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NEW NAME FOR MSD AUDITORIUM



LIBRARY PRESENTS HOLOCAUST PROGRAM



LOCAL DOCTOR PASSES AWAY

HEADLINES



PHOTO LINK: [ABBOTT'S MILL NATURE CENTER](#)



BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford School District Board of Education approved a name for the Milford High School Auditorium in honor of Dr. Jerry Thompson who passed away recently. This was in response to requests from former students to name the auditorium in Thompson's honor. Several names were presented to the board.

SCHOOL BOARD APPROVES NAME FOR MHS AUDITORIUM

"I make a motion that we name the auditorium the Dr. Gerald W. Thompson Center for the Performing Arts," school board member David Vezmar said. His motion was seconded by board member Matt Bucher.

Before the vote, there was a question as to whether the family had a preference over which of the options were chosen.

"This list came from the family and the group that was working with them," school board President Jason Miller said. "I was told that they are not in any particular order. Just because the first one listed is the Dr. Gerald W. Thompson Center for Performing Arts does not mean that was their favorite one. The conversation I had was that they would be pleased with any name, that it was an honor for it to be named anyway for him. And that the privilege to establish the name was the board's to do."

The board voted unanimously to rename the Milford High School Auditorium, the Dr. Gerald W. Thompson Center for the Performing Arts.



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BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent board meeting, Milford City Council heard an update on the Milford Corporate Center which is planned for the Fry Farm property, located at the corner of Milford Harrington Highway and Canterbury Road, the city purchased last year. The new center will offer warehouse and office space. The update was after a workshop meeting, open to the public, designed to get input from residents who live in the area as well as the rest of the community regarding design of the new facility.

“We’ve had a number of meetings, talking about access, traffic, road improvements, etc.,” Mike Riemann of Becker Morgan, said. “Those conversations have gone very well and actually tied really well into the workshop we had on the 27th at Public Works. It was pretty good attendance; I think we had about 30 plus people and got good feedback. I don’t think we got any feedback that changed the overall design of the project, but we did get good feedback.”

One of the requests received was that there be no access to Church Hill Road from the new complex and Reimann stated that it appeared that request was unanimous across the board. Some of the residents with property that borders the area to the north and west questioned how much of a buffer would be between their lands and the complex.

COUNCIL RECEIVES UPDATE ON MILFORD CORPORATE CENTER

“We did talk about establishing a 100-foot buffer all the way around this property, so the minimum is actually 100 feet, and it widens from there. That was unanimous feedback as well. The pedestrian path we talked about at the last council meeting, having a pedestrian pathway that loops the entire property that would actually circle the entire property. We got some good feedback from some of the neighbors about where the sidewalks are located, not wanting them adjacent to their property. They suggested putting them on the other side of the buffer and this plan does accommodate that.”

One change made from the last presentation to council was to the lots along Milford Harrington Highway, Reimann explained. The lots were reduced in depth as those lots are targeted for office spaces rather than warehouse spaces. This means the reduction in depth would not impact the size of the buildings significantly. The next step requires the city to undergo further review with the state, especially with DelDOT. The current plan is that the entrance to the complex would require a roundabout in the area of Airport Road. In addition, there are several water features planned to improve the aesthetic of the complex and to provide additional drainage.

“I did attend the workshop and I think it was well attended,” councilman Jason James said. “There were maybe two or three, maybe five empty seats. These boards that you see were all around the room and there were representatives stationed where the people that were there from Church Hill, Bowman, all the areas, could see and go around to get a close up look and ask questions while they were there. And all of their questions were answered. I was able to listen to some of the dialogue and it seems as though at least major concerns, like whether a property would flood, would there be a fence here, what would the stormwater pond be, wet or dry, all of those questions were answered. In my observation from the crowd, they were not opposed. There was actually some enthusiasm in the air, maybe because they were able to ask their questions live and they were at ease because it wasn’t going to be just some industrial park

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CENTER from page 4

invading their space, that no one cared what it looked like. They were happy to hear there would be a lot of trees. Mark, I told them we brought an arborist on and had a new tree committee for new developments and that made them happy.”

Reimann agreed, believing that the type of workshop they opted for was more informational and allowed people to walk around talking. It was not people sitting in seats listening and being unable to say anything. He stated that, in those types of meetings, when asked if there are any questions, no one speaks up but with this format, people are more likely to say “I don’t like this” or “I wish you could do this or that.” councilman James also pointed out that it was stated often that residents would have the opportunity to attend Planning and Zoning as well as council meetings as the project moves forward.

“I agree with Mr. James,” councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. “I’ve heard a couple of different things, the same old thing, traffic. That is always a major concern. What I tried to explain is having this property is something the city has had an eye on for a very long time. It could have been many, many things as far as houses and it seems like a lot of neighbors don’t want more housing so I’ve just been trying to explain that this is an opportunity for Milford to grow. If it’s not going to be this, it was going to be something else eventually. So, just trying to make people get comfortable with positive growth that is going to benefit our town in the long run.”

Councilman Andy Fulton commented that he had heard outside the workshop that residents were happy

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that there would be no access on Church Hill Road and that they were pleased with the aesthetics. Councilman Brian Baer asked if the roundabouts would be okay with truckers driving 18-wheelers as well as improvements to Airport Road heading out to Rt. 1. Riemann explained that the roundabout would be designed to fit large trucks and that they did anticipate some improvement to Airport Road in the future.

“From Rt. 1 to the proposed site, you’ll have people exiting the highway at the car dealership, trucks exit the highway near there and driving down that road,” councilman Fulton said. “That road will need major upgrades in order to support heavier truck traffic through there because that’s a fast track from Rt. 1 to the business park.”

Councilman Todd Culotta felt that most trucks would remain on Rt. 113 and turn on either Airport Road or use Milford Harrington Highway to get to Canterbury Road before taking all those turns using the exit at the car dealership on Rt. 1. Councilman Fulton suggested that the potential for large trucks exiting at Thompsonville Road was something to be considered during the planning stage.

“I just hope sometime before I leave this earth, between the city of Milford and legislators, we strongly consider putting sidewalks on Airport Road,” councilwoman Wilson said. “I mean it has been a need and a want out there for years. It was long before there was an apartment complex, a doctor’s office, a Boys and Girls Club and a hospice center. We have all these wonderful things and we still have not gotten sidewalks.”



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LIBRARY TO PRESENT HOLOCAUST PROGRAM

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Public Library will present “Holocaust Program of Remembrance: The End of Illusions” on Thursday, Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. in Lions Room A. This program will provide insight into the atrocities committed in Europe during World War II. The program is presented by Cantor George Mason and his wife, Carole.

“The Holocaust is not a good story, it really happened,” Mason said. “Approximately six million Jews and another two million non-Jews were killed by the Germans. I was stationed in Germany in the late 1950s and ironically, lived in an old SS barracks.”

Mason saw the aftermath of World War II when he was stationed in Germany. He stated that, in those days, Dachau, Auschwitz and other concentration camps were locked up and closed so they could not be accessed. He also mentioned that while in Germany, he was stationed with a young man who was a former Nazi who

traveled to the United States in the early 1950s and became a citizen.

“We have done this program three times and we start with the rise of Nazism which was facilitated by the breakdown of democracy, the collapse of social and economic cohesion and the decline of human solidarity and an erosion of faith in the political leadership,” Mason said. “Almost sounds familiar, doesn’t it? We talk about Jews in Warsaw and other areas who sang songs on the way to their death. We get into Naziism, where it began, who created it. And then, we move to Kristallnacht, which is the Night of the Broken Glass.”

Kristallnacht refers to Nov. 9 and 10, 1938, when Germany burned synagogues while also vandalizing schools, businesses and homes of Jewish people, killing more than 100 of them. More than 30,000 Jewish men were

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LIBRARY from page 9

sent to Nazi concentration camps. Although Jewish people had been subjected to repressive policies since 1933, this was the first time the persecution became violent and conditions grew increasingly worse for those in the Jewish faith as well as those who supported them from that time forward.

“We then start talking about how they burned towns and into the Massacre of Babyn Yar,” Mason said. “We talk about the capture of Kyev when one of the bloodiest shootings of the Holocaust took place in this little town. We lost a lot of people there. They were stripped of all clothing, taken to a ravine, ordered to lie down and each one was shot in the back of the head. The massacre continued uninterrupted with new victims forced to lie down on those already dead before they were also murdered. It gives you a new sense of the horrors we are talking about.”

While telling the stories, Mason, a retired cantor, sings many of the songs that the Jewish people used to keep faith during the horrors committed by the Germans. One has the words “God, oh God, why hast thou forsaken me?” Although the songs are normally sung in German, Mason provides English translations during the program.

“We also talk about the women who were camp guards,” Mason said. “Oh, they were beautiful, too. There were 3,500 women who trained and served as guard. One prisoner reported that they were even worse than the men in commanding their dogs to brutally attack the prisoners. All other kinds of cruelty were committed by those women. And, of course, we sing a

song about a boy with a fiddle because it has to do with the trains who carried them to these awful places. Then we get to the Warsaw Ghetto, which was one of the biggest when, in the summer of 1942, the Nazis removed 300,000 Jews from the ghetto, and most were taken to their deaths in the gas chamber.”

People simply don’t realize just how terrible things were during this period in Europe, Mason explained.

“We then talk about the Era of Passover in 1943 with the battle of the Warsaw Ghetto which began the first night of Passover and lasted for 28 shattering days while the world watched in silence,” Mason said. “Men, women and children pitted against the massive might of the Nazi war machine. And then, we do some more music, and we talk about Terezin, wonderful Terezin, which was built by the Nazis to show how good they were and how they offered Jews all these wonderful things. The reality is that the prisoners were starved to death.”

Mason and his wife read a poem written by Pavel Friedman when he was just 21. The poem has become an anthem for Holocaust victims as one of the lines is “I never saw another butterfly.” Pavel died Sept. 29, 1944, but his poem exemplifies the artistic expressions of those that were sent to death.

“We talk about Chelmo,” Mason said. “People who were sent to Chelmo remember that they were assigned areas. Many perished in special mobile gas vans they piped deadly engine exhaust fumes into. They tried to bury the corpses but couldn’t so they burned them. They burned all the corpses and tried to bury them again. Of course, we talk about Auschwitz as it is prob-



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ably the most well-known. That one's a beauty. There they were put into all kinds of machinery, which is what they called it, and put to death. In a chamber of 25 square meters, 450 to 500 people were jammed in every day. The congestion was unbelievable. The victims carried the children, somehow hoping to save them from death. They were beaten and driven with gas pipes. Dogs were set upon them while they were waiting outside before they were sent inside and killed. It goes on and on."

Many of the well-known people of World War II are mentioned during the presentation. Mason explained that Holocaust Remembrance Day is in April, but that the library asks him various times of the year to do this presentation. This is the third time he and his wife have done it for the library.

"I'm an ordained cantor," Mason explained. "It's just a way of life and people need to hear the real stuff."

Although not required, registration for the program is recommended and can be completed by visiting the link on the library events [calendar](#).



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BY TERRY ROGERS

The Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network (WIIN) is completing its final report on their Nature Based Investment Strategy, hoping to connect the towns of Slaughter Beach and Milford using the Mispillion River in order to promote eco-tourism and conservation. The final report will be provided to City Council this winter.

“We’ve undertaken an assessment of risks to natural hazards, particularly flooding and sea level rise as well as land use changes and how that might impact the area going forward,” Danielle Swallow of WIIN said. “We are also drawing from a report that we’ve since finished and I briefed you on many months ago regarding economic valuation of the system, natural resources in terms of the value that they derive from recreation and tourism activities. The next piece of this plan will dive into actual investment ideas that we garnered.”

Swallow pointed out that Milford and Slaughter Beach actually have a good relationship in that people who live in Slaughter Beach depend on Milford for commercial activities such as shopping while Milford residents depended on Slaughter Beach for recreational purposes.

WIIN HOPES TO GROW ECO-TOURISM

In both communities, it appeared that there was a strong desire to extend the Riverwalk. Another factor that seemed to be lacking in both areas was signage as well as a desire to see growth of pedestrian and bicycle paths.

“Increasing access along the Mispillion River is another request,” Swallow said. “If you set off from Milford by water to the mouth of the bay, you may come across currents and tides and there is really no access or egress point midway if your suddenly not able to continue. We really need to take that to heart and look for ways to identify access points for non-motorized boats. More signage about tides and currents as well as more platforms for birding, fishing or wildlife viewing in general, watching sunsets and really, really trying to promote Slaughter Beach as a sports season rest stop area.”

Councilman Andy Fulton asked if there was any discussion of putting a soda machine that would sell water in Slaughter Beach had been discussed. Swallow said there was and also talk of adding a small, seasonal café in the beach town.

Ben Muldrow of Arnett and Muldrow, presented council with a branding concept that they hoped to implement as part of the WIIN program. Muldrow presented what he felt would be a great brand statement.

“Deep in a hardwood forest, three small creeks converge. The woods that surround us make our waters dark, rich and nearly invisible. Naturally unnoticed. Together they grow. Through millpond ponds, the

See WIIN on page 13

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waters become one, flowing through grist mills and past many a spillway to form the story of our agricultural past. We then become lakes, our Griffith, Haven and Silver from eagles nesting behind historic homes to fishermen in the shadow of Ice Cream Island, many experience the reflective beauty of life on the water,” Muldrow read. “On we pass into the heart of Delaware’s shipbuilding legacy. It was here that our ancestors built the ships that kept America safe. It was here that our economy and nature intertwined. Our trip was not done. We pass island hiking trails, kayak launches, and an old school drawbridge as we reach the pristine beauty of our tidal marsh. Here, nature truly surrounds us. Wildlife refuges and protected wetlands shield this place where saltwater and fresh comes together, where tides shape our shores, and where the quiet and beauty of Delaware is evident from every angle. As we reach the mouth of the river, the horizon opens up. We arrive at the bay and a beach community that truly values the stewardship of nature, a place that can simply be described as a sanctuary. We’ve been called by so many names yet are still unknown to so many. Creeks, ponds, rivers, lakes, marshes harbors and beaches. We are all the best of where land meets water. We are the Mispillion.”

Muldrow pointed out that when his company created the town’s “River Town, Art Town, Home Town” brand, they knew that the river running through the heart of town was critical and the conduit for Milford’s uniqueness. In his view, Milford needed to position itself as a water town.

“There is no other state that has displayed their connection and is even looking at implementing a multi-organizational approach and building brand equity around it,” Muldrow said. “We’re really excited about the process.”

Councilman Brian Baer felt it would be beneficial to have designs incorporated into the Riverwalk to promote the program. Muldrow mentioned he was now on the board of Downtown Milford Inc. and would talk to Joey Phillips, “the banner guru,” to see if he could develop some banners to promote the WIIN project.

“If I could just say, the marsh between Milford and Slaughter Beach, in the marsh area, it is just beautiful,” Councilman Fulton said. “It’s quiet and serene and something you will not get to experience on a motorboat or jet ski. You have to get out there in a paddle-powered craft to really enjoy it. To really see nature in its full beauty.”



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BUSINESS



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USPS ANNOUNCES SHIPPING DEADLINES AND PACKAGE RULES FOR UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON

BY TERRY ROGERS

The holidays bring many things, from gifts to family gatherings to decorating and other festivities. For 2022, they also bring a few updates from the United States Postal Service for shipping deadlines and temporary pricing changes. They are also announcing new package regulations.

“There are several new holiday and seasonal stamps available for your greeting cards and letters,” Paul F. Smith of the Eastern Area Office in Philadelphia, said. “They can be found online at the Postal Store or at any of our more than 34,000 Post Office locations. As a reminder, as of July 10, the cost of a First-Class Forever stamp increased from 58 cents to 60 cents.”

If you want to be sure your packages arrive before Dec. 25, USPS recommends mailing by retail ground service to APO/FPO/DPO addresses by Nov. 5 and by

Priority or First-Class mailed by Dec. 9 to those post offices. If you plan to mail a package to someone in the military overseas or who has a diplomatic post office by USPS Priority Express, the deadline is Dec. 16.

For other addresses, packages mailed using retail ground service or first class, whether packages up to 15.99 ounces or greeting cards, the deadline is Dec. 17. Priority mail packages have a deadline of Dec. 19 and Priority Mail Express by Dec. 23. Packages shipped to Alaska that are mailed retail ground should be sent by Dec. 2, first-class or priority by Dec. 17 and Priority Mail Express by Dec. 21. Packages mailed to Hawaii using first-class or Priority should be sent by Dec. 17 and Priority Mail Express by Dec. 21.

See USPS on page 16

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USPS from page 15

“Keep in mind that unless otherwise noted, delivery dates are not guaranteed,” Smith said. “Dates are for estimated delivery before Dec. 25. Actual delivery date may vary depending on origin, destination, Post Office acceptance date and time along with other conditions. Some restrictions apply. For Priority Mail Express shipments mailed Dec. 22–25, the money-back guarantee only applies if the shipment was not delivered, or delivery was not attempted within two business days.”

New hazardous shipping restrictions are also in place, Smith explained. Effective June 6, packages containing hazardous materials, including lithium-ion batteries, must now be mailed by surface transportation using Parcel Select Ground, USPS Retail Ground, Parcel Return Service or Ground Return Service. USPS issued new requirements for shipping used electronics and other hazardous materials because items of this nature can cause fires and other dangers to mailers, air carriers, aircraft passengers and others.

In addition, there are some temporary pricing adjustments which will go into place through Jan. 22, 2023. The changes include popular shipping products including Priority Mail Express, Priority Mail, First-Class Package Service, Parcel Select Ground and USPS Retail Ground. This includes military shipping but not other types of international shipping. The temporary rates will help keep USPS competitive and are similar to those used in prior years to help cover additional handling costs. The temporary adjustments are part of Deliver-

ing for America, a 10-year plan for achieving financial sustainability and service excellence, which calls for appropriate pricing initiatives. Even with the temporary increases, USPS has some of the lowest mail postage rates in the industrialized world and continues to offer great values in shipping.

“Other tips for a successful holiday mailing and shipping season are to use free Priority Mail Flat Rate Boxes which are available at the Post Office or online,” Smith said. “Make it easy with Click-N-Ship. You can create labels and pay for postage online. Schedule a free package pickup when the carrier delivers your mail. It’s free regardless of the number of packages. Pickups can be scheduled online. Mail and packages that weigh more than 10 ounces and/or are more than a half inch thick using stamps as postage cannot be dropped into a collection box or left for a carrier to pick up. Instead, take them to a window clerk at a postal service location.”

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MILFORD'S HIDDEN HOUSING CRISIS

BY TERRY ROGERS

At recent city council meetings, there has been significant discussion about homelessness and panhandling in areas of the city. Council members are receiving complaints from businesses downtown about the many homeless in downtown areas, some of whom are impacting foot traffic in the area. Around the highway shopping centers, there are several homeless people who are panhandling, creating a dangerous situation for both motorists and the panhandler. At a recent Milford Conversation, Martha Gery of the Milford Advocacy for the Homeless and David Moore of Milford Housing Development Corporation, provided insight into why the homeless population seems to be growing.

“Approximately one-third to one-half of the homeless population are employed,” Gery said. “Many of them are making minimum wage and they can afford, at tops, \$600 a month. In Milford, they just can’t do that. People who are on low income simply cannot afford to live here.”

Currently, there are over 4,000 housing units proposed for the Milford area over the next few years. Many of these are single family homes and condos that will be for sale, not available for rent. A quick review of Realtor.com found that even some of the apartment complexes whose rents are based on income have an average cost of \$600 to \$610 per month. However, those apartment complexes have very long waiting lists. Non-subsidized apartment rents in Milford are significantly higher.

An apartment in Silver Hill Apartments is \$950, in Parson Thorne it ranges from \$885 to \$980 and rents in the Lakeview Apartments are \$1,100 per month. Townhouses in Valley Run range from \$999 to \$1,259 and in Brookstone are \$1,950. A condominium in Hearthstone Manor rents for \$1,650 while condos in Windward on the River range from \$1,242 to \$1,756. Moore explained that affordable housing was in extremely short supply overall on the Eastern Shore, not just in Milford and

that the “not-in-my-backyard” attitude was part of the problem.

“We have a complex in a town in Maryland, a small one, maybe 30 units, that is subsidized,” Moore said. “We’ve owned and managed it for many years. There was a piece of land next to it that we purchased hoping to expand the complex, putting another 18 to 20 units there. One of the council people called me and said senior housing would be okay, but they did not want families. There is a big need for affordable senior housing, but this council didn’t want families because they equate to crime and that there would be more problems. My comment to him was that they don’t want to hurt you. They just want a place to live. In that complex, I have had one police call in five years. It was domestic, but that happens everywhere, even in influential neighborhoods.”

Moore explained that a lot of the homeless people seen today are the people who make sandwiches, the people who serve coffee, not necessarily people who do not want to work. They simply cannot afford housing in the area. Gery stated that some of those who panhandle do it for immediate cash. She pointed out it could be a woman who has a monthly need but has no money for supplies. Gery admitted that some of those who are homeless have mental health issues or may be dealing with a drug or alcohol problem, but that many simply found themselves in a situation where they no longer had a home. Moore stated that some of the issues were changes in government funding for subsidized housing as well.

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“In the early days, when I first got involved in affordable housing, there was a lot of subsidy money for rental units out there,” Moore said. “Not only me as a non-profit could access some, but for profit developers could, too. They could build an apartment complex that might look like one of my senior complexes, but they got the subsidy because they went through USDA or one of the HUD programs at the time. Rents were set up so they were no more than 30 percent of that person’s income could go for rent and utilities. The last project like that I did was in 2003.”

According to Moore, when you build a new complex, you have to use tax credits. In Delaware, there is only two or three awards each year for these credits, whether it is rehabilitation of a current property or construction of a new property. The credits only subsidize financing which means Moore’s non-profit must compete with big developers. The market rates are also very high for developers leading to higher housing costs.

Another issue many face when they do move into a subsidized housing unit is that income-based rents can fluctuate significantly. Moore acknowledged that he has seen someone with no income move into a subsidized rental unit with rents around \$100 a month. They become employed and their rent jumps from \$100 a month to \$400 a month with very little time to adjust their budget to manage that additional \$300 a month. Not only could this push that renter back into homelessness, it also encourages them not to seek employment.

“Milford continues to grow economically,” Gery said. “I’ve heard people call it new Milford and old Milford. I am meeting people coming to this area with influential money and you have to have a conversation about the have-and-have-nots. I think it is more about making sure everyone has an equal opportunity for housing no matter what your income is.”



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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO BY BEN MULDROW

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DNREC UPDATES REGULATIONS

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent City Council workshop, Larry Lutz, Chairman and CEO of HydroCorp, Inc. talked about changes to DNREC regulations regarding backflow prevention in an effort to prevent water contamination. Some of the changes will require additional water testing by the city of Milford.

“Last year, the state of Delaware passed a regulation requiring that all regulations must have a comprehensive backflow prevention program,” Lutz said. “The purpose of the program is to keep the drinking water safe and that’s really it. It’s a health and safety issue.”

Lutz explained that his company had been in the business for almost 40 years, assisting utilities with setting up and managing this type of program. The goal was to be sure that water running through pipes in the city was safe to drink and to identify any hazards that may exist that could lead to cross-contamination.

“People use water for many things,” Lutz explained. “We use it in car washes, in dental offices, laboratories, food processing, all sorts of things. All of those connections are called cross connections and if they are not installed properly, water may flow backwards, known as backflow. The purpose of this program is to ensure customer satisfaction and to avoid any types of problems, like lawsuits, anything like that with someone getting sick. That is the worst possible situation. It is also to maintain regulatory compliance. The overall

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program is designed for, number one, public health and safety, eliminate plumbing hazards, water quality assurance, regulatory compliance.”

Lutz provided details on how water could become cross contaminated, explaining that if a cross connection was improperly installed, good drinking water could mix with process water. Councilman Todd Culotta asked what process water was and Lutz stated that it is water that is not used for drinking purposes but for other reasons. Public Works Director Mike Svaby provided Sea Watch and Perdue as examples of businesses that used large quantities of water for their regular processes. Once the water was used for the manufacturing processes at this location, it is no longer potable. Although the company can reprocess the water and reuse it, which they often do, it cannot be used as drinking water any longer.

“Part of a cross connection and control program is doing on-site assessments,” Lutz said. “The assessments are specifically for external connections, looking outside buildings at underground irrigation systems, for example. The protections are designed to prevent the water used in an irrigation system, which will have all types of fertilizer, insecticides and animal waste from coming back into the building and mixing with drinking water.”

Councilman Jason James asked if the new regulations were already in place and Svaby stated that they were required to be completed by February 2024. The city wanted to get ahead of the program so that it was already in place before the deadline. Because this would require some customer education, Svaby felt it would be

beneficial to begin letting people know about the regulations and begin addressing any concerns immediately. Lutz pointed out that anything inside a building would be the responsibility of the owner of the building while outside connections would fall to the city. He explained that under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the city had a responsibility of ensuring that drinking water delivered to the meter was safe. Once it passes through the meter, it becomes the responsibility of the building owner to maintain safe drinking water.

“You say the drinking act is a federal regulation, that the regulations Delaware passed requiring municipalities to do this is federally regulated,” councilman Andy

Fulton said. “What is the end game for the municipality? How do we say, ‘You have to fix this.’ And what do we do if they say they would not? Do we have to shut them down?”

Lutz stated that the municipality would have the power to shut off water to a facility that did not agree to correct a problem. Svaby stated that since this was a new requirement, there would need to be some education of the public. He also commented that large manufacturers already had requirements similar to these and that if a company like Sea Watch or Perdue had a problem, the city would stop delivering water until they could repair the issue.

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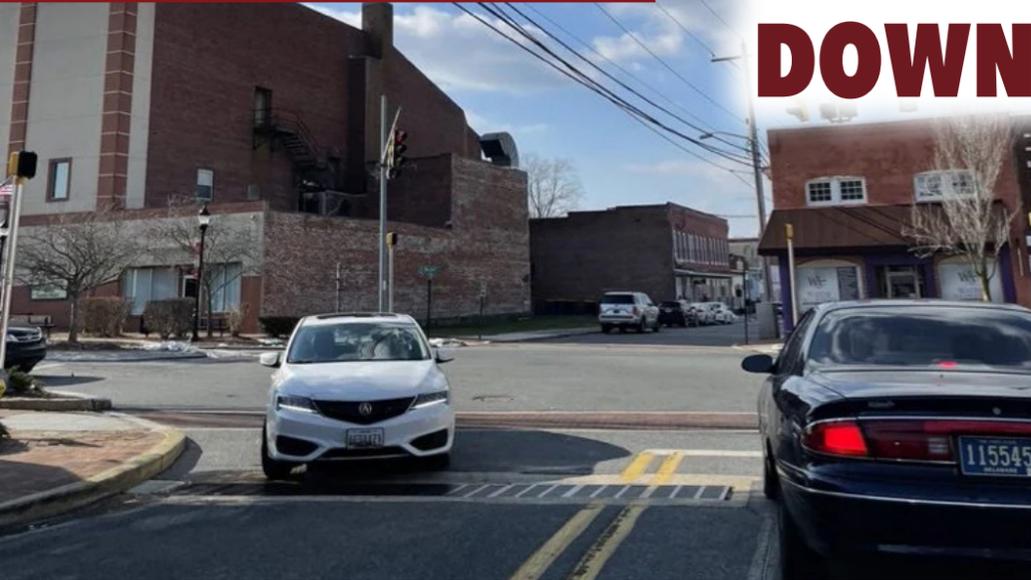
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CHANGES COMING TO DOWNTOWN INTERSECTIONS



BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent City Council meeting, Milford Public Works Director Mike Svaby told council that changes were coming to downtown Milford intersections. Traffic signals will soon be converted to four-way flashing red rather than operational signals. The changes were part of recommendations from DelDOT as well as a recent study of traffic signals that will be turned over to DelDOT.

“After conducting an inspection of soon to be DelDOT traffic signals but currently owned by the city of Milford, Rybinski Engineering identified some repairs and interim upgrades that need to be done now before we actually turn things over to DelDOT,” Svaby said. “Our initial objective was to get Rybinski to perform certifications for the phases and we found that some of the signals that we have are not set to current standards for phasing.”

In addition, some of the traffic signals were in need of repairs, including the pedestrian crossing boxes and

cabinets with broken locks that are only held closed with a bolt. Svaby explained a few had some fiber damage and Public Works was working toward completing all those repairs in preparation for turning those signals over to DelDOT.

“Ultimately, this is to move toward a goal to take the intersections of South Walnut, Southwest Front and Causey and turn those intersections into four-way flash,” Svaby said. “They will be put on four-way flash for about a year and during that time, we will also take the Southwest Front Street intersection and, for what is now one-way for about a third of that street, we will make it a two-way street.”

During a presentation regarding another topic, Ben Muldrow of Arnett and Muldrow who helped create the Riverwalk Rebirth plan, applauded the changes to the downtown intersections.

“I am thrilled to hear the updates from department heads, especially about Mike’s updates about the two signals of Southwest Front,” Muldrow said. “As you remember, that was an initial and primary design recommendation that came out of the Rivertown Rebirth plan in 2015. I think that move, even though some citizens seem desperately afraid of four-way stops for some reason, I think that’s a phenomenal decision for the walkability of our downtown. I’m really, really excited for those changes.”



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MILFORD'S ASHLEY LOCKWOOD NAMED 2023 TEACHER OF YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

Ashley Lockwood, a fifth-grade teacher at Lulu Ross Elementary in Milford School District, has been named the 2023 Delaware **Teacher of the Year**.

“Teaching children has been one of the greatest blessings and gifts that God has ever given me, and for that, I will be forever grateful,” Lockwood said during the award ceremony Tuesday night.

“Thank you to my students who deserve nothing less than my best every single day,” she said. “I hope that they know that they teach me just as much as I teach them.”

In addition to winning \$5,000 to use for her students, Lockwood was personally awarded \$3,000. The other 19 finalists all earn a \$2,000 grant from the state.

Last year’s winner, Jahsha Tabron, a special education teacher at Brandywine High School, had a clear message for this year’s winner.

“Don’t doubt your ability to do the work that it takes to provide comprehensive, rigorous and culturally competent educational experiences for all of our students,” Tabron said. “Don’t doubt the power and conversations, connections and building community. My work is not done. Your work is not done either.”

Lockwood joined her district’s newly formed equity action committee and chairs her local Union’s Ethnic Minority Affairs Committee.



Her administrators say she creates a great sense of community within the classroom and with their families while being available at all times to share needed support and resources.

Lockman said she became a teacher because “after parents and families, teachers have the greatest impact on the lives of children.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

MSD SEEKS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT DURING STRATEGIC PLAN PROCESS

PRESS RELEASE

Milford School District is excited to partner with Insight Education Group to implement a survey to engage stakeholders throughout the entire district-community to help guide the district in its strategic planning process.

The strategic plan will be used to prioritize goals and create a road map for the district for years to come. The survey will remain anonymous, and the data will be used to help guide the goals of the strategic plan. We'd like your input on the district's strengths, how the mission or values statement might evolve, what priorities to focus on, and more. Stakeholder surveys are available in English, Spanish and Creole, and should take about 10 minutes to complete. The survey will remain open until Oct. 26, 2022.

Additional information about the strategic plan and its process can be found on the district [website](#).

Complete the survey here:

- [English](#)
- [Creole](#)
- [Spanish](#)



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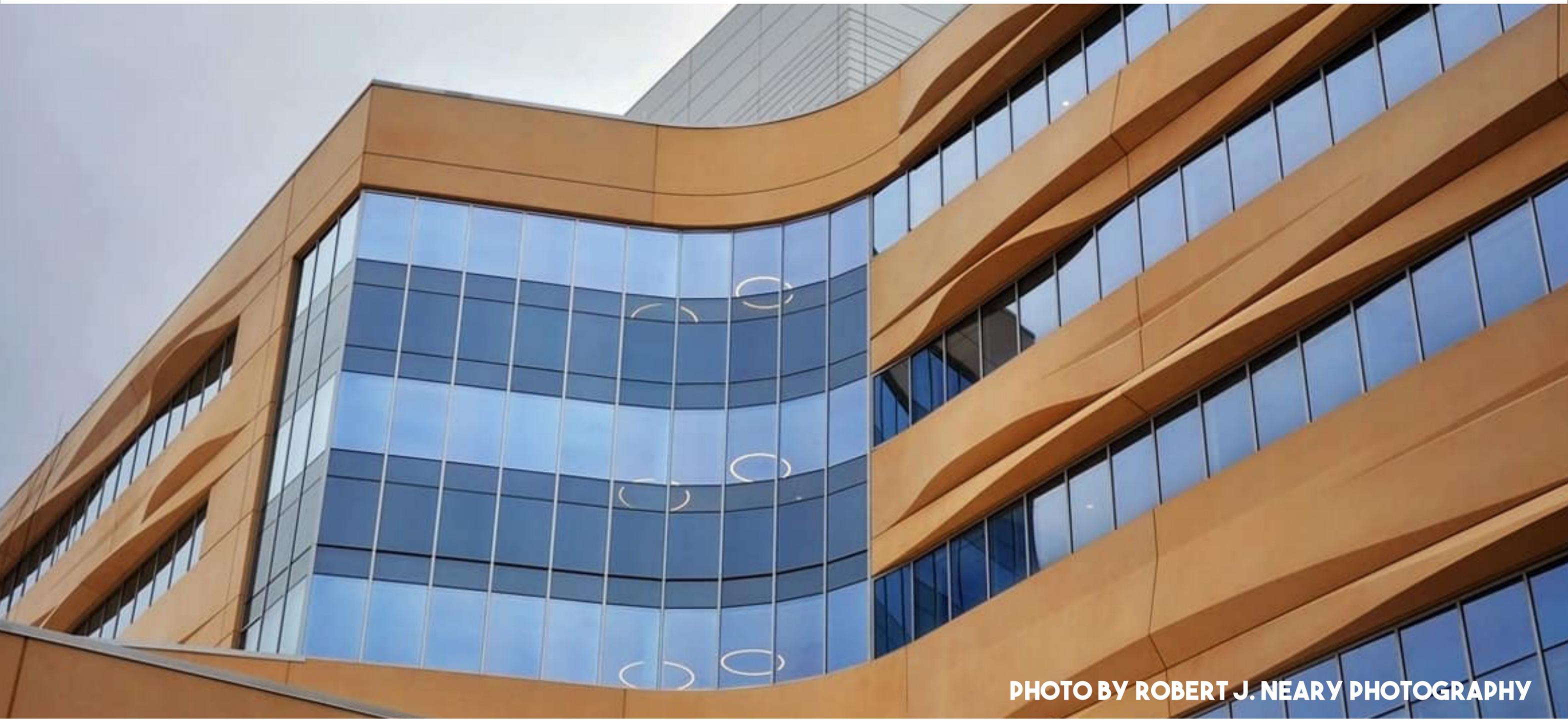


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additional information about updated treatments, Bonefish Grill in Wilmington is partnering with Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC).

“From Monday, Oct. 17 through Thursday, Oct. 20, from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m., Bonefish Grill will donate 20% of customer’s total checks from both dine-in and carry out to DBCC,” Mackenzie Blithe, public relations coordinator for DBCC, said. “This is to support the mission of DBCC to educate the community, connect survivors to local resources and enriching the lives of those living with breast cancer while promoting a healthy community.”

This partnership came about through the Delaware Ducks Youth Hockey Team, according to Blithe.

“It all started when Joe Duca contacted DBCC on behalf of the hockey team,” Blithe said. “Joe has both friends and family who have dealt with breast cancer and are now doing great, which inspired the partnership with DBCC. The team wanted to host various fundraisers to benefit DBCC during the month of October. Mike McMann, a regional manager for the restaurant group that Bonefish is a member of, has a son who is on the hockey team. He had the wonderful idea to connect DBCC with the manager of the Bonefish grill on 202 and they created a give-back night to benefit the coalition. The Delaware Ducks hockey team is encouraged to participate in the event as well. This goes to show how one partnership can create a ripple effect to spread awareness and raise funds for a great cause.”

In order to participate, guests are asked to present or mention a flyer describing the event which can be found by clicking [HERE](#). DBCC is a 501(c)(3) that empowers communities by raising awareness of breast health issues through survivorship support services, outreach and education in order to facilitate the early detection and treatment of breast cancer. For more information, please visit <https://debreastcancer.org>. Bonefish Grill is located at 4737 Concord Pike St., Suite 455, Wilmington.

MILFORD LIVE

BY TERRY ROGERS

One in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime and, according to the American Cancer Society, 1 in 833 men will also be affected. In Delaware alone, there will be more than 1,000 new cases of breast cancer diagnosed in 2022. In an effort to reduce those numbers, encourage early detection and provide



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PHOTO BY KEVIN EICKMAN

DEENEY INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME



BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Ryan Deeney was a key part of the 2008 Milford class, which the stars shined on. Even further, he was a leader both on and off the field. Deeney played center and linebacker on that squad, playing through both pain and injury, sometimes even having to be dragged off the field for his own safety. “Deeney was through and through a football player. We had a lot of talent on that team, but he was as tough as any of them. There were times when you couldn’t believe he was even on the field, let alone being such a key factor in so many ball games,” former coach Mike Tkach recalls.

A three-year letter winner and Blue/Gold selection, Deeney led by example, every challenge placed in front of him, he overcame. Being the center of a powerhouse offensive line, Deeney was a wrecking ball, for the double-dive play Milford ran as its bread-and-butter play. “We were so solid on the offensive line; the other team knew what was coming and simply couldn’t stop it. In the

running game we had speed and power, there were times when I couldn’t believe how dominant we were over the other team.”

While it can be difficult to see the impact, there was no problem when it came to Deeney’s prowess on the defensive side of the ball. With a solid defensive line in front of him, Deeney and his linebacking partner Jason Kollock wreaked havoc on opposing defenses. “With Jason at my side, I was very confident in how well we could contain the other team’s offense all season long, it was a lot of fun,” Deeney said.

Deeney was also happy that Milford was able to turn around its fortunes against long-time rival, Lake Forest. “I really enjoyed beating them. While it’s for bragging rights, it meant a lot to us. I honestly think it was a big part of us gaining a winning attitude,” Deeney said.

Obviously the 2008 state title game stands out in Deeney’s mind as well. “We had so many people at the stadium it was insane. We filled up our stands, so a lot of our fans had to sit on the Laurel side of the field. The noise and support of that night is something I will never forget.”

Deeney garnered second team All-Conference as a senior, as well as honorable mention his junior season. He would go on to play four years of college football at Wilkes University, alternating between linebacker and defensive end, and finishing up his career as a defensive captain.

Currently, Deeney works at Milford High School.

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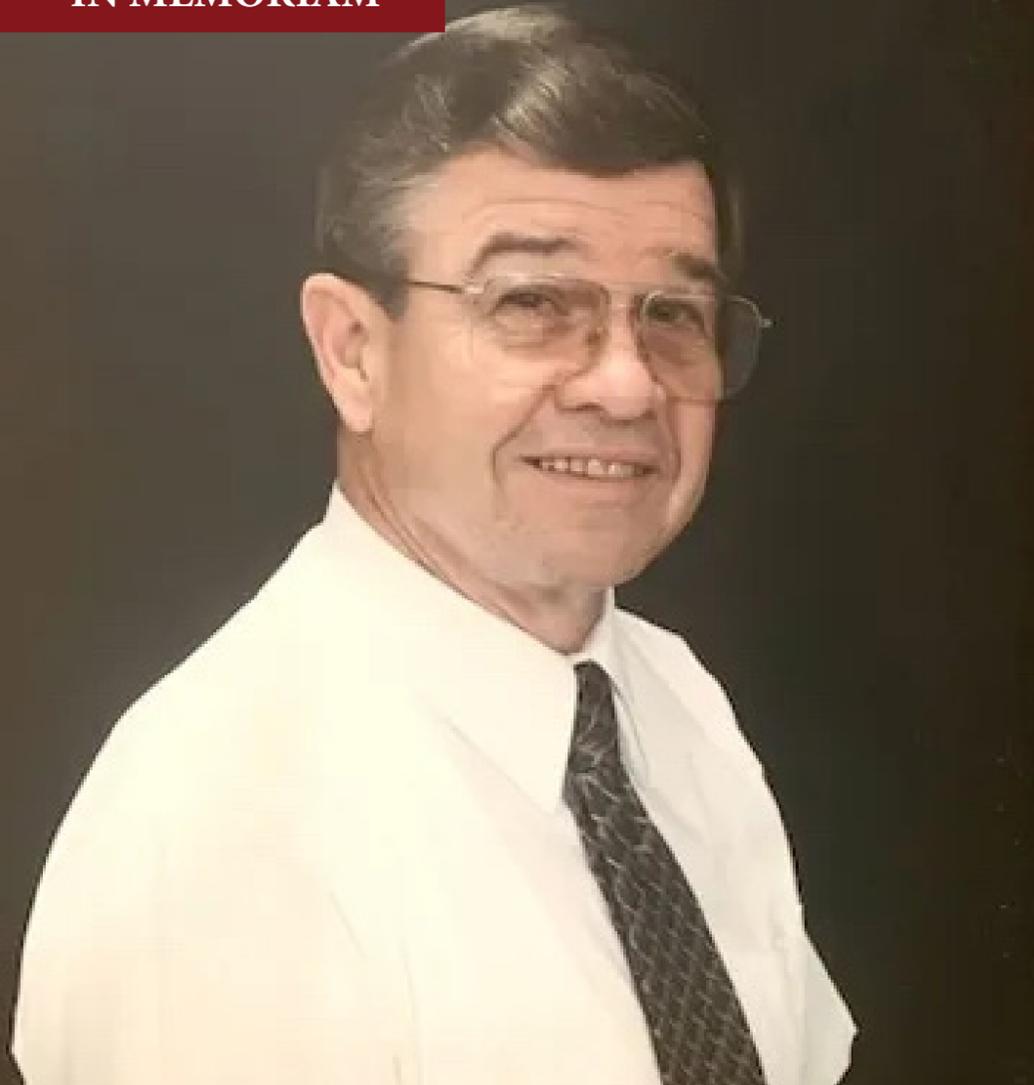
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BY TERRY ROGERS

Charles “Chuck” Wagner, MD., who operated Milton Family Practice as well as Wagner and Prigg in Milton, passed away on Oct. 8 after a long illness. Dr. Wagner served the Milford and Milton areas as a family practice physician for almost 40 years.

Born in Charleston, WV, in December 1944, Wagner was the second of nine children born to Gilbert and Antoinette Wagner. He graduated from Leonia High School in 1963 and volunteered for the United States

LOCAL FAMILY PRACTITIONER PASSES AWAY

Army. Before leaving for basic training, he attended Farleigh Dickinson University for one year. He completed basic training at Fort Dix in New Jersey in 1964, then trained as a helicopter pilot CWO I at Fort Walters, TX, and Fort Rucker, AL, Officer Candidate School. Wagner served in Korea and in Vietnam, receiving the Army Commendation Metal with “V” Bronze Star as well as 16 Air Medals.

After his honorable discharge from the Army, Wagner completed his degree at Farleigh Dickinson University as well as Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1974. He served a three-year residency at St. Luke’s Hospital in New York. He practiced for one year at Carle Clinic in Champaign Urbana, IL, before returning and settling in Milton, where he worked as an Emergency Room physician at Milford Memorial Hospital. He and his family moved to Prime Hook Beach where he became a regular at Roxie’s Café in Milton which is now the Milton Theatre. It was here that he learned there were very few primary care physicians in Sussex County and none in Milton at the time.

In 1980, Wagner purchased property at 424 Mulberry Street, located next to H.O.B. Elementary School where he established Milton Family Practice in 1980, growing the practice into one of the largest primary care practices in Delaware, serving over 12,000 patients. The growth of the practice led Wagner to expand his facilities and to establish the first MRI in southern Delaware. Eventually, the practice moved to Red Mill

Pond Center on Coastal Highway and became Pointe Primary Care after Wagner retired in 2016.

Wagner served on the boards of Milford Memorial Hospital, The Visiting Nurse Association, the Milton Chamber of Commerce and the Medical Center of Delaware, and was awarded the William D. Littleford award for corporate public service. He also holds several patents for energy conservation, monitoring technology and hardware.

Although Wagner was a prominent physician in the area, he was also well known for his love of hot air ballooning. He designed and ordered a balloon he named the “Della Bear” to represent the state and started the First State Hot Air Balloon team. Wagner travelled nationally to festivals promoting what he called “the little state with a big heart.” He and his wife, Patt, organized 13 balloon festivals in Milton, bringing as many as 15,000 people to the area annually. The festivals benefitted the Diabetes Sugar Free Kids Program as well as the Milton Theatre.

In addition to his ballooning activities, Wagner was a member of the Milton Lions Club and obtained a miniature train from DelDOT that he arranged to have the “Milton Clipper Express” installed in the Milton Town Park. He was also instrumental in establishing the annual Milton Canoe and Kayak races.

Health issues made it difficult for Wagner to continue practicing medicine and curtailed some of the projects

See WAGNER on page 33

WAGNER from page 32

he started, but he still was unable to just relax upon retirement. He worked on his farm, raising water buffalo, horses and chickens. He could also be found mowing, gardening or repairing things.

Ahead of his time in every field, Wagner pursued interests with engagement, encouragement and education, savoring not only his own successes, but those of his family, friends or those he mentored. He was often heard speaking highly of his wife, children and grandchildren.

“There are a thousand reminders of him everywhere you look, from Milford to Lewes and in between,” his obituary read. “His lasting legacy will continue to inspire his friends, family and countless people who were helped in and out of his medical office.”

Comments on his obituary and social media reflect the impact Wagner had on the area.

“Remembering one of the best men I have ever known,” Michelle Lobingier commented. “RIP Chuck! You will be truly missed.”

Carol McKnitt Heinold expressed her sympathy, noting that she enjoyed working with him at Milford Memorial Hospital. Jeff and Molly Chorman commented about how much Wagner did for the community and remembered that he took them for a hot air balloon ride.

“Wow, I am lost for words,” Jan Sammons posted on social media. “The best doctor that was ever on this planet has passed away. Dr. Wagner was my doctor for over 30 years.”

In addition to his wife, Patt, Wagner is survived by his daughter, Dr. Elizabeth DiProspero along with her husband Dr. Nick DiProspero and their sons, Peter, Andrew and John. He is also survived by a son, Geoffrey Wagner, his wife, Jennifer and their daughter, Hayden, along with a stepson, R. Tate Garey and his wife, Jennifer, and their children, Evelyn and Grant.

Funeral services were held Oct. 14 at 1 p.m. at Avenue Methodist Church, 20 Church Street in Milford, with a viewing that began at 11 a.m. Interment will be in Barrett’s Chapel Cemetery in Frederica. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations to the Bayhealth Medical Center Sussex Campus, 100 Wellness Way, Milfor, or a charity of your choice.



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