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photo link: Milford Public Library

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February 28, 2023
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**Rookery Zoning Request
Approved**



**Do More 24 Delaware Fundraiser
this Week**



Captain Ed Huey Retiring

HEADLINES

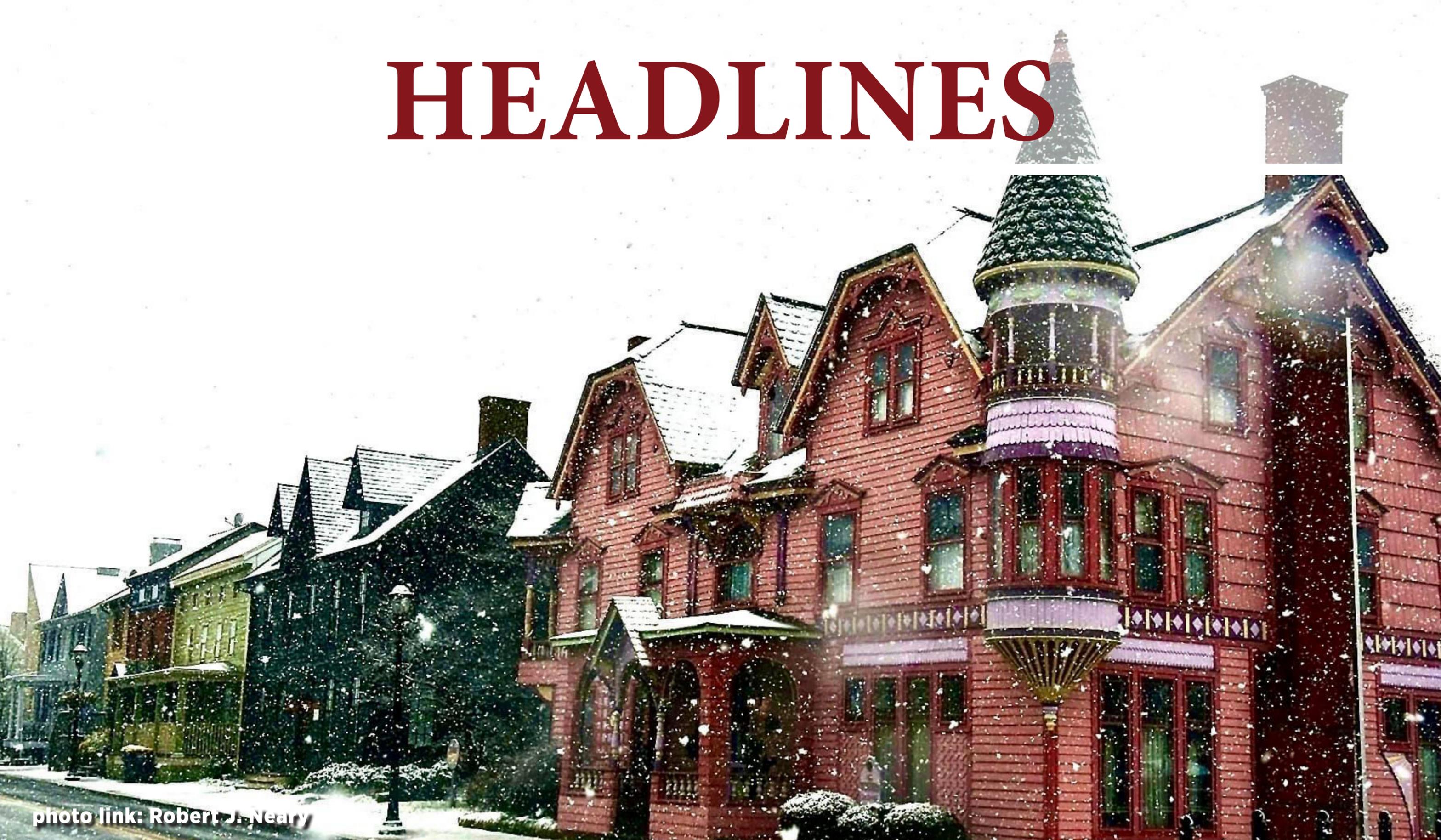


photo link: Robert J. Neary

ZONING REQUEST FOR ROOKERY PROPERTY APPROVED

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council voted seven to one to approve a request from Oak Forest Park LLC to change less than four acres of the Rookery parcel to C-1 from R-2. The zoning was required to bring Big Oyster Brewing to town. The company plans to create a brewpub and restaurant in the former clubhouse and pro shop located next to the golf course. The remaining acreage will continue to be an 18-hole golf course.

“Our plan is to reopen the golf course and country club after giving them both an extensive remodel,” Marc Johnson, who appeared before council with his father, Tim Johnson. “The golf course will remain a regulation 18-hole course with semi-private memberships that will be open to the public. The old country club will be receiving a much needed facelift both inside and out using the existing footprint. Our concept for the former country club is to open a restaurant and brewpub that

will occupy the main building and former pro shop. The new restaurant is expected to employ 75 to 100 people, not including the 15 to 25 employees for the golf course.”

According to Johnson, the goal was to have the brewpub open by September 2023 and the first nine holes of the course also open by that time. The conditional use was necessary as the restaurant cannot remain open in R-2 zoning if the golf course does not. By rezoning the small portion of land, even if the golf course does not remain open, the brewpub can remain. Jeff Hamer, owner of Big Oyster Brewing, explained his plan for the location.

“I’ve been here since two years after I graduated from college and this is my 32nd year in the restaurant industry,” Hamer said. “I started with Arena’s Deli, you guys

See **ROOKERY** on page 4

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ROOKERY from page 3

are familiar with that and sold it in 2005 to my employees. I've owned numerous coffee shops and currently own Fins Hospitality Group. As of today, we have seven restaurants in Sussex County. We just purchased Just Hooked in Fenwick today."

Hamer explained that his company planned to open a 200-seat restaurant in the clubhouse while the pro shop will be the brewery building. He stated that there needed to be extensive renovations to the building as it had been left vacant for several years, which meant some mold and mildew remediation as well as upgrades to electrical systems, fire suppression and the kitchen.

"I see this as part of the redevelopment of that entire area," Hamer said. "I think the golf course is a great asset to have in Milford. I was talking to some people from the community about having nice walking paths that will go down the road. They're around the hospital similar to what they have on the Breakwater Trail. I'll have 100 bicycles at my Lewes location on a Saturday because people bicycle around the community. It's become a place for families with their little kids behind them in the little bicycle carry things. So it's a very family atmosphere. If anyone is worried about Big Oyster, just go to our Instagram and see we have playgrounds out back with bocce ball, chalkboards for the kids to draw on, cornhole and more. So, people bring their families, they hang out and play with their kids. They hang out to eat. We are a restaurant, we are 25 percent alcohol and 75 percent food. We're not a night club, we close early."

See ROOKERY on page 5



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Tim Johnson explained that he had heard there were concerns that if the zoning was changed, he could put in a convenience store or a gas station. He explained that this location was not suited for that type of business nor does a shopping center work on a smaller road. Jerry Esposito spoke out in support of the project, both for himself and for the Sussex County Economic Development Action Committee.

“What the city needs is open space for recreation and compatible hospitality,” Esposito said. “The local community and our neighbors are craving a resource like the one proposed. I plan to join the renewed golf club and patronize the new restaurant. I’ve been assured by many former Shawnee members that they are anxious to do the same.”

Hunter Emory also spoke in support of the rezoning, stating that his children loved going to Big Oyster in Lewes to play on the playground while he and his wife enjoyed a beer and some excellent food. Butch Elzey also spoke in favor of the rezoning, commenting that he first went to the Shawnee Country Club when he was five or six years old with his parents who were members. He also pointed out that Tim Johnson had opened many successful businesses in Milford, indicating that he felt that if anyone could make a success of the golf course, it was Johnson. Jason Weisberg, who is both a golfer and who works in the brewing industry, spoke about the benefits Big Oyster would bring to Milford.

“Nationally, the 9,000 breweries in operation have an economic impact of \$76.3 billion based on 2021 data,” Weisberg said. “They are also responsible for over

490,000 jobs at the national level. I was recruited by many towns to bring brewpubs to them when I was brewing. On a local level, talking about why these people come here, there is a segment of tourism called beer tourism that is specifically the travel motivated by visiting breweries, brewpubs, going to beer festivals, going to visit places where they had beer events. In Delaware alone, that impact was \$405 million. While we were 41st in the nation of our per capita impact, we were ninth overall nationally. So, craft beer in Delaware, that \$405 million was done by 2,200 people working in the craft industry with an average wage of \$62,000. So, these are real jobs.”

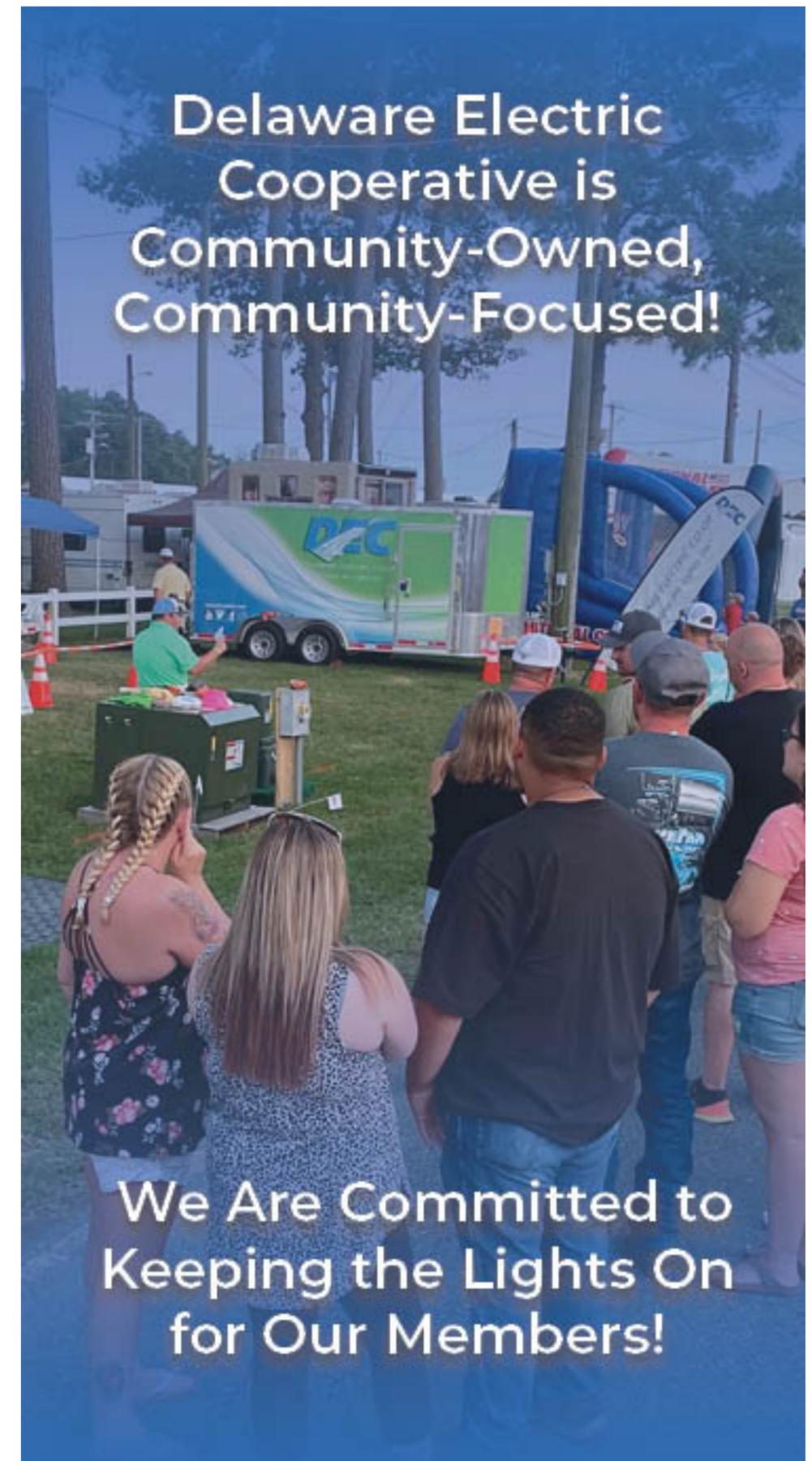
Not everyone who spoke at the meeting was in favor of the rezoning request. Joe Palermo remarked that the concern was not the brewpub itself nor was it about the golf course.

“They employ about 800 people, and I commend them for that,” Palermo said. “I think the concern here is not that we don’t want the Rookery or whatever it may be to flourish. The fact is that if it fails, then there are other options they can do with the property and that is the concern of the residents. They can flip it and have a strip mall, a laundromat or whatever else in there.”

Gloria Marokowitz, who like Palermo lives near the proposed brewpub, also stated that she thought the restaurant sounded wonderful but that rezoning the 3.93 acres could open up the land for too many undesirable businesses.

“If the proposed plan doesn’t last, as has happened in the past, you can subdivide the property, take that 3.93 acres and subdivide it out without changing the zone,”

See ROOKERY on page 6



Markowitz said. “Also, the parties could change their mind as soon as it’s sold as commercial property. Has a traffic study been done? Don’t you think a traffic study is prudent?”

Hamer explained that he had a 100 percent success rate with his businesses and that he had often been told he would not succeed based on location or for other reasons. Yet, he had been successful in his ventures.

“This is a big deal, a big decision for Milford overall,” Councilman Todd Culotta said. “It would open green space for a golf course, and it is a vital activity in Milford. Jeff Hamer has been successful everywhere he has gone. Whether he gets his funding from a bank or private investors, that is none of my business. I really don’t care, but as council, we function to create economic development opportunities.”

Councilman Mike Boyle stated that, coming into the meeting, he had reservations about the project. He felt there was a lot of confusion that had been cleared up by the applicants. He reminded council that they needed to show the public they were serious and not just agreeing to something because it was a fun thing to have in town.

“I can respect what Mr. Boyle has referenced to us being serious,” Councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. “I think just by sitting here, we’re serious. We’ve watched this town slowly, slowly grow and with many considerations. I can remember when Mr. Johnson and Mr. Carmean were meeting about the industrial park. I was here so I appreciate all you do for the city of Milford. I am very happy for you wanting to develop this property and Mr. Hamer wanting to put in the brewpub. I was

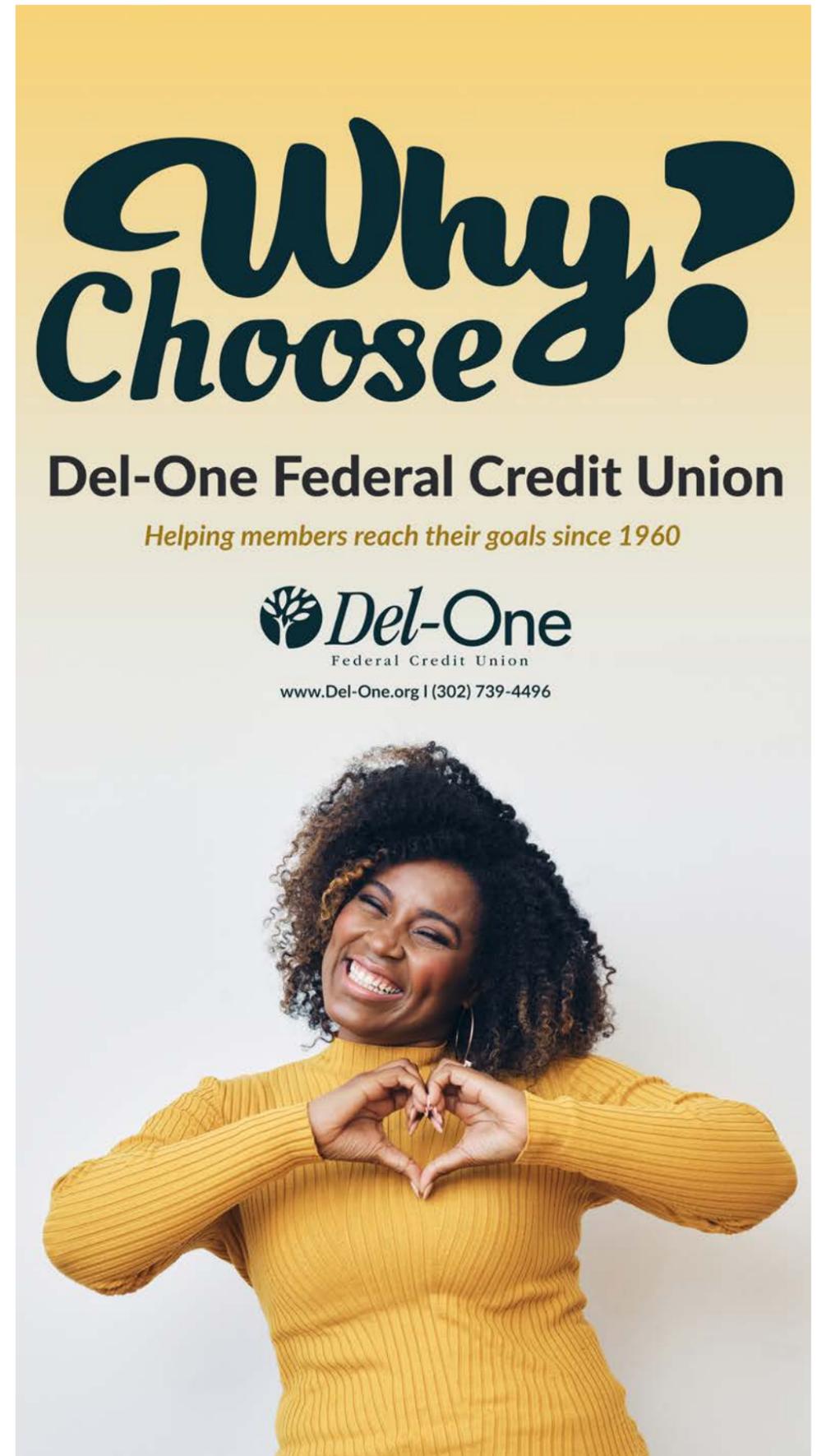
the first black person at the country club where the only time you saw a black person in the club house was when they worked in the kitchen. So, I’m excited to know that you’re going to have equal opportunity for all of our families and our citizens.”

Councilwoman Wilson also pointed out that young people were returning and looking for things to do while others were looking to learn a trade which the brewery industry could provide.

“The economics in our town, I am very passionate about that,” Councilwoman Wilson said. “We need the growth. Someone made a comment of New Milford. There is no New Milford. It’s Milford. We’re one town so whatever goes on that side of town effects all of us. I’m just excited about it. I’m thankful you are saving the golf course. My husband and I will feel comfortable and be able to go play golf. That stigma is gone at the Shawnee Country Club. I am just looking forward to what it is going to bring to Milford the flavor, the changing of culture.”

Council approved the measure with just one dissenting vote. Councilman Dan Marabello voted no, stating that he felt the synergy between a brewpub and golf course would be great, but he was not comfortable with the rezoning request.

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Anniversary

CULTURE



Photo link: Marcia Reed



MILFORD REMEMBERS THE STORM OF 1962

TERRY ROGERS

March 5 will mark the 61st anniversary of the Great Ash Wednesday Storm of 1962. Even today, the storm is considered one of the most devastating to hit the Delmarva Peninsula, causing \$50 million in damages which, today would total over \$465 million. The nor'easter, which coincided with a spring tide, remained stationary over the area for almost 36 hours, causing flooding that lasted more than five hours. Although most devastating in the beach towns, especially Ocean City and Rehoboth Beach, even towns inland were affected.

According to the DVD "The '62 Storm: Delaware's Shared Response," weather reports for the storm did not initially cause concern among locals. It was reported that a nor'easter would affect the region on March 5, but this was not unusual weather for Delaware during the month of March. However, by midnight on March 5, it was clear that it was not an ordinary storm.

Along the coast of Delaware, nor'easters are often more damaging than hurricanes. In fact, there has never been a direct hit from a hurricane along the Delaware shoreline, but nor'easters, named for the direction the winds circulate, are more common and more damaging. Nor'easters originate in the westerly wind belt and are considered sub-tropical. They derive power from temperature differences between cold and warm air masses, unlike hurricanes which need warm ocean water to survive. Hurricanes also occur in warm months while nor'easters can occur any time of the year. The most prevalent time of year, however, is autumn through spring with 63 percent occurring during this timeframe.

The storm was supposed to move up the coast and into New England, but the low was blocked by an upper level high, causing it to stall over the peninsula. The stall caused the storm to expand, increasing wind speeds

significantly. The registered winds were higher than those experienced during Hurricane Hazel in 1954. Researchers into the storm today believe wind speeds reached over 112 miles per hour. The storm was so significant by midnight, Gov. Elbert Carvel declared a state of emergency, ordering evacuations of the beach area. On March 9, President John F. Kennedy declared Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey and Virginia as disaster areas.

At that time, there were no gauges to tell how high ocean waves were, but eyewitnesses reported waves as high as 20 to 30 feet on March 7, 1962. The high waves along the coast pushed water into the bays and tributaries, causing flooding inland as well. Towns like Milford, Milton and Millsboro suffered significant flooding as

See **STORM** on page 9

rivers rose. Because the storm stalled for almost three days, the area dealt with five high tides during the storm and one of those tides is still the highest on record for the state.

Bowers and Slaughter Beach were affected by winds and high tides as well. Many of the homes built along the beaches were built using standards meant for homes built inland.

“Many people just laid joints along the marsh and built on top of them,” John Moyer Jr., who was interviewed on the DVD, said. “There was no foundation and no support. We had no warning at all about this storm. We had no idea how devastating it would be.” In fact, five of the seven fatalities in Delaware occurred in Bowers. According to Mr. Moyer, the Allen family lived on the point and, as the storm intensified, Mr. Allen attempted to evacuate his family. He placed his five children in the family car and went to convince his wife to leave. His wife was so frightened, she was reluctant to leave the home and, before she could be convinced, the car washed into the water, killing all five children.

Photos after the storm show downtown Milford streets that look more like a river. Humes Hardware and other businesses downtown suffered flooding. Near what is now Bicentennial Park, the flooding was significant, with water above the store windows. Homes in Slaughter Beach were destroyed, many falling forward onto the beach.

Even today, people recall seeing large boats along the road between Milford and Slaughter Beach. In some areas, prisoners were used to remove debris while young boys earned extra money shoveling sand or removing debris from beach homes.

The storm changed many of the building codes along the Delaware coastline, making them more stringent and restrictive in order to protect people and property. The National Weather Service says that there have been storms as strong as the 1962 storm, but none have stalled over the area for that length of time, lessening the damage. The storm led to the Delaware Coastal Zone Act in 1971 which was designed to protect the coastline from extensive coastal development. The act banned construction in the middle of beaches which had been common practice prior to this storm. The Atlantic Sands Hotel, for example, stood in the center of Rehoboth Beach before the storm, but was forced to move back to its current location when they rebuilt.



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 - SOUTHERN STATES






DOMORE24: YOUR CHANCE TO HELP NONPROFITS YOU LIKE

BY BETSY PRICE

If there's a Delaware nonprofit you like, your donation to it next week could help the organizations win prize or matching money to stretch their budgets.

DoMore24 Delaware returns at 6 p.m. Thursday, March 2, and ends at 6 p.m. on Friday, March 3. In those 24 hours, 500 Delaware nonprofits will welcome contributions and also be entered into a variety of contests and matching fund events that total \$625,000 from 25 organizations. One contest, for example, offers a \$500 prize to the first 20 organizations to get 25 individual donors.

James Spadola, executive director of Read Aloud Delaware, has already promised to **kick off the event** with

the cringiest collection of bad puns and dad jokes that he can find as way to help the literacy group win that \$500 again. Last year, it raised \$13,000. (Donate [HERE](#))

One of the largest pools of prize money comes from the Delaware Division of the Arts, which will offer \$400,000 in matching funds for arts and culture organizations. Last year, 62 arts and culture organizations set a record by raising \$989,019, according to the Division of the Arts.

“Your donation to Delaware’s arts organizations not only helps the arts thrive, but your gift unlocks additional funding for the organizations through a special grant from the Delaware Division of the Arts,” said Jessica

See **DOMORE24** on page 11

Ball, head of the organization, “Together, your gifts can shape the future of the cultural sector in our state.”

Organizations like the Delaware Symphony Orchestra are making sure their donors know DoMore24 is coming up.

“Your support is as important as ever as we continue to celebrate our 117th year and prepare for next year’s exciting season of concerts and community engagement programs,” said an email from J.C. Barker, executive director of the organization. It included a [link](#) directly to its donor site, which hopes to raise \$100,000.

DoMore24 history

Organized jointly by United Way of Delaware and Spur Impact, the 2022 DoMore24 event raised \$2.5 million for participating organizations. The amount raised has climbed each year since the program’s debut in 2016.

“The culture of philanthropy in Delaware and the Delaware nonprofit sector depends on the generosity of many individual donors,” said Charlie Vincent, executive director of Spur Impact. “We are proud that so many Delaware nonprofits participate and activate their donors and supporters—particularly younger board members and donors—around this great event.

“Our goal for 2023 is to get even more Delawareans to support and donate to their favorite nonprofits as part of this year’s giving day.”

Also supporting the program are the Longwood Foundation, Delaware Division of the Arts, Barclays US Consumer Bank, Discover Bank, Chemours, Welfare Foundation, Crestlea Foundation, Laffey-McHugh Foundation, Carl M. Freeman Foundation and Delaware Community Foundation.

The Junior League of Wilmington plans to use any funds to further its Stand Up. Period program. It provides period packs to help young women during their menstrual cycle.

Beyond raising money, said president Taylor Drainer—the first Black woman to head the organization founded in 1918—DoMore24 also helps raise awareness of an organization and the programs it supports.

Stand Up. Period. is designed to help people living in poverty be able to manage their menstrual cycles and participate fully in their lives by providing period packs that include tampons, napkins and period underwear. A year’s worth of period supplies costs about \$200, the program said.

“Funds raised will ultimately go toward member training to become better advocates of the space, giving us the ability to go out and serve our community through providing period kits, providing education, and, ultimately, making sure that the Junior League in years to come can continue to make that impactful change,” Drainer said.

The Junior League exists to train women volunteers and also to serve those with few resources, especially women and children, she said.

“In order for us to continue that mission and continue for junior league women throughout the generations, we need the support from our fellow Delawareans,” she said. “That’s why DoMore24 is so important to us as well as other nonprofits in the Delaware area.”



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PARK AMENITIES GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY PLANNED



STAFF REPORT

The city of Milford announced it will be hosting a groundbreaking ceremony for the new pickleball courts and children's playground at the Memorial Park on Washington Street (across from Milford Library parking lot) Saturday, March 4 at 11:30 a.m.

Council approved the award of the bid for this project at its Sept. 26, 2022 meeting in the amount of \$705,781 to be funded through a combination of existing funding sources totaling \$699,344 and \$6,437 in general fund reserves remaining from FY22 CIP 211. The project is expected to be completed in early summer.

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.



LEARN MORE ABOUT MSD'S WORK-BASED LEARNING

STAFF REPORT

The Milford Conversation, an informal discussion group that focuses on business and organizational matters in the city, will offer a presentation by Kate Lynch regarding the Work-Based Learning program offered in the district. The meeting will be held Thursday, March 2 at 8:30 a.m. in the library of the First Presbyterian Church of Milford.

“Work-based learning offers students the opportunity to further their education in a career area, demonstrate and extend career major competencies while also providing a service to the community,” John Huntzinger, leader of the Milford Conversation, said. “This type of program can hone skills learned in CTE courses and help students develop new skills working with experienced industry professionals.”

Lynch will provide details on how work experience can offer the means and motivation for all students to learn and grow in a real, work-world environment related to what they are studying in high school. The program also helps develop qualified candidates for employment, a benefit to local employers.

Refreshments are offered at the Milford Conversation and the programs last about one hour. The church is located 101 S. Walnut Street in Milford. Visitors should park behind the church and enter in the back door off Pearl Alley, walk through the kitchen in order to access the library.




Milford
SCHOOL DISTRICT
HOME of the BUCCANEERS

BUSINESS



Photo link: Marcia Reed

PENNY SQUARE NEW HOME OF PHOTOGRAPHY STUDIO

BY TERRY ROGERS

John Mollura, who has made a name for himself with his empowering and creative photographs loved his studio in a downtown historic building. The only issue was that the studio was on the second floor with no handicapped access.

“About a year ago, it was put in my ear to find an inclusive space that had accessibility for everybody and I thought ‘I’ll do that someday.’ It got pushed in the back of my mind,” Mollura said. “Then, Alyssa Wolfe, a local 11-year-old with cerebral palsy had just gotten word from her doctor that after like 40 surgeries, she would never be able to walk on her own. So her mom said ‘Okay, what do you want the rest of your life to look like?’ And she said, ‘I want to be a model. I like being in pictures.’ So, her mom began trying to find photographers.”

Mollura explained that Alyssa’s mother is a self-admitted tomboy, so she was unsure how to go about helping her daughter. She talked to one of her neighbors, also a photographer, who was familiar with Mollura’s work who was also a photographer too. He told Alyssa’s mother “you should contact John. He does a lot of portraiture and more stuff.”

“Her mom reached out to me last April and we talked about what the shoot would look like,” Mollura said. “We’re gonna do like an outdoor shoot, but then she also needed stuff for a modeling portfolio like with a

white background. And I realized I wasn’t going to be able to serve her in my current studio, which was in a historic building on the second floor, So, we took the studio to her essentially and did that and then did a great shoot outdoors. And that was kind of like ‘okay, God I hear you.’ I started looking for a place back in April.”

The first step Mollura took in securing a new studio location was to contact his landlord who told him he had nothing on the first floor and did not expect to have anything in the near future. When he heard that Zack and Marissa King were renovating Penny Square, he decided to reach out to them. Initially, the Kings told him they were only looking for retail in the Shops at Penny Square, so Mollura continued looking.

“Then, Marissa sent me a text out of the blue in September and said ‘hey, we would like to talk to you about coming into Penny Square if you still need space.’ I told them I did,” Mollura said. “When we walked in here, it was open, they had just done the demo so there were no walls or anything. They said ‘We’d like to offer you the space, we like what you are all about and why you want to move. What do you need? We can custom design it for you.’ So, we did all the measurements, worked with them on some of the parameters of the building that they custom designed and it looks amazing.”

See MOLLURA on page 15



According to Mollura, Marissa gave him information on the color palette they were using throughout Penny Square, and it was very similar to the color palette Mollura used in his former studio. His wife did the detailed decorating as he knew what he needed functionally, but his wife added the aesthetics.

“So, now, I am able to serve anybody regardless of whether they need accessibility,” Mollura said. “There are handicapped bathrooms and a street entrance. I currently do not plan to offer any prints of my photographs for sale, even though I have a background in landscape and commercial photography. I do strictly portraits and it has never really come up to sell those portraits.”

Today, Mollura focuses on taking artistic portraits which he can turn into heirloom books. His photography sessions include wardrobe consults, hair and makeup. He guides his subjects through the posing and then he helps choose the best images. Mollura also offers high-end wall art which he will bring to his client’s home and hang for them. He also likes to develop projects that tell stories.

“We are visual creatures,” Mollura said. “We are impacted by visual stuff. Photography has a lot of power to not only evoke emotion when you see it, but I mean think how awesome that album will be or how a printed product will be 20 or 30 years from now, when the kids are grown and some of the people in the photo are no longer here.

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"My days before PACE Your LIFE were terrible. I was home alone all day. Now I tell people there is nothing else like PACE." ~ Ronnie Armstrong



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DEC APPRENTICES COMPLETE CLIMBING SCHOOL

STAFF REPORT

On Feb. 3, Megan Simmons and Christian Fletcher completed the LTAP Step-1 Workshop—often referred to in the industry as “Climbing School”—marking the first major milestone in their lineworker apprenticeship. Upon completion of Climbing School, employees working through the lineworker apprenticeship program advance from their initial assignment as a groundman to the position of lineworker trainee, incrementally expanding their job responsibilities to include working from elevated positions on de-energized lines.

According to Fletcher, Climbing School served as both a venue to practice some of the skills he and Simmons have learned so far, as well as an opportunity to network with other local apprentices and learn from industry experts outside of the Co-op.

“It helps us get familiar with our climbing techniques and get comfortable with our tools, like the gaffs, the belt and things like that,” Fletcher says. “It was nice to

talk to other guys from different companies—see how they do things different than us—and get pointers on different things they might do on a job. The instructor was very knowledgeable about things that happen out on the job in real-world experiences.”

Both Fletcher and Simmons began their careers at DEC in the metering department as cable locators. Last year, they made the decision to switch over to a different side of operations—linework. For Fletcher, the idea was spurred by a conversation he had with his god-brother, who encouraged him to pursue a career as a lineworker.

“After we talked, I looked it up and it looked like an interesting job,” Fletcher says.

For Simmons, her choice to make a career move was motivated by a love of the outdoors and the opportunity to test herself in a new field.

“I like being outside, and I just like the challenge of the work,” Simmons says.

When asked about what advice they have for upcoming apprentices, both Simmons and Fletcher offer simple but effective pearls of wisdom—be open-minded and always ask questions.

“Take pieces of what everyone says and make it your own,” Simmons says. Fletcher adds, “There is a lot of different ways to do different things. One’s not better than the other, necessarily. One’s not right or wrong. There is a lot of different ways to do the stuff that we do out here.”

According to corporate training manager Tim Kerstetter, Fletcher and Simmons are performing well in their apprenticeships, and he looks forward to their future as DEC lineworkers.

“They are great assets to our department. Both are really demonstrating competency, both did really well at their Climbing School and they are working with operations training supervisor Phil Collison every week,” Kerstetter says. “They’re doing an excellent job and we are pleased they joined the Operations Team.”

The DEC lineworker apprenticeship is a five-year program centered around four years of academic training completed through the Northwest Lineman College, with an additional year of Co-op on-the-job field training to attain journey level status as a lineworker.



GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: [Scott Evers](#)



CITY OF MILFORD 2023 ELECTION CANCELLED

PRESS RELEASE

Notice is hereby given that the city of Milford Annual Election scheduled for April 22, 2023, has been canceled. Prior to the filing deadline of Feb. 21 at 4:30 p.m., the following individuals submitted nominating petitions for the offices as indicated below:

- Ward 1 Council—Daniel Marabello
- Ward 2 Council—F. Todd Culotta
- Ward 3 Council—Nirmala Samaroo
- Ward 4 Council—Jason L. James Sr.

There being only one candidate for the Office of Council in Ward 1, Ward 2, Ward 3, and Ward 4, the above candidates are entitled to assume office without a formal election pursuant to 15Del.C. 7555(j).

Duly elected candidates will be sworn in at the Annual Organizational Meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023 that begins at 6 p.m.

A friendly reminder that the city of Milford uses the state of Delaware’s Voter Registration system. Please ensure you are properly registered to be eligible to participate in future elections and referendums.

Qualified non-resident property owners must be registered through the City Clerk’s Office at Milford City Hall to be eligible to vote in future city of Milford Elections and Referendums. Please contact the City Clerk’s Office at 302-422-1111 Extension 1303 for additional clarification.



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JOHN MOLLURA

- PHOTOGRAPHY -

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EDUCATION



Photo link: [Milford School District](#)

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS APPLICATION DEADLINES ARE APPROACHING

BY JAREK RUTZ

A variety of community groups are offering college scholarships, and students who want to apply need to get on it, because at least one deadline is today.

“Our scholarship programs are created by generous people who understand that higher education is expensive and they want Delaware students to have more opportunity,” said Allison Levine, vice president of marketing for the Delaware Community Foundation.

Applying to scholarships is important because being granted one helps ease the burden of debt students can accrue during their college years, she said. Scholarships are available for students of all different backgrounds and interests.

“Some scholarships are for students who are from certain communities or certain high schools,” Levine said.

“Some are for students who are pursuing particular career paths or have certain kinds of experiences. We have some that are specifically for students interested in careers in agriculture or health care or business.”

Here are a few scholarship opportunities:

Delaware Community Foundation

Deadline: Wednesday, March 15

The Delaware Community Foundation is distributing about \$400,000 in various scholarships this year. The foundation partners with donors who create scholarship funds to build opportunity through education and awards roughly 200 scholarships annually. Explore the more than 50 scholarship opportunities the foundation offers [HERE](#). Many of the scholarships are for \$1,000 or more.

New Castle County scholarship program

Deadline: Friday, March 24

New Castle County students who are currently enrolled in or will attend an accredited college in the fall of 2023 are encouraged to apply [HERE](#). The scholarships range from \$500 to \$3,000. More than \$100,000 in scholarships to more than 80 students were distributed last year.

To be eligible, students must reside in the county, must demonstrate financial need through the following documents: FAFSA student aid report, W2, pay stubs and/or a benefits verification letter or statement.

Family members of the applicant who are also enrolled in post-secondary degree programs are encouraged to apply. Finalists will be invited to interview with the scholarship committee starting in April and winners will be invited to an awards ceremony in May.



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POLICE & FIRE





BY TERRY ROGERS

On Feb. 17, Captain Ed Huey announced that he was retiring from the Milford Police Department as of March 1. Huey had recently served as Acting Chief of Police while the city searched for a replacement for Kenneth Brown who retired in August.

“I have been very blessed by God to have been able to serve for 37 years, 33 of which were served in my hometown,” Huey wrote on social media. “I feel so thankful for the support you have all shown me over the years, especially through the last eight months. I was extremely humbled by your thoughts, prayers, messages and posts, etc. I have had a fantastic career and thankful that God brought me home safely to my wonderful family each

CAPTAIN ED HUEY ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT

day. I respectfully ask you to please offer Chief Ashe your support as she leads some of the finest officers and civilians into the next chapter.”

Huey, who held badge number 5121, was born and raised in Milford, graduating from Milford High School in 1984. The youngest of eight children, Huey was a member of marching band, soccer and track. He attended Delaware Technical and Community College, graduating with an Associate’s in Applied Science in Criminal Justice.

“I served in the Carlisle Fire Company both as a junior and adult member,” Huey said. “I became a state certified Emergency Medical Technician and served on the ambulance crew for about two years. I began my career in law enforcement as a seasonal dispatcher in Rehoboth in 1985 and returned as a seasonal officer in 1986.”

Huey worked for Laurel and Seaford before coming to Milford in 1989, completing his field training on Nov. 4, 1989. He was promoted to the rank of Patrolman First-Class on Sept. 18, 1990. He remained as a patrol officer until 1991. In August of that year, Huey was sent to the Virginia State Police D.A.R.E. Officer Training program and became a Drug Abuse Resistance Education program instructor for the next three years.

See HUEY on page 24



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“In September 1994, the city of Milford obtained a grant called the North Milford Initiative program and I was assigned to the department’s newly created Community Policing initiative aimed at addressing root causes of criminal activity in that area during the crack cocaine epidemic,” Huey said. “Initially, I was assigned to walk foot patrols in the problem areas, conduct surveillance operations and serve as a part-time drug detective. As part of that initiative, I helped clean up vacant lots used to dispose of articles such as old washing machines, refrigerators, brush and other debris. I also became a trained specialist in covert and technical surveillance and used these skills to help in the closing down of a problematic bar which was the site of many serious assaults, and an open-air drug market. The city was able to purchase the property where the bar once stood and while serving on the Delaware Community Clusters Against Substance Abuse Program Executive Board, Huey assisted in securing a federal grant to tear down the building and replace it with a Community Head Start educational facility.”

Huey transferred back to the Patrol Division in 1996 where he served for several years. The Milford Police Department made a decision to pursue national accreditation and Huey was selected to author the department’s Policy and Standard Operating Procedure Manual and serve as an accreditation manager. As part of the accreditation process, Huey was able to install monitoring cameras in all prisoner holding cells and movement areas, research and implement procedures that were considered best practices by the Commission on

Accreditation of Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA). The accreditation project was placed on hold when laws passed demanding prisoner holding areas for juveniles and adults, and for males and females had to be separated by sight and sound, and our building was not compliant.

“I was also able to develop an electronic call taking software which after some modifications by the city’s IT manager during the Millennium Scare, (where computer scientists were concerned that the computers in service then would read the year of 2000 to be 1900) stayed in service until 2009,” Huey said. “Additionally, during that time frame, I also was able to learn about the state’s 800 MHz radio system and, between 2005-2014, performed all installations of emergency equipment including lights, sirens, and radios in Milford’s police vehicles at a savings to the city.

Over the years, Huey’s responsibilities included Internal Affairs investigations, fleet management, IT management, Dispatch Center Manager and he was also involved in the hiring process of officers. Additionally, he was tasked with the development of a city All-Hazards Emergency Operations Plan, undergoing multiple trainings from DEMA in matters such as Volunteer Coordination, Rapid Needs Assessments, managing Debris and Clean-up, Emergency Communications and various other Emergency Management Responsibilities.

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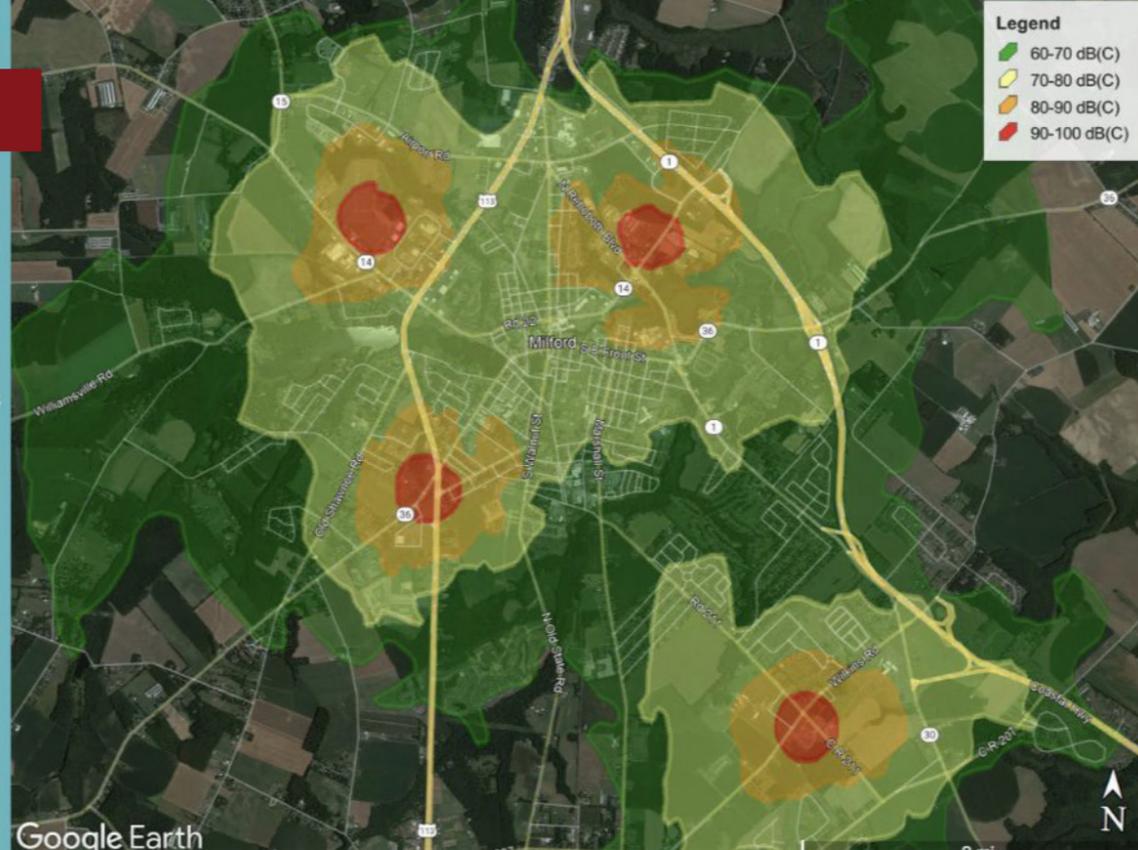
POLICE & FIRE

Proposed Installations / Coverage

Removal of Water Tower Siren

Installation of four (4) New Sirens across the City

- Utilizes Current City property / Land
- Readily Available Infrastructure
- Increases Coverage across City



FIRE SIREN, RESPONSE TIMES FOCUS OF RECENT COUNCIL MEETING

in 2023 already. He also informed council that 40 percent of the alarms were due to automatic fire alarms, culinary mishaps and faulty smoke or heat detectors.

“Since 1802, the Carlisle Fire Company continues to protect and serve the citizens of Milford and surrounding communities,” Hazzard said. “The public has been misinformed for too long due to ineffective news and social media platforms. We feel the need for increased public education related to the volunteer fire service. The Carlisle Fire Company and surrounding companies provide less expensive alternatives to a paid fire company.”

Chief Shawn Hinton suggested that one area where the public was misinformed was the need for the fire siren. He pointed out that the siren was there to alert members that there was an emergency in the district, but was also a way to alert the public that volunteers would be traveling through town at higher rates of speed in order to get to the fire station. He also explained that the fire siren does not go off for every call and that of the 780 calls the company ran in 2022, about 100 of them did not require the fire siren to sound.

“The fire siren is not only for fire alarm calls, but also for natural disasters and to alert the citizens here in Milford,” Hinton said. “As you all know through the years, we’ve had an increase of natural disasters whether or not it’s been a tornado warning or actual tornadoes that touched down within the area.”

Hinton also stated that since the company is fully volunteer, those responding to the fire station need to have a clear path when they are heading in that direction.

“The volunteers are responding with their hazard lights on and we’re in a hurry,” Hinton said. “We’re responding to get to the firehouse to get our fire gear on and get on the fire trucks. The fire trucks don’t respond without us. So, when that siren blows, it also means citizens need to give us the right-of-way. We understand that yes, it blows, and it blows and it blows.”

[CLICK TO READ MORE](#)

BY TERRY ROGERS

Carlisle Fire Company recently provided information to Milford City Council regarding the need for the fire siren as well as additional details on response times in the district. The company has ramped up recruitment, resulting in five new members and reactivation of several others who had been inactive. The company is also looking into funding to offer family medical plans as well as a pension plan after losing one paid EMT when the company could not offer those benefits.

“We currently pay 100 percent for medical, but just for the employee,” Tor Hazzard, president of the company, said. “There’s no current retirement or pension package. Our employee and finance committee, along with our Board of Directors is investigating ways to improve that.”

Hazzard explained that increased call volume is overwhelming their EMS staff. In 2022, the company responded to over 4,000 EMS calls and many of these were to specific locations in the city, including Milford Center, Milford Place, Delaware Veteran’s Home and Milford Wellness Village which all have long-term care facilities. Hazzard stated that EMS staff responds to three to four calls per shift to one or more of these locations. In addition, fire and accident calls have increased with 118 alarms

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