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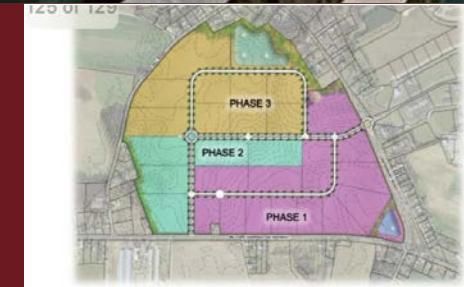
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AUGUST 16, 2022
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EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT



CORPORATE CENTER PLANS REVIEWED



NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL



HEADLINES

A photograph of a garden path. On the left, there's a large green hedge with clusters of bright pink flowers. To the right, a tall, dense hedge is dyed a vibrant yellow. A paved path leads through the garden, flanked by green grass and various plants. In the bottom left corner, a portion of a black metal bench is visible.

PHOTO LINK: RUTH HOUSTON-BEHRENS

HEADLINES



MILFORD SCOUT COMPLETES EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

BY TERRY ROGERS

Logan Huey began searching for an Eagle Scout project in January of 2022, struggling as many Boy Scouts do to find a project that he could accomplish and that would keep him interested. He heard that the city of Milford Public Works department was looking for assistance in refurbishing fire hydrants in town, he jumped at the chance because it was interesting and he knew he could complete the project.

"I am restoring/refurbishing 40 fire hydrants through-

out the Milford community," Huey said. "This involves cleaning, painting and then numbering each. I am also adding each hydrant, as well as the valve that connects the hydrant to the water line, to a GPS system to help maintenance and emergency crews find them more easily."

The most difficult part of the project, according to Huey, was planning the project. He had to look at every angle to be sure he had all the proper approvals, the

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SCOUT from page 3

right materials and enough people to help him complete the task.

"Surprisingly, the fun part of the project was talking to people who lived in the developments where we were working," Huey said. "People would either see the GPS device and ask what we were surveying or see that we were painting and strike up a conversation. It was fun getting to talk to people I had never met before and they were all very interested when they heard it was for my Eagle Scout Project and were all very appreciative of our work."

Becoming an Eagle Scout takes many years, Huey explained. When someone first joins Boy Scouts, they often are not focused on becoming an Eagle, but are focused on completing different requirements and working on merit badges to advance through the other ranks in scouting.

"This allows them to gain knowledge in a variety of fields from personal management to community service, first aid and environmental science," Huey said. "Once a scout reaches the rank of Life Scout, they can begin working on finding a project. Once I reached Life Scout, I began searching for a project. I had to write out a proposal and have that approved by a beneficiary representative, then by the Delmarva Council which is the local branch of BSA and then I could begin physically working on the project."

Now that the project is completed, Huey must fill out a report which is basically a post project review to see what he did well or what he could have done differently. Once that is completed, he can begin filling out applica-

tions to gather letters of recommendations, compile evidence of why or how he thinks he has earned the rank of Eagle Scout and then go through a board of review. During the review, he will be interviewed by a panel of people from the Delmarva Council where he could then be granted the rank of Eagle Scout.

"The Eagle process is very difficult but also very rewarding," Huey said. "The goal of the project is to use all of the knowledge and skills a scout has learned over the previous years to lead the project in a way that successfully gives back to the community."

Because earning the rank of Eagle Scout takes years of dedication and hard work, Huey believes that having it on his resume or job application in the future will make him a more desirable candidate to employers.

"An employer would notice that and understand that I embody the qualities and ideals of a Scout," Huey said. "Someone who's dedicated and hardworking but also respectful, courteous, trustworthy and so much more. At this point, I have been in scouting for more than 10 years of my life, so these ideals have played a large part in making me the person I am today. Being an Eagle Scout is helpful but having been in scouting at all is helpful as well. I've had the opportunity to meet new people, learn new things, go new places and make memories I will remember for the rest of my life. I will always be able to look back and make decisions based on the lessons scouting has taught me and being an Eagle Scout will help my future self understand that I really did get the most out of my time in scouting."

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CULTURE



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CROSS COUNTRY TRAVELER COMPLIMENTS MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

“Whoever is in charge of public beautification in Milford deserves a raise,” a Facebook post from Isaiah Glen Shields read on Sunday, Aug. 7. “An incredibly picturesque and lovely historic downtown complete with a riverwalk, brick sidewalks flowers, trees, memorials, etc. What a lovely space they have created here.”

Shields was walking through Milford on a cross country trek he began in Provo, Utah. Feeling discontented with his life, even with a lucrative career in corporate finance, Shields got the idea one day to go for a really long walk. He did not begin with the goal of visiting all 50 states when he set out from Provo and travelled to the westernmost point in the contiguous United States,

Cape Alava, Washington. Instead, he intended to travel from that westernmost point to the easternmost point which is Sail Rock off of West Quoddy Head in Maine.

“The only reason I have meandered so much was to accommodate the weather,” Shields said. “I was in Montana in October and then I walked down to Texas just so I wouldn’t have to deal with winters in Minnesota.”

On the Delmarva Peninsula on Aug. 2, Shields traveled from Berlin, Maryland, to Ocean City, Maryland. He came into Delaware through Fenwick Island often sleeping outside in his tent. He traveled through Rehoboth, Lewes, Harbeson, Georgetown, Ellendale

See TRAVELER on page 7

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TRAVELER from page 6

and Lincoln before arriving in Milford on Day 398.

"I feel bad for my friend Amy here who invited me to get some dinner with her and instead she ate dinner with a zombie," Shields posted on Aug. 7. "She was, however, delightful. Her friend (and my newest friend arguably) Phil here reached out to the owners of the restaurant we're at and they agreed to let me camp on the property."

The next morning, Shields thanked the owners of EasySpeak for allowing him to set up camp behind the restaurant. He then walked through downtown Milford where he commented on how beautiful the town was. After that post, he remarked that he was glad he had "doubled back slightly to see Milford." He stated that it was not just the visual beauty but now he had made memories as well.

"Probably just the way I've been embraced by people as I moved across the country," Shields said when asked what things he would never forget on his journey. "I mean, people have invited me into their homes to sleep after having known me for a matter of 10 seconds or less. On a few occasions, they're like 'we're not going to be here in the morning. We have jobs to go to, but you're going to have to let yourself out and be sure to fill up on anything you want in the fridge.' To have that level of trust and just realize those people are not anomalies. It's happened in every state I have been in and in every kind of weather and in every kind of climate you can imagine. It just goes to show there is more good stuff out there than bad."

See TRAVELER on page 8



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That is likely the most important thing he has learned, Shields said, that there is much more good in the world than there is bad, although people focus on the bad because it is attention grabbing.

"I would say the world is a much safer place than most people think," Shields said. "You don't hear about the 99 percent of people going about their daily lives and contributing to society and taking care of each other and being involved. I don't think we should let fear get as much control of our lives as it does."

The journey has not all been pleasant, Shields explained. He walked through a lot of winter storms, a lot of rainstorms and hurricanes, even sandstorms. People on their phones were another obstacle he had to deal with, requiring him to always be aware that not everyone on the road has good intentions. However, he believes this journey is a very rich way of living and worth any obstacles to see the canyons, rain forests, prairies and the rest of America that he claims is "just beautiful."

Shields believes he has about two more months of walking before he reaches West Quoddy Head and he does not know what he will do once he finishes.

"Your guess is as good as mine," he said. "I might just turn around and keep going. I might rent a car and drive back home and sort of re-situate a few things that are there since I left. But I imagine learning what the world really looks like and trying to share that message will always be part of me. I want people to see things a little bit more clearly as I've strived to do on this journey."



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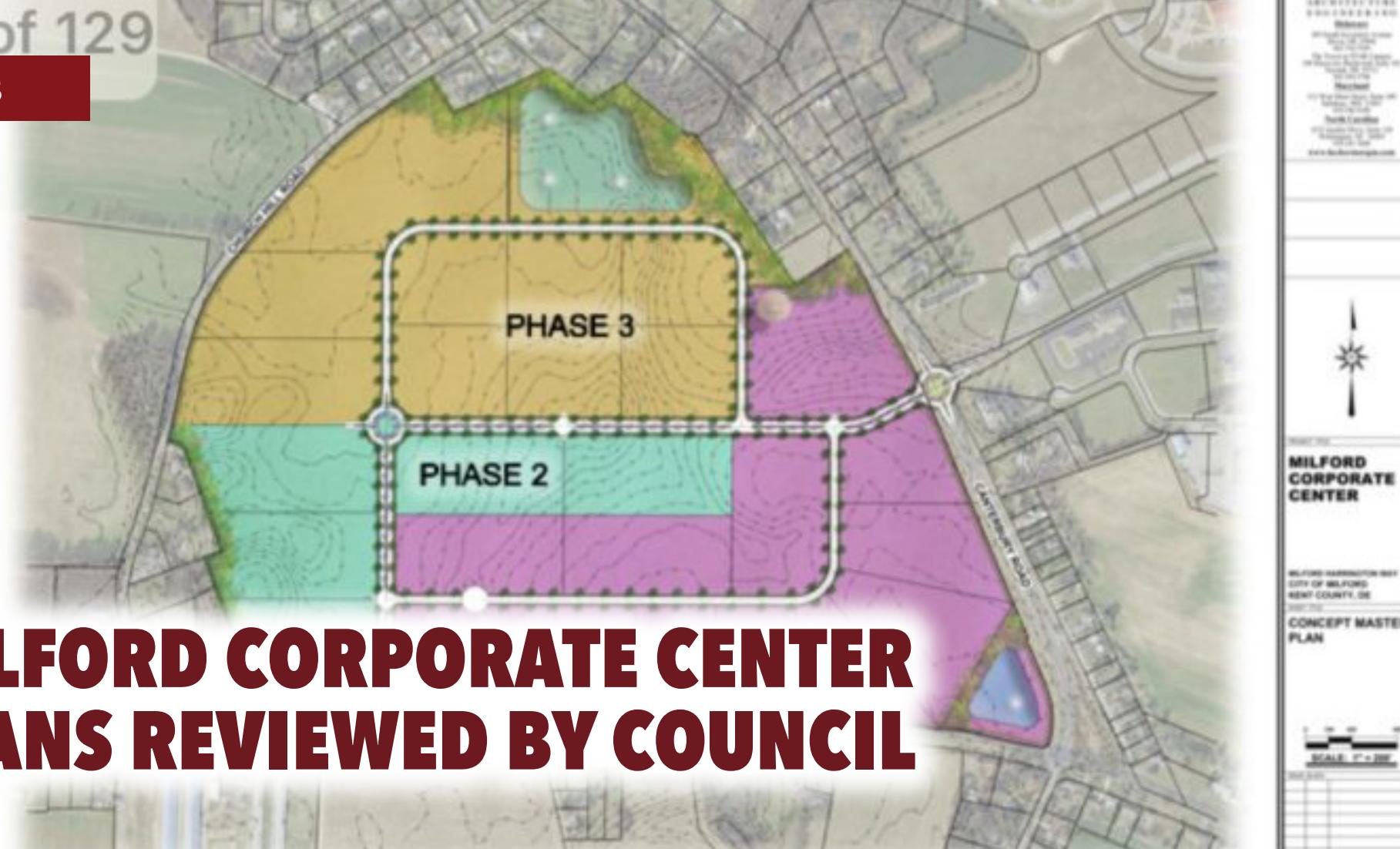
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BUSINESS



PHOTO BY MARCIA REED



MILFORD CORPORATE CENTER PLANS REVIEWED BY COUNCIL

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council reviewed plans for the new Milford Corporate Center which will be constructed on what was the Fry Farm. The city purchased the land at the corner of Milford Harrington Highway and Canterbury Road in 2021.

"Over the last couple months, we have started to put some concepts behind the business," Mike Ryman of the Becker Morgan Group said. "This is before surveys have been done and what have you, but you can really see just how we have some design objectives that have come out of the planning. The planning is flexible and it supports both small and large users on the campus

while taking advantage of the Route 15 corridor."

In addition to businesses, there will be public amenities including walking trails. There is a phased-in approach to the project and there will be access to the park from both Milford Harrington Highway (Route 14) and Canterbury Road (Route 15). According to Ryman, the access on Canterbury Road is aligned with Airport Road and the plan indicated there would be a roundabout at the intersection of Canterbury Road and Airport Road, something that was conceived when the land was considered for a residential development a number of years ago.

See CENTER on page 12

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CENTER from page 11

"So, we are anticipating that the thought process for the land is looking at a range of lot sizes. They range roughly from four acres to 12 acres, but they could be combined. The idea being that some of the parcels, depending on what type of tenant is interested," Ryman said. "When you embark on these, you don't necessarily know who that tenant might be or who that user might be. We do see a range of users in these campuses. We wanted to try to develop something where those lots can be combined. We did connect Route 15 over to Route 14 stormwater kind of to the plan north there. Based on GIS Topography, it does appear that the drainage pattern is in that direction. We have a drainage feature located at the corner of Route 15 and 14 because we think we could create a nice attractive accent to that major intersection there and in the business campus. And we are showing we did reserve a couple of acres for a water tower and wellsite."

Ryman explained that the plan has smaller lots along Milford Harrington Highway which are about four to five acres. These would favor more office-type users which would enhance visibility in the complex. Larger lots are located in the center of a little over five acres, but any lots could be combined if a tenant wanted something larger. The largest parcels are in the back and are about 12 acres. There will not be an access to Church Hill Road as the planners did not see that as a benefit. Ryman also stated that they have seen cases where someone who needs 150,000 square feet of space may compliment another smaller company who may only need 25,000 square feet which builds flexibility into the plan.

See CENTER on page 13

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CENTER from page 12

"We're seeing range in the market," Ryman said. "We're seeing on the larger end 300,000 to 500,000 square foot ranges as the sweet spot for larger users. And then the 75,000 to 150,000 range for smaller users. Right now, we are working through the PLUS process. We're scheduling meetings with DelDOT to start talk about access. We've done some things like counting traffic. We looked up old traffic studies that were done in this area. The good news is one of the off-site improvements indicated for this property, as part of the traffic study, is actually a DelDOT project that's being implemented at 113 and 14. You're probably aware of some additional lanes going in there. So, that's a good thing. And then we're starting to discuss the steps for public outreach."

Mayor Archie Campbell pointed out that Canterbury Road was a very small road with only two lanes. Ryman explained that it was actually built to major collector standards even though it was only two lanes. There are eight-foot shoulders and the lanes, although there are only two, are 12 feet in width which are DelDOT standards for a major collector. He stated that the same is true for Milford Harrington Highway so he wouldn't anticipate a need to widen those roads. Councilman Jason James stated that his concern was larger trucks going in and out of the industrial park which may not be the same as passenger vehicles.

"We're hearing about potential impact from concerned citizens," Councilman James said. "At this point, we really need to work with DelDOT to ensure that we're going to have sufficient shoulders, lanes, flow

of traffic. I just want to make sure we're all thinking about that. This is a good concept and I like how it looks, but we've got to keep Milford in mind."

Ryman pointed out that the Fry Farm was originally proposed to be a residential development. When they looked at the traffic study for a residential development compared to building an industrial park, they found that there would be less total traffic with the new plan. Councilman Andy Fulton questioned whether users would be concerned about driving all the way through the park to get to the back side if that is where they are located since there will be no access from Church Hill Road. Councilman James stated that an industrial park attracts a certain type of client and that having to drive through the park to get to a building was often not a factor.

"You hit the nail on the head there," Ryman said. "Those aren't the type of users that are necessarily looking for highways."

Whitfield pointed out that the other amenities included in the plan would also be beneficial for residents in the area. The walking trail around the outside of the property would be a buffer for those living near the property and they would be available for their use. In addition, employees in the park could walk on the trails during their lunch hour.

"I'm excited to see what's going to happen here," Mayor Campbell said.



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO BY BEN MULDROW



BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council awarded Jaquez Concrete Company a contract in the amount of \$380,760 to complete the remaining sidewalk repair and replacement project throughout the city. City Engineer James Puddicombe explained that staff decided to cover all four wards in areas that were not addressed in the first round.

"As part of that we requested bids regarding sidewalk replacement and grinding. We received three bids that came back," Puddicombe said. "One from True Grit (\$896,500.00), one from Mitten Construction (\$412,670.00) and one from the Jaquez Concrete (\$380,760.00). Mitten was the contractor that did the previous sidewalk program. And Jaquez Concrete did the 2020 street sidewalk work. So, we have familiarity with both contractors and both bids were surprisingly within 50 cents per foot, about what we would expect given some of the inflation increasing some prices"

Mayor Archie Campbell asked what True Grit was thinking and Puddicombe explained that he asked them

SIDEWALK REPAIR AND REPLACEMENT BID AWARDED

why their bid was so much higher. They planned to subcontract the work and act as the supervisor, so they up charged much of the work that needed to be done.

"So in funding this, there was an initial round of sidewalk work. A good chunk of that has been paid back to the city for that and initial funding that would roll into the second set of the sidewalk program," Puddicombe said. "There's a chunk of money that would be paid by the city that would be the city's portion of the sidewalk program. And that is in the amount of \$91,760. We would have an additional funding amount from RTT (realty transfer tax) of \$44,410. That would be over what we had already accounted for it. And so, our recommendation would be to award to Jaquez Concrete LLC in the amount of \$380,760 with the funding to be a combination of \$104,591 from the sidewalk funds available and \$276,170 in realty transfer taxes. Of that amount, \$289,000 will be subject to repayment by property owners."

Councilman Jason James confirmed that there were enough funds in the realty transfer tax account to cover the costs and Puddicombe stated that there were. He also reiterated that about \$289,000 would be replaced in the fund as property owners reimbursed the city for sidewalk repairs and replacement.

Council approved the bid award unanimously.

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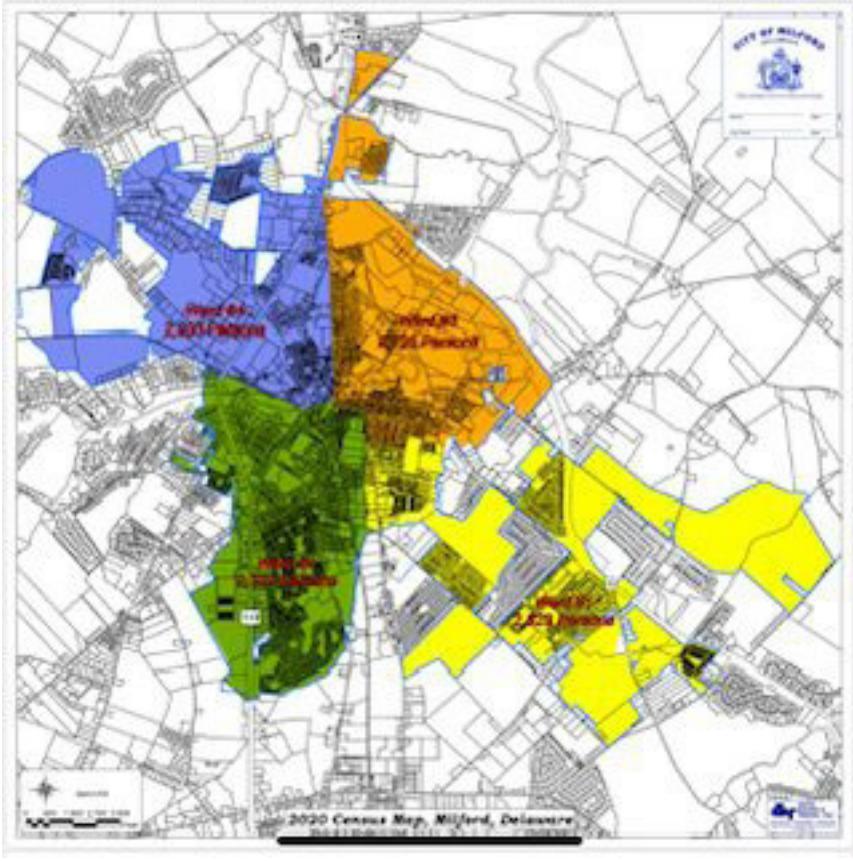
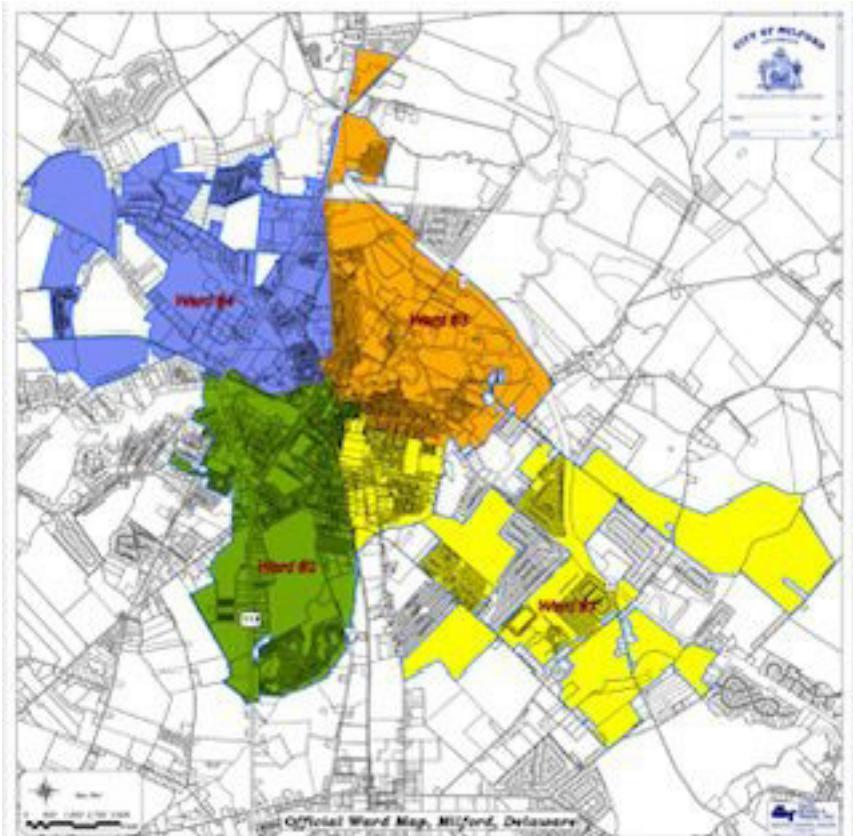
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REDISTRICTING PLANNED FOR MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS



Milford City Council heard from the president of Davis, Bowen & Friedel, Ring Lardner, regarding plans to redistrict the wards throughout the town. DBF assisted with the plan at the request of City Council and Mayor Archie Campbell to be sure that the city was meeting requirements under code. Lardner presented a map with new ward lines drawn and explained that code required each ward to be as equal in population number as possible. Due to growth in some wards, the population in each had become off balance.

"In 2020, the population of Milford was 11,204. Where the charter is written, the four wards are supposed to be as close as possible in number and that number equals 2,801, and your lowest ward has to be within 10% of the other wards. So, when we review that number, we found that the ward maps from 2010 no longer met that requirement. So, we had to look at redistricting. The next part of that process is the border just had to be contiguous. So, because there's the gap between Ward 1 and Ward 2, we kind of looked at the center part of the city. And so, with the proposed ward maps of Ward 1, we would end up at 2,823, Ward 2 at 2,727, Ward 3 at 2,425 and Ward 4 at 2,933."

Lardner explained that they decided to leave Ward 4 with a slightly higher population as it still fell in the 10% requirement and because there were predictions that Ward 4 would not grow as quickly as the other wards over the next 10 years, especially with the Fry Farm becoming part of the city as an industrial park. Winward on the River and other proposed develop-

ments would grow Ward 3 while Ward 1 still had potential for growth with Hearthstone and other areas. The most growth would occur in Ward 2 over the next decade with Simpson Crossing, Cypress Hall, Milford Ponds and more. For this reason, the plan lowered the population in Ward 2 significantly to allow for growth and so the city would not have to redistrict again before 2030.

"It matters because elected lines are going to be affected," Councilman Jason James said. "But this also follows natural boundaries of roads instead of being cut through which can be confusing."

Lardner explained that this was the fourth iteration of the map and that the planners used the four variances to shift lines and streets. What they found was the plan presented to council seemed to create the best shift and balance each ward. It also demonstrated that using streets as dividing lines worked better than using property lines.

"So, the only thing has to happen is the ordinance would have to be approved within six months of the next general election. So, we still have time and then the maps and legal descriptions just have to be advertised in the paper one month before the election. There's also sponsored Council Review of the maps."

City solicitor David Rutt stated that the redistricting had to be advertised and must go through the ordinance process with public hearings. He also stated that the announcement had to be advertised in two papers with wide distribution in the area, something that could be

See REDISTRICTING on page 17

REDISTRICTING from page 16

difficult. The advertisement must not only include maps but also a written description of the new boundaries. The deadline for approval of the redistricting would be Oct. 22 since the next election is scheduled for April 22. Councilman Michael Boyle pointed out that some of the street names in the developments on the preliminary map were incorrect and Lardner stated that those would be corrected in the final version. City Clerk Terri Hudson requested that a Sept. 1 deadline be established so there was enough time to notify residents of the changes.

"I do want to thank Davis, Bowen & Friedel for their help with this," Hudson said. "They have been very helpful with something that is already difficult with different maps. As he said, this, well actually, this is the fifth map, so now it will be easy for us and our engineering department when it comes to redistricting and for our voters."

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EDUCATION





BY TERRY ROGERS

Shervaun Hinton will join the administrative staff of Milford High School as its new assistant principal. Hinton's initial career was as a rehabilitation counselor before she moved into education.

"Education is actually my second career," Hinton said. "Prior to education, I worked as a rehabilitation counselor. In doing so, I regularly visited schools providing vocational counseling to students with disabilities. This blossomed into a deepened passion for wanting to teach students with disabilities in the academic setting rather than only providing job counseling services."

Born and raised in Sussex County, specifically Bridgewater, Hinton graduated from Sussex Tech in 1998 and earned both a Bachelor of Science in Rehabilitation Services and a Master of Science in Rehabilitation

MHS WELCOMES NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Counseling from the University of Maryland Eastern Shore. She worked in counseling settings ranging from prisons to group homes to hospitals. She is the proud mother of two daughters who are currently Milford School District students and has been married to her husband, who has roots in Milford, for 15 years.

"Having worked in various capacities in education, such as special education teacher, special education coordinator and student support specialist, I found that there was still more I wanted to do to impact the lives of students while continuing to build upon my leadership skills," Hinton said when asked why she decided to move into the administrative side of education. "I decided that becoming a school administrator is the natural next step to fulfill both interests."

Hinton believes that the increased incidence of mental health concerns is a challenge that public schools must face. She feels that especially at the high school level, increased incidences of mental health concerns in the adolescent population are a challenge. She also sees staffing levels and increased turnover in the teaching profession as an issue facing schools today. Her one personal goal this year as a new principal is to build connections with students, staff and families of Milford High School and the Milford community.

"One of my greatest achievements prior to coming to Milford has been building and advising the Black Student Union Club for our African American students,"

See PRINCIPAL on page 21

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PRINCIPAL from page 20

Hinton said. "In addition to advisement, I also lead the club in the planning of the various Black History Month activities that extended beyond the typical schoolwide activities such as the door decorating contest. African American authors book display, virtual guest speakers and open mic/talent show. Although I have other achievements, I mentioned this one because it had the greatest and most positive schoolwide impact."

Hinton hopes to work with other members of what she calls the "already strong" administrative team at Milford High School to create a safe and supportive environment for all students. She believes that when students feel safe, they are more likely to perform better both academically and socially.

"I believe I will be most challenged in maintaining my focus on my goal of intentionally building connections," Hinton said. "What I mean by this is with all of the day-to-day responsibilities assisting in leading a school, our focus tends to shift to whatever the need is for the moment. I have to be sure to remember that, no matter what, I will use every situation to build a connection of some form."

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STATE EDUCATION TEST SCORES DISMAL, DESCRIBED AS 'CRISIS'

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware's 2022 test scores were released Aug. 9, and they aren't pretty. Just 30% of Delaware students in grades three to eight met grade level math requirements, while 42% earned a proficient score in English language arts.

These scores come from the state-administered Smarter Balanced Assessment, an end-of-the-year summative test that measures the abilities of students in grades three through eight in math and reading.

Because of the pandemic, there was no testing in 2020, and education officials have expressed concern over the value and accuracy of data in 2021. Compared to the last year with a full and complete dataset, Delaware's reading and math scores plummeted further and it already ranked in the bottom half of the country.

"This is a crisis, there's no other way around it," said Laurisa Schutt, executive director of [First State Educate](#), a local education advocacy group.

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The Department of Education also published the state's SAT scores Aug. 9, and they also show a drop, but not as much as the Smart Balanced test.

Test scores release

In 2019, 48% of students scored proficiently in the evidence-based reading and writing portion, 28% tested proficient in math, and 42% reached that mark in the essay portion.

In 2022, the numbers are 47% for the evidence-based reading and writing portion, 24% for math, and 38% for the essay.

"We were using these test results as a baseline for recovery," said Theresa Bennett, director of the Office of Assessment at the Department of Education.

The subpar scores come even though more than \$600 million has been [allocated](#) to Delaware education for pandemic relief.



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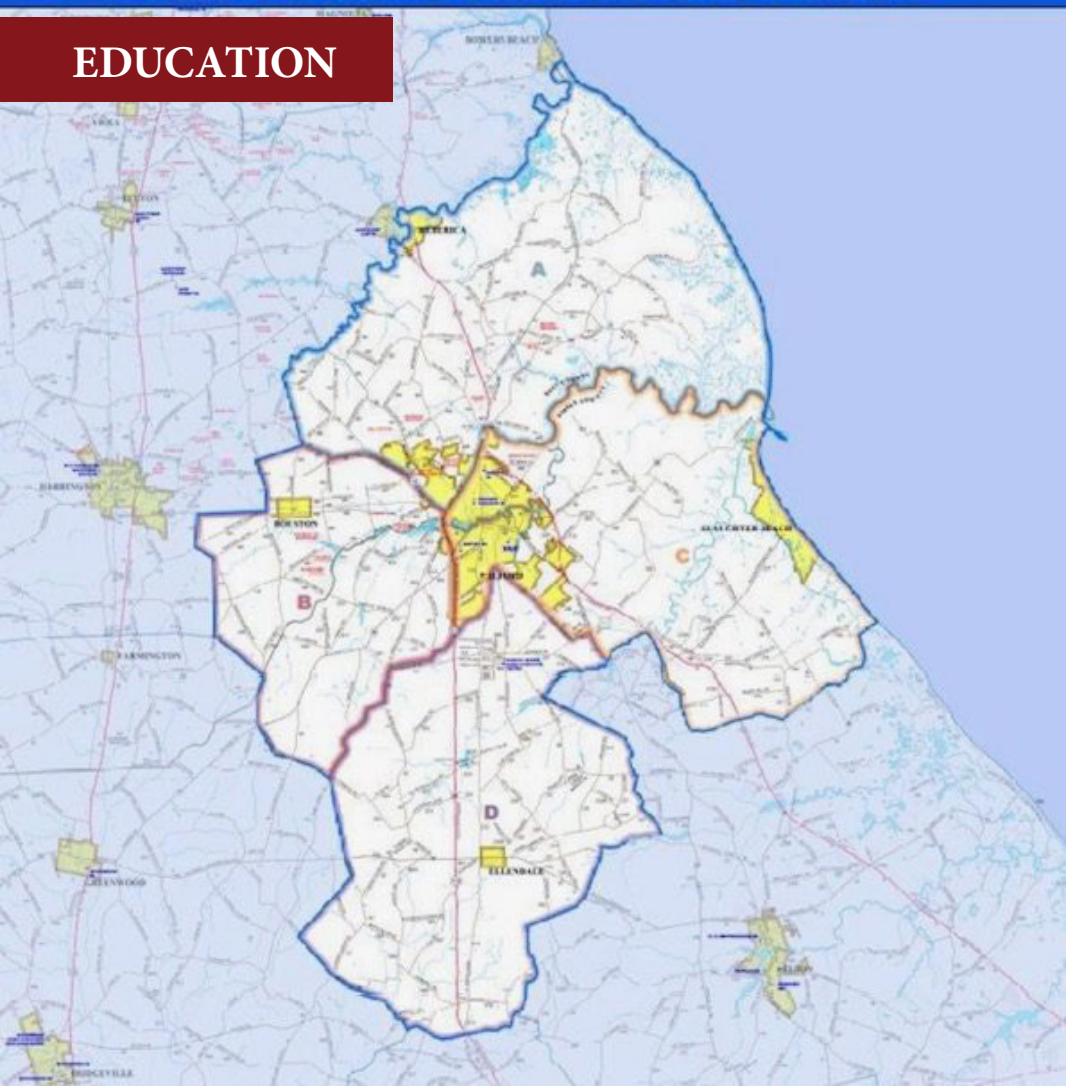
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PRESS RELEASE

A vacancy exists for the Area B Seat on the Milford Board of Education for a temporary term until the conclusion of the 2022-2023 fiscal year, set to expire on June 30, 2023. Interested persons shall submit a formal request for consideration of appointment with a letter of interest, accompanied by a resume of the applicant's education and professional background, by 4 p.m. on Aug. 19, 2022 to:

Milford Board of Education
c/o Milford School District
Attention: Ms. Theresa Blocker, Administrative Secretary – Superintendent's Office

MSD ANNOUNCES TEMPORARY VACANCY

906 Lakeview Avenue

Milford, DE 19963

or email: Tblocker@msd.k12.de.us

Persons interested in becoming a candidate:

- Must be a citizen of the United States and Delaware and live in the school district
- Must be 18 years of age or older at the time of the appointment
- Must live within the Area B geographical area as specified below
- Cannot be a paid employee of the district
- Must never have been convicted of embezzlement
- Furthermore:
 - (a) An individual may not serve as a member of the board if any of the following apply to the individual:
 - (1) The individual has ever been convicted or has ever pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to any of the following:
 - Any crime against a child constituting a felony.
 - Any sexual offense against a child.
 - Any crime constituting a felony sexual offense or unlawful sexual contact in the third degree under § 767 of Title 11.
 - (2) The individual has been convicted or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere within the preceding 10 years to any crime constituting a felony that is not a permanent disqualification under paragraph (a)(1) of this section.
 - (3) The individual has been convicted or has pleaded guilty or nolo contendere within the

preceding 5 years to any of the following:

- Any crime against a child constituting a misdemeanor, except for unlawful sexual contact in the third degree under § 767 of Title 11.
- Possession of a controlled substance or a counterfeit controlled substance classified as such in Schedule I, II, III, IV, or V of Chapter 47 of Title 16, except for any of the following:

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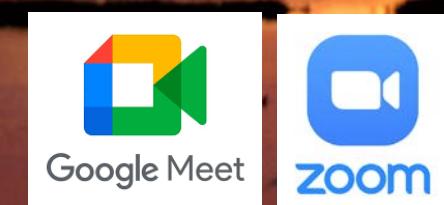


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