

MILFORD LIVE

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NEW MILFORD POLICE STATION



RECREATIONAL PROJECTS FOR DOWNTOWN

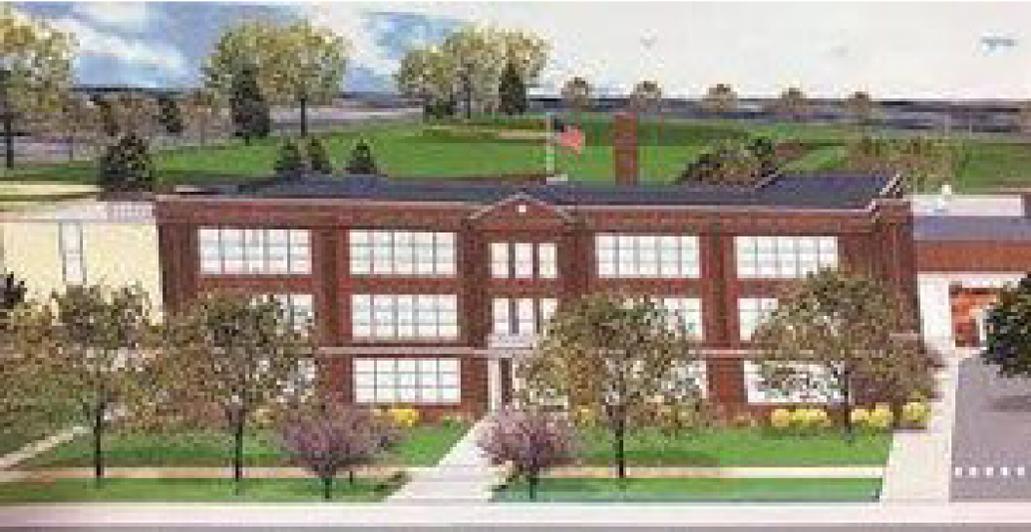


THODE WINS TITLE!

HEADLINES



PHOTO LINK: SCOTT EVERS



BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting of the Milford School Board, a timeline for the Milford Middle School project was presented. The timeline explains the steps that will be taken by the district as it remodels the former middle school into a school for fifth and sixth graders.

“The public information officer graciously put together this tentative schedule,” Mike Sharp, supervisor of Buildings and Grounds, said. “It walks through the process from the referendum, where we are at with the timeline and it is subject to change. But, it gets us through each stage and the project is moving along pretty well so far.”

The timeline began with the passing of a referendum in October 2021 which allowed the district to issue bond sales to cover the cost of the remodeling. The building was abandoned by the district in 2012 and a previous referendum to demolish the school and build a new one failed in 2014. The estimated cost for the project is \$57,270,453 with the district responsible for \$14,890,318

MSD RELEASES TIMELINE FOR MILFORD MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

which will be covered by the bond sales. The state will pay the remaining \$42,380,185. Over 67 percent of voters approved the referendum.

Board President Jason Miller asked when there would be a rough draft of the design of the school.

“We had a rough draft meeting last week and I believe it’s there,” Sharp said. “We went back to them with the original draft, and they are working through it. I would assume before the holidays or no later than January we will get a draft.”

Miller stated that he sees a lot of questions on social media about what the new school would look like. The plan is to demolish the newer wings of the building and keep the historic center part, built in 1929, intact. From August 2022 to November 2022, the district has held education specification programming meetings and district reviews of the project. From October 2022 to January 2023, the project will undergo schematic design with planning and bidding scheduled for October 2022 through April 2023.

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GROUND BROKEN FOR NEW MILFORD POLICE STATION

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Wednesday, July 27, city and state officials broke ground for the new Milford Police Station, which will be constructed across the street from the current station. Construction is expected to be completed by March 2023.

“This is a big day for Milford,” Mayor Archie Campbell said. “It is great for us to be building this police station right here. It is a big day not only for Milford, but for the chief, for council and everyone else who has worked so hard for this to happen.”

Mayor Campbell pointed out that he was happy to begin construction on the new building but sad that he was losing his “buddy,” then-Chief Kenneth Brown who retired the first of August. When he announced his retirement, Chief Brown stated that he had hoped to remain through the construction, but his wife, who owns a funeral home in Laurel, needed his help there.

“I just want to thank everyone for attending today,” Rep. Bryan Shupe, who served as Milford’s mayor for

several years, said. “This is the exciting point where we get to break ground. There’s been so much that has led up to this point for decades. I remember being the mayor and working on this. Before I was there, other members of council were working on this. Councilwoman [Katrina] Wilson, I remember you working on this in committee. This has taken us years and countless volunteers, countless hours of council meetings with the public in order to make sure that they have what they want from their local police force.”

Shupe, now a state representative, also thanked the first responders for being patient.

“While dealing with an outdated building, they have been able to serve our community and protect our citizens,” Rep. Shupe said. “Even without the resources they needed, they were patient, and this is our commitment to them, demonstrating that we are invested in

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CULTURE



PHOTO LINK: JONATHAN MISTROT

MILFORD MUSEUM SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN CAP PROGRAM

PRESS RELEASE

The Milford Museum announced recently that it is one of 56 institutions in the United States selected to participate in the **Collections Assessment for Preservation** (CAP) program.

CAP helps museums improve the care of their collections by providing support for a general conservation assessment of the museum's collections and buildings. The museum will work with a team of preservation professionals to identify preventive conservation priorities. The final assessment report will help the museum prioritize its collections care efforts in the coming years.

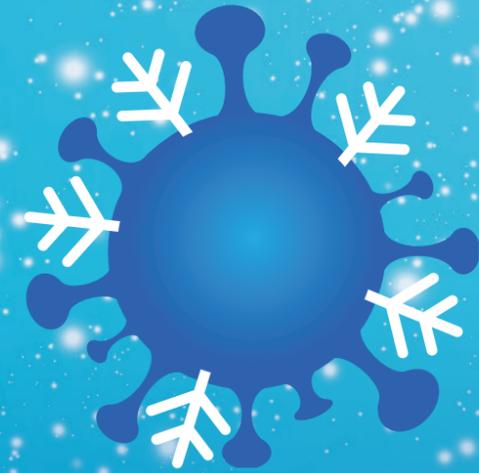
“We are so excited to be selected for this program,” Nicole Rogers, operations manager for the Milford Museum said. “This is going to help us develop better systems for protecting our collections and understand

how we can better preserve our collections in the future. With our new addition project, this could not have come at a better time as we are planning an overhaul of our storage and collections management area in the new addition.”

The CAP program is administered by the Foundation for Advancement in Conservation through a cooperative agreement with the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

The Milford Museum, established in 1983, works to preserve the history of Milford and the surrounding area. The museum houses several permanent as well as rotating exhibit spaces in its building located at 121 S. Walnut Street.

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BY TERRY ROGERS

Danielle Swallow with Delaware Sea Grant, a program based at the University of Delaware in Lewes, presented and update to Milford City Council regarding the Waterways Infrastructure and Investment Network (WIIN). The group was initially formed to help Milford and Slaughter Beach be more competitive in obtaining federal grants designed not only to protect the watershed that makes up the Mispillion River and Cedar Creek areas.

“We’re focusing on the corridor between Milford and Slaughter Beach and as I’m sure many of you know, this area has an abundance of natural resources of terrific areas for birding and recreation and all kinds of water recreation. And we know that Milford has a distinct interest in economic development and trying to continue to brand its identity and tie it to the Mispillion River,” Swallow said. “And Slaughter Beach has a great affinity for the natural resources that surround their town. They have a very strong environmental stewardship ethic and I think that they have been wanting time to really under-

WIIN COALITION HELPING DEVELOP ECO-TOURISM OPPORTUNITIES

stand what the value of the natural resources are in the area to help us to advocate for federal and state funding. And so, we thought that there was a common interest in both communities to really learn what the value of the natural resources are in this area. And how to leverage that for your respective economic goals. “

In addition to the environmental and economic benefits to the watershed, Swallow indicated that there are also resilience goals tied to helping each community manage climate change which is thought to have led to flooding in both towns. WIIN also looks at particular investment strategies that improve access to resources, recreation opportunities and sustainable economic development. WIIN obtained a two-year grant that allowed them to complete an economic study which found the area’s natural resources are valued at several million each year in leisure and recreation activities alone. It also allowed the group to complete a vulnerability assessment which is nearing completion.

“The vulnerability assessment that’s nearing completion is really taking a look at these resources in terms of what changes are on the horizon or happening now, that potentially may present some risks for the resources in

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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.”

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BUSINESS



PHOTO LINK: BRIAN K. LEONARD

DOWNTOWN MILFORD, INC. ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY TERRY ROGERS

Downtown Milford was excited to announce Janne Collins as their new executive director. Collins comes to DMI with years of experience in the non-profit sector. Most recently, she has worked with the Music School of Delaware in Milford as the Front Desk Supervisor, Student Relations Officer, and Kent/Sussex County Outreach Coordinator.

Collins' primary responsibilities will be to advocate for and build awareness of DMI's goals and activities, and to work closely with all of DMI's many partners and stakeholders to promote the civic, commercial, and cultural development of Milford's downtown. Collins began her role on Feb. 1, 2022.

"I am most excited to contribute to the good work that the board and volunteers of Downtown Milford, Inc., are doing to cultivate and grow this beautiful and creative community," Collins said. "I look forward to collaborating with our business owners and continuing the wonderful tradition of creating opportunities for economic growth through DMI's downtown programs and events!"

"DMI is excited to have her on board! Her skillset in non-profit management, marketing, volunteerism, and her knowledge of the downtown Milford area will be an asset to Milford and the downtown businesses," states James Rabe, DMI president.

Downtown Milford Inc. is a dynamic, multifaceted economic development organization that serves as a positive force in the community at large, working with business and property owners to beautify, revitalize, protect, preserve, and promote the historic riverfront district. DMI operates as a nonprofit organization and is accredited through Main Street America and the Downtown Delaware Program.

Collins can be reached at director@downtownmilford.org or 302-839-1180.




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JUNEBUG'S TO OPEN IN PENNEY SQUARE

BY TERRY ROGERS

After working retail throughout high school and college at several different clothing boutiques before going to work at her family's roofing business, Shelby Grant knew she always wanted to do something on her own. A graduate of Milford High School who grew up in Houston and attended Goldey-Beacom College where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration in marketing, Grant came up with the idea for Junebug's during her freshman year of college.

"In a business class, we had an assignment focused on how to make a business plan and that's how I came up with my boutique," Grant said. "My boutique name is very special to me. Growing up, my nickname was Junebug after my middle name, June. Once the business plan was made, I knew immediately the name had to be Junebug's. Not only is it the perfect name for a store, but it's the perfect representation of me. Now, here we are six years later, making that business plan come to life."

Junebug's, which will be located in the newly refurbished Penney Square building in downtown Milford, will offer trendy clothing pieces for everyone and every body type. The store will focus on women's apparel but will also offer men's and, eventually, children's clothing.

"Along with clothing, we will offer accessories, home décor and gifts," Grant said. "The store will have something for everyone! In addition to the boutique, Junebug's

will provide salon hair services, in studio/mobile spray tans and professional makeup services. Not only can you come in the store and shop, you can also get beautified."

Grant explained that she decided to open her store in Milford because she absolutely loves the town. She grew up in Milford and her entire family lives in the area, plus her family business, Grant and Sons Roofing, has been in Milford for over 50 years, so it just seemed right. She also felt that one of the things Milford lacked was a clothing store and she hoped to quickly expand what she offered. She felt that opening in Penney Square was just "meant to be."

As far as challenges she will face, Grant feels that the hardest part will be navigating a new business while she believes the new opportunity will be a huge reward, bringing a unique shopping experience to downtown Milford.

A grand opening was planned for Dec. 1 at the 39 N. Walnut Street location. Grant invites everyone to stop in for "snacks, sips and surprises."

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SURF BAGEL OPENS IN MILFORD



BY TERRY ROGERS

After a soft opening on Dec. 15, Surf Bagel officially opened its new Milford location on Friday, Dec. 16. The parking lot and the restaurant were packed all day, according to Matt Patton, vice president.

“We are so stoked to be open in Milford,” Patton said. “It has been a really busy day today; I think we may have served over 700 people in the new location. Normally, we do a soft opening, but somehow the word got out we were open, and it has been extremely positive already.”

When the company first announced that it planned to open a new location in Milford, Scott Kammerer,

president of SoDel Concepts who owns the Surf Bagel franchise, said that he had always loved Milford. He recognized the town as a growing area with incredible people and he was excited to see one of their restaurants open downtown.

Surf Bagel is known for its authentic, fresh bagels, accompanying spreads as well as creative breakfast and lunch sandwiches. The Milford menu is the same as its other two locations, while 45 new jobs will be created as part of its opening.

“We do plan to do a ribbon cutting or official grand opening in the future,” Patton said. “Right now, we wanted to get the store open and iron out any bugs that may exist before we do the official opening. We are open from 6:30 a.m. until 2 p.m. every day, only closing two days a year on Thanksgiving and Christmas.”

The Lewes location, the flagship store for Surf Bagel, opened in 2004, the vision of brothers, Dave and Tom, who wanted to combine two passions—a love of surfing and a love of good food—to the beach area. At the time, there was not a place in the beach area that served homemade New York-style bagels, which led the brothers to focus on that as a menu staple. The business grew with many customers visiting almost every day and the Midway location opened in 2017.

“As a coastal business, we appreciate Milford’s rich history as an important hub in Delaware,” Kammerer said. “Its history, attractions and communities have much to offer visitors and residents.”

The new Surf Bagel location is located at 204 NE Front Street, next to Arena’s.



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BY TERRY ROGERS

Construction continues on the new ALDI which will be located in the Milford Plaza next to Planet Fitness. The company is excited to bring their brand to the town.

“We are excited to confirm that the Milford ALDI is expected to open Thursday, Feb. 9, 2023,” Jeff Baehr, Frederick Divisional vice president of ALDI, said. “ALDI looks forward to serving Milford residents and we will be sure to provide more details the closer we get to the grand opening date.”

Bringing ALDI to Milford required some changes to leases for stores already in the shopping center, James Grant of Tsionas Management told Milford City Council in June 2021. The management company required approval from council to place a sign for Sherwin Williams farther north in front of the shopping center in order to move that store to the former Sears location. In order for ALDI to have enough of a footprint, they needed to take over the Sherwin Williams store that is adjacent, requiring Tsionas Management to relocate Sherwin Williams.

ALDI ANNOUNCES OPENING DATE

Sherwin Williams moved into the location vacated when Sears closed its storefronts last year. At the time Grant was speaking to council, he hoped that talks with Marshall’s Department Store would result in them opening a store in the former Peebles building, but those talks fell through. According to Holly Taylor in the communications department of Marshall’s, the company was not planning a new store in Milford as of September 2022.

ALDI has been in the grocery business for more than 40 years, following the same guiding principle that great quality should come with low prices. The Albrecht family opened the first ALDI in 1961 in Germany and opened their first store in Iowa in 1976. They are headquartered in Batavia, IL, and grown to more than 2,000 stores across the country. The company has a no-frills shopping model offering high-quality food, excellent customer service, low prices every day and a smaller store that makes shopping less timely.





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BEACH BABIES CHILDCARE TO HOLD RIBBON CUTTING FOR NEW LOCATION

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Tuesday, Dec. 20, Beach Babies Childcare held an open house and ribbon cutting at its new Milford location. The new childcare facility is located 6251 Radian Circle in Milford, just off of Marshall Street. A ribbon cutting was held at 11 a.m.

“We will be cutting the ribbon with the Milford mayor, the Chamber of Commerce and Rep. Bryan Shupe among others,” Sean Toner, chief operations officer, said. “I also believe some of the staff at the Department of Education (DOE) will be joining us as well that day. We would love to have as many people come out as possible to see this new facility.”

According to Toner, the new facility is the second or third largest childcare facility in Delaware and is the largest Beach Babies facility as well. The 15,000 square foot building is licensed for 214 children.

“Our official opening day will be Jan. 3 since all Beach Babies locations are closed on Monday, Jan. 2,” Toner

said. “Because of the holidays and things like that during this time of year, we found it would be best to open on the first day of the new year.”

Beach Babies offers a curriculum with lesson plans based on requirements of DOE. Each child has a portfolio, even the infants as the childcare facility conducts assessments and tracks each child as they grow. This allows them to recognize any issues the child may have so that they can be addressed at an earlier age. The childcare center also works with the state of Delaware to provide services for low income families and offer transportation if the school district does not.

“We also offer a summer camp program for school-aged children that includes field trips to the library, the post office and other locations,” Toner said. “We also offer programs like swim, dance, soccer and other extracurricular activities geared toward three- and four-year-olds.”

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Beach Babies opened in 1995 and has locations in Townsend, Lewes and Rehoboth as well. Toner explained that they are always looking for staff and that anyone interested in applying can do so on their website. Click on the Contact button and Employment Application at <https://beachbabieschildcare.com>.

MILFORD
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Studio you

STUDIO YOU TO OPEN IN PENNEY SQUARE

BY TERRY ROGERS

One of the things Marissa King realized that Milford needed was a spa designed to pamper both men and women in the Milford area. When she and her husband, Zack, purchased Penney Square, her goal was to bring businesses to the building that Milford did not already have and a spa was at the top of her list.

“It is one thing Milford needs,” King said. “We continually try to add things to bring people to town. It’s also something I have always wanted to do, so what better time?”

The spa will open closer to April, but the salon opened on Dec. 6. A grand opening was planned for Dec. 16. The salon will offer full services although King is still looking for two or three stylists. Anyone interested in joining the team can reach out to King directly.

“I am still looking for a massage therapist for the spa,” King said. “We hope to offer a little bit of everything including facials, waxing, sauna, steam rooms, massages and we also hope to get into medical aesthetics down the road.”

King has been traveling to Seaford to visit a spa and it is something that she says provides multiple benefits. “It’s just a way to relax my brain,” King said. “I’m always going 100 miles per hour and never get a minute for myself. Plus, I carry all my stress in my shoulders. There are also many health benefits in the use of infrared saunas and steam rooms.”

King believes her biggest challenge will be staffing the spa, something she says is “sad, but true.” An open house was planned on Dec. 16 to introduce everyone to the salon although the spa will take a few more months to open.

“I am so excited for everything,” King said. “As usual, I am designing the space and just love my visions coming to life so quickly.”

Anyone interested in massage therapy or who would like to join the team as a stylist can reach out to King at 302-858-1875. Studio You will be located in the Penney Square building located at 39 N. Walnut Street, easily

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COUNCIL APPROVES RECREATIONAL PROJECTS FOR DOWNTOWN

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council approved a request from Brad Dennehy, director of Parks and Recreation, to move forward with the bidding process for several downtown recreational projects. The projects include pickleball courts, a pavilion and a playground in the area of the Milford Riverwalk as well as in Memorial Park.

“We are in the process of developing a concept plan for Memorial Park,” Dennehy said. “I want to caveat that and say this is a concept plan. So, a lot of the items in this have been identified as part of our Capital Improvement Plan as well as through public input. Nothing is set in stone at this stage. However, we have got funding. So, what we have funding for at the state level and with approved funds from the council is a playground and pickleball courts, and potentially a future picnic pavilion.” A possible restroom is also planned for Memorial Park.

As for Bicentennial Park and the Riverwalk, Dennehy stated that plans were underway for a future bandstand or stage. The ideas for the recreational projects came from the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board as well as public input sessions. The Memorial Park playground would be placed in the grass area on the south side of the bridge and the pickleball courts would be installed behind the basketball courts.

“In terms of other stuff, we will be coming back and seeking more input from the public and council,” Dennehy said. “DMI has put in for funding for a restroom, but we don’t know at this stage if that’ll be funded or not. I think the idea is we don’t just

want to put a playground downtown. We don’t just want to put a pickleball court in Memorial Park. We want a cohesive plan to know where we’re trying to go. The idea is we have a pavilion people can come down and have a nice picnic on Sunday. The kids can play on the basketball court, they can be on the playground, they can play pickleball.”

Parks and Recreation has received funding toward several of the projects, including a \$200,000 grant for the playground and \$175,000 from DNREC to be used for both the pickleball courts and playground. City Council has also earmarked funds for both projects. Dennehy explained that the playground would be in the style of a ship as an acknowledgement to the city’s rich shipbuilding history. It will have slides, swing sets and climbing structures. Dennehy also stated that there seemed to be a definite need for pickleball courts based on public input.

“I really like the concept, the idea of play,” Councilman Todd Culotta said. “I’m really excited about that with a two-year-old. About the pickleball courts, which I think are wonderful as it’s a very popular sport and people are looking for it everywhere, is there any way we can incorporate tennis courts in there for the traditionalists?”

Dennehy explained that several pickleball players and representatives from a Sussex County pickleball association spoke to the advisory board about the game. They indicated that the courts should only be lined for pickleball as different lining could make the game confusing. Councilman Culotta stated that he wasn’t asking to have a dual-purpose court but wondered if tennis courts could be an additional recreational project in the park.

“We don’t have tennis courts in Milford,” Councilman Culotta said. “The only place we have them is at the high school and you can’t use them while school is in session.” Dennehy offered to look into the possibility as there had been requests for tennis courts. He also pointed out that he had a son on the tennis team who would be willing to play at any time.

Mayor Archie Campbell stated that people often asked him about a skateboard park, mentioning that there was one in Milford some years ago.

“We did have one on that Washington Street site years ago,” Dennehy said. “It was a ramp system which became problematic for whatever reason, but that was a little before my time at Parks and Rec, so I can’t speak to specifics. But the ramp did get dismantled and was not replaced. I’ve had more probably conversations in the last six

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CITY APPROVES VOTER REGISTRATION CHANGES

BY TERRY ROGERS

On Monday, Feb. 14, Milford City Council approved an ordinance that would eliminate a separate voter registration in the city. Instead, the city can now use voter registrations held at the state level.

“Milford has maintained its federal registration rolls for the past many, many years, way before myself,” City Clerk Terri Hudson said. “And we have talked over the past several years about an easier process for our residents. I have been working on a number of software programs and with the Department of Elections and the county election offices. There’s been big changes and personnel there and there have been upgrades as far as electronic registrations. Now with the help of our city engineer and the GIS analysts, it’s going to be a much easier process. This is a very simple ordinance but it is going to have a big impact on our elections and, hopefully, better voter turnout.”

Councilman Dan Marabello asked if there had been any consideration of moving city elections to the same day as state and federal elections. Hudson stated that it had been brought up, but she was not sure that was permitted in Delaware with a few exceptions. If council did decide to move the Election Day for municipal elections, it would require a change to the city charter.

“Nothing else has changed,” Hudson said. “We will

still have voter registration for qualified non-residents and that will still be done in my office unless we go to some type of electronic program, but with the few non-resident voters we have, I am not sure that would be worth the investment. At this point, we would probably just continue to take them over the phone.”

Mayor Archie Campbell asked if a voter needed to use their license or registration in order to vote. Hudson explained that the city will use state voter registration lists and the only list the city will have to maintain is the non-resident voter list. They have to be registered with the state 30 days before an election and the state will send us a list of who is qualified to vote. Councilman Andy Fulton commented that he felt this was a wonderful change and thanked Hudson for her hard work.

City Solicitor David Rutt pointed out that some of the language that had been updated in the draft ordinance had not been added to the new version. There was discussion of tabling the measure until the new wording could be added, but Hudson explained she needed the ordinance passed that night as it had to be done 60 days before the April election. The motion included amended language that will be in the final version of the ordinance.

Council passed the measure unanimously and the new method for registration will be available prior to the April 2022 elections.

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INCUMBENT MIKE BOYLE DEFEATS CHALLENGER, OTHERS WIN UNOPPOSED

BY CHARLIE MEGGINSON

Incumbent Milford City Councilman Michael Boyle has won re-election.

Boyle triumphed over challenger Linda Bretzer in the Ward 1 election, winning 99 of the 119 votes.



Five of the nine council seats were up for election, but incumbents Andrew Fulton, Brian Baer, Katrina Wilson and Mayor Arthur Campbell were uncontested.

They and Boyle will serve two-year terms.

The election was the city's first using the Department of Elections voter rolls rather than the city's own.

That was expected to increase turnout by expanding the number of eligible voters. It didn't.

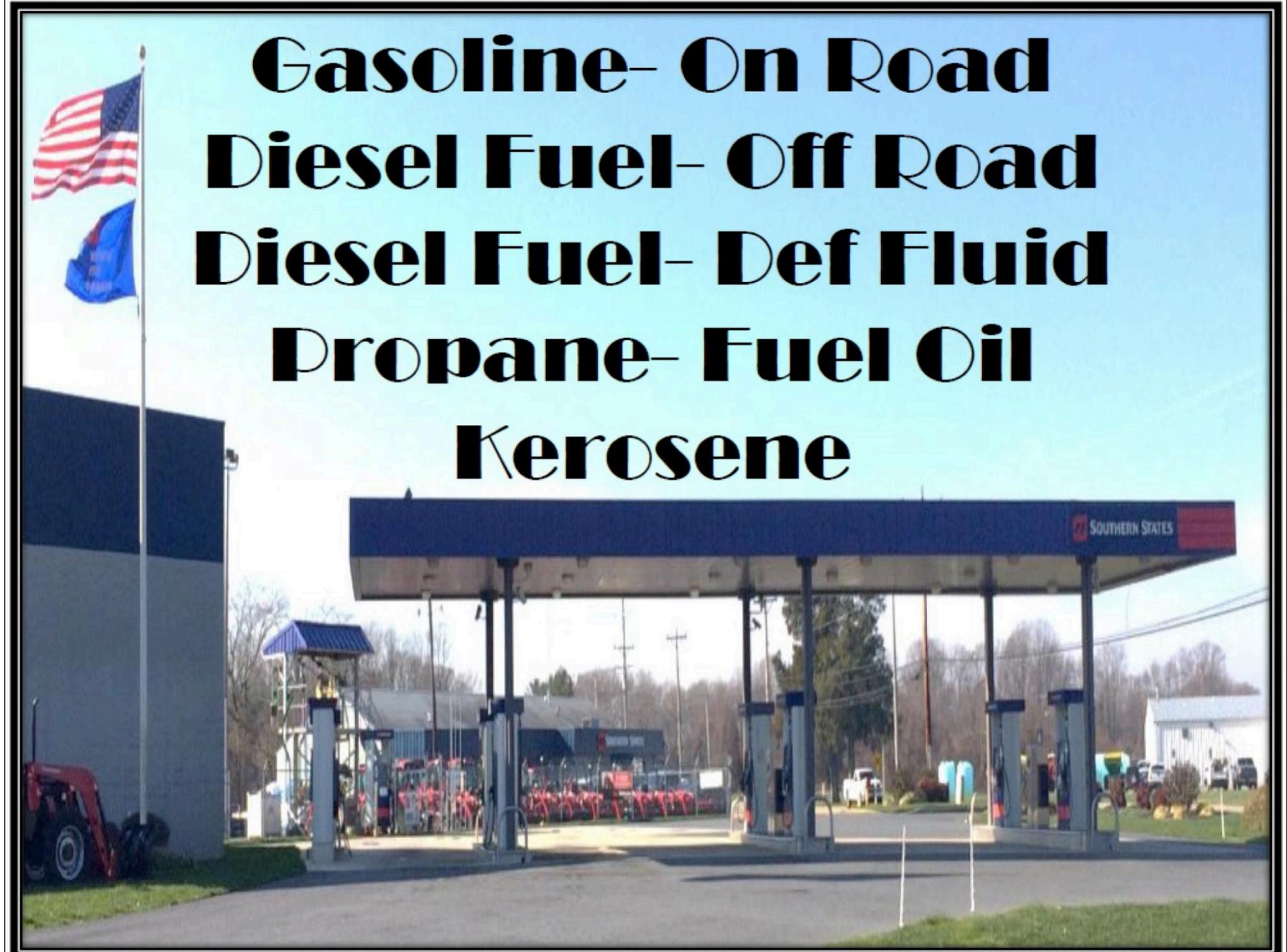


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EDUCATION



MSD REDUCES TAX RATES FOR SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR

BY JAREK RUTZ

For the sixth straight year, the Milford School District has reduced school taxes for area property owners. The current reduction is in spite of bond sales for the Milford Middle School project that could have raised property taxes slightly. Dr. Sara Croce, chief financial officer for the district, explained the four components of school taxes and what they were currently.

“As a reminder, the current expense tax, which is the first component, provides revenue to cover all of our operating costs for the local share. So that’s teacher salaries, materials, textbooks, athletics. This rate cannot be changed without a referendum. The last referendum we had to set our current expense rate was October of 2015. So, for fiscal year 2023, we’re going to have those rates remain the same in Sussex County, \$3.2188 and in Kent County, \$1.1390.”

Croce continued, explaining that debt service portion of the tax rate provided revenue to cover the principal and interest payments on bond sales used for capital projects like new school construction. This rate fluctuates annually as bonds are paid off. The district had their first bond sale in the spring for the Middle School project passed by referendum in the fall.

“As you can see there is still a slight decrease in the tax rates as we talked about during our referendum presentations,” Croce said. “So, even with the sale of the bond, the rates are decreasing \$2.3852 in Sussex County and \$0.1363 in Kent County.”

Match taxes held up the presentation to the board as there was significant discussion at the state level about adding match tax capabilities. Currently, Milford only assesses a match tax on minor capital improvements in order to receive the 60% state funding, keeping the district portion of some maintenance projects at 40%.

“This year, there was a lot of discussion at the legislative level about additional funding as the state had some extra revenue come on the table and they wanted to put it toward improvements in schools,” Croce said. “They ended up going with a proposal that gave us a completely separate appropriation for enhanced minor capital improvement money. We do have the eligibility to match that. However, at this time, you have to spend all of your FY2023 and prior minor capital improvement funds, so it will be at least a year or two before we’re at that place where we have expended all those monies in order to take advantage of those enhancements. We’ll come back with a potential match at that point. So, the match tax rate will also decrease slightly to 0.984 in Sussex and 0.0348 in Kent.”

The final component in school tax is tuition tax which covers the cost of services provided to students with special needs. Some of the tax is used for programs within the district while some pays for services students may have to receive outside of the district. There was a slight decrease in this tax as well to 0.9933 in Sussex and 0.3514 in Kent. Milford does not levy capitation tax.

“We did not receive restoration of the loss of the \$26 million in state funds cut in 2018,” Croce said. “So, our share of the loss that we will have to make up through our budget reduction plan is \$762,523. That amount changes each year depending on student enrollment and our unit count figures throughout the state. This brings the final tax rate to an overall two percent decrease in each county.”

The total school tax rate in Sussex County for FY2023 is \$4.6957 and \$1.6615 in Kent County. Croce stated that district staff was proud to be able to reduce the tax rate for the sixth straight year even with the need to issue bonds for the Middle School project.

“It is hard to argue with a decrease,” school board member David Vezmar said just before the board voted unanimously to accept the tax rate.

MILFORD
LIVE

MILFORD TO IMPLEMENT HISTORY, FINANCIAL LITERACY LEARNING

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent Milford Board of Education meeting, Dr. Bridget Amory, director of Student Learning, told board members that the district was working to address recent legislation that would require schools to include specific types of curricula. The district must include lessons on black history, the Holocaust and genocide, as well as financial literacy.

“Our Social Studies task force has been working to address some of the legislation,” Amory said. “House Bill 198, known as the Black History Bill, requires all public schools to provide instruction on black history. The financial literacy bill is intended to increase the financial literacy of all Delaware students and the Holocaust bill requires students in grades six through 12 to learn about the Holocaust and genocide in each one of those grade levels at least one time each academic year.”

According to Amory, the district is working with the Department of Education and the Social Studies coalition as well as curriculum directors throughout the state to help guide them in the process. At this time, the methods

for incorporating the subjects are not finalized but the district anticipates rolling out the new curriculums in the next school year.

House Bill 198, introduced in March by Dorsey Walker, requires each school district and charter school to establish and implement a curriculum on black history for students in kindergarten through 12th grade. The bill passed both the Senate and the House in the spring with about a dozen dissenting votes and was signed by Gov. John Carney in June 2021.

According to the language of the bill, each district must teach the history and culture of black people, the significance of enslavement in America, the relationship between white supremacy, racism and American slavery as well as the central role racism played during the Civil War. The curriculum must also include details on the tragedy of enslavement and how it was perpetuated through segregation, the contributions of black people to American life, history and more plus the socio-

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MILFORD FFA CHAPTER WINS AT DELAWARE FFA STATE CONVENTION

PRESS RELEASE

The Milford FFA Chapter brought 23 students to participate in the 92nd Delaware FFA State Convention that was held at Delaware State Fairgrounds on March 8-9, 2022. Milford FFA students competed against over 700 other FFA members from all across the state in Career Development Events and Leadership Development Events as well as were involved in leadership workshops and community service projects while attending the convention.

Hannah Haigh was elected to serve as a 2022-2023 Delaware FFA State Officer in the role of state sentinel. Hannah is our current FFA Chapter president and has competed in countless FFA events, community service opportunities and contests. As a Delaware FFA State Officer, Hannah will be traveling across the state working with more than 4,000 Delaware FFA members in facilitating workshops and advocating for our organization and agricultural education. Hannah is the

first Delaware State Officer from Milford FFA in 12 years!

Four FFA members from Milford FFA were awarded their Delaware FFA State Degree which requires FFA members to participate in a wide variety of state and chapter FFA events, complete at least two agriculture classes, and take part in over 25 hours of community service. The following Milford FFA members received this high award: Natalie Armstrong, Beau Davis, Hannah Haigh, and Sundene Lodge.

Miranda Walker, a 2021 graduate of Milford, received approval to continue to submit her application to receive her American FFA Degree from the National FFA Organization. As the highest degree achievable in the National FFA Organization, the American FFA Degree shows an FFA member's dedication to his or her chapter and state FFA association. We wish Miranda

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MILFORD BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OPENS COLLEGE READINESS CENTER

BY TERRY ROGERS

In conjunction with a College Readiness Conference held Saturday, May 14, the Greater Milford Boys and Girls Club officially opened its College Readiness Center. The event offered high school students the opportunity to learn more about local colleges as well as methods to pay for college.

“We have colleges set up in the auditorium,” said Dr. Pat Smith, director of the College Awareness and Preparation Program with the Boys and Girls Club.

Wilmington University, Delaware Technical and Community College, Goldey Beacom, Delaware State College, the University of Delaware and the Air National Guard will be there for students, he said.

“In addition, we are offering workshops on College Awareness and Planning, Colleges Scholarships Database, SEED program and How to Pay for College all sponsored by Navient,” he said.

Prior to the ribbon cutting for the new College Readiness Center, Matthew Smith, chairperson for the Parents and Guardians College Planning Scholarship committee, presented a \$1,000 scholarship to Markaysia Lee, a member of the Greater Milford Boys and Girls Club.

Lee will attend Delaware State College and plans to become an athletic trainer. She is a member of the Milford High School Basketball, Field and Track as well as Women’s Lacrosse teams.

“I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and choosing me as a recipient of this scholarship,” Lee said. “It is an opportunity to change my life as I pursue higher education. Your support is valuable as I come from a single parent household. I would like to assure you that this financial support will motivate me further to be successful in my educational journey.”

Mike Smith, senior vice president and chief human resource officer for Navient, spoke at the gathering, crediting his wife, Dr. Pat, for her work every day with the Boys and Girls Club.

“When we go to bed at night and wake up in the morning, we wonder how we are going to help the community,” Smith said. “In my line of work, it is an honor to be associated with a company that, in my mind, really does care about the people we serve. In the news today, there is a lot of drama about student loans, but the best part of my business is that we really do care about providing education and tools to our customers so that they reach financial success.”

He said Navient has about 450,000 people pay off their student loans every year.

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BUCHER WINS SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION



BY TERRY ROGERS

The Department of Elections has announced that Matt Bucher has unofficially won the At-Large seat on Milford School District Board of Education. Bucher received 1,217 votes (66.83 percent) compared to their challenger, Jalyn Powell, who received 604 votes (33.17

percent). Bucher will be sworn in at the district's reorganization meeting in July.

"We have a victory!" Bucher said. "I want to thank, firstly the Milford School District community, including Ellendale, Houston, Slaughter Beach, Lincoln and all rural points for the trust they have placed in me and my candidacy. Many, many thanks to the dozens of volunteers who joined together to make this campaign possible and successful. Lastly, but in the chief place, I want to thank the parents and front-line teachers who shared with me their many stories and their passion. Your faith in me I take very seriously and will endeavor to serve with humility, but firm in the convictions on which I campaigned."

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BY TERRY ROGERS

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

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

MHS AUDITORIUM TO BE NAMED IN HONOR OF JERRY THOMPSON

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

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

“On Oct. 9, 1990, Mr. Thompson brought out a radio and he said, I believe it around 11 a.m., he was going to turn on the radio, and we’re going to listen to John Lennon’s “Imagine” because it was his 50th birthday,”

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

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

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

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HEALTH



PHOTO BY ROBERT J. NEARY PHOTOGRAPHY

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BAYHEALTH OFFERS VIRTUAL URGENT CARE



BY BETSY PRICE

Bayhealth recently announced that it was offering Bayhealth@Home, a virtual urgent care option that allows you to get medical care sitting at home on your sofa, even in your pajamas. According to Kevin Snyder, vice president of Marketing and Communications, the hope is that this option will help reduce wait times. In addition, the healthcare system is offering a coupon code for one free virtual urgent care visit for the next 30 days.

“Right now, longer wait times are the result of several factors which include higher than normal patient volumes, which includes people who are visiting our

emergency department for services they should seek elsewhere, like a COVID-19 test,” Snyder said. “We are encouraging patients who are not sick or only experiencing minor symptoms to see a primary care physician, visit our walk-in or utilize virtual urgent care.”

Proper use of emergency services right now is critical, Snyder explained. In addition, the community can do its part to keep people out of the emergency department by wearing a face mask, social distancing, frequently washing their hands and staying up to date on vaccines as well as booster shots.

“Virtual urgent care is quite simple,” Snyder said.

“Patients can see a doctor in as few as 10 minutes in most cases simply by downloading the Bayhealth@Home app and creating an account or logging on with a desktop link. Users ‘request an appointment’ and, within 15 minutes, they are seeing a physician on a laptop, desktop or mobile device via a secure portal.”

Although Snyder stated that the app was designed to take pressure off the healthcare system during the pandemic, Bayhealth felt this was an extension of what they have been doing for over 100 years, making sure the community has access to the healthcare resources it needs.

“We launched this service and are offering the 30-day coupon code for a free visit to ensure the community gets the care it needs when healthcare resources are limited due to the surge in COVID-19 cases,” Snyder said. “Long term, Bayhealth@Home will be there to help ensure Bayhealth meets families where they are which is often in the comfort of their own home. We understand life is busy for working professionals and parents. The last thing you want to do is leave your home when you do not feel well. Bayhealth@Home is the answer to those challenges.”

Snyder did caution that Bayhealth@Home is not suitable for all medical conditions. The app is designed for minor illnesses, including colds, flu, fever, rash, abdominal pain, sinusitis, pinkeye, ear infections and other easily treated illnesses. However, anyone experiencing shortness of breath, chest pain, feeling faint or any serious pain should call 9-1-1 and head straight to the nearest emergency department.

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CHAMPIONS FOR CHILDREN'S MENTAL HEALTH OPENS

BY TERRY ROGERS

What began as a mother's effort to get help for her children led to the creation of Champions for Children's Mental Health, a child mental health agency now located in the Milford Wellness Village. Barbara Messick, executive director, explained that when her son was two, she was basically a prisoner in her home because she could not take him to the grocery store with her.

"I spent years upon years trying to find services for my own children, mainly my middle son," Messick said. "He had been kicked out of daycare. They told me he was never going to make it in school, things like that, so you try to find help. You go to your pediatrician, and they are like "well, come back in six months. He spoke very well for just being two, so well I just knew he would be a politician. He was a runner, so I couldn't go to Walmart to get groceries because I had an infant in a car seat and a four-year-old. When he darted off, what was I supposed to do? Run after him and leave the other two or just let him go in the parking lot. Either way, it was going to be a DCF call."

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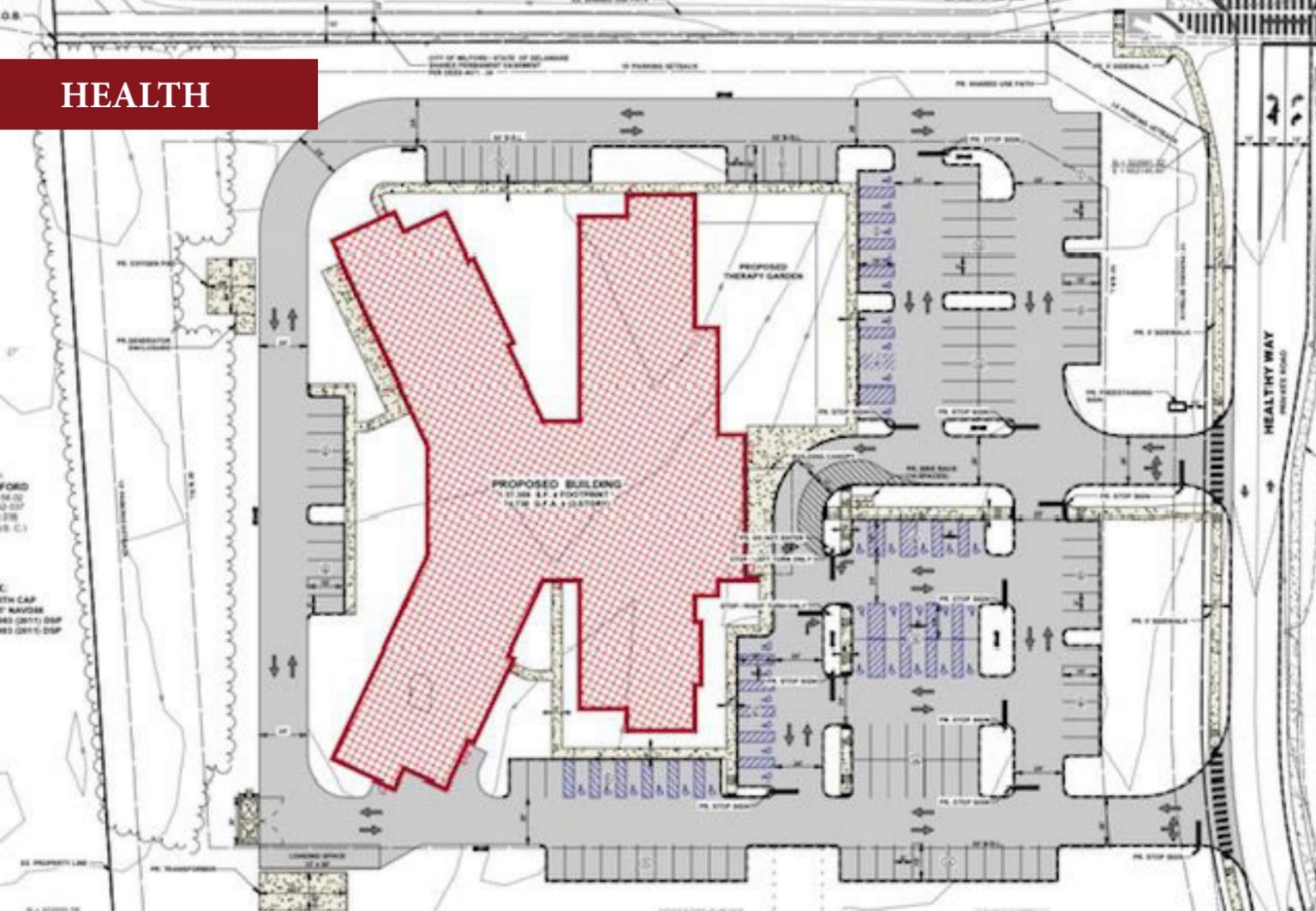
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BY TERRY ROGERS

With City Council approval of a conditional use request, the Bayhealth Sussex Campus will expand with a 74,000 square foot facility that will house PAM Health, an inpatient rehab facility. PAM stands for Post-Acute Medical, a company that already has locations in Dover and Georgetown. They are currently using 40 beds in the Bayhealth building.

“This is a leased arrangement,” Mike Reimann of Becker Morgan Group said. “The site will be accessed from Healthy Way which intersects with Wilkins Road across from the Hearthstone Manor entrance. There are some trees midway through the property and we will be clearing some of those trees. However, we are still maintaining a pretty significant buffer and leaving some existing trees.”

Reimann explained that DelDOT had already approved the addition of right and left turn lanes at the intersection of Healthy Way and Wilkins Road, a project that

BAYHEALTH SUSSEX CAMPUS TO EXPAND WITH PAM APPROVAL

Bayhealth will be sending out to bid soon. Anthony Lampanosa, chief development officer for Catalyst Healthcare Real Estate, explained that his company formed a joint venture to operate the facility with Bayhealth who will continue to own the land where the new building will be constructed. Catalyst will develop, finance and own the building with PAM being the long-term tenant in the structure. The lease will be for 20 years while the land lease would be for 50 or 60 years.

“The purpose of this facility is to operate as a specialized inpatient rehab care facility,” Lampanosa said. “We meet the mission of the hospital to provide comprehensive health care services to the community and beyond. That’s been the mission of Bayhealth Sussex ever since it’s opened, and it has been outperforming initial projections for needed space and services within the four walls of the hospital. Right now, there are about 40 inpatient rehab beds in the current hospital building. The hospital could really use that space to provide core healthcare services on an acute basis as it continues to outperform its expectations. This building will have 40 beds built out on day one, and there will be some capacity built into the structure for an additional future eight to 10 beds if they are needed.”

Lampanosa explained that the patients who will use this facility are those who are complex medical cases, those who have had hip replacement surgery, a stroke or a cardiac event. Due to insurance or other reasons, they can no longer stay in the hospital, but they still need intensive care to rehab their health issues. The patient is checked into PAM Health where they stay for an average of seven to 10 days.

“Rehab in this building does not mean drug and alcohol rehab,” Lampanosa said. “It doesn’t mean anything to do with behavioral health. While those services are absolutely needed and provided for by others, this is more a physical rehab and occupational therapy as well as physical therapy focused on rehabilitation services.”

Councilman Dan Marabello asked if the facility would add jobs in the area. Ted Werner, CEO of PAM Health Dover explained that a facility like the one proposed

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PACE YOUR LIFE OPENS IN MILFORD WELLNESS VILLAGE

BY TERRY ROGERS

Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) Your Life opened in the Milford Wellness Village recently. The program focuses on helping older adults age in place, providing them with healthcare, medication, transportation and even meals. PACE Your Life held an open house on June 16. The public was invited to the event at the center on Clarke Avenue.

“We serve people who are over 55 who live in our service area,” Lisa Bond, program director, said. “There is a really clear consensus that a program to serve seniors who really needed coordinated care and social services was a big need in the area. Meir Gelley, the owner of Nationwide Health Services, decided that he would move forward with a PACE center here in the Wellness Village.”

PACE Your Life is for seniors who may qualify for nursing home care but are able to live safely in their community while receiving services. In order to qualify, they must live within specific zip code areas which include Milford, Milton, Lewes, Harrington and more.

“What happens when someone is new to our program is that we do an initial assessment and one of the things that is unique is that we have an interdisciplinary team,” Bond said. “Every participant gets a doctor, a clinic nurse, a home health nurse, a social worker, occupational therapist, a physical therapist, a registered dietitian and an activities specialist. If they come in the morning, we’re going to serve a light breakfast. There will be

various activities over the course of the morning. And then for example, if they need to see a primary care physician or nurse practitioner, either because they have something scheduled like a wellness visit, or maybe they are not feeling well that day, they’re going to go back and see their medical providers. If they need physical or occupational therapy or speech therapy, they’re going to go back and get that. We have a rehab gym, and so they can get that done while they’re here as well.”

Bond explained that someone participating in the program may come simply for the activities or they may have a medical appointment. They are provided a large lunch in order to provide a main meal for participants who may not be able to fix large dinners at home. Transportation is also provided to the center. Participants must have difficulty with one activity of daily living which may have developed from dementia, a brain injury or even someone who may have had a back injury many years ago and, as they have gotten older, their mobility has deteriorated.

“We also have a smaller room that we can use for memory care or for those who find it too stimulating to be in a room with 50 or 60 other people,” Bond said. “As we grow, we will develop an activities calendar in a way that recognizes people are in different places. We will

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PHOTO BY KEVIN EICKMAN

THODE WINS TITLE, FOUR OTHER BUCS MEDAL!

BY KEVIN EICKMAN

Milford senior Jack Thode was about to take the mat for his final match as a high school wrestler. It was the 132-pound title match for the Delaware Individual Wrestling Championships. While Thode already had earned two titles previously, this one was surprisingly special to him. "Once the match begins, you pretty much put everything out of your mind and that is what I did. But between matches this weekend, I had a lot of time to think about all the people who helped get me to this moment. My family, coaches, friends and so many people in the wrestling community were always there to lend a hand."

Thode would be battling Dylan Knight, who had Thode defeated by decision in last year's title match. "I know Dylan pretty well and he is a tremendous wrestler, but I have been really focused and very healthy this year - I was very confident headed into the match," Thode said. It was soon evident that Thode was not overconfident as he took a 4-0 lead in the first period, then with a workman-like effort, Thode moved in for the kill and won by pin at the 2:51 mark of the match.

Thode, who has always been a leader, actually explained that with all the injuries and adversity the squad had faced this year, it was great to have guys like Averii Copes, Aaron Briscoe and Tim O'Hara step up and take a more active role in leadership. While there was one Milford wrestler, who did not qualify for states



due to injury, Jack's sister Emily, he was grateful to have her in his corner. "Without a doubt, I think she would have been able to qualify this year, but fate wouldn't allow it. I feel horrible for her because I know how much it meant to her, and I would have loved to have her here. But I know that this will drive her even harder next year and I am really looking forward to it," Thode said.

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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, wished him well at the competition which took 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
LIVE



CROSS COUNTRY CLOSES SEASON STRONGLY

BY DAVID MCCALLUM

Milford's girls' and boys' cross-country teams closed out their year with solid outings Saturday at the DIAA State Championships at Killens Pond. The ladies posted a sixth-place finish in the girls' Division I event, while the boys finished in 11th at 158 points.

In the girls' event, junior Faith Mitchell led the way for MHS as she carded a ninth-place finish with a time of 20:58.50. Eighth grader Aviana Shaw placed a top 30 finish coming in 30th with a time of 22:40.30, while freshman Samantha Hudson was 39th at 23:24.90, sophomore Kayla Ashton was 40th (23:16.50) and senior Brianna Thompson rounded out the scoring for Milford with a 40th place finish at 23.40.50.

Ten-time state championship Padua, paced by individual champion Sophia Holgado, ran away with the team title with 21 points, while Charter School of Wilmington was second at 68 points.

"We had a very young girls' team, and we had a better season than expected," said Milford coach Lance Skinner. "We knew we were going to have a small team, but if the girls gelled together, then the sky was going to be the limit and that's what happened. The girls had a very positive mindset as did the guys throughout the year, and we ended up with great outcomes."

The Lady Bucs, who will be getting its top four runners back next year, were the only MHS fall sports team to post a winning record with a 7-3 mark with runners winning numerous honors.

Mitchell led the way with a state medal along with being named to the All-Henlopen Conference and All-Kent County squads. Shaw joined Mitchell on the all-conference and all-county squads. Hudson, Ashton and Thompson joined the duo on the all-county team.

In the boys' event, Nate Waydelis led the Bucs contingent with a 32nd place finish in a time of 18:19.80. Seniors Tyler Ashton and Matthew Fox were 64th and 65th, respectively, with times of 20:00.20 and 20:02.90. Junior Charles Brown was 89th at 22:00.00, Anthony Nash, a freshman, was 105th at 23:30.80 and junior Noah Duffy placed 106th at 24:14.40.

Salesianum took the boys' Division I title with 37 points, while Milford was 11th with 308 points.

"The boys had a lot of positive energy like the girls did," Skinner said. "It was a great environment that we had."

Waydelis was named to the boys' all-conference and all-county teams. Skinner lauded to first-time cross country runner Liam Dennehy who was consistently in the Bucs' top three all season. He praised the efforts of Ashton, who was also a first-time runner as a senior.

MILFORD
LIVE



BY KEVIN EICKMAN

To use the word “exciting” to describe the Sept. 16 contest between Milford and Lake Forest, would be fair. To use the word “disappointing” to describe Milford’s performance, as they traveled to take on the Spartans would be fair as well. With Lake Forest taking the opening kick-off and running straight at the Buccaneers on the games opening drive, it looked like that a blowout might be in the offing. Traveling 60 yards, in nine plays, Lake quarterback Jon Tyndall would cap off the drive on a one-yard plunge to give lake the early lead.

Things would rapidly go from bad to worse, following a three-and out on their first possession of the game. Jaymeire Snell would take the Buccaneers’ punt 50 yards for a touchdown and just like that, Lake had doubled

LAKE KEEPS BELL, 52-26

their advantage to 12-0 with just over five minutes remaining in the first quarter “We had our problems to start the game, but I thought that if we could just calm down, we could play our way back into it.” Coach Shaun Strickland said.

The Bucs did settle down, specifically on defense. The next time Lake had the ball, Tyndall would roll to his right looking to pass. In doing so he lost the football, which Milford eagerly pounced on at the Spartans 26-yard line. It looked as if Milford would not be able to take advantage of the situation as they had little success moving the ball. However, a key defensive pass interference penalty on Lake, extended the Milford drive. Milford gained some confidence and got their first points of the game as junior Elijah Lake would take it in from five yards out. A successful two-point conversion made the score 12-8 Lake in front, as the first quarter came to an end.

On Lake’s next possession Milford forced them to punt as the defense stood tall. What followed would be a huge mistake for the Bucs. Following the three-and out, Milford mishandled the Lake punt, with the Spartans pouncing on it in Milford territory. Lake wasted little time converting their good fortune into points. A two-point conversion stretched the Lake advantage to 20-8 with 8:11 remaining in the first half “We made so many mistakes tonight, some big, some small, but they all caught up to us in the end. While dropping the punt hurt us, that was just one play. I can give you a list of at least 20 plays where mistakes we made cost us possession or points.” Strickland said.

The mistakes would continue for Milford as they turned the ball over on their next possession. It would take Lake all of two plays to capitalize on the Buccaneer blunder, as they increased their lead to 28-8, following a two-point conversion.

On the ensuing drive Milford would drive deep into Lake territory, before turning it over on downs at the Spartan three-yard line. It was at this point Lake would take a page out of the Milford script, on an ill-advised toss play in their own end zone, Lake would fumble and the Bucs would jump on it for a touchdown. Suddenly Milford closed the gap to 28-14 after a failed extra point attempt, which would be the score the teams would take into the locker room.

To start the second half, Milford would go right down the field, with senior Ryan Mejia connecting on a 32-yard strike to fellow upper classmen A.J. Kravitz, making the score 28-20 with less than a minute gone in the second half.

While the Milford defense would hold on the ensuing drive, the Lake punt would pin Milford back on their own six-yard line. With Milford trying to pass from their own end zone, Lake would strip the ball from Mejia for a quick touchdown, making the score 34-20 Lake, with just over seven minutes remaining in the third quarter.

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

POLICE & FIRE



MILFORD POLICE CHIEF TO RETIRE

BY TERRY ROGERS

Chief Kenneth Brown, who took the job as Milford's police chief in January 2016, has announced he will step down as of Aug. 1. Chief Brown took over the department after the retirement of Chief E. Keith Hudson who served as chief since 2002.

"Last year, I got married and my wife has a funeral home down in Laurel," Chief Brown said. "She's become quite busy and she doesn't really have any help administratively. I've been toying with the idea of retiring, but I was trying to get through the new building, to wait for that to happen and get us moved in. Over the weekend, we just sat down and had a conversation about it and felt it was just the best way forward for us. I can unload some of my pressures and help her unload some of hers."

Chief Brown started with the Milford Police Department as an officer in March 1988. He explained that he never wanted to be an officer anywhere else. The only time he ever applied to another department was during a period when Milford was only hiring certified officers. A then-lieutenant with Milford suggested that Chief Brown apply elsewhere in order to get certified, so he put in an application with Harrington, but he never accepted a position with them. He was offered a position with Milford and has remained with them ever since.

"Probably the most rewarding part of my job is also the most challenging," Chief Brown said. "That is the social reform that is happening today. It has created a lot of stress, but it also has had a lot of impact. I ended up getting on the board for the state chiefs which

allowed me some influence in making changes throughout the state. It's been very rewarding."

Chief Brown stated that changes in how police officers interact with the community added stress to his job, but he also found that handling new officers today was much different than the way they were handled when he started on the force.

"There is a different mindset in the younger generation," Chief Brown said. "That has its challenges as well. It is tough for somebody of my generation to effectively deal with some of those issues."

Milford Police Department is also credited with some firsts in the state and Chief Brown is proud to have been part of that. Although Milford was not the first department to deploy body cameras, it was one of the first to use them throughout the entire department.

"That was the first thing I did," Chief Brown said. "It wasn't as big a topic as it is today, so to have council fully fund that was just amazing because there are huge costs and still are. It is not a one-time cost, it is a forever cost. We have to pay for storage of all of that evidence. People don't understand that those videos are evidence and we have to keep them for so many years."

Another program Chief Brown is proud of is the implementation of the Behavioral Health Unit, although he credits Councilman Jason James with spearheading that program.

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SANTA TO TOUR MILFORD AREA THANKS TO CARLISLE FIRE COMPANY

BY TERRY ROGERS

Thanks to the efforts of Carlisle Fire Company, Santa once again made his rounds through the Milford area. After receiving Santa's travel plans, the fire company announced that the jolly old elf will again climb aboard one of the company engines and travel around, much to the excitement of children in the area.

"Santa has checked his travel plans for the Carlisle Fire Company Santa Run on Dec. 4 for Kent County and Dec. 11 for Sussex County," the fire company's Facebook post read. "Yes, two separate runs on the 11th, even Santa needs help! If your location or neighborhood

is not listed, we should be there around the timeframe closest to your area. Remember to listen for the sirens! We cannot wait to see everyone!"

On Dec. 4, Santa traveled throughout the Kent County section of the city, starting at North Shore Drive at noon. By 1:15, he was expected to be at Knott's Landing and by 2:30 arrive at Woods Haven. He returned to North Street, Church Street and other areas in the northern downtown area around 3 p.m. He was in the Walmart parking lot around 12:50 p.m. and the Riverwalk Shopping Center around 4 p.m. He ended his tour at around

4:45 p.m. in the Milford Plaza Shopping Center.

Using some of his magic, Santa made two tours on Dec. 11, when he visited the southern area of the city. He began one of the tours at noon in the Montgomery and Franklin Street areas before heading to Shawnee Acres and arriving at the Meadows of Shawnee around 1:30 p.m. He then headed to Hidden Meadows, Matlind Estates and West Shores, arriving there around 2:45 p.m. He ended near Brady Lane around 4:45 p.m.

The other area covered on Dec. 11 began at noon on King's Highway, traveling to Old Shawnee Road, Woodside Drive and Bowman Terrace. Around 1:45 p.m., he was on Seabury Avenue, Cherry and New Street before heading to Lakeview Avenue. Around 3:15 p.m., he arrived on Causey Avenue before heading to Elks Lodge Road, Orchard Hill, Eastman Heights and down into Lincoln. He ended his tour at Mispillion Apartments and Walnut Crossing around 4:30 p.m.

"Santa's arrival will be slightly early or late due to travel routes," the fire company explained. "Please have patience with us. Please do not approach the fire trucks as they cannot stop. Our goal is to keep you safe."

The entire itinerary for Santa can be found on the Carlisle Fire Company Facebook page.

MILFORD
LIVE



BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent council meeting, City Manager Mark Whitfield stated that the city was in discussions with Carlisle Fire Company to relocate fire sirens from the downtown area to locations outside the city. A license agreement has been presented to the fire company and it was currently being reviewed by their legal counsel.

“The existing siren will be moved to the electric substation on Elks Lodge Road just past Wilkins Road,” Whitfield said. “The existing siren, currently deactivated, at the electric substation just off the Milford Harrington Highway will be refurbished and activated. The existing siren at Marshall Street, presently deactivated, will be relocated to the city’s water treatment facility at 707 NE Front Street and activated. A new siren will be installed at the water treatment facility at the intersection of Route 113 and Shawnee Road.”

Whitfield explained that instead of one single activated siren located in the downtown area, there will now be four located on the edges of the city.

CITY LOOKS AT RELOCATING FIRE SIRENS

“The sirens are being relocated to better distribute the signal to areas within the city as well as outside the city,” Whitfield said. “Most volunteer personnel actually live outside the city. There will be a better distribution of signal and thereby will improve the ability for fire personnel to hear the signal. It is our intent to have the signals relocated within the first half of next year.”

There have been many complaints about the fire siren located in the center of town. As far back as 2015, residents who live in the vicinity of the sirens have complained that the decibels are so loud, it was actually affecting their quality of life. At that time, then-City Manager Hans Medlarz explained that the sirens were used to warn other citizens that volunteer firefighters may be traveling at higher rates of speed than normal through town to get to the fire station. Since volunteers did not have warning lights or sirens, the fire siren was used as a safety measure for other motorists. In addition, the state of Delaware requires that every volunteer fire company have two methods to notify members of an alarm. The code states that “fire alerting equipment shall be sirens and/or tone activated radio receiving equipment.” The fire company has maintained that the sirens are used by volunteers as notification of alarms.

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