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PHOTO CREDIT: MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT



CLASS OF 2022



DMI DIRECTOR AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION



MSD SUMMER PROGRAMS EXPANDED

HEADLINES



PHOTO BY MARCIA REED

CLASS OF 2022 EMBARKS ON NEXT CHAPTER

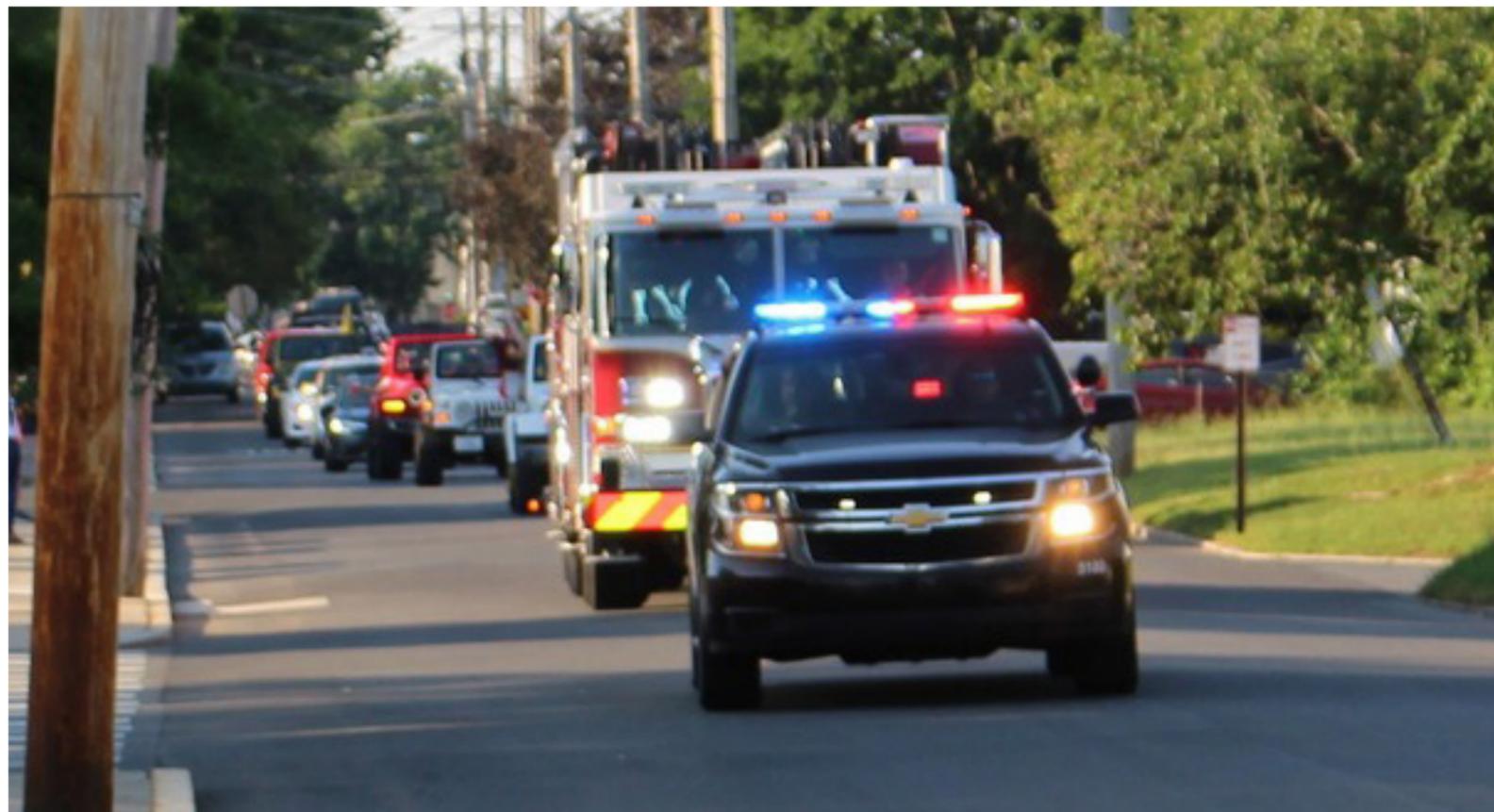
BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford High School Class of 2022 embarked on the next chapter in their lives when the school held its graduation ceremony. The official ceremony was postponed from Thursday due to predicted storms in the area.

A few days before graduation, seniors participated in another rite of passage when the Senior Cruise traveled through town. Seniors rode in decorated cars, celebrating the completion of 13 years of school.

It is unknown when the Senior Cruise began in Milford. According to School Resource Officer Corporal Robert Masten, the Senior Cruise was held informally for many years without city approval. Because the activity became unsafe, the district and Milford Police Department began working together to make the event safer for students and citizens. He believes the official organized event began in the late 1970s or early 1980s.

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PHOTO BY VINCENT J. DESKIEWICZ SR.

JUNE JAM PREPARES FOR 44TH YEAR

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Saturday, June 11, the G&R Campground in Houston will again be the site of June Jam, a large outdoor concert that is in its 44th year. The event, which began as a charity concert, will feature well-known local bands, food trucks and vendors.

“It has been a crazy week trying to get it all nailed down,” Lynn Fowler, vice president of the June Jam said. “Every year we wonder how we get it all done, but every year we do.”

June Jam began out of tragedy when friends of the founders were electrocuted while working in Magnolia. Music lovers and musicians, a group of friends got together to put on a concert that would raise money for the families of the victims in 1978. The concert was such a success, it continued and has remained a popular

event for 44 years. Even in 2020, the organizers did not want to miss a year, so a scaled-down version was held in October. The overall theme of the event is music with bands of multiple genres providing entertainment, but there is still a charity component to the festival.

“What we’ve been doing is we’ve been doling out money throughout the year. Last year, we did Toys for Tots. We did Heroes for Hooters and then we did a donation to the Houston Fire Department because they do so much for us. They all volunteer so, I mean it’s not that they’re getting paid for it. They all volunteer,” Fowler said. “So, we gave a donation to them. And then I think we helped four individuals. One person had a house fire. Another one was for two people who were sick. One was a homeless person, a girl and long-time

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attendee of June Jam and it was a domestic violence situation. So we paid for the hotel but we don't advertise that stuff because we don't want to give out their personal information."

Fowler also explained that the June Jam organization does not give funds directly to a recipient. For instance, if the person needs medication, they pay the pharmacy or if they need help with a hotel, they pay the hotel. One of the reasons is to prevent someone who receives assistance from them from losing any benefits they are already receiving. Fowler pointed out that even \$10 in extra income could cause someone to lose a benefit, which is why they prefer to pay the provider and not the person they assist.

"We've always had two stages and that second stage was just a wooden platform. We had like a tarp over it and all that kind of stuff," Fowler said. "We've built a new stage that is now a permanent fixture in the campground. That will remain there all the time with a lighthouse on top. So we're calling it the Lighthouse Stage. And it's a really nice stage. That's going to be our new surprise this year. Everybody's wondering why we're saying we are Rocking the Lighthouse."

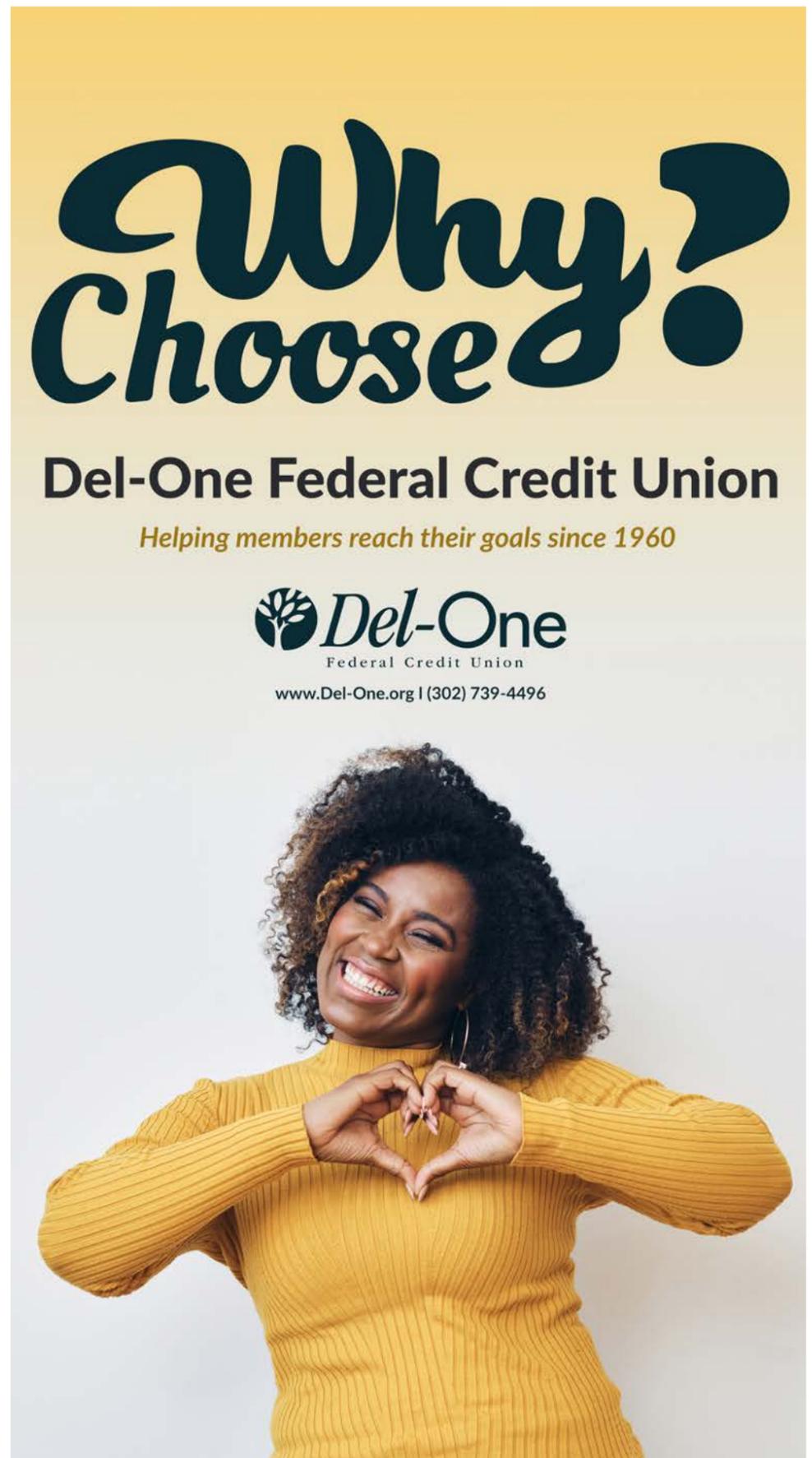
The bands will begin playing at noon with Scooby Walker on the Lighthouse Stage—a local musician born and raised in Harrington—whose energy and passion will light the stage up from the start. The Joey Fulker-son Band starts on the Main Stage, one of the most popular bands at June Jam each year. At 1:45 p.m., Fuzz-box Piranha takes the Lighthouse Stage, playing everything from AC/DC to ZZ Top. At 2:45 p.m., Storm

Over Seattle appears on the Lighthouse Stage, playing 90s grunge music like Alice in Chains, Pearl Jam and Stone Temple Pilots. Bad Alibi takes the Lighthouse Stage at 4:15 p.m., playing everything from modern country to rock to funk to dance tunes. At 5:30 p.m., JJ Rupp appears on the Main Stage, sharing country sounds and 440 Band takes the Lighthouse Stage at 7 p.m., playing classic rock. The festival ends with Triple Rail Turn taking the Main Stage at 8:30 p.m. This is the most requested band at June Jam, and they not only feature amazing country sounds but have a dynamic stage presence as well.

"Our gates open between 10:30 and 11 depending on how long that line is. Because they clog up that road up," Fowler said. "Funny thing, I didn't know until last year, because the guy who opens the gate came back and he goes 'I'm opening the gate because the tailgates out there are just getting a little too big.' I was like 'What are you talking about?' He told me people out there waiting were partying and I asked him where? He said on the road, people party on the road. Well, I went out there on the golf cart and like took a cruise down around people who had actual tables set up out there. Like on somebody's lawn, like putting their stuff on somebody's yard. I've been doing this for 25 years and all these years, I had no idea what went on out there."

Fowler says tickets are still available and can be purchased at Music and Arts in Camden or Middletown. Tickets will also be available at the gate or can be ordered online as will-call at the gate. Tickets are \$34 each.

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FOOD BANK AND DOORDASH PARTNER TO ADDRESS FOOD INSECURITY

over an estimated 33 million meals. The Food Bank of Delaware has partnered with Project DASH since June 2021 to provide convenience and dignity for food-insecure clients in New Castle County.

“We are thrilled to announce an expansion of this important home delivery program in partnership with DoorDash to residents of Kent and Sussex counties,” said Food Bank of Delaware President and CEO Cathy Kanefsky. “We know that so many in our community are struggling to make ends meet. Far too many of our neighbors in need are homebound, lack transportation, have unreliable transportation or can’t afford gas to get out to a food pantry. This creative partnership allows us to better serve some of our community’s most vulnerable, but more importantly, it allows us to deliver a little bit of hope.”

Thanks to the new partnership, residents who live within a 15-mile radius of the Food Bank of Delaware’s Milford branch will be able to go online, select from a variety of meal boxes and a bag of produce, and place an order for a free delivery. A DoorDasher will deliver the food within the hour. To place an order, visit please

See FOOD BANK on page 10

BY TERRY ROGERS

Recently, Food Bank of Delaware and DoorDash announced an expanded partnership to deliver free meal boxes to food-insecure residents of Kent and Sussex counties. A local Dasher made the ceremonial first delivery to a downstate resident on May 26.

“This partnership allows people to order boxes of shelf-stable pantry staples and produce using DoorDash,” Kim Turner, communications director for the Food Bank, said. “There is no fee for delivery and our goal is to be able to provide delivery to every Delawarean who is homebound, lacks transportation or cannot get to a food pantry as we expand this program.”

Since 2018, DoorDash’s Project DASH has empowered community organizations to leverage DoorDash logistics to increase food access in their communities and has powered more than 1.8 million deliveries of

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visit www.fbd.org/home-delivery. The program is also available at the Newark Food Bank location as well as St. Stephen's Lutheran Church in Wilmington.

"We are honored to partner with the Food Bank of Delaware on this expansion of our work to help broaden food access in the state," said Chad Horrell, senior manager, Local Government Relations, DoorDash. "Local delivery has been critical in supporting food banks and food pantries provision of food and other essentials while emphasizing convenience and dignity. We're excited to continue growing this work in a sustainable way for our food bank and food pantry partners across the country to continue to meet the ongoing need."

To reach more residents of Kent and Sussex counties, the Food Bank of Delaware is currently looking for more community-based food pantries to serve as DoorDash delivery hubs. The Food Bank will train organizations on the technology to receive orders and ensure that the pantry is stocked with meal boxes for the program. For more information about becoming a hub, please contact Michael Zeltt, food distribution director, at (302) 292-1305 Ext. 222 or mzeltt@fbd.org.

"With so many of our residents struggling with food insecurity, this is an excellent opportunity to help further combat that issue," said Senator Dave Wilson. "This is a great day for Milford and the Food Bank of Delaware. Thank you to Door Dash for partnering with the Food Bank to help make this possible."

"This partnership leverages existing technology and resources in a unique way to produce a new service that

will benefit our most vulnerable citizens," said Rep. Charles Postles (R-Milford North). "I am enthusiastic about the possibilities this venture holds for helping our community and I applaud the Food Bank of Delaware and DoorDash for their innovative collaboration."

In addition to generous start-up grants from DoorDash, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and Nemours have also made generous contributions to the Food Bank's new home delivery program.



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AUDITIONS ANNOUNCED FOR SSP'S FALL MAIN STAGE SHOW

BY TERRY ROGERS

Second Street Players announce auditions for the innovative and imaginative Tony-winning comedy, “Peter and the Starcatcher,” on Sunday, June 19, 2022, and Wednesday, June 22, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. All auditions are at the Riverfront Theater, 2 S Walnut St, Milford, DE 19963.

Director John H. Hulse has announced open auditions for “Peter and the Starcatcher”. The show is performed by a cast of 12 actors with good physical comedy sensibility, ages 15–99. Auditions will consist of readings from the script, some improvisation and movement exercises and learning a group song. Those auditioning are encouraged to bring a prepared, short comedic monologue and, if they wish, a prepared short solo of a campfire song, lullaby, sea shanty or jingle.

Casting is open to all people. Minority actors are encouraged to audition. Show dates are Sept. 9, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 18, 2022. The cast must be available for all show dates. Second Street Players, in keeping with the governor of Delaware’s guidelines, currently recommends that masks be worn in indoor spaces, regardless of vaccination status.

Tony-winning “Peter and the Starcatcher” is the prequel to Peter Pan. An extravaganza of staging that relies on suggestion and storytelling, this is a coming-of-age adventure story about how a nameless orphan, inspired by a remarkable and ambitious girl, became the strange and celebrated hero who is the Boy Who Would Not Grow Up. Featuring a dozen actors portray-

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Milford School District
Morris Early Childhood Center
Kindergarten Registration Information

2022-2023 School Year

March 10 (Thursday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
March 14 (Monday)	8:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
March 29 (Tuesday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
April 6 (Wednesday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
April 12 (Tuesday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
May 4 (Wednesday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
May 19 (Thursday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
June 1 (Wednesday)	4:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.
June 7 (Tuesday)	4:00p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

Important notes:

- Please call 422-1650 to schedule a date and time
 - Please indicate if you will need an interpreter
- Child must be 5 years old by August 31, 2022 to begin kindergarten
- You must bring your child for screening on your scheduled date and time to assist

Documents required for registration include:

- State Issued Birth Certificate (with raised seal)
- Proof of Residency (utility bill, lease agreement, mortgage papers) within the Milford School District
- Guardianship/custody information if applicable
- Immunization (shot) record
- Physical Exam
- Tuberculosis Risk Assessment or PPD results
- Lead test result

*Please note: Any family who is interested in being considered for the 2022-2023 Spanish Immersion Program lottery will need to register on or before June 7th. Any late registrants will be added to the waiting list.

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ing more than 100 unforgettable characters, including sailors, seamen, seafarers, orphans, pirates, mermaids, mollusks and narrators, “Peter and the Starcatcher” playfully explores the depths of greed and despair, as well as the bonds of friendship, duty and love.

“Peter and the Starcatcher” is a play by Rick Elice, based on the novel by Dave Barry and Ridley Pearson, music by Wayne Barker. Originally produced on Broadway by Nancy Nagel Gibbs, Greg Schaffert, Eva Price, Tom Smedes and Disney Theatrical Productions.

Those needing more information, or are unable to attend the audition, but are interested in auditioning or being part of the production crew, should contact Mr. Hulse at 302-245-4147.

Second Street Players values diversity and inclusion in casting, and in all other areas of production. For a synopsis of the show and parts or other information about Second Street Players, visit www.secondstreetplayers.com. “Peter and the Starcatcher” is presented through special arrangement with Music Theatre International (MTI). All authorized performance materials are also supplied by MTI. www.mtishows.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 DelawareScene.com.



BRD-2620	CS-620P-24	HCS-3810
PB-2620	CS-620P-27	SHC-2620
FB-770H/T	CS-620PW-20	SHC-2620S
PB-8010/PB-9010H/T	CS-620PW-24	HCA-2620
SRM-2620U	CS-620PW-27	HCA-2620S
SRM-3020U	CS-7310P-20/G	PAS-2620
CS-2511T-12	CS-7310P-24/G	PPF-2620
CS-2511T-14	CS-7310P-28/G	PPT-2620
CS-2511P-12	CS-7310P-32/G	PPT-2620H
CS-2511P-14	PE-2620/S	SRM-2620
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BUSINESS



Q2 PHOTO BY MARCIA REED

NEW DMI DIRECTOR LEADING THE CHARGE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent Milford Conversation, Janne Collins, who recently accepted the position as executive director of Downtown Milford, Inc., explained how historic preservation has been important to her since she grew up in a river town in Indiana with a large historic area.

“I am from a little town called Vincennes, Indiana. It is on the Wabash River. It is a historic town and was where one of the last Revolutionary War battles was fought,” Collins said. “And so, the history of Milford really tugs at my heartstrings. I was the oldest daughter in a family that had six children. And my dad died when I was

seven. So, by the time I was 11, I was working to provide for my family. My mother had gone into a deep, dark depression after he died that she didn’t come out of for almost 16 years. So, my older brother and I literally worked to help provide for our family and take care of them. I was the first person in my family to graduate from a four-year college which was a big deal back then and I graduated as a theater major.”

Collins explained that she fell in love with theater after a meeting with a high school guidance counselor who provided her with a list of careers and asked her what she wanted to do with her future. She read through the list and told the counselor she wanted to do all of it.

“I would like to learn how to fly a helicopter. I’d like to do all these different things. Well, I never learned how to fly helicopters, but I did get to ride in one at the Delaware State Fair,” Collins said. “The funny thing was though, all through school, I loved music, and we had gotten a new theater director at our high school and I started doing theater. I thought you know what, if I become a theater major, I can do all those things because you can pretend like you’re anything and that’s so much fun. So, I was a theater major. And I had been so impressed in my life by my teachers in high school

that my thought was what I want to do is go back and I want to teach and so that was my plan. Become a theater major, get my degree, become a teacher and teach other people how to do this. And lo and behold, I get done with my four years and the government decides that they’re going to take all the arts programs out of the schools and I’m just like, well there goes that.”

After realizing a career in teaching theater in schools was not likely, Collins married and became a mother. Her husband was in the military, and she followed him around the country, landing in Delaware for a few years before heading back to Indiana when her husband’s job changed. She explained that one day he told her he would never go back to Delaware. She asked him why because she actually enjoyed living here and he just said he never wanted to go back.

“Two weeks later, we were going back to Delaware, and I said never say never,” Collins said. “We came back to Delaware, and he worked for WBOC. Four years into that, our marriage broke up and he left me here with a van that didn’t go into reverse and would only go 40 miles an hour. So, I became a single mom of two little boys that were nine and 12 at the time, and I was so blessed by the people of Delaware, that I have stayed here that there are just remarkable people here. I had someone who didn’t even know me who found out about my plight and on Thanksgiving Day, dropped a car off in front of my house and said here’s a car for you. I’ve paid the insurance for a year. Because they could see I was working hard, I was trying to make it. I was trying to get on my feet. That is the kind of person I am, I don’t let the things that try to knock me down keep me down. I get back up. I keep going. You tell me I can’t and I’m going to say I can. It might take me longer than it will take some other people, but I can do it and I will eventually.”

Collins stated that she could not do her job without the many people who have not only blessed her life but who give so much to DMI to help the organization with its

See DMI on page 15

DMI from page 14

mission. She came into the position when DMI was trying to rebuild after a pandemic that wreaked havoc on many non-profit organizations. She explained that DMI has four standing committees that achieve the goals of DMI.

“One of them is the Promotion Committee that a lot of you are familiar with because they tend to do things like Third Thursdays and the Holiday Stroll,” Collins said. “Then, we have the Economic Vitality Committee that is working on some projects. One of them they’re working on is a Civic Pride project that they haven’t really talked about it yet because they’re building this program. They’re working on it with the city and hope to introduce that to everybody and invite people to come out to learn more about what that means. We have the Design Committee that is responsible for the beauty in downtown Milford is how I would put it. They make sure we have baskets filled with flowers and that they get changed out seasonally. They take care of the banners and things. And Joe Phillips at Causey Manson does most of that. I mean he has a whole crew behind him, but he is really the one who spurs that. And then we have the Organization Committee that is supposed to be doing things like grants, kind of laying foundationally things to keep DMI going. And that committee is suffering a little bit because they’re losing a lot of people that were on it, and we’re trying to bring new people on to that.”

Collins is always surprised when she steps out of her office and sees people stepping out of cars with out-of-state license plates. She likes to ask them what brought

them to Milford, and many are either considering moving to the town or have just moved here and want to learn more about it. In her eyes, there is a need because of the new visitors to town as well as new residents to let people know what Milford has to offer. Collins is also surprised to learn that people are unaware there is a music school downtown. Collins was with the Music School of Delaware for over five years before taking the DMI position. She is also shocked to learn that people, many who are born and raised here, are unaware of the shipyard history in Milford, something she learned about from a subcommittee of the Economic Vitality Committee, the Vinyard Shipyard Task Force.

“They started because they wanted to see about a way to make that a focal point in the community historically for Milford but also in partnership with the Delaware Nature Society,” Collins said. “I think originally the task force thought the city was going to be the purchaser but it now looks like we’re going in a different direction. We’re still working on that. Nicole (Rogers, Milford Museum) is helping work on that and I love her passion. We are the ones that house money for that project. It is not money that DMI will ever use for itself. It is only money that we will give away to be used for that project. So, if you know if anybody else who is passionate about the Vinyard Shipyard that wants to give towards that. We have been given a grant of \$100,000 from the state and they’re working on another, I believe around \$800,000 from the state. They’re also working with the Longwood Foundation for a big chunk of change. And I won’t even say what that number is because I don’t

See DMI on page 16

A promotional graphic for County Bank. At the top, it says "SAME BANK. NEW LOOK." in a bold, sans-serif font. Below this is a green horizontal line. To the left is a stylized green tree with roots. To the right of the tree, the words "COUNTY BANK" are written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, in smaller black letters, is the slogan "WE HAVE ROOTS HERE". At the bottom center, there is a rounded rectangular button with the text "LEARN MORE" inside. To the right of the button is the "Member FDIC" logo.

A promotional graphic for Delaware LIVE. The top part features a photograph of a diverse group of children wearing colorful, mask-like accessories, standing in a grassy field. In the top left corner of the photo, the text "DELAWARE LIVE" is written in white, with "OUR STATE. OUR NEWS. OUR HOME." underneath it. A large blue diagonal shape overlaps the bottom right of the photo. Over this shape, the text "With Delaware LIVE we share our story, not remain a static ad" is written in a large, bold, yellow font. At the bottom of the blue shape, a white box contains the text "- BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF DELAWARE" in a blue, sans-serif font.

know for sure what that is. I've heard varying amounts. The museum would like to become owner/operator of it and they seem to be the most logical choice. They have the ability and knowledge to do this. They know how to preserve what is there and they know how to bring what they are preserving into the future."

Collins turned the discussion over to Rogers to describe the vision the museum saw for the shipyard.

"I'd like the Vinyard Shipyard to become the Delaware Museum of Maritime Life. That's kind of the big goal," Rogers said "If any of you have been to the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum in St. Michael's something similar to that they have. Of course, they have more water than we do to be fair, so not exactly like that. But in a similar manner having that kind of thing. They talk about the oystering industry in the Chesapeake. I don't know if anyone knew this, but there were oysters in in the Mispillion River. There was an oystering industry on the Mispillion River that died out when people got typhoid from the oysters and things like that. So, like that kind of history, telling that story and telling the story of all of the shipyards as well. At one time there were there were seven functional shipyards throughout Milford and at the same time, only one survives. It's the Vinyard Shipyard. The other ones aren't around to tell their stories. So, I feel like the one that survived should also tell their story. And of course, the Vinyard Shipyard is of national significance. They built sub chasers and other ships for the United States Government for World War One and World War Two and things like that. So, I would like it to be kind of

more of an overarching, not just focused on the Vinyard Shipyard itself but all of the shipyards and the maritime life that came through on the Mispillion River as well.

Collins explained that the task force put their plans on hold during the pandemic and that the time away from the project may allow them to refocus their efforts into a more maritime view rather than strictly focusing on boat building and science. Although those types of activities could eventually be part of the shipyard, the history should be the focal point. There was also discussion about the current state of the Mispillion River drawbridge which cannot be opened due to an accident. Many of those in attendance agreed to contact legislators to pressure them into opening the bridge. After the meeting, Jason Hastings of DelDOT confirmed that DelDOT is committed to fixing the bridge but due to litigation could not share any more details.

"I went to a conference for DMI just recently in Richmond, Virginia," Collins said. "They had a big old train station there that was falling down and nasty and they decided it was time to revitalize it and preserve it. They turned it into a fantastic venue for arts and entertainment and things like that. We got to visit it, they had a band playing, they had a market inside which is like our farmers market, but more for people who make things, and it just was fabulous. The trains come back and forth, even though it wasn't being used for people to actually get on at that site anymore."

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BY TERRY ROGERS

After 25 years in education, Dr. Kevin DiCostanzo, a history teacher at Milford High School, has decided to leave the classroom and begin a new career at Mispillion River Brewing Company as their Events and Concessions Manager. DiCostanzo explained that this has taken his career full circle.

“Strangely enough, I was a bartender first, back in 1988 and my eighth grade science teacher used to come in and patron the bar that I was working at in Pennsylvania,” DiCostanzo said. “He had said to me when I was

FORMER TEACHER TO START NEW CAREER AS BREWERY EVENTS COORDINATOR

working for Olan Mills selling portraits, “Well, why don’t you go into education. It seems like you’d be pretty good at it.” At the time, I was just married, my oldest daughter was just a baby. I had left Millersville University. And at one point in time, I think it was probably around 1993, so I had to make a decision either to go back and finish a degree or to allow those credits just to go away. I had 90 something, but I changed my major twice. I was a computer science major first, then a finance major. Then when the stock market broke in 1987–1988, I left school. When Mr. Simms, this eighth grade science teacher, was coming into the bar where I worked and told me ‘Well, yeah, you’ve really got to think about doing education’. So, I started thinking about it a bit. I had to start thinking about what I was going to do with the credits, and I thought, well, you know, I’m pretty good at history. And I liked working with, at the time, the teenage kids that I was working with, back in Millersville. So, it was okay, let’s do that. I graduated in 1997 from Millersville. And Milford was the first school that picked me up and I took the job and been there ever since.”

DiCostanzo has seen education change considerably over the past 25 years and, since the pandemic, things have gotten “trickier.” He explained that teachers are trying to make sure students get through the system and keep as many of them in school as they can. He admitted he will miss working with students but

believes administrations are trying to transition into this new normal. Since the pandemic, DiCostanzo noticed it was more difficult to get students motivated, something that was not really an issue when he started in 1997. He stated that, back then, students understood what they were in school for, knew what they had to do and what would happen if they did not turn work in properly. Although there were students that would not do the work they should have back then, it seems as if in recent years there are more of those students.

“Well, it’s kind of like I’m going backwards actually, because I came from here to begin with. And, you know, the best training I ever had for working with students was actually working as a bartender in hospitality,” DiCostanzo said when asked how difficult the transition from education to hospitality would be. “You have to learn how to handle the public, keep them happy. And at the same time, you have certain rules that have to be enforced, and there are certain things that you’re trying to accomplish. And it was pretty much the same with me with that and education.”

DiCostanzo joked that he actually created his own title when he took the job at Mispillion Brewing and that he started as a customer there initially.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)



MILFORD MICROTEL CELEBRATES ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY TERRY ROGERS

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford, the city of Milford, several members, friends and family recently celebrated a one-year anniversary ribbon cutting at Microtel By Wyndham, Milford.

“Microtel began as an economy chain, owned by Hilton,” Chad Moore of Beacon Hospitality said just before the hotel opened. “Wyndham purchased the properties and has operated them ever since. Beacon Hospitality looked at putting a Holiday Inn Express in Georgetown but when we did our research, we found it would cost 35 to 40 percent more than the Microtel. I knew that it would be difficult to charge 35 to 40

percent more in the Georgetown market, so we decided to go with Microtel.”

The Microtel chain has received awards from J.D. Power for guest satisfaction with high marks in their check-in and out process as well as the quality of the guest rooms, services, facilities and costs. The Georgetown location has also received the Microtel of the Year award twice and was named Wyndham Hotel of the Year once. Moore explained that because the Wyndham awards were based on numbers, there was no way for the hotel to “stuff the ballot box,” meaning they won the award based on their performance.

See **MICROTEL** on page 19

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MICROTEL from page 18

“Microtel takes advantage of its smaller size by using every available space. In some hotels, hallways are eight feet wide but in a Microtel they are only five-and-a-half-feet wide, yet you don’t notice the narrower space because of its design,” Moore said. “In the Milford location, we have placed king rooms in the corners with a queen room on each side. There is a connecting door inside the room which can be kept open while the outside door can remain locked, giving guests a two-room suite which is perfect for couples or families traveling together.”

Beacon Hospitality once owned the Belmoor Inn in Rehoboth and, because that hotel was not on the ocean, they had to offer outstanding service to attract customers. Beacon carried that desire for exceptional customer service to its Microtel properties. Moore also stated that Beacon liked the flexibility allowed when designing the Microtel properties.

“We could have a pool or not, we could add conference rooms or not,” Moore said. “This allows us to focus on a higher level of service. The Milford location offers two conference rooms that will be available to the community. There is also an outdoor pool, firepits and a picnic area. At Microtel, when you call to make a reservation, we make it right there on property. That means if you need adjoining rooms, you will get them and not be told that we will “put in that request.” Too often, those requests are not fulfilled, and you arrive to find out you do not have adjoining rooms.”

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BY TERRY ROGERS

The city of Milford recently hired Tony Chipola as the new electric director. In this role, Chipola is responsible for the direction and supervision of the city's Electric Division, which includes operating and maintaining the city electrical system, trouble calls, installing of new aerial and underground lines and also performing maintenance of the existing lines.

"Tony has shown a passion for serving electric customers at the local level. He knows the benefits of public power to a community," said Mark Whitfield, city manager. "His background will serve the city well as we continue to grow, both by population and by power demands and supply."

CITY HIRES CHIPOLA AS NEW ELECTRIC DIRECTOR

Chipola joins the city with 17 years of electrical engineering experience, including substation and distribution engineering, relay test development, SCADA system knowledge, electrical planning and forecasting, and solar experience. After graduating from Drexel University with his BS in Electrical Engineering, Chipola began his career at the city of Vineland and most recently worked at Exelon Corporation for the last 14 years. He is also a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE).

"I'm excited to leverage my skills gained from both the municipal and corporate sectors to provide safe and reliable electric for the residents of Milford," Chipola said.

In his free time, Chipola collects hobbies and currently enjoys hand wiring guitar effects pedals and playing the guitar. He, his wife and 10-year-old son also enjoy the outdoors—hiking, kayaking and canoeing—together. Residents can contact Chipola and the electric department at 302-422-1110.



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EDUCATION





DIPIAZZA NAMED DELAWARE BEHAVIORAL SPECIALIST OF THE YEAR

BY TERRY ROGERS

Rosa DiPiazza, BHP, a behavioral specialist with Milford School District was recently named Delaware Behavioral Health Specialist of the Year. DiPiazza has been with Milford since completing an internship as part of her master's degree.

"I've always been interested in the intersection of science and behavior, but it took me some time to find the right balance for me," DiPiazza said. "I worked in a neuroscience research lab for a while in college, but quickly realized I needed more human interaction. That led me to work with Domestic Violence Services, which solidified my desire to work with children and my belief in the importance of early intervention. Part of that

work included partnering with schools to run prevention education groups. I loved working in schools and being able to provide consistent services to children. I initially started my graduate work in clinical psychology, but when I learned about school psychology, I realized it was a great fit for me and switched programs. I love school psychology because it combines data-driven interventions and science with direct human service. It's the best of both worlds."

DiPiazza graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, Pennsylvania in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in neuroscience. She worked as a Children's Advocate with Domestic Violence Services of Lancaster

See **DIPIAZZA** on page 25



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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.



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DIPIAZZA from page 24

County before starting graduate school at Millersville University in Millersville, Pennsylvania, where she earned a bachelor's degree psychology and an educational specialist certification in school psychology. While DiPiazza was finishing her master's degree, her mother moved to Delaware. She felt it made sense to search for internships and was selected for one in Milford where she has remained.

“One of the most challenging things about this job is how long it can take to see progress in student mental health,” DiPiazza said. “I think there’s sometimes a perception that everything gets better immediately if you just get someone started with counseling or other mental health supports. That’s usually not the case. Progress in mental health can be a slow process that sometimes doubles back on itself. It’s important to stay hopeful and optimistic. You have to be able to look for the incremental changes and hold expectations that are both high and reasonable. Sometimes it feels like there isn’t any progress being made at all, and then all of a sudden everything will come together. That can be a different kind of challenging. That’s usually when students graduate from my caseload, which means I see them less when everything is going well.”

One of the best parts of her job is building relationships with students, colleagues and families. DiPiazza explained that she loves feeling like she is part of the school community.

“I love watching students grow and learn and apply their new skills in new situations,” DiPiazza said.

See DIPIAZZA on page 26



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DIPIAZZA from page 25

“Being involved in problem-solving teams and providing consultative support to colleagues is deeply rewarding. Not only can I see students improving, I am often also able to watch colleagues take those same skills and strategies and apply them in other situations with other students. Anything I can do to share my knowledge and expertise with others and build collective capacity is rewarding. Hoarded knowledge helps one person; shared knowledge helps us all.”

As part of the recognition, DiPiazza receives a \$2,000 personal award in recognition of being chosen as the district Behavioral Specialist of the Year. She also receives an additional \$3,000 as a state winner and the Delaware Department of Education provides her with a \$5,000 grant to be used for the educational benefit of her students.

“I hope to use this platform to advocate for universal implementation of trauma-informed practices and well-functioning multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS) in our schools,” DiPiazza said. “Things like having calming areas in our classrooms and schools, building consistent structure and routines into our days, and praising effort and growth feel like small changes, but they can go a long way towards making our students feel safe and cared for at school. When these things are part of every student’s school experience, we are then able to identify students who need additional supports and provide them with what they need without overwhelming our systems.”

Laura Manges, director of Student Services, believes this was an amazing honor for DiPiazza, but is not at all surprised she received it.

“From the moment Rosa began working with our students in Milford, she provided a level of compassion, maturity and expertise that was extremely rare to find in such a young practitioner,” Manges said. “The Milford School community is truly fortunate to have Rosa DiPiazza on our team. She most certainly is a leader in behavioral health. I look for more great things to come from her leadership in the future.”

Dr. Kevin Dickerson, superintendent, echoed the sentiments of Manges.

“We are incredibly proud of Ms. DiPiazza for her deserved recognition as Delaware’s Behavioral Health Professional of the Year,” stated Dr. Dickerson. “We are extremely grateful to have Ms. DiPiazza working in the Milford School District and, furthermore, for the exceptional work that she does with our students, staff and families. This is a tremendous honor and is reflective of the huge impact she has serving our students and the entire Mispillion Elementary School’s school-community.”



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BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford School District Director of Student Learning, Dr. Bridget Amory, provided details to the Milford School Board about the expansion of summer programs that will be available to students over the summer. The programs will help students who are struggling to meet standards as well as offer additional programs based in Science, Technology Engineering Art and Math (STEAM).

“In addition to all the summer programming Laura Manges and her team put together to provide Extended School Year and year-round schooling opportunities, Milford School District is going to offer a handful of variety programs for our students,” Dr. Amory said, speaking for Kim Sekscinski who will manage summer programs but could not attend the meeting. “We will begin the Beginning Buccaneer program at Morris which we started last year with Opportunity Funds. It is intended to help provide kindergarten readiness oppor-

SUMMER PROGRAMS EXPANDED AT MSD

tunities for students who have been identified during the kindergarten registration process.”

Dr. Amory explained that the program is designed to offer early transition for kindergarten and give those students better acclimation to the physical building while providing them with additional review of critical skills they will need when they start school in the fall.

“At our elementary schools, we’re offering a very limited opportunity for the Voyagers program for students who need that extra boost as they transition from one grade level to another. And we actually are going to be offering Hola which is helping others with language acquisition and that’s intended to target our Spanish Immersion population. It will be housed at Ross Elementary,” Dr. Amory said. “Additionally, at Banneker Elementary we have one of our Voyager camps which is going to be STEAM based for grades three through five. Also, students will have the opportunity to work through a variety of activities more in a summer camp type environment, but we’ll also be reinforcing academic skills at Milford Central Academy.”

The district plans to offer an ELL camp hosted by one of the multi-language learner teachers and there is a transition program available for students who are moving from the fifth grade to the sixth grade immersion program.

“Families expressed concern about the transition in the area of mathematics because they are going from an exclusively Spanish program in math to a non-Spanish program in math,” Dr. Amory said. “As they go through

that program, we’re going to offer some additional opportunities for students to become acclimated to MCA as well as to kind of get that first exposure into the new mathematics curriculum.”

Programs for teens are also being offered over the summer, Dr. Amory explained. A camp offered last summer will return this year at Milford Central Academy as will the “Bigger, Faster, Stronger” program hosted through Quinn Abbott in partnership with teaching staff. Both Milford Central Academy and Milford High School will offer credit recovery for students who need to be sure they are meeting requirements that will allow them to graduate or promote to the next grade.

“We will have transportation,” Dr. Amory said. “It will be limited but we will have hub stops set up for students. Child nutrition will offer opportunities for meals. We’re incredibly grateful for staff that is willing to work above and beyond to offer these opportunities to our families and our students.”

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HEALTH



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STATE LAUNCHES ONE-STOP SHOP FOR COVID TESTING, TREATMENT

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

The Delaware Division of Public Health on June 2 announced the launch of the COVID-19 test-to-treat program.

The program is aimed at providing convenient testing and treatment options in one location.

Test-to-treat locations are designed to be a “one-stop shop” for individuals seeking diagnosis and treatment of COVID-19 within five days of showing symptoms.

How the program works:

- If you have **symptoms** of COVID-19, locate a **test-to-treat site** in Delaware and follow the facility’s directions for scheduling an appointment or for walk-up patients (where permitted).
- Once at the site, you will receive a rapid COVID-19 test.
- If the test is positive for COVID-19, you will meet with an on-site health care provider to discuss treatment options.

- If you and the health care provider determine one of the available treatments is best for you, you will receive the medication to take home.

Newark Urgent Care, located at 324 E. Main St. in Newark, is the first site to offer the test-to-treat option in Delaware. As more locations become available, they will be listed on the treatment page of Delaware’s Coronavirus [website](#). The goal is to have at least one location in each county by the end of April.

Newark Urgent Care will accept both walk-in patients and patients who make an appointment **online**. Making an online appointment reduces wait times. The facility is open 24 hours a day and anyone who comes in will be evaluated and offered the test-to-treat program if they meet the criteria.

“Reaching out to your personal health care provider or visiting a test-to-treat site as soon as you experience

See COVID on page 30



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symptoms is important,” said DPH director Dr. Karyl Rattay. “There are two oral medications available to assist in the treatment of COVID-19, but you must take them within five days of your first symptoms.”

Currently, there are five therapies approved by the FDA. Two medications are pills that can be taken by mouth called oral Antiviral drugs. These medications must be taken within five days of symptoms. (Paxlovid, Molnupiravir)

Two medications require an infusion and are Monoclonal Antibodies and Antiviral medications. These medications must be taken within seven days of symptoms. (Remdesivir, Bebtelovimab)

Your doctor will provide the best recommendation for you based on your symptoms, health history and overall risk of getting a severe COVID-19 infection.

“We have partnered with the state of Delaware in providing more than 45,000 COVID tests since 2020,” said Newark Urgent Care Medical Director Dr. Jack Horowitz. “In 2023, we will mark the 50th anniversary of Newark Urgent Care servicing the community with nearly one million patients seen. We are thrilled to continue and expand our partnership with the state and the community as the first to offer the test-to-treat program in Delaware.”



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