

# MILFORD LIVE

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**BENVENUTO CHEF ON HELL'S KITCHEN**

Date	Fixed Fee	Usage Rate (\$/kWh)	PCA	Residential (950kWh)
7/1/2017	\$ 8.00	\$ 0.1325	\$ -	\$ 1
7/1/2018	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.1283	\$ -	\$ 1
8/1/2018	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.1283	\$ (0.00130)	\$ 1
4/1/2019	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.1283	\$ (0.00340)	\$ 1
7/1/2019	\$ 16.00	\$ 0.1259	\$ (0.00340)	\$ 1
3/1/2020	\$ 16.00	\$ 0.1259	\$ (0.00403)	\$ 1
6/1/2020	\$ 19.00	\$ 0.1056	\$ -	\$ 1
7/1/2020	\$ 19.00	\$ 0.1056	\$ -	\$ 1
7/1/2021	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.1046	\$ -	\$ 1
2/1/2022	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.1046	\$ 0.00396	\$ 1
7/1/2022	\$ 21.00	\$ 0.1035	\$ 0.00396	\$ 1
10/1/2022	\$ 21.00	\$ 0.1035	\$ 0.01300	\$ 1

**ELECTRIC RATE ADJUSTMENT COMING**



**STUDENT TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL**

# HEADLINES



PHOTO LINK: JEFF LEASURE



# GROUNDBREAKING HELD FOR NEW FOOD BANK LOCATION

BY TERRY ROGERS

Legislators, dignitaries and donors were on hand Sept. 29, in order to break ground on the new Food Bank of Delaware location in Milford. The new building will be constructed in the Milford Industrial Park across Airport Road from the current location and will include additional instruction space, larger volunteer areas as well as a community garden.

“Our campaign to build this new building is more than about bricks and mortar,” Andy Larmore, chairman of the Food Bank of Delaware, said. “It is about changing lives. Today, we start to build a new future for our community. This new building and the work we do would not be possible without our community, generous donors and volunteers who give the gift of time and the elected leaders who believe in our vision.”

Terry Pepper, president of Kent County Levy Court, pointed out that the Food Bank was especially beneficial during the COVID pandemic, providing food to

many Delawareans, especially children, who may not have been able to eat without their support. He also provided a visual explanation of just how much the Food Bank of Delaware had done to fight hunger in Kent County.

“For the past year, the Food Bank has distributed 4,271,000 pounds of food in Kent County alone. That is unbelievable,” Pepper said. “I’m a visual type person. My favorite vegetable is corn and if break that down to a can of corn that weighs about 4.5 ounces, and you break down that 4,271,000 pounds provided to Kent County, that gives you over 68 million ounces of corn. Now that can of corn is about four and a half inches tall. So if you multiply that out, that gives you 5,695,896 feet. So even farther by miles, 1,070 miles. To put that in perspective, that is 100 miles on the other side of Disney World. That’s how far those cans of corn will go laid end-to-end.”

See **FOOD BANK** on page 4

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This organization is supported in part by a grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts, a state agency, in partnership with The National Endowment for the Arts. The Division promotes Delaware arts events on [www.DelawareScene.com](http://www.DelawareScene.com).

Photo by Becky Fleming



**FOOD BANK from page 3**

Michael Vincent, president of Sussex County Council, explained that he grew up in a home with a single mother and a grandmother who raised him, but he never remembers being hungry or what it was like to not have food. He acknowledged that the Food Bank did a tremendous job of helping families who did experience hunger or lack of food. He stated that more than 16 million pounds of food had been distributed throughout the state by the Food Bank over 46,234 volunteer hours and that 39 food workers had graduated from the culinary programs.

“As President Vincent said, I haven’t woken up a morning in my life when I was hungry and didn’t have food to eat,” Matt Meyer, New Castle County executive, said. “But there are quite a few Delawareans even today, who do. The Food Bank’s been there for most of my life, in New Castle County, across the state even here in Milford for the past 27 years serving the community. But what we learned during COVID was something extra. I know many of you, maybe all of you, were out there to see those food lines. I remember standing one day at Del Tech campus up in Stanton and looking and saying ‘this is like the pictures I saw of the Great Depression.’ The long, long food lines and Food Bank was there. We’re learning it is so much more than food and the Food Bank has been doing it for a long time.”

Meyer recalled talking to someone from the National Association of Food Banks at an event and asking if the Delaware food bank was as good as he thought they were.

“Every food bank in the country gives away food,” Vincent said he was told. “Every food bank in the coun-

**See FOOD BANK on page 5**



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try, not to minimize it because it is very important. But every food bank in the country gives away food to fill hungry stomachs. But there is not a food bank in the country that does the job and employment training that this food bank does.”

Senator Dave Wilson pointed out that the Food Bank of Delaware was second to none, offering culinary training and implementing deliveries through DoorDash. First Lady Tracy Quillen Carney, who champions the fight against childhood hunger, also spoke at the event.

“I’m sure we’ll say at least a little about yesterday’s White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health along with another guy who spoke, the President,” First Lady Carney said. “We had a small conference watch party at Woodburn, the Governor’s house in Dover with members of our statewide Task Force on childhood hunger. A proud partner of the Food Bank, that task force is known as ECHO which stands for “End Childhood Hunger Oh” because we couldn’t think of anything for the O. Many statements from yesterday’s conference stood out for me. One was the famous line about how “giving is not about the redemption of the giver. It’s about the liberation of the receiver.” And, and it just a little issue with that. Because I think giving is about the liberation of all of us. It is a privilege to be invited into people’s lives in a way that connects rather than divides us which Sen. Wilson addressed.”

The First Lady also pointed out that the pandemic opened eyes to the problem of hunger in the United States and that organizations like the Food Bank of Delaware would be instrumental in helping end hunger once and for all.

“Each morning I wake up excited to go to work. I love what I do here. I love the people that I work with. I know just by waking up I’m going to change a life. That’s a pretty powerful thing to be able to say. We change lives one meal at a time, one person at a time. I’ve often said that the day I wake up without hope is the day I don’t get out of bed. I don’t wake up without hope. Not here because look at all of you that are here with us,” Cathy Kanefsky, chief executive officer of the Food Bank of Delaware, said. “Making a change, committing to helping us just by being here. You’re putting your stamp of approval on what the Food Bank is all about and the work that we do. This week has certainly given me a lot of hope.”

Kanefsky also attended the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health, repeating a quote from President Joe Biden who said “if you can’t feed your child, what the hell else matters,” a sentiment Kanefsky agreed with. She commented that when a parent cannot feed their child, they have difficulty focusing on anything else in life. For this reason, President Biden has announced a goal to end hunger in the United States by 2030.

“The plan is more than that. It calls for increasing healthy eating and physical activity, improving access while integrating nutrition and health and empowering all consumers to make and have healthy choices,” Kanefsky said. “One comment that really resonated with me was that we need to provide people with what they need and what they want, not what we have. And that’s a nuance that you will see our team starting to address over

**See FOOD BANK on page 6**

# Election Day is November 8.

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## FOOD BANK from page 5

the next couple of years. We are almost dictated sometimes in what we put in the boxes that go out to folks and is it nutritious? Sure. But somebody is really tired of getting beans. And that's what we continue to give the people, we give them the same thing over and over again. And none of us want to eat the same thing over and over again. Unless it's pizza then maybe, but I might get tired of pizza eventually. But that's what we do. And somehow, we've kind of taken away the dignity and the respect that people deserve because they're hungry. We expect them to take what we give them. We put it in their trunks. We put it in a backpack to go home with a child and we believe that now they're good. No, because they may have dietary restrictions. They may have religious beliefs. They may have you name it, different reasons. So that's a huge part of what we're talking about. We're talking about lifting people up and giving them the respect and the dignity that they deserve."

Kanefsky also talked about the partnership between Amazon and DoorDash, allowing those who need food to access an online portal and have items delivered from the Food Bank of Delaware. This allowed parents who may not have childcare to get the food they need without choosing between gas money and food or someone who is recovering from surgery to remain at home and have food items delivered. The boxes do not have Food Bank of Delaware displayed on the outside, making the delivery discrete.

The new facility, which will also have a café open to the public and operated by culinary students, should be completed by October 2023.



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 DELAWARE TECH



**BY TERRY ROGERS**

Fox has announced the lineup of chefs who will appear on the upcoming season of Hell's Kitchen. The show features chefs battling to become the head chef of a Gordon Ramsay restaurant. The season, which began Sept. 29, will feature Chef Jesus "Zeus" Valentino Gordiani who has been the head chef at Benvenuto since they opened.

"The Milford-based executive chef likes to keep his life private on social media," the website for the show read. "Although his age is not known, he's part of the 40-somethings team."

Chef Zeus began cooking with his mother at an early age and recalls visiting Italian markets in Philadelphia, helping his mother choose menu items including octo-

## BENVENUTO CHEF APPEARS ON HELL'S KITCHEN

pus, fresh pork and short ribs. He credits his mother with teaching him to create stunning Italian and Spanish foods as well as how to braise and sear meats. He also received formal culinary training at the Restaurant School at Walnut Hill.

"I knew at a young age my career would be in the kitchen," Chef Zeus said in an interview when he came to Benvenuto. "The idea of serving someone something you created is an amazing feeling. When I was 13, 14, 15 and 16, a lot of my friends were hanging out, partying and getting into trouble. I was getting an education in the kitchen and getting paid for it. Over the years, I have worked with some phenomenal chefs who taught me a lot."

Chef Zeus did not try out for the show but was approached several times to be part of the cast. He explained that the first time he was asked was seven or eight years ago, then again about three years ago, but he was not interested at the time. He stated that the show has people who search for videos online to find cast members for the show although they also take submissions from others, so he is not sure which method was used to find him.

"I'm not really a reality show guy," Chef Zeus said. "So, when I was asked to do it again, I was more interested in the competition side of it. I said, I should do that. This is something that only comes once in a lifetime

**See CHEF on page 8**

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and not many people get the opportunity to get on there and have their names attached to a show like that.”

Filming ended a few months ago and the show has been in the editing process since that time. Chef Zeus is not allowed to reveal too much about the show or how he fared as a contestant, explaining that people will just have to watch to see how it turned out.

“The other contestants and I, we talked among ourselves,” Chef Zeus said. “But everybody’s thing was ‘oh my goodness, how am I going to be portrayed.’ Because that’s what it really comes down to. You’re afraid of how they’re going to portray you, like a hero or someone who cannot even boil water. For the most part, everyone who appears on the show walks away with the feeling it was a cool experience. And, at the end of the day, whether they win or not, they were still part of something so there is a blessing in that.”

Chef Zeus stated that overall, Ramsay was a very nice guy and that many people had the wrong opinion of the famous chef.

“He has so many different personas,” Chef Zeus said. “If you have ever watched him on Masterchef kids, you’ve seen him as a judge on that show and it is a completely different person than on Hell’s Kitchen where there is a lot of yelling and swearing. That’s television. But I do feel that the person that he is may not be fully understood, but he’s a really good guy. He’s a respectful guy that knows his stuff. He’s good, he is one of the best which is why he is where he is. A lot of people think the screaming and yelling is how he is, but it is not. That is not who he is.”

Chef Zeus did say that he learned from Ramsay, but that he tries to learn in all aspects of life.

“To be honest, I watch a lot of cooking segments on-line, just videos on Instagram and things like that,” Chef Zeus said. “You’d be surprised how much you learn just from watching somebody because there’s always somebody that’s doing something different. Like, there’s 1,000 different ways to make a donut. So, it’s crazy how cooking has evolved and what we’re used to doing as chefs. It’s constantly changing and evolving. I can honestly look at a Wendy’s commercial and see something there, some form of inspiration.”

As an example, Chef Zeus explained that for an upcoming menu, he was trying a take on Italian wedding soup, a dish that has been requested previously. Instead of the soup, he is creating an Italian wedding risotto which will have pan-fried garlic meatballs, escarole that has been sautéed in butter, roasted baby carrots mixed in a creamy Parmesan risotto.

“It will have all the elements of Italian wedding soup but in a risotto,” Chef Zeus said. “Another is a dessert. Folks love tiramisu so I am creating a tiramisu gelato. So, it’s just taking things and making them different. Like taking a traditional deviled egg and adding things. We just did one that was a take on crab Hollandaise. We used our standard recipe and topped it with crabmeat, crispy pancetta and a nice Old Bay Hollandaise with fresh chives. You can literally go to your favorite diner and find inspiration in the plate. So, yes, I did learn from Gordon Ramsay because I am always learning things. You cannot lose that as a chef because that is our

form of creativity. That’s what keeps us going. We’re artists at the end of the day.”

Chef Zeus is not the only one excited about the premiere of Hell’s Kitchen. The owners of Benvenuto are excited to see their chef introduce viewers to his talents as well.

“This is exciting for him and for us,” Lisa Johnson, co-owner of Benvenuto said. “We definitely support Chef in this endeavor and think he will do well.”



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# CULTURE



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# TORBERT ARTIFACTS DONATED TO MILFORD MUSEUM

BY TERRY ROGERS

General Alfred Thomas Archimedes Torbert, although born in Georgetown, has become one of Milford's heroes. A decorated Civil War hero, fighting at the Battle of Gettysburg, Torbert was also appointed as U.S. Consul to El Salvador in 1869, U.S. Consul General in Havana in 1871 and U.S. Consul General in Paris in 1873. He and his wife, Mary Currey, lived in a beautiful home which stood where the parking lot for the M&T Bank now stands, and a statue now stands outside the Milford Museum in his honor. Recently, the museum accepted two generous donations of artifacts that belonged to the decorated general during his life.

"In April 2022, the museum was fortunate enough to receive a very large steamer trunk which belonged to Civil War General A.T.A. Torbert," Claudia Leister, executive director of the Milford Museum said. "This 1855 trunk has 'General A.T. Torbert Milford, Delaware' stenciled on one side, and 'General A.T. Torbert U.S. Consul General Paris' on the other. When Mrs. Torbert died in 1896, her will left the house to Dr. and Mrs. Cahall. They subsequently moved to Bridgeville and the trunk was found in the attic of their house."

Just recently, the Wray family also donated items that had originally belonged to the Torbert family. Torbert was washed off deck during a hurricane off the Florida coast in 1880. Aboard the Vera Cruz, Torbert was trav-

eling to Mexico. Reports were that he made it to shore some 20 hours after the ship sank but he died on Aug. 31, 1880. His widow was inconsolable until her death 16 years later.

"Dad was a lifelong history buff, it truly was his lifelong passion," Robin Wray, one of the children of Dr. Gary Wray who collected the items, said. "Dad received his M.A. in American History from the University of Delaware in 1969, the same year General Torbert's house in Milford was destroyed. This is when Dad got to know Marvin Schelhouse, who he shared a love of Civil War history with, and, specifically, General Torbert's history."

The donated items included a marble top washstand and wall mirror, a wash bowl and pitcher, a music box made in Paris, a set of 11 goblets, a set of silver pieces, a decanter, a Lefaucheuw M1858 revolver and a photograph of Torbert as a young man. Wray states that, growing up, the children were well aware of the Torbert history and the items in the home that formerly belonged to the late general.

"We even had a family dog growing up named Alfred after General Torbert," Wray said. "Our dog turned out to be a girl, but the name Alfred stuck."

Dr. Gary Wray received his Bachelor of Arts in History and Education from Morris Harvey College, now known as the University of Charleston, in his home state of

See **TORBERT** on page 11

**TORBERT from page 10**

West Virginia where he met his future wife, Nancy, who took a job teaching English in Caesar Rodney High School in Delaware. In 1966, the couple married, and Gary moved to Delaware, teaching Social Studies at Dover Air Force Base High School. He wrote his master's thesis, entitled the "Civil War Career of Alfred T.A. Torbert" on the general's Civil War accomplishments. A copy of the thesis was also donated to the museum.

"Dad found General Torbert's personal items at auction," Wray said. "We donated these items to the Milford Museum because that is where Dad wanted them. Dad was a lifelong storyteller of history and loved sharing his knowledge of history with others. This is the family's way of making sure Dad is still able to do this posthumously."

The museum plans to create a special exhibit in order to display the donated items and pay tribute to the memory not only of General Torbert but also of Dr. Gary Wray.



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## MR. MORIBUND'S THEATRE OF TERROR FIRST DOUBLE FEATURE SHOW

BY TERRY ROGERS

The popular live show Mr. Moribund's Theatre of Terror has announced its first double feature show at the Riverfront Theatre. The show will feature the 1958 horror classics *Earth vs. The Spider* and *The Brain Eaters*, and show dates are Friday, Oct. 14 and Saturday, Oct. 15.

"This is our first-ever double feature," said show creator and performer W.J. Walton, "and it's something we've been wanting to do for a while now. We've got something very challenging planned that I know our audience will love."

The first film, *Earth vs. the Spider*, will be presented as Mr. Moribund's show, but for the second film the show will transform into that of his biggest rival, Lady

Lacrymose. For the second half of the performance, the cast will take on new roles as the cast members of Lacrymose's show.

The show will feature a screening of the films, along with live performances by the Theatre of Terror cast, live music and comedy, raffles, a costume contest and audience participation.

Tickets are \$5 per person and will only be sold at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the show begins at 7:30. Walton recommends arriving early. "We have an art show, vendors and other items of interest in the lobby as you come in, and you won't want to miss any of the fun."

See **TERROR** on page 13

# CAREER FAIRS

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## TERROR from page 12

In addition, Walton has announced a special event before the Friday night show, “Mr. Moribund’s Monster Ball,” a small festival held on the front lawn of the theatre. “Milford doesn’t have a Halloween event anymore, and I thought, who better to bring that back than Mr. Moribund himself?” The Monster Ball will feature a small selection of vendors from 3–7 p.m. on Friday the 14, before the doors open for the show. “We’re hoping that the event will grow over the coming years, but this is a soft start for it this year, to get people interested. The event is still pending city approval, so please check the show’s website and social media feeds for any future developments.”

Since 2015, Mr. Moribund’s Theatre of Terror has presented a series of live shows at the Riverfront Theatre. The shows are modeled after the classic horror host television programs of the 1950s through today, and feature a classic film from the golden age of monster movies along with comedy sketches, live music and talent performances, costume contests, audience participation and more. The shows often feature additional attractions, such as a macabre art show, art vendors, face painting and more, in the lobby and outside of the venue to enjoy before the show.

View the trailer for the October 2022 Double Feature show on YouTube [HERE](#).



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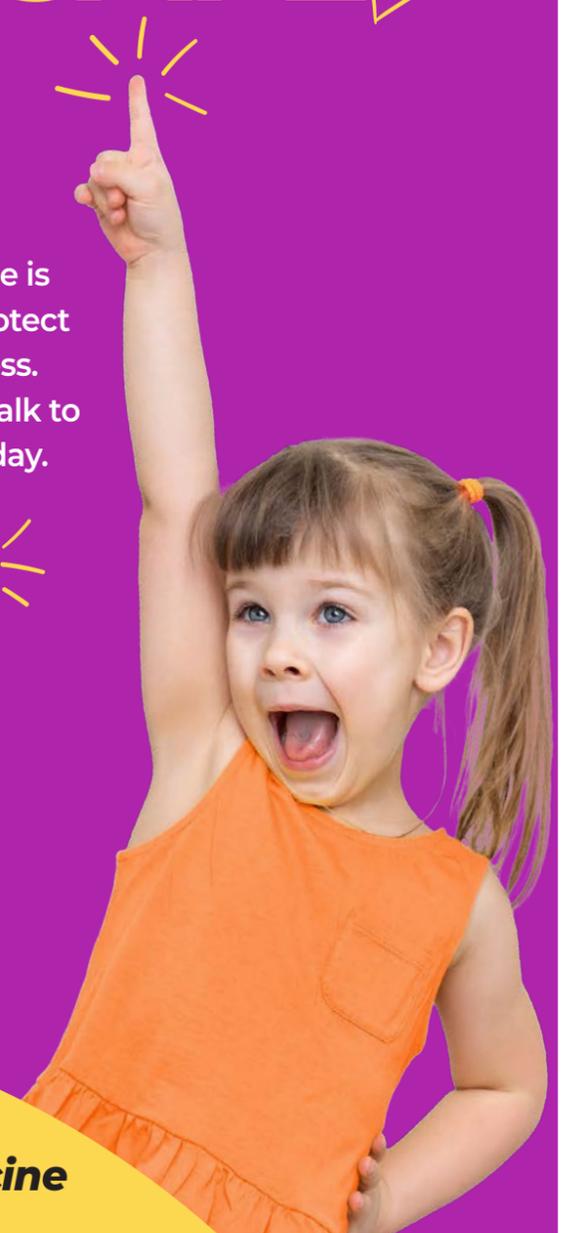
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# BUSINESS



PHOTO BY MARCIA REED

# BRIGHTBLOOM CENTER OPENS IN MILFORD



BY TERRY ROGERS

BrightBloom Center recently celebrated a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford. The center provides Applied Behavior Analysis therapy to children diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder, not only in the clinic but also in the home, school and community.

“BrightBloom expanded to Milford in an effort to increase the access to care for families in more rural areas,” Morgan Lingo, MS, BCBA, clinical manager of the Milford Campus, said. “By establishing a Milford location, BrightBloom is able to serve families across Sussex County that are seeking support for their child

with autism as the need continues to increase.”

BrightBloom was founded by CEO Diliانا Henry and her husband, Marcus Henry, in 2014 in an effort to provide Applied Behavior Analysis services for their own son with autism. Since that time, the company has expanded to three locations in Delaware with the other two located in Middletown and Wilmington. There is also a location in Swedesboro, NJ.

“The BrightBloom team consists of Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBAs) and Registered Behavior Technicians (RBTs),” Lingo said. “Together, the team provides Applied Behavior Analysis therapy services to

children with autism and other disabilities ages 18 months to 12 years. Prior to the start of therapeutic services, the BCBA will conduct an assessment with the child and family to determine the child’s current strengths and interests, as well as help identify areas for support and skills to build. Some of those skills include building communication and self-advocacy skills, building safety awareness skills such as following instructions in the community, and building play and leisure skills with clients. These skills are built during each therapy session between the client, a RBT, a BCBA and caregivers.”

Lingo explained that BrightBloom’s core values of compassionate care as well as partnering with families and meaningful outcomes are what make their ABA therapy stand out from others.

“Our focus is identifying the strengths our clients already have before they begin our services and really starting there to continue to build additional skills that are meaningful to the client and their families,” Lingo said. “Our teams teach from a place of compassion and gentleness that honors the clients we get to serve and extends that compassion to the caregivers. Throughout the therapeutic process, we are always collaborating with client families, schools and additional therapies such as speech therapy and occupational therapy because we value their input.”

BrightBloom is located at 1 Sussex Avenue and is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. If a family is seeking ABA services for their child, they can find more information at [www.brightbloom.com](http://www.brightbloom.com), call 302-575-9702 or email [info@brightbloom.com](mailto:info@brightbloom.com).



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# GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



PHOTO BY BEN MULDROW

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# UNDERSTANDING THE UPCOMING CITY OF MILFORD POWER COST ADJUSTMENT

**PRESS RELEASE**

The city of Milford, a community electric utility powered by the Delaware Municipal Electric Corporation (DEMEC), will be increasing the current Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) by \$0.00804 per kilowatt-hour (kWh) for a total of \$0.012 beginning in October. Customers will see this increase on their November city utility bill.

This power cost increase is primarily due to regulations that required the Indian River Power Station in Dagsboro, DE, to continue operating for reliability purposes after it filed to shut down. The regulations impact all electric customers in Delaware and are expected to continue for 4.5 years. The passthrough results in a 6.2% increase in electric bills for the average household and small business accounts in Milford. Commercial accounts in Milford can expect an increase ranging from about 5.9 to 7.9%, depending on demand, load factor, seasonality and time of use.

Even with this rate increase, customers are paying less than they were five years ago (see chart). Additionally, the city's overall electric rate continues to be the third-lowest rate in the state of Delaware, trailing only the city of Lewes and the city of New Castle.

“DEMEC exercises every strategy at its disposal to reduce and stabilize power costs,

improve power supply diversity and mitigate the impact of ancillary costs in power markets on behalf of its members, including the city of Milford,” Finance Director Lou Vitola said, “but reliability requirements driven by grid operator PJM and supported by Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) regulations carry with them unforeseen cost impacts that are not associated with day-to-day power delivery, but which nonetheless flow to end users of electricity.”

Neither DEMEC nor the city of Milford receive any power supplied by the Dagsboro coal-fired plant; however, the decision by PJM Interconnection, which coordinates the movement of electricity across the wholesale power grid in 13 states, to suspend the retirement of this coal-fired power station is impacting the city's electric rates, as well as rates across the Delmarva

Date	Fixed Fee	Usage Rate (\$/kWh)	PCA	Residential Bill (950kWh Avg)	Cumulative Decrease (\$)	Cumulative Decrease (%)
7/1/2017	\$ 8.00	\$ 0.1325	\$ -	\$ 133.88	\$ -	
7/1/2018	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.1283	\$ -	\$ 133.84	\$ 0.05	0.0%
8/1/2018	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.1283	\$ (0.00130)	\$ 132.60	\$ 1.28	-1.0%
4/1/2019	\$ 12.00	\$ 0.1283	\$ (0.00340)	\$ 130.61	\$ 3.28	-2.4%
7/1/2019	\$ 16.00	\$ 0.1259	\$ (0.00340)	\$ 132.35	\$ 1.54	-1.1%
3/1/2020	\$ 16.00	\$ 0.1259	\$ (0.00403)	\$ 131.75	\$ 2.14	-1.6%
6/1/2020	\$ 19.00	\$ 0.1056	\$ -	\$ 119.32	\$ 14.56	-10.9%
7/1/2020	\$ 19.00	\$ 0.1056	\$ -	\$ 119.32	\$ 14.56	-10.9%
7/1/2021	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.1046	\$ -	\$ 119.33	\$ 14.55	-10.9%
2/1/2022	\$ 20.00	\$ 0.1046	\$ 0.00396	\$ 123.09	\$ 10.79	-8.1%
7/1/2022	\$ 21.00	\$ 0.1035	\$ 0.00396	\$ 123.12	\$ 10.77	-8.0%
10/1/2022	\$ 21.00	\$ 0.1035	\$ 0.01200	\$ 130.75	\$ 3.13	-2.3%

See POWER on page 19



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**POWER from page 18**

Peninsula. Since 2008, DEMEC has worked with Milford and its member communities to diversify its power supply portfolio with a commitment to carbon reduction.

According to DEMEC's 2021 Annual Report, "Currently, 90% of DEMEC's power supply comes from low to no carbon emission resources. That means electric customers in our member communities are already benefiting from our environmentally focused shift in energy resources, like solar and wind. Since 2005, DEMEC has reduced its carbon footprint by 50% through our commitment to sustainable energy sources and energy reduction programs."

To help offset this increase, the city encourages customers to utilize Efficiency Smart (<https://www.energysmart.org/milford-delaware>) for rebates and an electric usage monitor, insulating windows, purchasing a water heater jacket, utilizing the city's budget plan and servicing their HVAC system. Reducing your household energy consumption by just 2.2 kWh per day will completely offset this rate adjustment.

Questions regarding utility billing or the upcoming PCA can be directed to the city's Customer Service Department at 302-422-6616.

The city of Milford, incorporated in 1807 and located in Kent and Sussex Counties along the Mispillion River, is home to 11,000+ year-round residents, 500+ retail businesses and non-profits, local restaurants, parks, trails, small town events, major healthcare providers, an historic shipyard, and its own school district. Known

throughout the state as River Town, Art Town, Home Town, the city celebrates the beauty of its natural resources, the ingenuity of its people and its commitment to quality of life.

DEMEC was incorporated in 1979 as a public corporation constituted as a Joint Action Agency and a wholesale electric utility. DEMEC represents and serves the following municipal electric distribution utilities located in the State of Delaware: city of Newark, MSC of the city of New Castle, town of Middletown, town of Clayton, town of Smyrna, city of Milford, Lewes Board of Public Works, and city of Seaford.



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# HOMELESSNESS IN MILFORD DISCUSSION CONTINUES

Councilman Todd Culotta stated that he had gotten a lot of feedback from residents about the situation in general and that he liked Seaford's ordinance as it was anti-loitering and not anti-panhandling. This would solve the problem of safety as people would not be permitted to loiter in intersections or medians on the highway. He also pointed out that many of those who were homeless were receiving all the basic resources they needed from groups like Brandywine Counseling and Milford Advocacy for the Homeless.

"You can even get a shower at Brandywine Counseling," Councilman Culotta said. "It doesn't necessarily solve the homeless issue because your basic needs are met. The argument that I need to panhandle to support myself a little bit doesn't really work. An ordinance much like Seaford's would solve that." Councilman Culotta asked if the homeless encampment, which is now called Tent City, stemmed from displacement of homeless from local hotels as the pandemic ended.

Councilman Jason James stated that he thought the homeless encampment began during COVID and Councilman Culotta explained that he noticed more homeless at strip malls and intersections, leading to multiple complaints from citizens. Councilman James agreed, but felt council had a duty to find a safe place for everyone in the city regardless of economic status but was not sure how to move those without homes into sustainable housing.

"We can't provide housing, but we can create an avenue where they are truly in the game saying all of those who want to change their condition can, because you have to want your condition to be better," Councilman James said. "That's not everyone. It's just the fact that we can facilitate a path to that. I think we should play a part for their safety and welfare because you may not necessarily be safe where they are. Things could happen but we do have all the other citizens of Milford. We have an obligation to them also for a safe peaceful environment."

See **HOMELESS** on page 21

## BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council continued its discussion regarding homelessness in Milford at a recent workshop. City Manager Mark Whitfield explained that there were four issues related to homelessness in the city, including the lack of affordable housing, Tent City, homeless gathering in downtown parks and panhandling on Route 113.

"We can probably easily address the panhandling situation," Whitfield said. "I provided ordinances from a few sister communities throughout Delaware. There are a few of them that I am not sure would stand up to legal standards, but the one from Seaford seems to have stood the test of time in that it is a safety concern to have people in the median or at a corner on a highway. What they have done is basically written an ordinance stating that you cannot stand there for more than two light changes. If you're there for more than two light changes, it becomes a violation. You have to move on, and you cannot do it within 200 feet of an intersection. So far that has been successful in Seaford. Seaford has also worked with the development corporations that own the strip malls where they have gotten letters from the property owners asking that panhandlers not be permitted on their property, allowing police to keep them moving on to other locations."

Councilman James pointed out that he worried about the safety of drivers as well as those who were panhandling. Driving a larger vehicle, he was often afraid his mirrors would strike one of the people begging on Route 113. He also explained that realtors expressed to him that they were trying to bring people into Milford to either relocate or open businesses and that panhandlers were a deterrent for many.

“I don’t want to dis these people,” Councilman James said. “I don’t want this to be an approach that all these people are bad people are drug addicts or whatever. That they are there because they want to be. That is never true. I just want to be humane in our approach to this. We do have an obligation to the citizens who want to be free from what they consider harassment and affecting their business.”

Councilman Andy Fulton pointed out that the citizenry of Milford had big hearts and that, for the most part, wanted to help those who were less fortunate. However, citizens also wanted to be able to walk from one store to another without someone with their hand out. He was concerned that people would simply avoid going to certain business areas to avoid panhandling.

“It’s reducing commerce, it’s reducing everything because these are big-hearted people who are wanting to support those who have less economic standing, but are concerned with the, I don’t want to use the word harassment, but the constant ‘help me, help me,’ and what we don’t want is for our heart to ever be hardened,” Councilman Fulton said. “There has to be a pathway out for people who want to be helped and their own self

want is a factor because, just like you said, some people are perfectly happy, and they don’t want to change. They like living off the grid and they don’t want to be sucked back into society where it is evil as far as they are concerned. But some want to come back and be part of society.”

Councilman Fulton felt that Seaford’s ordinances would be a good steppingstone, but that there had to be some type of limitation as an open door policy could lead to a growth in the homeless population. For those who wanted to remain off the grid or who did not want to be part of society, using resources for those individuals would pull assistance from those who wanted to end their homelessness. Councilman Culotta agreed that the focus had to be on a hand up and not a handout. He felt that it was important not to enable people to remain homeless. Mayor Archie Campbell pointed out that Georgetown was in the process of creating a pallet house encampment with a communal center to address their homeless issue.

“Those are great in theory,” Councilman Culotta said. “But like Andy just said, some people are going to be homeless regardless. The issue is also where do you put these? In a residential area? Then Dan’s neighbors complain. We put it on the highway, in the business park and then they are too far out of the way. There is a lot to be worked out here.”

Councilman James stated that he wanted council to make a decision on how this issue would be addressed.

“You know, we have had a lot of conversations, we can have a lot of workshops and a lot of presentations,”

Councilman James said. “We can discuss what we are able to do and the best approach to help. We can’t solve all the problems but what problems can we solve and how can we facilitate that? At some point, we have to move from dialogue to act with an action plan.”

Mayor Campbell explained that when he worked in Manhattan, there was an entire city of people who lived in the subway, especially during the winter. Councilman Fulton reminded council that he mentioned California in an earlier discussion where they created small homes and encampments in the Los Angeles area in order to address the homeless problem. Unfortunately, the homeless problem increased as people moved to the area to take advantage of the programs offered and now there was difficulty funding those programs.

“We can’t afford that, it would not be beneficial,” Councilman Fulton said. “The more services offered, and I know this will sound terrible, but the more services offered, the more people are attracted. There’s no buy-in from them and you get less care taken in whatever it is you give. That ends up destroying what you put in place. You become overwhelmed and it can go backwards. People will choose not to live here or to live out in the country. It’s a domino effect. And where do we draw the line? My heart of hearts says give until it hurts but my realist heart gets me in trouble because there is only so much you can do. Once you hit that line, you cannot go beyond it. That is why I am a fan of grants with time limitations, with registrations. You know who is there, how long they have been there and when they have to go.”

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

# EDUCATION





BY TERRY ROGERS

Kate Lynch began her career in New Bedford, MA, in 2006 as a Life Sciences teacher. During her teaching career, Lynch found that building relationships with the students and supporting them in their academics and social-emotional growth was the best part of her career. This led her to accept a position as the new career counselor at Milford High School.

“For the past two years, I have overseen the 12th graders and really enjoyed working with this group of students on their college and career plans after high school,” Lynch said. “I am excited to be able to focus my energy now on helping students find meaningful work-based learning opportunities that will make them more marketable in the career fields they hope to pursue.”

# NEW CAREER COUNSELOR HOPES TO GUIDE STUDENTS BEYOND MHS

Lynch holds a degree in biology from the University of Rhode Island and moved to Milford in 2008, starting her career at Milford School District as a substitute at Lulu Ross and Milford High School before she was hired as a biology teacher. She taught biology as well as anatomy and physiology for 10 years before completing her master’s in School Counseling in 2013. She made the switch to counseling in 2018. She has two daughters, one attending Lulu Ross and one attending Milford Central Academy.

“My focus as a career counselor will be working with students to find internships and employment opportunities that will help them learn and develop skills in the career areas they wish to pursue after high school,” Lynch said. “My job will allow me to do a lot of community networking and outreach to help match students with employers that will provide supported Work-Based Learning throughout their senior year.”

One of the goals Lynch has in her new position is to collaborate with local businesses to identify meaningful and appropriate tasks and projects that will allow students hands-on opportunities to experience what a job in their desired field may look like. She hopes to create an open line of communication between businesses

See **COUNSELOR** on page 24

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**COUNSELOR from page 23**

in the community who are looking to hire exceptional and well-trained students in order to support both the businesses and the students.

“The biggest challenge right now is building a network of businesses and employers who are willing to host our students and support them as they learn about different career opportunities,” Lynch said. “The students we are looking to place in learning experiences have successfully completed their pathway at Milford High School, and Work-Based Learning offers them the opportunity to build upon the knowledge base they gained in the classroom. Our hope is that these work-based learning opportunities will provide students with the on-the-job training they will need to make them more competitive in the workforce after high school and beyond.”

Currently, the most popular pathways at Milford High School are Allied Health, K12 Education and Agricultural, including Agricultural Structures and Engineering, Animal Science and Food Science.

“My goal for this year is to work closely with district office members and CTE teachers to identify student strengths and develop strong relationships with businesses in the community,” Lynch said. “I’d like to develop some procedures and structures that will allow us to seamlessly move students into and out of placements to allow them the most comprehensive work based learning experience possible. Building the program and ironing out all the kinks will take time, but I’m hoping we can work collectively to start the ball rolling in a positive direction this year.”



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# HEALTH



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BY TERRY ROGERS

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and despite the fact that there is far more information available on the disease than there was a decade ago, one in eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. And although men can also get breast cancer, their lifetime risk is considerably lower than women at 1 in 833.

“Breast cancer is the second most common cancer for women and its estimated as many as 1,010 women in Delaware will be diagnosed in 2022,” Connie Holdridge Sussex County Survivorship Director (DBCC), said. “In addition, 160 people in Delaware will die of breast cancer this year. However, 3.8 million breast cancer survivors are alive today due to early detection and advances in treatment.”

Holdridge explains that the best way to fight breast cancer is to know your body. If you see redness, scaling or a rash or if you feel a lump in your breast, contact your doctor immediately. If the shape of your breast

## EARLY DETECTION STILL THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT BREAST CANCER

changes, you notice puckering or dimpling, notice discharge or a nipple becomes inverted, you should also visit a doctor. Some of the risk factors that may increase your risk of breast cancer include being born female, aging, drinking, hormone therapy in menopause, genetics, family history, obesity and the use of birth control.

“Although self-breast examinations are critical to diagnosing breast cancer early, mammograms are the most important weapon used in fighting breast cancer,” Holdridge said. “Women should get a mammogram annually from the age of 40 on or if they notice breast changes. Doctors may order mammograms at earlier ages if you have a family history of breast cancer. Other ways to help prevent breast cancer is to exercise regularly, make healthy choices, avoid or limit alcohol, maintain a healthy weight, breastfeed for at least six months and talk to your doctor about your personal risks.”

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**BY TERRY ROGERS**

With childhood obesity a growing problem in the United States, Milford School District is taking steps to help students eat healthier meals by partnering with local farms to obtain fresh produce and other products. The latest partnership is with 302 Aquaponics who will provide fresh lettuce greens for salads and sandwiches.

“The Delaware School Districts participate in Farm to School programs,” Sharon Forest, supervisor of Child Nutrition at Milford School District, said. “We recently piggybacked off Smyrna School District’s contract with Wood Creek Farms which operates 302 Aquaponics

## MSD PARTNERS WITH LOCAL FARMS TO OFFER HEALTHIER OPTIONS

and will be ordering our lettuce greens from them for our salads and sandwiches. We will be receiving a variety of romaine lettuces, Summer Crisp and Butter/Bibb lettuce.”

Katie Wood, who operates 302 Aquaponics and Wood Creek Farms with her husband, Doug, explained that the company began as a hobby and grew into a commercial operation. Doug, a former special education teacher, began growing lettuce and strawberries in a small greenhouse at home. He took his products to school with him to share with other teachers and staff members at Smyrna School District.

“Many people told him he should do this for ‘real’ and it stuck,” Katie said. “After taking more than a year to build the greenhouse and get the system up and running, 302 Aquaponics was ready to begin selling lettuce in February 2020. The business model from first concept was to provide lettuce to schools and local restaurants. During the pandemic, while schools were closed for students and districts needed to provide meals to families, 302 Aquaponics supplied lettuce to several different school districts.”

Forrest stated that the partnership benefits students as they will be provided fresh, grown locally produce without pesticides that are grown in a controlled environment.

“You can’t get any fresher than that,” Forrest said. “We also partner with Fifer Orchards for apples during apple season, providing fresh local apples to all our children. We also use a Delaware dairy, Hypoint Dairy, for our milk.”

Growing up in Milford, Doug wanted to be able to provide for his hometown, so when the call came from Forrest inquiring about the products 302 Aquaponics offered, he was thrilled to take samples to the district.

“He provided samples at a meeting with many of the child nutrition managers to see what they thought,” Katie said. “Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 27, Milford schools began receiving three varieties of fresh lettuce.”

Forrest stated that the district will continue to seek partnerships with local farmers in order to enhance the farm-to-school program.

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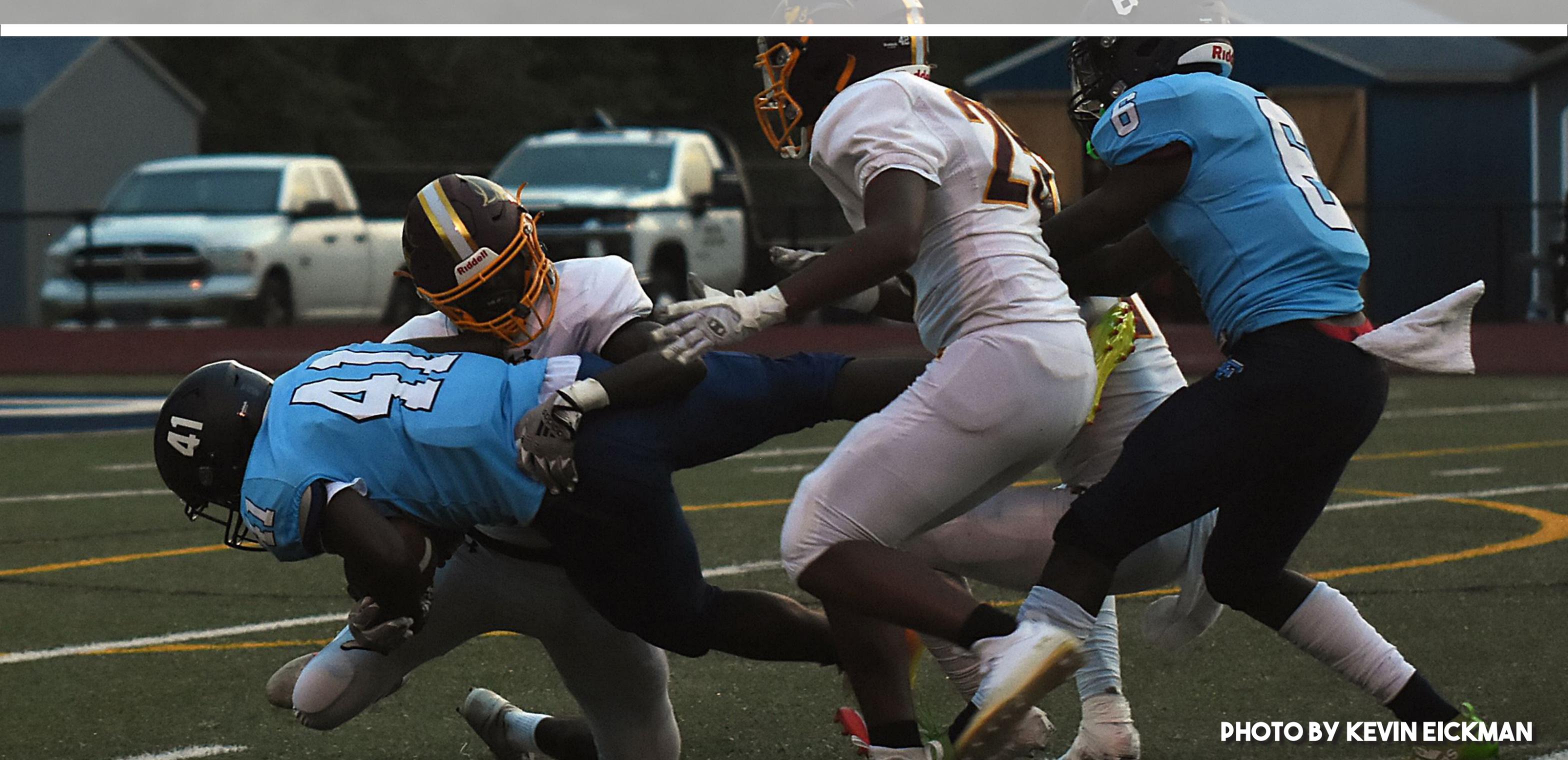


PHOTO BY KEVIN EICKMAN



## HAYES INDUCTED INTO HALL OF FAME

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

William “Sonny” Hayes was a three-time varsity letter winner and a defensive captain who graduated from Milford in 1970. Known for his tenacious style of play, Hayes was a natural leader who had a nose for the ball.

One thing that the Milford football program has always prided itself on is producing men of character. Hayes was one of them. Upon graduation from Milford, Hayes joined the Navy. However, Hayes was not just any sailor, serving as a U.S. Navy Seal until his retirement.

While serving in the Navy, Hayes continued to play football at his various commands. He was a member of

the 1973 Subic Bay and NAVPERS Forces Afloat football championships. While also being a member of the prestigious U.S. Navy’s Admiral Cup Football Championship team in 1978.

After retiring from the Navy, Hayes started a second career as a clinical psychologist before retiring for good.

Hayes has a wife Gertrude along with four children—Wilson, Melody, Joshua and Billie Jean.



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# MHS STUDENT TO COMPETE IN NATIONAL EQUESTRIAN EVENT

BY TERRY ROGERS

Aston Hudson, a junior at Milford High School, recently learned that he had been accepted to participate in the Retired Racehorse Project, one of only 500 competitors accepted to the program. Hudson got involved in equestrian sports as his mother was also involved with horses.

“I developed an interest in riding and showing as a kid,” Hudson said. “I started riding in third grade. The competition takes place every October in Lexington, KY, and is designed to showcase the versatility and usefulness of the thoroughbred horse. All the horses who are competing must have been part of the racing industry. My horse is a Florida bred grandson of Curlin who won the Preakness in 2007, although my horse did not run in any races. He was displaced by Hurricane Ida, and we bought him from a farm in Texas in September 2021.”

Hudson states that his favorite part of equestrian sports is jumping, and the most challenging aspect is succeeding in a difficult competition or a venue that is challenging in a short period of time. Hudson plans to go to college, but has not yet decided what subject he plans to study.

“Riding horses helps me with perseverance,” Hudson said. “I have to do something hard and, if I give up, I will never reach my goal. It has helped me be a better student and a better athlete. I bought LA Roc in September 2021 and have spent a year getting ready for this competition. I am really excited to go.

Superintendent Dr. Kevin Dickerson applauded Hudson’s accomplishment, wishing him well at the competition which will take place Oct. 10-15.

“Aston has worked really hard with a young horse to get to this point,” Dr. Dickerson said. “Aston is an honor student and two-sport varsity athlete and is now competing in a national horse show as well. We are very proud of Aston’s accomplishments and are thrilled to be able to spotlight such a talented young man.”

MILFORD  
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## GREATER MILFORD BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB POOL TO GET UPGRADES

BY TERRY ROGERS

The Greater Milford Boys and Girls Club recently announced that the Richard M. Johnson Aquatic Center pool would be getting some upgrades, thanks to funding provided by the state bond bill. The upgrades will require the pool to be shut down for approximately one month.

“The old pool lighting has been replaced with LED lighting,” Paul Dorey, executive director of the club, said. “The old rubber pool decking is being removed, the deck is being re-leveled for adequate draining and a new layer of no-slip epoxy is being applied for a full surface rehab.”

Dorey explained that, during the winter, up to 500 individuals use the pool in the aquatic center each week.

“This is the only year-round aquatic facility in

Milford,” Dorey said. “It’s heated to 83 degrees which is not only ideal for swim teams and exercise, but it also allows for year-round swim lessons and recreation. We offer swim lessons, open swim, swim teams, lifeguard certifications and rentals.”

The aquatic center includes a six-lane, 25-yard pool complete with competitive starting blocks and a timing system. The shallow end is three-and-a-half feet while the deep end is seven feet. The facility also includes locker rooms and showers that are handicap accessible. There is also a ramp and water-safe wheelchair in the pool. Members may also use the club’s kickboards, foam barbells and pull buoys. Lap lanes are for continuous lap swimming only with other forms of aquatic exercise available in other areas of the pool.



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The Boys and Girls Club also sponsors a swim team with two subdivisions. The Mako Swim Club and the Sussex Community Swim Team offer two competitive options. The Sussex Community Swim Team Makos are a seasonal community team. Both divisions compete side-by-side all summer and winter while the Mako Swim Club swimmers also attend USA sanctioned meets throughout the year across the region. More information on the swim team can be found by emailing [membership@makoswimclub.com](mailto:membership@makoswimclub.com).

For more information on pool and club membership, contact the Greater Milford Boys and Girls Club at 302-422-4453 or visit [www.bgclubs.org](http://www.bgclubs.org).

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