

MILFORD LIVE

photo link: Riverwalk Farmers Market

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fondue. to Open March 23



New Rotary Scholarship



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HEADLINES



photo link: Killens Pond State Park

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BY TERRY ROGERS

Zack and Marissa King announced last week that their latest venture, fondue., will open in Penny Square on March 23. The restaurant will feature a simple menu of cheese, chocolate, cocktails and wine.

“This is something completely new and different in Milford,” Marissa said. “The menu we have created is very simplistic with four courses typically. We are also offering a la carte. We are really excited about our cocktail menu as we have gotten incredibly artsy with them. Taylor (Davis) is our bar manager, and she is so excited!”

Marissa explained that they have three soft openings scheduled which is different than what they are used to doing. The plan is to try to work out all the bugs before the grand opening. She explained that they are hiring and that anyone interested can apply on the website.

fondue. TO OPEN MARCH 23

“This is very new for us as well,” Marissa said. “We are asking for patience as this is new to everyone. We are just really excited to bring this new concept to Milford.”

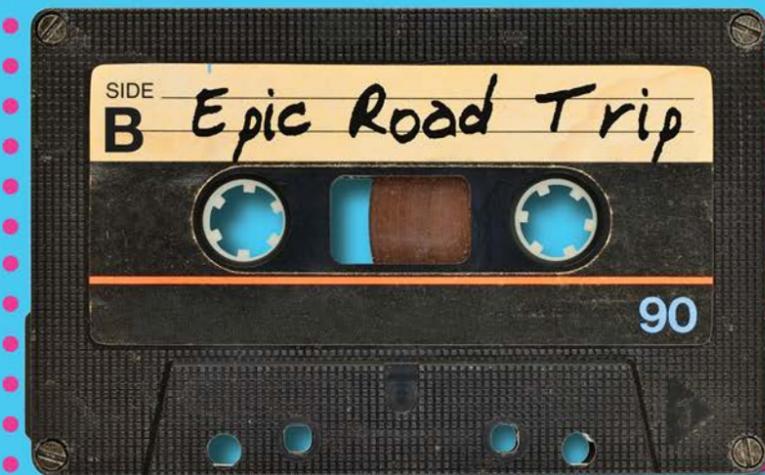
The Kings also own EasySpeak, a popular distillery and brewpub. The cocktails will feature EasySpeak spirits. When they announced opening the new location, however, Marissa stated that this would be a completely different atmosphere and menu than what is offered at EasySpeak, as it would be more upscale.

“Once we are established, we won’t require reservations, but we do accept them for certain tables,” Marissa said. “Any reservations will be made for the ‘full experience’ which is the full four courses.”

The menu, which Marissa revealed on social media over the weekend, includes appetizers like Pupu platters, Cajun seafood boil and a roasted garlic hummus plate, as well as a variety of salads. Cheese fondue, which services up to two guests, include flavors like Swiss, Wisconsin aged and South of the Border. Entrees include Eastern Shore, Steakhouse bone broth as well as Pad Thai and Tikka Masala cooking broths. Dipping options include shrimp, Ahi tuna, salmon and filet mignon. Diners can also choose to upgrade their protein with maple leaf duck breast, freshwater lobster tail, fresh octopus medallions or Iberico pork tenderloin, noted on the menu as “the Wagyu of pork.” Chocolate fondues are available in caramel turtle,

See fondu. on page 4

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fondue. from page 3

s'mores or Reese's bomb. There is "The Purist" which is a mix of chocolates, or you can choose to "spike it up" with a float of flambéed bourbon or spiced rum.

"We are also offering a four-course fondue for two experience," Marissa said. "The experience includes cheese fondue, two salads, entre fondue and chocolate fondue for one price. We will take reservations for this experience."

fondue. will begin taking reservations on Thursday, March 23, and all reservations can be made online at www.eatatfondue.com. The new restaurant is located at 39 N. Walnut Street in Milford.



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CULTURE



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MILFORD LIBRARY ANNOUNCES EVENTS FOR MARCH

TERRY ROGERS

The Milford Library has several events planned for the month of March designed to appeal to a wide range of residents. Events range from learning more about your computer and smartphone to learning to crochet.

“We are excited to offer clinics that will help people who are struggling to understand how to use a computer or smartphone,” Carolyn Tabor, program coordinator, said. “These clinics offer individualized help with Windows and Mac computers as well as Android and Apple smartphones. They are especially helpful for older people who may not be as familiar with technology.” The clinics will be offered March 16 as well as April 6 and 20. Times are at 11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 12 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. on those dates.

On March 23, Marge Huntzinger will offer a presentation on “How Does Your Garden Grow.” The program will provide tips and suggestions for a successful garden. The program will be held in Lions Room A from 2 to 4 p.m. That same day, WSFS Bank will provide a seminar for first-time homebuyers, offering tips on how to qualify for a mortgage, addressing credit questions and other common questions among those looking to buy their first home. The seminar will be from 5 to 6 p.m. in Lions Room A. Perler Bead Pixel Art will also be offered on March 23 for ages 12 to 18. All supplies are provided for this fun craft from 3 to 6 p.m.

See **LIBRARY** on page 7

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“One of the fun programs we are offering this month is the Traveling Vineyard,” Tabor said. “A wine guide will take us through a fun and educational wine tasting as we sample from five complementary bottles of wine from around the world. The wines that we taste as well as others will be available for ordering at the end of the program. We will also serve light hors d’oeuvres’ This program is from 1–3 p.m. on March 25 in Lions Room A.

Maria Barboza will teach a five-week beginner crocheting class on Thursdays starting March 28 through April 25. Anyone interested is asked to bring their own crochet hook, but yarn will be provided. The classes are held from 2 to 4 p.m. in Lions Room A.

“We don’t want to forget our regular programs for young people,” Tabor said. “We offer Teen Video Games in the afternoons as well as an Anime Club, Super Mario Smackdown and a Teen Advisory Board.” Tabor said. “We even offer a Board Games and Card Games afternoon that encourages young people to unplug and sit down with friends to play non-electronic games. All of our youth events can be found on our website or call for information.”

All special programs require registration which can be completed online at <https://milford.lib.de.us> or call 302-422-9418 for more information.



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OPENING PLANNED FOR TORBERT EXHIBIT AT MUSEUM

BY TERRY ROGERS

The Milford Museum has announced that it will hold an opening for the new Alfred T.A. Torbert exhibit on March 21 at 5 p.m. This exhibit is thanks to donations from the family of the late Marvin Schelhouse who was considered an expert on General Torbert.

“The family has generously donated many items that belonged to the general and his wife, Mary,” Claudia Leister, executive director of the museum, said. “The items include a beautiful goblet set, a music box that he likely brought from Paris where he served as United States Consul General for some time. Many of the artifacts retrieved from the Torbert house before it was demolished were brought back from Paris.”

The museum closed the month of January in order to create special exhibit space for the artifacts. Some of the photos in the collection have never been seen before, including a wedding photo of the general and his wife.

“My interest in General Torbert began 55 years ago,” the late Schelhouse said in a presentation several years ago. “I was 26 years old and a U.S. Marine. I had just returned from an overseas tour and was assigned to Quantico, VA. My wife and children eventually joined me at Quantico. One weekend, we wanted something to do, so we hopped in the car and went to Fredericksburg

See **TORBERT** on page 9



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where we toured the battlefield and museums. When I got home, I called my mother and told her that I was interested in learning more about the Civil War after visiting Fredericksburg. My mother told me about a Civil War general who lived in Milford named General Torbert and I became fascinated.”

Born July 1, 1833 in Georgetown, Torbert was the son of Johnathan Robinson Torbert. His grandfather, William Torbert, was a wealthy merchant who lived in Camden. Torbert’s father took a job as a private tutor in Milton, teaching the children of Arthur Milby, instead of joining his father’s company and he married Catherine Milby in 1830. However, Johnathan was not as successful as his father. He and Catherine had 10 children, starting with William in 1831 and Alfred in 1833. Five of their children died young. Catherine worked hard to keep up social appearances in order to disguise the financial difficulties the family faced, and this helped mold Alfred into a “southern gentleman” who was honest, chivalrous, social and with great integrity.

Torbert attended West Point after an appointment by Congressman George R. Riddle at the prompting of Judge E. Wooten of Georgetown. Initially, the congressman tried to get out of his original promise, but the judge knew the Torberts were poor and that Alfred held promise. Torbert served at West Point where Robert E. Lee was superintendent. His instructors became well-known during the Civil War, including Robert Garnett and William Walker who both died while fighting for the Confederacy as well as George Thomas and James B. McPherson who became Union generals during the

war. Classmates also became famous during the war, including J.E.B. Stuart, John B. Hood, Phil Sheridan, David Gregg and Harvey Slocum, some fighting for the North and others for the South.

After graduation, Torbert was stationed in Fort Clark, Texas. His father died in 1853 and his mother decided to move with Torberts’ sisters to Philadelphia. When the war began, Torbert was recruited for the Confederacy, but felt he should honor his commitment to the United States Army as a graduate of West Point.

“The United States government has given me an education and I should be a pretty disgraceful pupil if I used it against the country,” Torbert was quoted as saying.

Torbert was instrumental during the South Mountain (MD) campaign and also fought at Antietam as well as Fredericksburg. He fought in the Battle of Gettysburg as a Brigadier General and, while serving near Warrenton, Virginia, was promoted to Major General. He was even recognized by President Ulysses S. Grant while the president was reviewing the 6th Army Corps. An avowed horseman, President Grant commented that “Torbert rode a good horse,” high accolades from someone known for his prowess on horses.

Resigning his post after the war, Torbert moved to Milford where he married Mary E. Currey, the only child of Daniel Currey, a wealthy merchant and landowner. It is believed the two met while Torbert was mustering troops in New Jersey and Mary attended St. Mary’s Seminary. They built and lived in a beautiful home on North Walnut Street where they entertained

See TORBERT on page 10

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TORBERT from page 9

frequently. Torbert served as president of the town council in what is now considered the mayor's position. He was nominated for Congress in 1868, but lost. In 1869, he was appointed to the Republic of El Salvador as minister, but could not serve due to an outbreak of the malaria he contracted in Florida early in his career.

Torbert was appointed as consul-general to Havana in 1871 and then, in 1873, appointed as consul-general to Paris where his wife joined him. It was in Paris that the Torberts entertained President and Mrs. Ulysses Grant. After being replaced by future President Rutherford B. Hayes in 1878, the couple returned to Milford. While living in the stately home he and his wife built, Torbert was working with President Grant on a plan to develop railroad rights in Mexico.

On Aug. 23, 1880, General Torbert left Milford and traveled to New York where he boarded a steamer, The City of Vera Cruz, which was bound for Mexico City. Off the coast of Georgia and Florida, the steamer encountered a hurricane on Aug. 28, 1880. Instead of turning around or coming into port to ride out the storm, the steamer continued traveling. It broke up off the coast of Cape Canaveral, FL.

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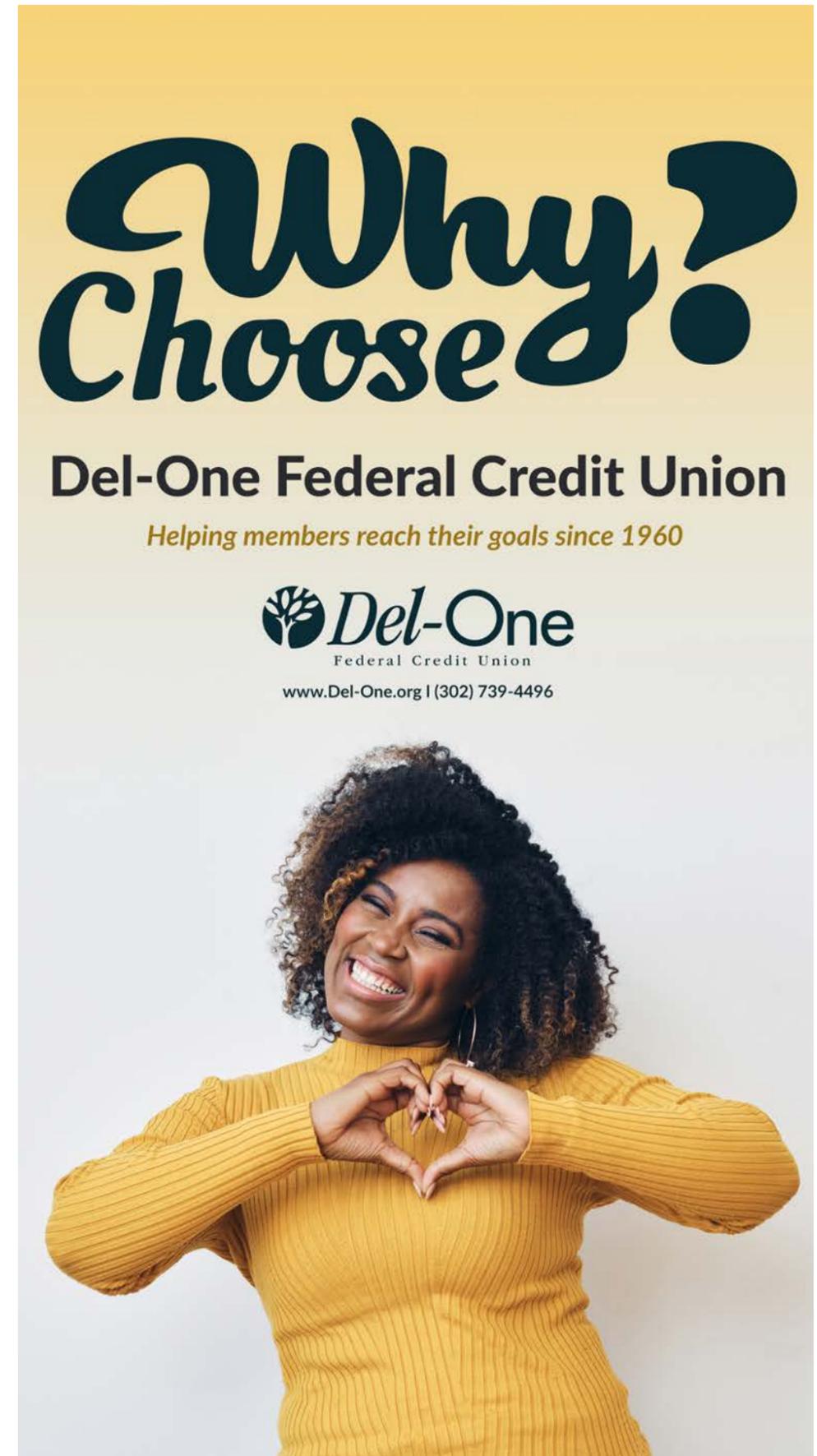
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BUSINESS



Photo link: Marcia Reed



MAIN STREET HOME LOANS OPENS IN MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

The Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford, friends and family recently celebrated a ribbon cutting and grand opening celebration with the owners of Main Street Home Loans at their new location at 1006 Matlind Way in Milford.

“Main Street Home Loans is a local residential mortgage company that prides itself on exceptional service, a vast array of products and local processing and underwriting to make the mortgage process smooth and seamless,” Laura Lord, senior home loan consultant, said. “Each potential borrower is given the utmost time and dedication by our loan officers to fit them into the perfect product for their financial situation.”

The Milford location is the latest branch to open for Main Street Home Loans. They also have a team of loan officers in Dover and Newark offices. The company plans to open another branch in Rehoboth as well.

“All our consultants have many years of experience and look forward to working hard to make each family’s homeownership dreams come true!” Lord said.

The company is an award-winning, multi-state residential mortgage lender that operates in 42 states that include Delaware. Their focus is on helping customers obtain the right residential loans through outstanding customer service. One of the things they are most proud of is the ability to streamline the loan process, shorten-

ing how long it takes from the time someone puts in their application to closing on their new home. All of this is done without sacrificing service, quality, and especially, compliance. Honesty, integrity and ethics are of the highest level of importance.

Main Street Home Loans was founded in 1998 by David Silverman and his wife, Sandy, in Baltimore, MD. The company began with just four originators and has now grown across the country. Silverman remains with the company as the CEO with Jan Ozga serving as president. Main Street also focuses on the environment, implementing a company-wide green initiative with a paperless loan process.

The company was recognized as the Top Workplaces in 2019 and 2020 by The Baltimore Sun and one of the Top 100 Mortgage Companies in America in 2013 as well as from 2015 through 2018. It was also named by the Baltimore Business Journal as One of the Fastest-Growing Private Companies in 2013.

For more information on how Main Street Home Loans can assist you, please give them a call at 302-841-5316 or email at llord@mainstreethl.com. For information concerning the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Milford call 302-422-3344, visit our website www.milfordchamber.com or find us on Facebook.

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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



photo link: [Scott Evers](#)

CITY EXTENDS SERVICES TO COLONY SOUTH AND WEST

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council agreed to extend city services to Colony South and West despite the fact that the property had not been annexed into the city. At the same meeting, council tabled a request from Christiana Excavating to extend services to their property in the southeast area of Milford until they were ready to annex into the city. James Puddicombe, city engineer, explained that there were areas outside city limits where city services were offered already.

“One of these is to extend water service and the other is to extend electric service,” Puddicombe said. “One thing to note, electric service is driven predominantly by Delaware Electric Co-Op and Delmarva Power. Oftentimes, there may be a branch that stretches out and it’s easier for the city to provide service, so it doesn’t really follow city boundaries whereas water is a lot closer to city boundaries.”

Rob Pierce, city planner, explained that his office had not yet found the agreement between Colony South and the city from 40 years ago where the city had agreed to extend water service to the development. They had reached out to the developer who also was unsure if they had a copy of a signed agreement. However, Pierce provided council with minutes from meetings that indicated a previous council had agreed to connect the development to city water services.

“That Colony South application, it does appear that we already served Colony West which would be Phase One of that development. We serve row homes and the apartment complex that are in Colony North,” Pierce said. “Colony South is Phase Two of that development. It appears to me that we had made a commitment to that. What’s in your packet would be an ability to

See COLONY on page 16



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memorialize an arrangement or agreement that Interfaith Housing would annex if and when they became contiguous, which I think was the intent of the minutes that are in your packet. And that would be from Route 1 to the northern side. And again, the property is only one property removed at this time from city limits.”

Currently, I.G. Burton car dealership sits between the development and the city boundary Pierce explained. He also stated that if the dealership agreed to annex in the future, providing city services to the development would allow the city to require Interfaith Housing to also annex into the city.

“So, my personal opinion, it’s okay. That if we go with allowing this because it’s so close, I don’t see a problem, but I don’t like it,” Councilman Todd Culotta said. “I believe if you get city services, city sewer, city water, you should be in the city. I don’t think we’re ever going to approve a new development ever again, that we would provide services for and then not require them to be in the city because once we do that, there’s no reason to ever join. What if the county starts putting sewer and we’re competing with them and that could happen in some parts, but in this case, this particular one, I think is fine.”

Councilman Jason James agreed that it did seem, based on the minutes, that a previous council agreed to extend the services. Councilman Andy Fulton stated that it appears council was bound to the agreement, but that he would like for council to be cognizant of this type of thing in the future.

“I think if we have the minutes written down, it’s sure to be a commitment to something whether or not we

agree with it today,” Councilman Fulton said. “It is something that we would still have to honor because it was a commitment made by this body. Doesn’t matter who sits in the seats. It’s a commitment made by the body and 30 years later doesn’t matter. I think there’s a such thing as good faith as described before.”

Councilman Dan Marabello asked if there was a possibility of Interfaith Housing purchasing a small parcel of land from the car dealership in order to make the properties contiguous. Pierce explained that the organization was a non-profit and that may not be a feasible option for them. Councilman Mike Boyle asked if building was imminent, and Pierce explained that the developer had come to the city because they were ready to start the next phase. Councilman Boyle suggested that the onus was on the developer to produce the agreement, to which Councilman Culotta pointed out that the minutes showed that there was an agreement at one time.

“And I think I think Councilman Fulton’s point there historically, at least it’s been found that some of the historical activities were not documented. Not even in council, they never voted,” Councilman James said. “There was never any minutes but if this is something that is in minutes and council took a vote on it, that’s entirely different from a handshake that’s got more documentation, we have other things.”

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EDUCATION



Photo link: [Milford School District](#)

NEW SCHOLARSHIP FOR DR. WILLIAM WARREN



BY TERRY ROGERS

This year the trustees of the Milford Rotary Club Educational Foundation added the Dr. William Warren Memorial Scholarship to its list of offerings to high school seniors. Bill Warren was an educator, beloved teacher to many in the Milford School District and a long-term trustee of the club's Educational Foundation. This new scholarship is for \$2,500 and was made possible by the many donations made in his memory.

Warren passed away on Jan. 22 and his family said after his death that the outpouring of sympathy and remembrances prompted them to raise funds for a scholarship in his name. Born in Milford and a graduate of Milford High School, Warren was the first of his family to attend college, earning a Bachelor's in English from the University of Delaware. He went on to receive a master's from the University of Virginia and a PhD in English Literature from the Ohio State University. He began teaching in 1982 at Lake Forest before moving to Milford where he taught gifted and talented classes until 2000.

Warren was a member of the Rotary Club committee that helped select scholarship recipients for many years, according to his son, Kevin, soon after Warren passed. His family felt that this was the best way to honor his legacy, by helping create a Rotary scholarship in his name.

In addition to this new scholarship, the Milford Rotary Club is offering five \$2,500 scholarships and one

\$2,000 scholarship that is renewable for up to four years. "We were able to provide these scholarships due to the generosity of the Rotary Club members and the many sponsors of the Rotary Flags for Heroes fundraiser," said Jim O'Neill, the foundation's coordinator.

This year's scholarships include a Rotary Traditional scholarship at \$2,500 as well as a Rotary Warnell scholarship at \$2,500 named after the late Joseph Warnell, a long-term Rotarian, chemist and former business owner. The Donovan Interact scholarship at \$2,500 named after business owner and long-time Rotarian Jack Donovan while the Garbutt Family Trust scholarships at \$2,000 each are named for the late long-time Rotarian and Milford business owner Thomas Garbutt, his wife, Marie, and daughter, Gail. This includes one new and one renewed \$2,000 scholarship each year. In addition, there is the Rotary Service Above Self scholarship at \$2,500 and Rotary Perseverance scholarship at \$2,500.

All scholarships are judged on the criteria of the student's leadership, character and citizenship as well as academic achievement, but each scholarship may have additional specific requirements.

All scholarship applicants must reside in the service area of the Milford Rotary Club which includes all of the Milford School District. Graduating seniors in public, charter, parochial, or private schools or home schooled seniors must submit their applications by April

20, 2023. Children and grandchildren of Milford Rotary Club members are not eligible.

Applications are now available for download at www.milfordrotaryclub.com, Paper copies may be obtained by contacting a school guidance office or by calling James O'Neill at 302-422-3207.



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MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT ADDS HATE SPEECH POLICY



BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford School District Board of Education approved a new policy forbidding hate speech on school campuses. The policy passed without any discussion among board members.

“We feel that as a district we need to have a policy in place that specifically addresses hate speech,” Superin-

tendent Dr. Kevin Dickerson said. “This policy denounces and prohibits the use of racial epithets and slurs, giving us a mechanism to deal with incidences of hate speech when they occur in our schools.”

The new policy states that racial epithets and slurs as to national origin create a disturbance in the educational environment, outweighing legitimate educational purpose. In November 2022, a boys’ bathroom at Milford Central Academy was vandalized with racial graffiti. A student posted photos of the graffiti which showed foul language as well as racial comments. At the time, the district expressed that they were disturbed by the incident and that they were working with Milford Police Department to investigate the matter.

With the new policy, hate speech is forbidden in schools, on district property as well as school buses. It is also forbidden where children wait for buses as well as at any district-sponsored or district-sanctioned program or activity. The policy will also cover any transmission of hate speech using district computers, their network or other electronic school equipment.

“When racial epithets and slurs as to national origin occur off district property or through transmission of information from a computer that is accessed from non-district property,” the policy reads. “If the words or language causes a substantial disruption to the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.

This may include, but is not limited to, prohibited communication disseminated through social media, chat groups and email, with a nexus to the school.”

In addition to restricting hate speech to be used in schools or on school property, the policy also forbids the use of curricular materials that contain racial epithets and slurs as to national origin unless approved by both the Director of Student Learning and Supervisor of Equity and Support Services. When context requires reference to hate speech, abbreviations or culturally aware substitutions will be used.

Anyone who believes they have been a victim of hate speech should report the matter to a school administrator or staff member. Administrators, staff, students, visitors, parents or guardians who violate the policy shall be subject to sanctions commensurate with the offense as determined by the superintendent or another administrator designated by the superintendent.

MILFORD
LIVE

HEALTH



Photo link: [Bayhealth Medical Center](#)

BILL CALLS FOR MEDICAID TO REIMBURSE DOULA SERVICES

BY SAM HAUT

House Majority Whip Rep. Melissa Minor-Brown is back with another bill on requiring Medicaid to pay for doulas. Doulas provide physical and emotional support while a woman is giving birth.

House Bill 80, which requires doula services to be covered by Medicaid starting Jan. 1, has 15 other sponsors: 14 Democrats and Republican Sen. Bryant Richardson, R-Laurel.

House Bill 343, sponsored by Minor-Brown last year, required officials to craft a plan for coverage of doula services by Medicaid providers. It passed with no one voting against it.

While there hasn't been a fiscal note released for HB 80 yet, a Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance report showed it would cost the state \$51,325 in service costs and \$250,000 in a one-time system cost in 2024.

"Doulas are an important part of how we can address pregnancy-related mortality, and requiring Medicaid to provide this coverage will ensure that every parent who wants to use a doula will have access to one," Minor-Brown said in a release.

All carriers would be required under the bill to cover doula services for three prenatal visits of up to 90 minutes, three postpartum visits of up to 90 minutes and attendance through labor and birth.

Full-time doulas?

The bill also requires the state Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance to establish a certification process for doulas and to set a reimbursement rate for doula services which, according to the bill, "supports a livable annual income for full-time practicing doulas."

"A lot of doulas are not full-time doulas. I would love to get to the point where we could have full-time doulas because it's so needed," Minor-Brown said. "So hopefully, looking at these reimbursements that Delaware is providing, we can allow for more doulas to take on a larger client load and maybe that would be sustainable for them. And if not, then we have to come back and look at how we may need to change that."

"When I talked to private insurances, they are ready and prepared to take this on," Minor-Brown said. "So you will see some legislation coming down the pipe for that because it's needed. So I've already seen a ton of names jump on as sponsors, so I'm hoping that it gains unanimous support. To me it just makes sense."

The bill has been assigned to the House Health & Human Development Committee, but a hearing date has not yet been set. Minor-Brown hopes to have it brought up at the committee by next week.

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SPORTS



photo by Dave McCallum

SPECIAL OLYMPICS BASKETBALL STATE TOURNAMENT TIPS OFF MARCH 18 AT UD

STAFF REPORT

Special Olympics Delaware has announced that their annual State Basketball Tournament takes place Saturday, March 18 at the Bob Carpenter Center in Newark, with games scheduled throughout the day and into the evening in the main arena and both auxiliary gymnasiums. The opening ceremony takes place in the main arena at 2 p.m.

Thirty-one teams from across the state are scheduled to compete in full-court and 3-on-3 half-court tournaments. A skills competition, which includes more than 20 athletes, is also offered as part of the event. More than 300 players and 70 coaches will be participating.

“Basketball is one of our most popular sports and we are excited to welcome 11 new teams to the event this year,” says Kyle Frazer, senior director of sports for Special Olympics. “With March Madness in full swing it’s now time for our athletes and teams to have their shining moments, and we’re excited to watch that unfold at the state’s premier basketball facility.”

Admission is free. To obtain schedule information for teams representing your coverage area, please contact Jon Buzby at jon.buzby@sode.org.



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