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photo link: Marcia Reed



Regency Gala a Huge Success



Board Discusses Cost Estimate for Middle School Project



DBCC Lights of Life Gala Returns

HEADLINES



photo link: Ruth Houston-Behrens



BY TERRY ROGERS

Jersey Mike's, famous for their authentic Northeast-style sub sandwiches, has officially announced it will open a restaurant in the Milford Square Shopping Center at 641 N. Dupont Boulevard, in the former Kent Pharmacy location. The franchise is owned by Anthony Tignola and Andrew Heymann. Anthony's wife, Jess, and Andrew's wife, Amanda, will also be involved in the operation of the new restaurant.

"My family and I moved from New Jersey seven years ago," Anthony said. "My wife and I saw this as an opportunity to be a bigger part of the community and share the product and service that we know to be Jersey Mike's from our time growing up in Brick, NJ. We were fortunate enough to have a close family friend, Andrew, who has been a dedicated member of the Jersey Mike's team for many years, share our vision in pursuing this

JERSEY MIKE'S TO OPEN MILFORD LOCATION

business adventure and opening our first Jersey Mike's together. Andrew's wife, Amanda, is also involved."

Anthony felt that this was a great opportunity to give back to the town that our families were establishing roots in and hope to participate in the many donation programs in order to support schools, recreational programs and organizations that make Milford what it is.

"At Jersey Mike's we are focused on our promise to be 'A Sub Above,'" Anthony said. "We serve authentic fresh sliced/fresh grilled sub sandwiches on in-store freshly baked bread, the same recipe the company started with in 1956. We recommend that our customers order their subs our signature "Mike's Way" with fresh onions, lettuce and tomatoes topped off with an exquisite zing of "the juice," red wine vinegar and olive oil. It's an unbeatable taste."

Anthony and Andrew hope to open the new location in May and although they are not hiring at the present time, they will be posting job opportunities around the beginning of March. They plan to employ 14 to 18 team members at both full- and part-time positions.

"Not only do we promise to be a 'A Sub Above,' we also take great pride in our customer service and the morale of our team/store," Anthony said. "This helps ensure that our customers not only receive a great sub,

See SUB on page 4

but also a great experience while becoming lifelong valued customers.”

Jersey Mike’s is committed to their mission statement “Giving...making a difference in someone’s life.” Since 2010, Jersey Mike’s locations throughout the country have raised more than \$90 million for local charities and they look forward to supporting Milford organizations the same way.




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Photo link: Marcia Reed

REGENCY GALA A HUGE SUCCESS FOR MILFORD MUSEUM

TERRY ROGERS

The first Milford Museum Regency Gala, held Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Milford Senior Center, was a huge success for the organization. Sold out more than a week before the event, the gala was loosely based on the hit Netflix show, “Bridgerton,” and featured period music, dancers from TADA Dance Studio, a full buffet provided by Lighthouse Catering and modern dancing music provided by Dana McDonald.

“This was our first time trying a formal gala like this,” Nicole Rogers, operations manager, said. “As a millennial, I knew that the Regency Era is very popular right now, so I thought that we could pull off a regency-themed

gala not only to raise funds for the museum, but also to show that history can really be fun.”

Guests arrived to find a wisteria laden arch that welcomed them into the Crystal Room at the Milford Senior Center. Although not required, the majority of those in attendance wore period costumes. Raffles were held for the “Featherington,” “Viscount Stable,” “Spill the Tea” and “Wet Your Whistledown” baskets filled with items donated by area businesses. At the end of the evening, Ann Dragon was named the “Diamond of the Season,” winning a large basket that was also filled with donated items.

See GALA on page 7

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“We had the best time,” Kim Louise posted on social media. “Thank you for everything!” That evening, many guests commented that they were already looking forward to next year’s event and some even offered ideas for other eras that would be fun to attend.

Throughout the evening, “Lady Milfordian” made announcements, thanking sponsors and offering little tidbits of “gossip.” Several photo op stations were placed around the room, including a regency-era parlor, a garden setting with a bench and a romantic pearl enclosure. TADA also offered dance lessons during cocktail hour to those who wanted to learn some of the dances popular during the regency era.

“We were overwhelmed by how popular this was,” Rogers said. “There were people who traveled from Massachusetts, New York and New Jersey just to attend this event. Not only did this help raise funds for the museum, but it also added a small boost to the Milford economy as hotels and restaurants benefitted from the out-of-state visitors. This could not have happened without our strong team of volunteers who spent countless hours creating decorations, planning the evening, gathering donations, setting up and then cleaning up when the night was over. We truly rely on them and the community as we strive for our mission to preserve the past for the future.”

Anyone who would like to help the Milford Museum with events can reach out via email to nicole@milforddemuseum.org or call at 302-424-1080. More information about events and volunteer opportunities can also be found at their website at www.milforddemuseum.org.



Mon-Fri 7am-5pm
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HISTORIC HOME TO GET FACELIFT

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council approved a request from Collins Bowers Investments LLC to add an accessory dwelling unit on property located at 304 Lakeview Avenue. The company was requesting turning an existing garage into a single-story apartment. Tanner Bowers, who is renovating the historic home on the property, plans to live in the apartment while he completes the renovations.

“One of the requirements to turn an accessory building into an apartment is that either the apartment or the main building must be owner occupied,” Rob Pierce, city planner, said.

The original home was constructed in the 1880s, according to Milford historian Dave Kenton. There is no information on who constructed the home, but in

the 1920s it was owned by Sen. Harry Mulholland, who was vice-president of the Mulholland Spoon Company. Senator Mulholland served the first district of Sussex County from 1943 to 1946.

In 1946, the home was sold to Edwin and Frances Fisher, who owned and operated Fisher Appliances on Northeast Front Street for many years. Fisher moved to Milford in 1933 and became a prominent member of society. He was a member of the Rotary, serving as president of the organization, as well as a Paul Harris Fellow. He was a member of the Milford Memorial Hospital’s board, Wilmington Trust’s advisory board and served on the board of trustees of Avenue United Methodist Church. Fisher was instrumental in starting

See HOME on page 9



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the United Way in Milford and, in the 1930s, helped reinstate the Chamber of Commerce, serving as its first president. He was also a 50-year member of Temple Lodge 9 AF&AM in Milford. Fisher passed away in 1993.

The home had several owners after the Fishers and fell into disrepair. It was recently purchased by Collins Bowers Investments. Several people spoke in favor of allowing the company to construct an apartment on the property.

“I am in favor of granting this change for Tanner,” Tyler Nichols who lives on Kings Highway and whose home faces the property, said. “I’ve seen how much money he has poured into this project and how much he is going to continue to pour into it. We look at this house that sat vacant for many years, so we’re just very grateful that he is pouring money into this and I know that this approval would allow him to pour more into it.” Nichols stated for the record that he was Bowers’ brother-in-law.

Dr. Mallory Alexander, who operates a veterinary hospital directly next door to the property, wrote a letter in favor of the project. Bowers was required to go before the Board of Variances as the new apartment would be within five feet of Alexander’s property. The board granted the request.

“I do not anticipate any negative consequences as a result of these variances,” Alexander wrote “Tanner has gone above and beyond for this once neglected property and deserves to use the property to its fullest potential. As his direct neighbor, I have had the pleasure of interacting with him frequently as he makes progress rehabbing the home and detached structure. I’m thankful that he chose to invest in this property because it needs to be rehabbed back to its former glory. Tanner

has been completely transparent with his plans, and he shows the utmost respect as a neighbor when it comes to any interferences due to construction. As a lifelong Milford resident and a 24-year resident of Lakeview Avenue, I think it’s important to allow young entrepreneurs like Tanner the freedom to make adjustments to these properties to allow them to survive and function in the future.”

Pierce explained that the property would have to be transferred into Bowers’ personal name and not in the name of his LLC in order to meet code requirements. Councilman Jason James asked if there was a time limit for how long the property had to be owner occupied for the accessory dwelling to remain.

“It would have to be forever,” Pierce said. “One of the two units would have to be owner occupied forever or they would have to convert it back to an accessory building.”

Councilman James asked if there was something recorded on the deed that notify future owners of the restriction and Pierce indicated that would be the case.

Council approved the request unanimously. Councilman James commented with his yes vote that this was a project where the addition of another dwelling unit would be beneficial.

“To paraphrase a little bit with Councilman James,” Councilman Mike Boyle said. “This is a classic example of what we hoped to find when this ordinance was passed. It redevelops a neighborhood and provides lower or moderate income housing and basically just improves everybody’s values in that part of town.”



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MILFORD LIBRARY TO FEATURE BLACK HISTORY PRESENTATION

Hammond said. “We knew we would have better opportunities if we went to Milford.”

John Whalen, Timothy Duker, Josephus Clark, Gregory Showell, Hammond, who came up with the name Milford Seven, and Oveta Whaley Gray, the only female, began attending Milford High School in 1962. George Davis joined the six later in the year. About five others also began attending, but only the Milford Seven graduated from the school.

All seven of the students began attending school together in first grade in what is now Benjamin Banneker Elementary School. The young men all lived in the same geographic area and Duker says he recalls the five of them sitting down together and deciding that they would attend Milford High School. Although all of the Milford Seven indicated that they were mostly accepted by other students, there were some students who were not as accepting.

At the program held at the Milford Library, Hammond will provide details on some of the hardships the seven faced as they attended Milford High School. Gray, the only female and the only student who lived outside of town, stated that she struggled the most as she had to ride the school bus into town.

“In town, it seemed like people had more progressive values,” Gray said. “Out in the country, they didn’t share those values. That bus ride was very difficult with name calling and things like that. I kept my head down and sat near the driver where I was safest. Once I arrived at school, it was much better, but the bus ride was terrible.” Like her male counterparts, Gray wanted to attend Milford due to the better-quality education she would receive. Gray went on to be the first Black nursing student in the Milford Memorial Hospital nursing program.

To learn more about the Black History program at the Milford Library, visit www.milford.lib.de.us or call 302-422-9418.



BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Public Library will hold a Black History presentation in partnership with the Milford Museum, which will tell the history of African Americans in Milford. The program will begin at 6 p.m. in Lions A and B on Feb. 16.

“This program will feature local historians who will tell their experiences and provide details on what it was like for African Americans in the Milford of the past,” Carolyn Tabor, program coordinator, said. “We are excited to have people presenting this information who actually lived through this history and can give us a first-hand perspective.

One of the speakers, Charles Hammond, will talk about his role as part of the Milford Seven, the first Black students to successfully integrate Milford High School in 1964. Details will also be provided regarding the Milford 11, the first Black students who attempted integration in the 1950s, but were unsuccessful.

“If we had not attended Milford, we would have had to go to either William Henry Comprehensive High School in Dover or William C. Jason High School in Georgetown,”

BUSINESS



Photo link: Marcia Reed

AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOCUS OF RECENT CCGM LUNCHEON

BY TERRY ROGERS

It is difficult to develop a strong workforce without housing to support those who are employed at local businesses. Currently, Milford, like many cities in the United States, is dealing with an affordable housing crisis which is making it difficult for some employers to fill positions. The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford will focus this year on methods to create more affordable housing and dedicated their annual Workforce Development Luncheon to the issue.

“As of 2021, the median cost to purchase a house in Milford is \$309,155 and the average rent, as of 2022, is \$1,434, the equivalent of \$23 an hour,” Angel Hodges, president of CCGM, said. “Currently in Delaware, there has been a large increase in homelessness from 950 people in 2015 to over 2,300 in early 2022. The fastest

growing population in Delaware between 2010 and 2021 was 65 plus, with an increase of 55 percent. With that growing population, we’re seeing a huge increase in homelessness for ages 62 plus with an increase of 40 percent since 2015. Sussex County has a 34 percent homeless population.”

David Moore, president and CEO of Milford Housing Development Corporation, explained that housing values are still high, which is leading to the lack of affordable housing. Ashely Norman, homeless liaison for Milford School District, felt that many families in Milford simply did not have the income needed for housing in the area while Jasmine Henry, a loan officer with USDA felt that interest rates were another factor that made it

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HOUSING from page 12

difficult for people in the area to find housing.

“Because we are such a great group of people, we attract the masses,” Joanne Milton, a Milford real estate agent, said. “Delaware is the destination state from all of those surrounding states. Our taxes are less, there’s no sales tax. Your property tax here for one year is equal to what they pay in one month in New Jersey, New York, some places in Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, so we are attractive. I don’t see that stopping. They’re bringing flush cash to this area, allowing that home to sell much higher for a much longer period of time here than it was in the past. Well, the good news is we are at the top because the interest rates are high as well as the price. The rates are starting to gradually adjust. The prices will also start to gradually adjust. And it’s been a seller’s market. Now there’s negotiation happening, the sellers are giving a little bit, offering a little bit of closing cost assistance. They’re actually buying people’s rates down to sell their home. Because life situations still happen no matter what.”

Janet Brittingham, Single Family Housing Program Director for Rural Development with the USDA, explained that there was a significant amount of rental assistance available from the federal government. She suggested that anyone who is struggling to find affordable housing look toward low-income rentals, which usually have rents based on income. Brittingham stated that low-income apartments may have rents as low as between nothing and \$25 per month. Moore felt that anyone looking toward home ownership, however, should consider financial counseling.

See HOUSING on page 14

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“I think the first thing they need to do is not go to a realtor right away. No offense, but I think they need that education on what it is to be a renter versus homeownership,” Moore said. “There’s a lot of education necessary to transition from rent to home ownership. And rental assistance is a great tool. And no one should pay, whether it’s us in this room or someone that’s a service worker trying to find a home, more than 30% of your income for utilities or mortgage. But, in my experience, many people don’t know how to get that right balance in their financial lives to make ends meet in a rental or a home they own.”

Norman agreed, stating that unless someone knew how to manage their finances, home ownership success would be no different than rental success. She explained that when families come to her because they cannot find affordable housing, she recommends they find someone else who is looking for housing and double up. This allows them to reduce costs and may give them the ability to save money toward a home.

“So there’s websites, there’s phone numbers, there are a ton of resources out there. They just haven’t heard that they are there. Some of the funding is grant monies for a portion of the year so that it eventually runs out. So that can’t be the case,” Milton said. “I just discovered this program. I believe they just launched it. It’s called Self Financing. People who have paid rent all along, it’s never counted for anything towards improving their credit score. Well, now they offer a program to do exactly that. So anyone you know that’s renting, let them know, because it’s a far better way to improve your

credit score than taking out more credit. So now it actually matters that they demonstrate responsibility, and it can get them to the next level.”

The program that allows Delawareans to improve their credit score with rent payments is a new pilot program entitled the Delaware Tenant Rent-Reporting Program Pilot, funded by American Rescue Plan Act funds and partnered with Self Financial. In order to participate in the program, renters must have a housing voucher from or live in a public housing unit operated by one of the state’s five PHAs or have a household income at or below 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Tenants will have access to their credit scores on a monthly basis during the pilot program, as well as theft insurance, financial counseling and the option to have 24 months of rent along with utility payments reported to credit bureaus. More information can be found by calling 302-855-1370 or 302-260-1212. They may also email naragon@neighborgoodpartners.org or visit www.neighborgoodpartners.org.

“The increased costs and soft costs and incentives for developers to do things in the downtown district. They need to be polished and looked at a little bit better. Because there’s nothing an affordable housing developer does different than the others and maybe there are ways to incentivize a non-profit developer,” Moore said, when asked how higher cost housing could be addressed. “If the building permit fees are the same and the impacts are the same, we’re just going to pass it on to our customers. So, looking at some ways to reduce those costs at either state or federal level to provide some more

incentive for those primarily serving people maybe below 50 percent immediately.”

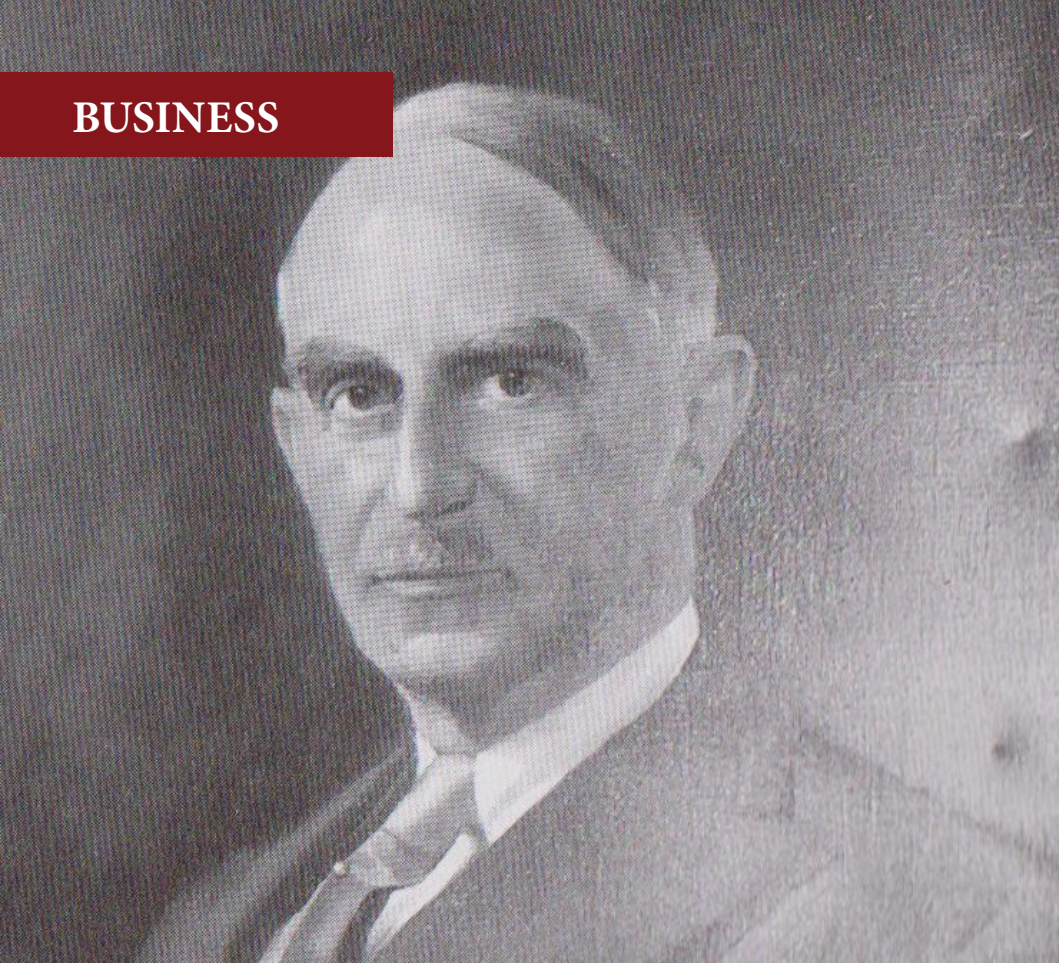
Brittingham pointed to the pallet home project created in Georgetown by First State Community Action, explaining that she was very impressed with how the project was set up. Other suggestions were dedicated housing for larger corporations, such as Perdue.

“I want to just add a comment. And again, I don’t remember where I read it, but I read one time that all of us are about three months from being homeless,” Hodges said. “But what it meant was that any tragedy or any financial, unexpected financial thing, we could be homeless within about three months because most of us don’t have what we need to be prepared for something like that. So, I think sometimes we don’t realize that because somebody that’s homeless could have been in a house last year, could have been just like us, and we don’t know what happened.”

Mayor Archie Campbell agreed and stated that, in meetings recently, he has learned there were three types of homelessness.

“Those that like being homeless and don’t want to get the job and like to stay out there. And you have those that are working who want to get out of it. But because of the income and what they’re making, they cannot afford it,” Mayor Campbell said. “And then you have the mental and the mental is a major problem. Actually, we added the behavioral unit in the police department and because it’s not a simple ABC. And as I understand with the homeless, and I agree with you, we can all be

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BY TERRY ROGERS

The February 2nd Friday program, held at the First Presbyterian Church, will feature the history of the LD Caulk Company as presented by Rick Bennett. The program will be held on Friday, Feb. 10 at 7 p.m. in the church's library.

"This program will feature the storied history of Milford's flagship business," John Huntzinger, coordinator of 2nd Friday, said. "We will learn about the company from its humble beginnings to its reputation today as the number one manufacturer of dental products in the world."

Milford's flagship company was founded by the man whose name the company bore for many years, Dr. Levin D. Caulk, who began his dental practice in Wilmington in 1863. His health failed and his doctor advised him he

2ND FRIDAY TO FEATURE HISTORY OF LD CAULK COMPANY

should move out west where he entered the production side of dentistry. In 1877, he gave up practicing dentistry and returned to Delaware to devote his efforts to creating dental products.

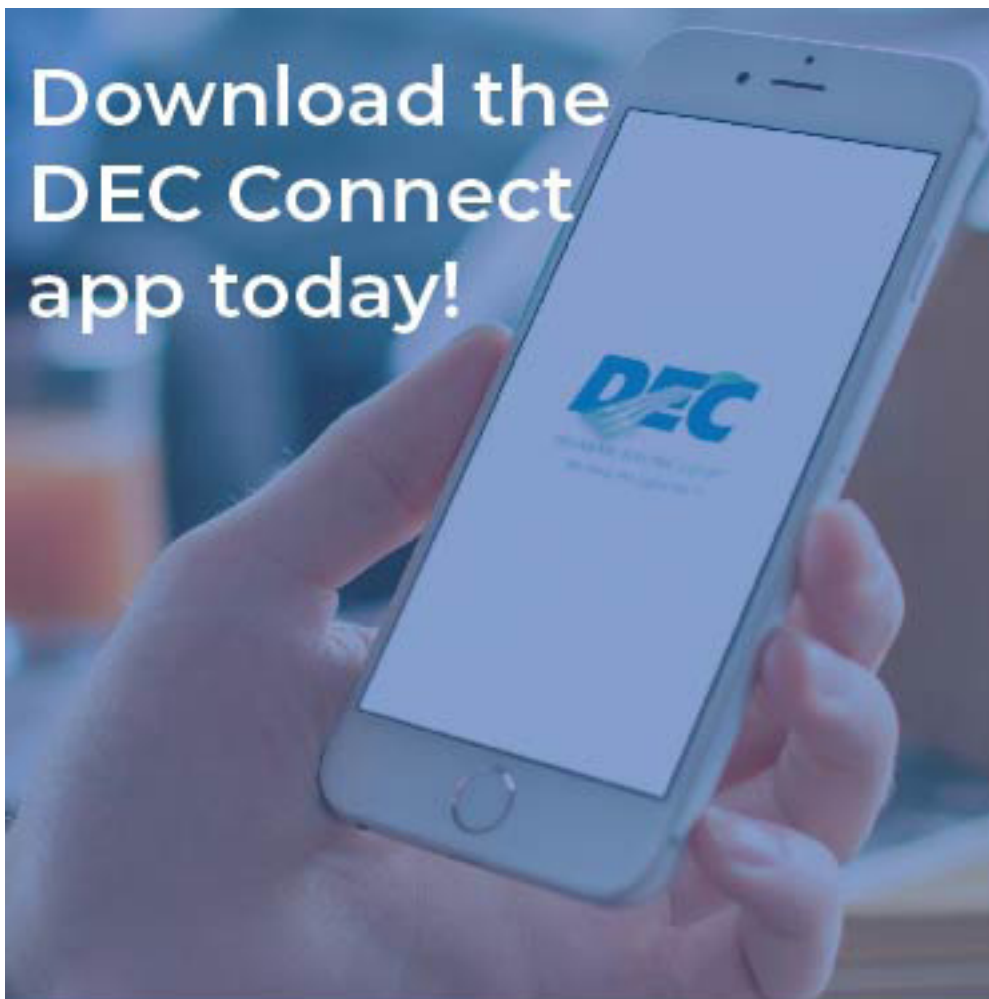
Initially, Caulk operated his business out of a small shed behind his home in Camden. In 1883, Dr. Layton Grier began practicing dentistry in Milford, before moving to Dover while his brother, Frank, who also became a dentist, took over the Milford practice. Layton Grier and Caulk became friends and Caulk often rode on horseback to Dover to exchange ideas with Layton. During one of these rides, Caulk fell from his horse and suffered a serious injury. He succumbed to pneumonia caused by that injury in 1896.

Caulk's widow and her daughter, Florence, urged Layton to give up his dental practice and take over the business. The following year, Frank Layton married Florence and the brothers purchased the business from Caulk's widow.

At the program, attendees will learn how the Caulk company grew to be an internationally recognized dental products company. The program is free and family friendly. It is open to the entire community. The church is located at 101 S. Walnut Street and attendees should enter the building from the rear door off Pearl Alley and come through the kitchen into the library. For more information, contact the church at 302-422-5701.

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photo link: [Scott Evers](#)

LEGISLATORS CALL FOR MEANS TESTING FOR PROPERTY TAX CREDITS

BY JAREK RUTZ

Calls to consider means testing before granting veteran and senior housing tax breaks shocked a legislative committee last month. Delaware’s secretary of finance doesn’t think an income-based means test for property tax breaks is likely. Even so, Rick Geisenberger did say that a means test based on property values not only could happen, but should.

“Seniors get a lot of benefits under the Delaware income tax law,” Geisenberger said. “They get to take an extra personal credit, which is worth an extra \$110 deduction in income taxes. They don’t get taxed on their Social Security. They get to deduct up to \$12,500 of their pension when they turn 60. And when you get to the age of 65, you get an extra standard deduction worth \$2,500.”

What is a means test?

Means tests usually involve setting limits on whether someone is granted a tax break by looking at income, savings and other factors. Think food stamps, which is

now called SNAP or the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. In Delaware, a single person can receive a maximum of \$281 a month. That number is \$516 for a household of two, \$740 for a household of three, \$939 for a household of four, and the number continues to rise with each additional person. To be eligible for food stamps, an individual or household must make below a certain income.

In a House Education Committee meeting last month, several representatives brought up the idea of means testing for the 100% disabled veteran tax break. It’s an uncapped credit for disabled veterans who live in Delaware for three years. The discussion was prompted by [House Bill 30](#), which would remove the three-year residency requirement.

Expanding the tax credit would cost the state between \$248,887 and \$518,514 in Fiscal Year 2024, according to the bill’s fiscal note. It would rise about \$40,000 to

\$70,000 in coming years, the fiscal note said.

The average veteran tax credit is \$1,500, with a range from \$633 to \$4,632. Now, 710 disabled veterans benefit from the credit. With more than three months left to apply for the break, the Finance Department expects a total of 923 beneficiaries this year.

“I understand that it’s not always easy to means test, because then you’re also talking about hiring staff to process everything,” said Rep. Eric Morrison, D-Glasgow, said at the meeting. “I do hope that we will continue to have conversations about the best way to give relief to people who need it and give the maximum amount to those who need it.”

He referenced his 13 years working in Medicaid and other health programs, and said he has concerns about there not being a means test for the senior school property tax credit. Delaware currently caps this credit at \$500 for seniors 65 years and older who have lived in the state for at least 10 years.

Rep. Sean Lynn, D-Dover, called for a means test during January’s meeting as well to make sure those who don’t need the tax cuts are not taking advantage of the state. Although property taxes help fund schools, districts don’t lose a penny when seniors get a tax break.

“Whatever the lost revenue is to the school districts is then 100% reimbursed by the state,” Geisenberger said.

Delaware was on the hook for \$28,789,300 for the senior tax credit and \$2.5 million for the disabled veterans one in Fiscal Year 2023, according to the budget bill.

Property taxes are a local, county-designated tax and counties do not have individual income tax information at their disposal, Geisenberger pointed out.

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EDUCATION



Photo link: [Milford School District](#)

MILFORD
MIDDLE
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BOARD DISCUSSES ADDITIONAL COST ESTIMATES FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL PROJECT

BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, the Milford School District Board of Education discussed schematic designs and drawings for the Milford Middle School project as well as a cost estimate that was \$14,400,00 over funds approved by the state for the project. Superintendent Dr. Kevin Dickerson explained that the cost overruns were due to building cost escalations as well as outdated formulas used over the past few years.

“The initial schematic design and drawings for the Milford Middle School Project which are within the educational specification document are being brought to you this evening for approval,” Dr. Dickerson said. “This approval is needed so we can move forward with state approvals and into the design development phase as well as for future construction documents. Any revi-

sions of the educational specifications as we progress will be brought back to the board on the design was put together up in a programming exercise conducted by BSA+A architectural engineer.

Dr. Dickerson continued, explaining that the design prioritized efficient design and ensuring that spaces utilize the most classroom space as possible. The total square footage is within 1,500 feet of the approved 132,910 square feet approved by the state and in alignment with the initial proposal.

“The cost estimate for the project based on the current educational specifications is presently \$14.4 million over the funds approved for both the state project costs,” Dr. Dickerson said. “That’s common due to escalating costs and also outdated formulas during the past couple

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of years. We will keep refining the budget and square footage as we move into the design development phase and again, any changes that occur will be brought back to the board for approval.”

Board member Dr. Adam Brownstein reminded the board that he had some concerns right around the time the pandemic began about what could happen should costs for the project rise.

“Sure enough, the crystal ball was working as our costs have obviously gone up,” Dr. Brownstein said. “And I was, I believe, told at the time that we would go back and ask for some sort of exemption or something. My only concern is I want to reiterate whether that includes the complete delta between what we allocated and the money that this building will cost us. Because when we embarked on this project, there’s a state side but then there’s also a local side. So, if they only match the state delta and we have to come up with the local delta, we’re still going to have a problem given the magnitude of the delta. So can someone reiterate that for me, please?”

Dr. Sara Croce, chief financial officer, explained that there were market pressure contingency funds that are allocated statewide for this type of project. If the price remains firm, Dr. Croce stated that the district would request the full \$14 million.

“There are certain funds we can use locally, including some of our minor cap money, so we could piece together our local share,” Dr. Croce said. “It’s our hope and goal that we will produce that delta as much as possible and that the 74 percent is funded by the state and we will be able to match that with no additional needs based on the funds we currently have available.”

Dr. Brownstein pointed out that if the cost of the project went up by 10 percent that would mean the district’s local share could increase by almost three percent. He stated that percentage of \$14 million would be significant, asking where the funds would come from should the district have to cover that cost.

“Over the past nine years I’ve been here with Milford School District, we’ve been very, very cautious about putting funds away,” Dr. Croce said. “We do have a reserve that’s capable of absorbing that, but we would look to the board to be able to use and access those funds. I’m not saying it’s not a large amount, but we’ve committed to our community that this is the cost of the project that would be charged to them. As a district, we are looking to absorb any additional costs with the funds that we’ve put away.”

Dr. Brownstein thanked Dr. Croce for the explanation, stating that he did not feel that the community would be comfortable with the district having to go back out for another referendum to cover additional costs. Board member Matt Bucher pointed out that other districts had likely faced a similar issue and wondered if the state had ever denied an application for market funds requested by a school district.

“No, they have not denied the market pressure funds. I will tell you that there is significant conversation around the local match component and some of the abilities of Sussex County districts versus some of the resources that other counties have available like impact fees that we do not have here in Sussex,” Dr. Croce said.

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BY TERRY ROGERS

Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition (DBCC) will be going back in time to the 1980s during their 2023 Lights of Life Going Back to the 80s Gala planned for Saturday, March 4 at Bally's Dover Casino and Resort from 5 to 9 p.m. The gala returns after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This year, DBCC’s Lights of Life Gala has special meaning for our organization as well as those we serve. The pandemic did not allow us to hold this survivorship celebration for the past two years,” Francesca Vogel, CEO, said. “As we emerge from that dark period in our history, our ability to bring back DBCC’s much anticipated signature annual fundraiser serves as a relevant metaphor for our survivors. With DBCC’s help, survivors are also emerging from the initial darkness of a breast cancer diagnosis, to empower themselves with health

DBCC LIGHTS OF LIFE GALA RETURNS WITH 80S THEME

and wellness education, resources, and connection to a support network through participation in our programs and services. The Lights of Life Gala serves as a symbol of great hope, mind over matter, and as a celebration of life for our survivors and their loved ones in their fight against breast cancer.”

The gala will offer guests the opportunity to party “All Night Long,” to “Dance with Somebody” and to rock those fun 80s looks. Music will be provided by DJ Sky Brady and there will be live as well as silent auction items, including exclusive trip and entertainment packages. Enjoy rad hors d’oeuvres and delish food stations along with a bodacious open bar. This year, the signature Survivor Showcase will feature local breast cancer survivors in 80s-inspired attire, escorted by local medical professionals and business leaders.

“Funds raised through the Lights of Life Gala support DBCC’s programming and services for survivorship programming throughout the state, delivered at little or no cost at all,” Vogel said. “We hope that through your attendance, sponsorship or donation, you will be able to help DBCC continue this valuable and much needed programming for those who need us most in support of our life-saving mission.”

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 A graphic with a blue background and white snowflakes. In the center is a dark blue silhouette of a COVID-19 virus particle with white spikes. Below the graphic is a white text box with a dark blue border containing the following text:

Don't let COVID-19 freeze your holiday season.

COVID-19 doesn't just crash holiday get-togethers — it cancels them. So whatever you're celebrating this season, make sure you've gotten your bivalent booster and follow these other steps to stay safe and leave COVID out in the cold.

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Get vaccinated and boosted.
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