never gives the other side or the other counselors a chance to speak before or cast their vote before. And I made this comment about other things because Ward Four will always be last on everything."

Councilman Wilson, who represents Ward Four with Councilman James commented that she never had a problem going last because it gave her an opportunity to hear what other members of council were using to base their vote on. She said her vote often made no difference because the measure had already passed or failed when it got to her, but she still had the chance to express her thoughts.

"Which is a good argument to change it," Councilman James said. "To give others an opportunity to hear and go last so they can hear everyone else first. Or other comments or changes on the council."

Councilman Wilson asked about a requirement that any written materials to be handed out must be submit-

ted to the city clerk prior to the meeting. She questioned if someone had handouts would they not be allowed to speak at all. Rutt explained that written documents must be provided ahead of the meeting under FOIA, but that someone could still speak during public comment, they simply could not hand anything out that had not been submitted to the clerk beforehand. Meetings will remain on the first and third Monday of the month with workshops scheduled on the Wednesday between meetings.

The changes passed unanimously.



**SAME BANK. NEW LOOK.**

**COUNTY BANK**  
WE HAVE ROOTS HERE

[LEARN MORE](#)

Member **FDIC**



**I'M HERE**  
to care for  
your growing  
family.

**I'M KANDIS SAMUELS-LEUTZINGER, MD, MPH**

Caring for families has always been my passion. In addition to treating patients of all ages, my expertise in OB-GYN, prenatal care and deliveries means I can provide all the care needed for mothers and the youngest ones in your family. I'm here to bring better health for you and your loved ones.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.



**OB-GYN & FAMILY MEDICINE**  
1-866-BAY-DOCS



# igBurton.com



**NOBODY  
BEATS A  
BURTON  
DEAL!**



**MILFORD SEAFORD LEWES SMYRNA BERLIN**



**BUICK**

**GMC**



**DODGE**

**Jeep**



**RAM**



# EDUCATION



# MSD APPROVES PRELIMINARY BUDGET, SETS SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS TAX RATES

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford School District Board of Education approved a preliminary budget for 2022-23 and set a special meeting on June 27 to discuss the upcoming tax rate. The \$65.6 million budget was approved unanimously. Before voting on the budget, Dr. Kevin Dickerson, superintendent, asked the board to approve an additional meeting in June.

“We’d like to be able to do this on June 27. And just looking for us to take action that we have an additional June meeting on June 27. And we would have it in the evening,” Dr. Dickerson said. “But we probably would do it a little bit earlier. Time to be determined to be honest with you. So we see what the availability of board members are but June 27, we will have another board meeting to set the tax rate.”

The request for the additional meeting was approved unanimously as well.

“The final business item this evening is the preliminary budget for fiscal year 2023. This budget reflects previous allocations we’ve received word about from the state as well as some known allocation and revenues

based on our current tax rate projections, as well as our federal fund consolidated grant allocations as of right now,” Dr. Sara Croce, chief financial officer for Milford School District said. “These will be adjusted as we go through the Sept. 30 unit count and realize our enrollment growth and then those will be brought back to you.”

Croce explained that some revenues and expenditures were based on student enrollment and once the district completed the September student count process, some of the revenue and expenditures will be updated as well. She also expected some minor changes as they began the year for fiscal year 2023.

Looking at expenditures for 2022, Croce pointed out that transportation costs showed the greatest increase. Homeless transportation cost the district over \$5,000 more than was budgeted last year while the local transportation match cost the district over \$42,000 more than budgeted.

MILFORD  
LIVE



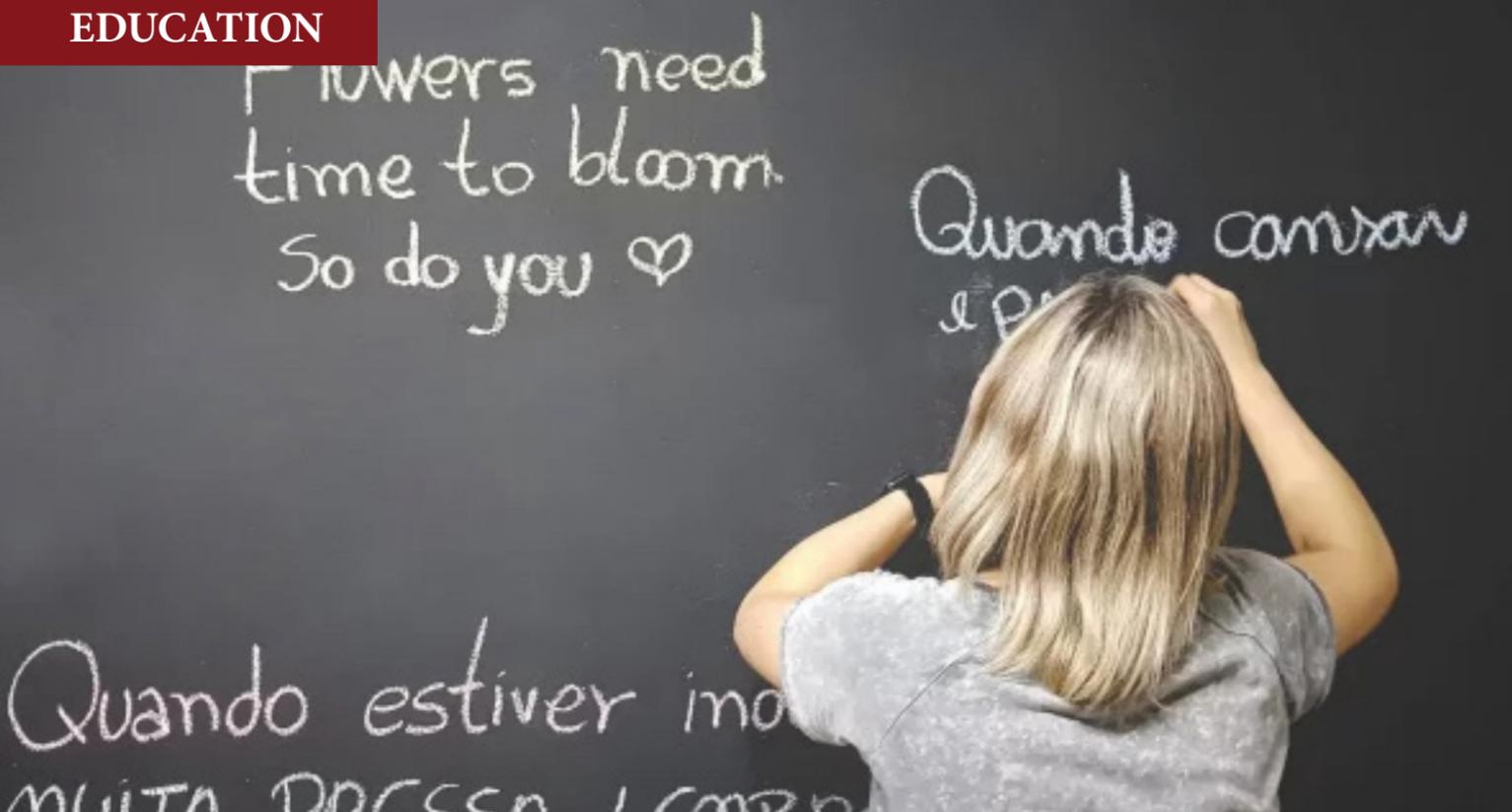
WELCOME ALL NEWLY ELECTED  
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COURAGE,  
TRANSPARENCY, AND COMMITMENT TO  
STUDENT LEARNING AND POTENTIAL

LET'S GO DELAWARE!



FIRST  
STATE  
ACTION  
FUND



**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Milford School District plans to partner with Specialized Education Services Incorporated to create what is known as a High Road School in the three elementary schools. The new program is designed to address an increase in behavioral problems in younger children since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

“This year in particular, we’ve seen much higher rates of problem behavior in our schools at the elementary level. As many of you are aware over the course of the past 10 years, we’ve expanded programs and built them at our middle school and our high school to ensure that we are able to support them,” Dr. Laura Manges, director of Special Education, said. “This past year has shown us after COVID that we are now having to quickly change and support many of our students at the elementary levels in ways that we are often ill prepared and in the past had not recognized as high levels of needs for our elementary students. I’m sure you’ve heard about PBIS and PBS in the past and that is something that has always worked in our elementary buildings. It is providing a universal language of behavioral expectations for our elementary students and for the most part, during my 15-year career, in Milford, our students

## EMOTIONAL SUPPORT CLASSROOMS PLANNED FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

responded very, very well to it. This past year in particular, we’ve met with an enormous level of need in the mental health and behavioral area for our elementary kiddos.”

Manges continued, stating that the district was moving from traditional discipline strategies to those that were more restorative. In the past, exclusion and punishment were used to try to address behavioral issues, but they are learning that pro-social skills training under the special education umbrella may help with academic restructuring that will meet the student where they come in. This allows staff to support the process and use more positive behavior interventions. Because the need has grown significantly over the past year, Manges explained that the district realized it was time to seek a partnership and found Specialized Education Service Incorporated who support more than 200 classrooms across the country.

“What they do is they actually come in and help us build the setting. They offer intense individualized academic programming. They use research-based behavior management systems, and they will help our school system address the most challenging and at risk behaviors, utilizing the basis of PBIS at tier two and tier three levels, along with restorative practices that went with what we’re doing currently, or at the High Road School. Specialized Services Incorporated, is one of the only programs that is state of Delaware approved. So, we currently do support some of our students with the most intense needs at the High Road School. When they are there, we take their names to statewide ICT and we seek approval for financial support for their placement there and most of those students have graduated or they have returned to us unless they have moved out of district.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# HEALTH



PHOTO BY ROBERT J. NEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

MILFORDLIVE

 MilfordLive

 @Milfordlive

MilfordLive.com

# COVID-19 VACCINES FOR KIDS SIX MONTHS TO FIVE YEARS TO ARRIVE TODAY

BY BETSY PRICE

Delaware's pre-ordered **COVID-19 vaccines** for ages six months through five years old were expected to start arriving Monday, June 20. They will go to medical providers who pre-ordered them, but not all did.

Parents of those children should be able to have the kids vaccinated starting Tuesday, the **Division of Public Health** announced, after the drugs were approved for emergency use by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration Friday and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Saturday.

## *Two vaccines available*

Both **Moderna** and **Pfizer-BioNTech** vaccines were authorized. Moderna's is a two-dose series, and is one-quarter the adult dosage, for children ages six months through five years old. Estimated effectiveness varies based on age, Public Health said.

The Pfizer vaccine is a three-dose primary series that is one-tenth the adult dosage and is authorized for children six months through four years old, as their vaccine for five-year-olds is already approved. It has an estimated effectiveness of 80% after the third dose.

Side effects were generally mild, and no serious side effects were identified. For Moderna, the most commonly reported side effects across all ages included pain, redness and swelling at the injection site, fever and underarm swelling/tenderness at the injection site.

For Pfizer side effects included irritability, decreased appetite, fever, headache, chills and pain, tenderness, redness and swelling at the injection site.

Public Health has published a **chart** explaining the differences between the two vaccines.

## *Where to find a vaccine*

The division recommends parents contact their pediatric health care provider for specifics on scheduling and timing. Parents can find a **provider list** on the website, too.

Vaccines will be available from pediatricians/primary care providers, Public Health clinics and Federally Qualified Health Centers. Some pharmacies, but not all, will vaccinate the younger children. Vaccine supply and access are expected to increase as the week goes on.

"We are incredibly happy and relieved that a COVID-19 vaccine will now be available to our youngest population starting at six months old," said Dr. Karyl Rattay, director of the department.

She said the department recognized the concern that parents with young children faced waiting for the vaccine to become available.

"It is our hope that parents will consult with their child's provider or the appropriate medical facility to determine the best option for them," she said.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



# MILFORD LIVE SPORTS

Brought to You by:

**RYJ** Richard Y. Johnson & Son, Inc.  
General Contractors & Construction Managers  
(302) 422-3732



PHOTO BY BRYAN SHUPE

**BY TERRY ROGERS**

At a recent meeting of the Milford School District Board of Education, Don Parsley was recognized by state Sen. Dave Wilson for his record 300 wins as the Milford High School wrestling team. Parsley recently retired as a teacher at Milford High School, but says he will continue to coach wrestling.

“It’s truly an honor to be here this evening to be a part of this event. You know, when I was first asked about recognizing Mr. Parsley, I said definitely. As a senator of this district, I’m just truly honored to recognize what

## PARSLEY RECOGNIZED BY SENATOR WILSON

you’ve shown the students of the Milford School District. I do have a tribute from the Senate of the State of Delaware. It reads, “This Senate tribute, hereby known to all, Senator David L. Wilson of the Senate of the 151st General Assembly recognizes Don Parsley upon his 300th wrestling win and in recognition of notable leadership as a coach and a mentor. Coach Parsley has shared of his time, talent and experience as head coach of the Milford High School Buccaneers for 32 years. Throughout the many successes, he gained the high regard of his colleagues and players alike. Senator Wilson finds it most befitting that this remarkable gentleman be recognized for his contributions in the athletic arena and the First State and congratulates him on his most recent accolades. With best wishes for continued success, the Senate directs this tribute to be presented on Monday, the 25th day of April.’ Unfortunately, due to scheduling conflicts, we’ve not been able to do that.”

Parsley accepted the recognition from Sen. Wilson and thanked both the him and the district for the recognition.

“I retired January of 2021. I certainly enjoy the privilege and the pleasure of continuing to coach in the district and certainly 32 years of coaching,” Parsley said. “I don’t know that I knew that. But I do plan to continue. I certainly enjoy what I do. And I’m certainly grateful

**See PARSLEY on page 26**



Brought to You by:

**RY** Richard Y. Johnson & Son, Inc.  
General Contractors & Construction Managers



**(302) 422-3732**  
18404 Johnson Rd,  
Lincoln, DE 19960

“Regardless of the size, scope, and challenges of the project, RYJ will develop a specialized approach to meet your goals.”

**PARSLEY from page 25**

for the opportunity that the district has provided me over the years just to have an impact on kids and I hope to continue to do that in the future.”

Superintendent Kevin Dickerson also thanked Parsley for his contributions. He asked that some of Parsley’s former wrestling team members who were now employees with the district to come forward, including Mike Sharp, supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, Jon LoBiondo, transportation supervisor and Gary Zoll, principal of Milford High School and Milford Central Academy.



**DELAWARE LIVE**  
OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME.

“  
**Our ads change  
at the pace of our  
business needs**”

- SOUTHERN STATES

 **SOUTHERN STATES®**



  
**TOP OF THE  
CLASS**

**20% off  
Safes in June**



Southern States Milford Co-op  
7308 Williamsville Road, Milford, DE 19963  
302-422-8066

Hours: Mon - Fri 7am - 5pm; Sat 7am - Noon  
[www.MilfordSouthernStates.com](http://www.MilfordSouthernStates.com)  
[info@milfordsoutherstates.com](mailto:info@milfordsoutherstates.com)



# MILFORD RESIDENT AMONG OTHERS SUCCESSFUL AT USA GAMES



BY TERRY ROGERS

Charles Permint, a Milford resident, was one of many Team Delaware members to succeed at the 2022 National Special Olympics Summer Games on June 5. Permint placed fifth in bocce singles, a gold medal with his partner, Nicole Baker of Newark in bocce team doubles and a bronze medal in bocce traditional team competitions. There were 29 athletes representing the state of Delaware competing at the Special Olympics USA Games in Orlando. Team Delaware joined thousands of Special Olympics athletes and coaches from across the nation, along with tens of thousands of

volunteers, family members and fans, for a week of special events and competitions held at the ESPN Wide World of Sports and various nearby venues.

“Having the opportunity to compete on a national stage is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most of our athletes,” said David Halley, president & CEO of Special Olympics Delaware. “It’s a chance to not only compete against some of the finest athletes from around the country, but to experience all the thrills that go along with traveling to a national event. For some, it was the

See **GAMES** on page 28

Need a reason to get your kid vaccinated? They've got plenty.

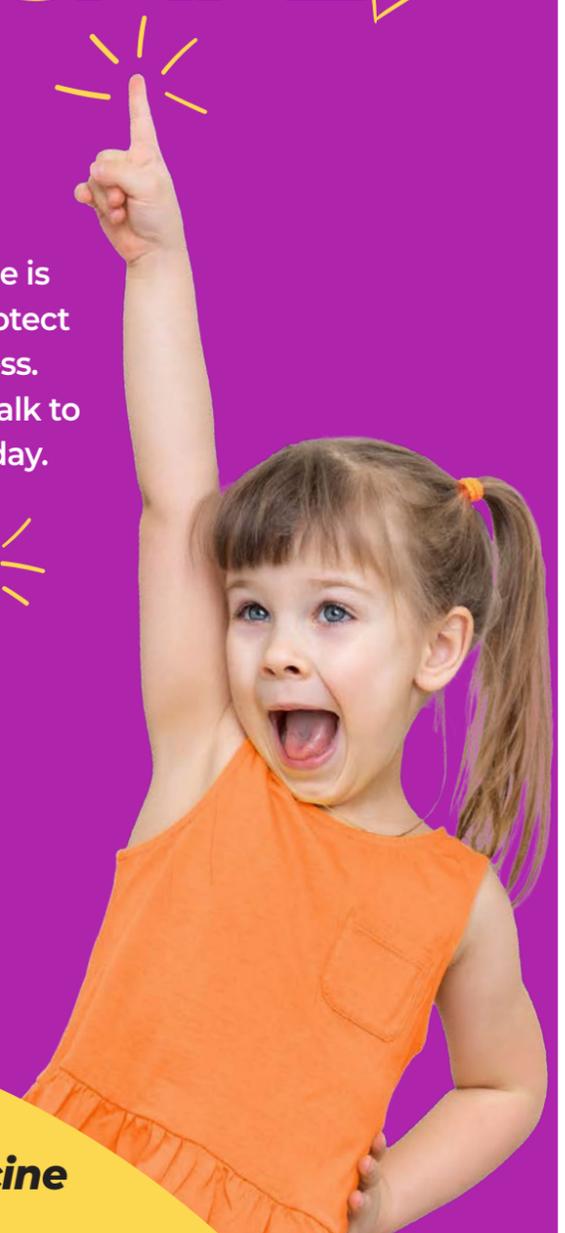
# IT MAKES US ALL SAFE

The COVID-19 vaccine is safe and proven to protect against serious illness. Need more reasons? Talk to your pediatrician today.

**GO VAX DELAWARE!**



[de.gov/youthvaccine](https://de.gov/youthvaccine)



## GAMES from page 27

first time away from home. For others, it was the first time traveling on an airplane. And for all of them, it will be an experience they will never forget.”

Team Delaware was comprised of the athletes, nine coaches, four staff members and two students from Caesar Rodney High School who attended as part of the Unified Champion Schools Youth Leadership Experience. The delegation competed in seven of the 19 Olympic-type sports offered: basketball, bocce, bowling, powerlifting, swimming, tennis and track & field. In addition, Lt. Jim Diana, a member of Delaware’s Alcohol and Tobacco Enforcement, represented Delaware as a final leg runner in the Torch Run leading up to the Games.

Team Delaware won a total of 53 medals, and proudly boasts that every one of their athletes competing won at least one medal.

The Special Olympics USA Games, which is hosted every four years, marks the largest humanitarian event in Florida’s history. The event united more than 5,500 athletes and coaches from all 50 states and the Caribbean. Over 10,000 volunteers filled more than 20,000 volunteer shifts during the week. It is anticipated over 125,000 families, friends and spectators witnessed the inspiring athletic accomplishments in 19 Olympic-style team and individual sports and more than 30 events at world-class venues across Orlando, centered at ESPN Wide World of Sports at Walt Disney World Resort.

Special Olympics Delaware has been changing the lives of Delawareans since 1971. Through sports training and competition in 19 sports, more than 4,200

athletes with intellectual disabilities have proven that, given the chance, no disability is too great to overcome. Using sports as a platform, Special Olympics strives for acceptance of all people, regardless of ability, not only on the playing fields, but in their local communities.

For more information, about Special Olympics, visit [www.sode.org](http://www.sode.org). The complete list of athletes, their hometowns and medals won, can be found [HERE](#).



“  
**With Delaware LIVE  
we share our story,  
not remain a static ad**”

- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DELAWARE



### BAYHEALTH PEDIATRICS, MILFORD

We’re parents too and we know your child’s health is a priority! Whether you have a newborn, toddler, or teen, we’re driven to give them the care they need. As moms we’re experts in TLC, as pediatricians, we’re experts in your child’s health and wellbeing.

[CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.



PEDIATRICS  
1-866-BAY-DOCS

# POLICE & FIRE





**BY TERRY ROGERS**

In meetings held simultaneously, Milford School District and the city of Milford approved a Memorandum of Understanding related to school resource officers in the district. The Board of Education discussed the contract briefly at their meeting.

“We were able to reach an agreement with the city for a five-year phased increase and that corresponds to the contract negotiations that they’re having with the Milford Police,” Dr. Sara Croce, chief financial officer for Milford School District said. “We were able to cut the costs for the school crossing guard agreement in half with recognition from the city that they will participate in that program with us for the safety of our students.”

School Board President Jason Miller asked if Dr. Croce felt this was a fair agreement for both parties and Croce stated that she felt that it was. The school board approved the agreement unanimously with no further

# SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER MOU APPROVED BY SCHOOL BOARD, COUNCIL

agreement. The discussion at City Council, however, was much longer. At that meeting, the MOU was presented by Lou Vitola, finance director.

“Costs have gone up so much and the MOU had gotten stale over the years. It seemed like it was a lot for the district to digest at first. They were looking at ways to really just impact the budget less while we were looking for ways to take a step towards full cost recovery,” Vitola said. “So, we presented full cost recovery numbers based on a time split of when the officers serve the school district which is roughly nine or 10 months a year and then there is the entirety of the summer. With that split, it was just too much for the budget to sustain and the MOU kind of modeled the responsibilities of the crossing guards and other services came into play like parks and rec, but we decided to tackle those separately and keep this agreement focused on the SROs and the police.”

Vitola explained that the city used a five-year stability rate that would eventually result in full cost recovery to the city for the school resource officers. The increase would be \$7,500 per year for the next five years with a starting point of \$145,000 for two school resource officers. The district did have the flexibility to choose how many officers they wanted as long as the city could provide additional officers with current staffing. The MOU also allows for the agreement to simply renew after five years unless there were changes necessary.

“We really wanted to promote good working relationships. We don’t want to revisit this every year and haggle and argue over the true cost of the officers. We’ve got a contract in place that escalates the wages,” Vitola said. “It’s fair for Milford residents to receive for cost recovery for any services for any of our departments. And we think it’s a fair contract for the the school district as well as the city so that’s where we landed and hopefully, if Council approves it with no changes tonight and in the school district does too, then it’ll be in effect.”

Mayor Archie Campbell asked Vitola to confirm that there were only two officers included in the MOU and Vitola stated that this was true, that there were two confirmed officers dedicated as school resource officers. Chief Kenneth Brown confirmed that, due to staffing challenges at the police department, only two officers could be provided to the district and that the district made up the difference by using constables in other schools.

“I’m saying you have Lulu Ross, Mispillion and Banneker, the elementary schools. Two are close to each other, only about a block away. The other one is almost on the other side. You have one person covering all three of those schools,” Mayor Campbell said. “And then we have one in middle school and one in the high school. Especially what’s going on in schools today. Me being in that school for seven years. I am not comfortable with

See **SCHOOL** on page 31

**SCHOOL from page 30**

that, to be honest. I mean if something was to happen and let's say it's not Mispillion or Lulu Ross, but at Banneker. it's going to be bad for that one person to get over to Banneker from Ross or Mispillion. So, that does not make me warm and comfortable. High school, middle school, they're pretty close and they can kind of get there pretty quickly because I did both schools. But with what's going on in society today, I am not comfortable."

Councilman Andy Fulton pointed out that the old Milford Middle School would be opening as well to which Mayor Campbell stated that it would not be open for a few years.

"I know but I mean, but this agreement is based upon two. But I mean it could be a little bit more open where it's based upon the needs of the school district as identified," Councilman Fulton said. "With this billing matrix, it is written so that the school district can choose one, two or three."

Vitola agreed, stating that as long as the police could accommodate the choice for additional officers, that would be possible. However, based on the district's budget constraints, the district was comfortable with the two officer model. Councilman Jason James asked how many constables in addition to school resource officers there were. Chief Brown was not sure but he believed there were at least three. Councilman James stated that council could not make the decision for the district as to how many officers they needed.

"I completely agree that the school system, we are in a different age," Councilman Todd Culotta said. "I agree with the mayor and his comments but they really have

to determine what their security requirements are and how that fits in with what we can provide."

Mayor Campbell continued to express his concerns. "I'm not comfortable. I'm holding back my anger to be honest with you," he stated.

Councilman James reiterated that this was a decision that was up to the district to tell the city what they needed, but that they also needed to have the funding to cover the cost of those officers.

"It's a crazy world now. We're talking about one or two. We should be worried about our kids," Mayor Campbell said. "I am not comfortable. No one here has been in those schools. I'm the only one and I see what goes on, especially middle school, which is the worst between fights and everything else. And the high schools, but I think about the elementary schools and the little kids. I want it on the record. I don't agree with it."

Councilman James pointed out that the MOU simply provided a cost recovery to the city for the officers provided to the district.

"I want to make sure that everybody in the audience that's listening understands the school district needs to tell council so we can address our police department how many they need, what resources they need. We are not in a position to make that decision for the school district. We're a separate entity, we cannot make that decision for them. So, our lobbying and our words about how many they have really needs to be addressed by Kevin Dickerson and the school board president Jason Miller."

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



**FUR BABY**  
PET RESORT

**PAMPER YOUR FUR BABY**

**Doggie Daycare.  
Overnight Hotel.  
Specialty Boutique.  
Spa Grooming.**

FEATURING **SAFE & FUN, CAGE-FREE**  
DAYCARE & HOTEL

NATURAL GROCERY  
TO SPA PAMPERING

**AWARD WINNING**  
PET RESORT

 DelawareToday

 **302.725.5078**  
 [woof@furbabyboutique.com](mailto:woof@furbabyboutique.com)

MAKE ONLINE RESERVATIONS TODAY!  
 [www.furbabypetresort.com](http://www.furbabypetresort.com)

FOLLOW ALONG  
  [@furbabypetresort](https://www.instagram.com/furbabypetresort)

# STAY CONNECTED

**MILFORD LIVE IS YOUR SOURCE FOR NEWS AND INFORMATION IN THE GREATER MILFORD, DELAWARE AREA. STAY CONNECTED WITH US BY PHONE, EMAIL OR ON SOCIAL MEDIA BY CLICKING ON THE LINKS.**



**PHONE: 302-542-9231**



**For News & Information: [news@delawarelive.com](mailto:news@delawarelive.com)  
To Advertise With Us: [shupe@delawarelive.com](mailto:shupe@delawarelive.com)**



**[instagram.com/milford\\_live/](https://www.instagram.com/milford_live/)**



**[twitter.com/live\\_delaware](https://twitter.com/live_delaware)**



**[facebook.com/delawarelivenews/](https://www.facebook.com/delawarelivenews/)**



**Watch Delaware Live on YouTube!**



**[linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news](https://www.linkedin.com/company/delaware-live-news)**



**Without these collaborators,  
this outlet would not be  
possible:**

**Bryan Shupe, CEO**

**Betsy Price, Editor**

**Sonja M. Frey, Publisher**

*John Mollura Photography*

# *Design your 2022 through Intentional Business and Marketing Planning*

As a locally-owned company, Delaware LIVE News takes pride in working alongside regional businesses to develop digital marketing campaigns, through our daily news platforms.

From large corporations like Christiana Care, Delaware Tech Community College, and Delaware Department of Health to small shops like Fur Baby Pet Resort, Dolce Coffee Shop, and Benvenuto Tuscan Restaurant, we customize each plan to optimize the needs of each of our marketing partners.

I would love the opportunity to meet with you for 10-15 minutes to see how we can help. You can click the link to set up a meeting with me in our virtual office: <https://meetings.hubspot.com/shupe1>

**CEO, Bryan Shupe / 302-542-9231 / shupe@delawarelive.com**

