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March 21, 2023 **Vol. 13 • Issue 12**

Headlines	2
Culture	4
Business	7
Government & Politics	9
Education	14
Health	17
Stay Connected	21





Milton Food Pantry Ceremony



Milford Streetscape Plans



25th Annual Breast Cancer Update

pitoto link: Downtown Milford Inc.

3



HEADLINES

photo link: Milford Police Department

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PUB CRAWL A HUGE SUCCESS IN DOWNTOWN MILFORD

BY TERRY ROGERS

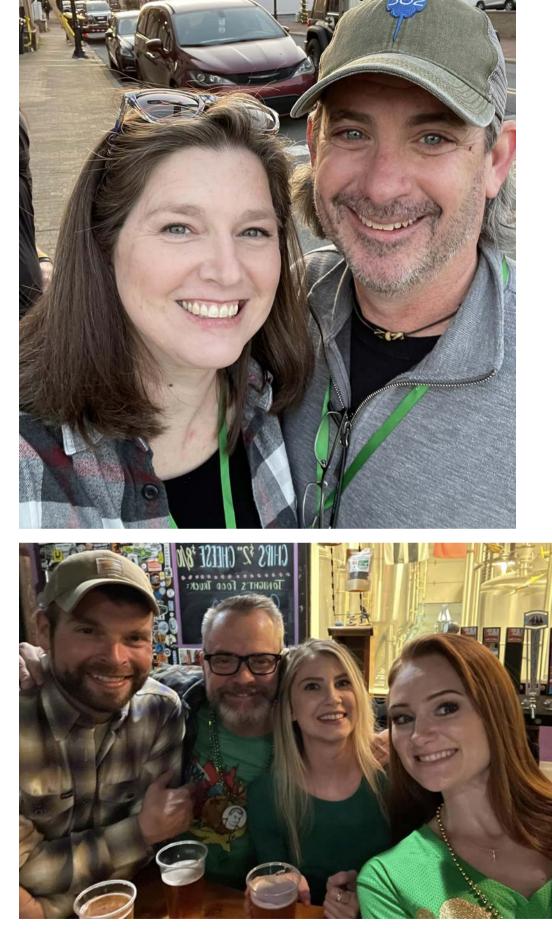
The popular Downtown Milford Inc. St. Patrick's Day Pub Crawl, which had been cancelled the past two years due to the pandemic, returned triumphantly on Saturday. Downtown was filled with revelers wearing their green and visiting many of the shops which were open late for the event.

"We are thrilled to have had all of those that supported us at Downtown Milford, Inc. and our local businesses," Shelby DiCostanzo, who headed the Pub Crawl committee, said. "We had so many people using their purchased passports in order to enter to win prizes, enjoy tastings or hop on the shuttle bus that would take them out to Mispillion Brewing and EasySpeak. The night was a huge success, and the participants were absolutely thrilled." This year's event was called "Toasting the Town". The Parker Group offered tastings of Thompson Island brews while DMI provided tastings of Dogfish brands. A "Paddy Pass" allowed people to participate in tastings as well as get unlimited rides on the shuttle, which began and ended at Arena's.

Many downtown businesses remained open later on Saturday, offering discounts and drawings to encourage those on the crawl to stop in. Several bars and restaurants added food as well as drink specials to their menu for the evening.

"We are already looking forward to next year when we can make it even bigger and better," DiCostanzo said. "Anyone who is interested in volunteering to help with this event can call 302-839-1180 to see what they need to do." MILFORD









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MILTON COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY TO HOLD GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY

STAFF REPORT

MILFORDL

5

The Milton Community Food Pantry (MCFP) is proud to announce the groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of its new building, on Tuesday, March 28, at 11 a.m. at its new home at 12898 Union Street Extended in Milton.

"Breaking ground on our new building is an exciting, long anticipated event that will help us better serve families at a time when the need is increasing," said Donna Murawski, MCFP executive director.

"For almost a decade we have operated out of several different locations, which has made it difficult for us to manage our operations and for our clients to find us. We own the land for our new building, so we're able to create a modern facility that will help us meet the nutritional needs of Sussex County residents for many years to come."

The Milton Community Food Pantry is a nonprofit organization that solicits and distributes food that might otherwise go to waste. Since 2014, the Food Pantry has been fighting hunger in Sussex County by providing food to area residents in need. In 2022, the MCFP served 6,245 individuals, providing food for 75,000 meals and saw a 27 percent increase in the number of families served. It rescued and distributed 43,000 pounds of fresh food.

The Food Pantry's mission is "To combat hunger in the Milton area." MCFP promoted its "New Building Campaign" in November 2022 during a special event with U.S. Sen. Tom Carper. He, as well as the Sussex County Council members and municipal officials, have all lauded the efforts of the MCFP in fighting hunger in Sussex County.

The new building will include walk-in freezers and refrigerators, ample storage for non-perishable foods, and plenty of space for volunteers to prepare and pack boxes with food. The new location also enables the MCFP to

See FOOD on page 6

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 February 21, 2023 at 4:30 p.m., the following individuals submitted nominating petitions for the offices as indicated below:

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).

begins at 6:00 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



****NOTICE OF ELECTION CANCELLATION** CITY OF MILFORD 2023 ANNUAL ELECTION**

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

Duly elected candidates will be sworn in at the Annual Organizational Meeting on Monday, May 1, 2023 that



FOOD from page 5

DELAWAREL

streamline its distribution process for clients who come to the site weekly or bi-weekly to pick up food.

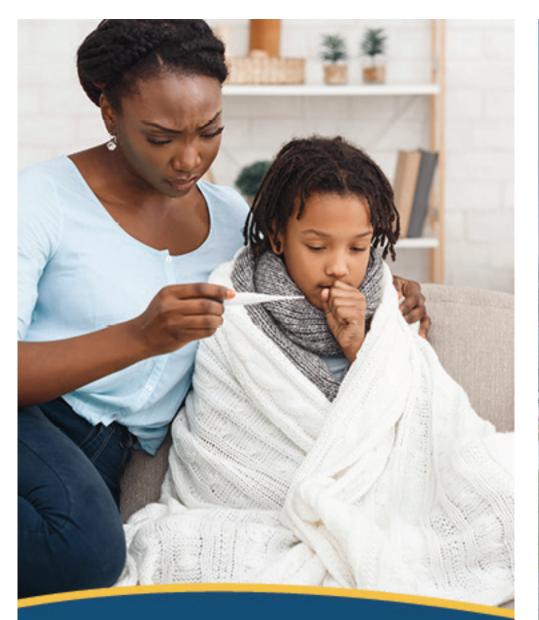
The groundbreaking event, which will feature the usual hard hats and shovels, includes Milton Community Food Pantry Board of Directors, honorable guest and speaker Milton Mayor John Collier and former MCFP Executive Director Barbara Wright.

MCFP always needs volunteers to help with food rescue, packing and distribution and welcomes monetary donations. Go to **www.miltonpantry.org** to learn how to get involved.



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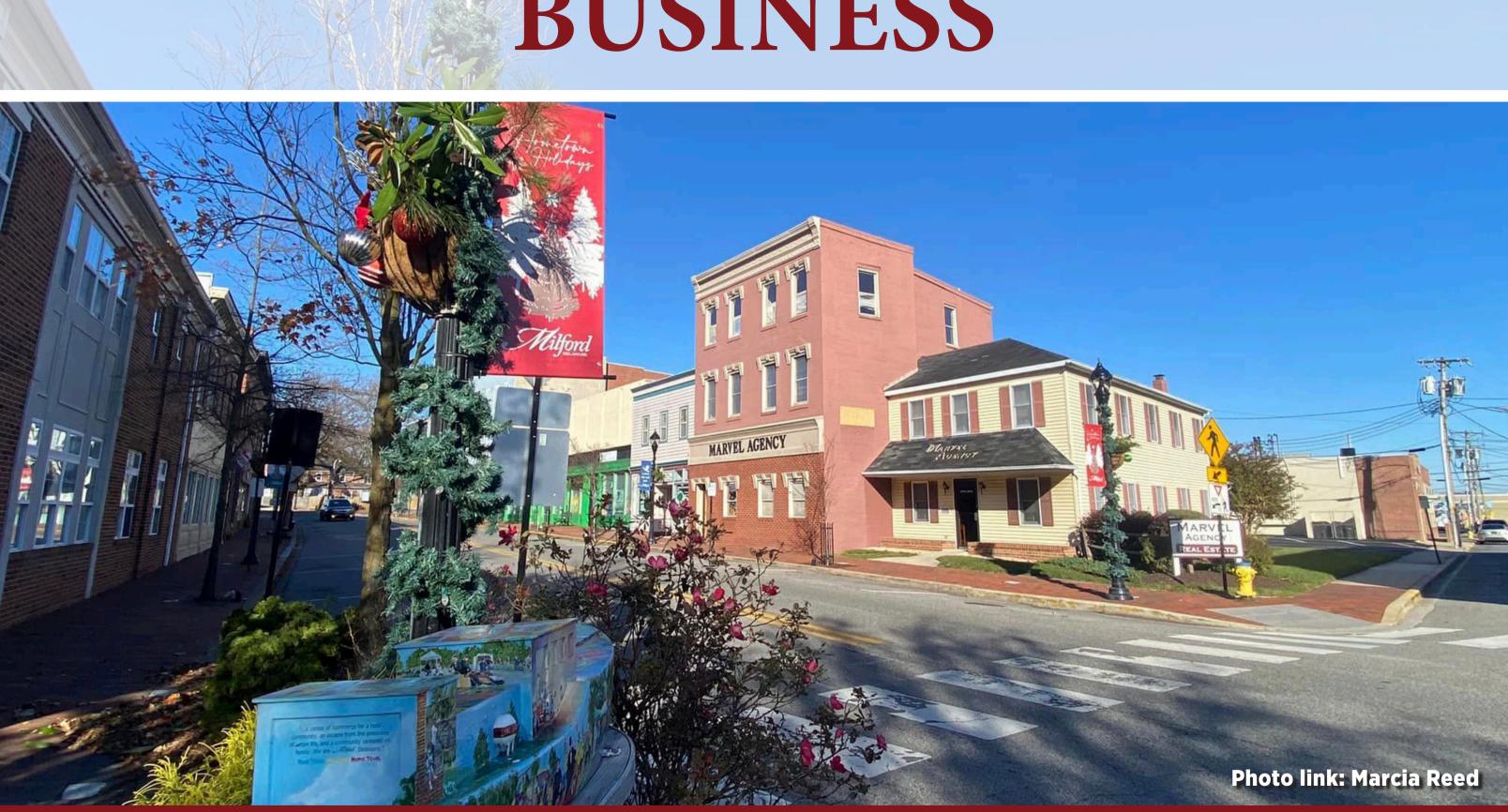
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BUSINESS



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MILFORD CONVERSATION TO FEATUR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

STAFF REPORT

MILFORDLIVE

BUSINESS

The next Milford Conversation, an informal group of Milford residents and business leaders, will be Thursday, April 6, at 8:30 a.m. and is held at the First Presbyterian Church in Milford. The church is located at 101 S. Walnut Street.

"Our speaker is Anthony Powell, program manager of Career T.E.A.M. LLC," John Huntzinger, leader of the group, said. "He'll be speaking about their new Workforce Development Initiative in Kent and Sussex counties. This program is state funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) and is for students ages 16 to 24 and provides paid work experience. The goal is to help make students career ready and potentially connect them with employers."

Milford Conversation meets on the first Thursday of every month and features a different topic relating to business, recreation and education in the city. It is open to the public and free to attend. Refreshments are provided.

To access the group, Huntzinger explained that the best entrance is off Pearl Alley at the rear of the church. Enter through the kitchen door which is marked with a handicap access sign. Just walk through the kitchen and enter the church library where the meeting will be held.





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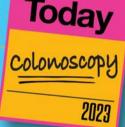


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GOVERNMENT & POLITICS



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BY TERRY ROGERS

10 MILFORDLWE

Recently, the city of Milford held a public workshop where they presented plans for upgraded streetscapes in Milford. The public was able to review designs and provide feedback to city staff regarding changes they would like to see in the plan.

"The concept plan was prepared for several streets that were identified in the Rivertown Rebirth 2025 as needing streetscape improvements," Rob Pierce, city planner, said. "These streets included Park Avenue, Denney Row, North Washington Street and Southwest Front Street. The plans provided low, medium and high level improvements for feedback from the public and City Council."

Pierce explained that the highest level concept included replacing concrete sidewalks with brick treatments,

widening the sidewalks to improve pedestrian movement, upgrading curb ramps to meet ADA requirements, street tree plantings, reconfiguring of parking lots, parking lot landscaping a potential pocket park location as well as the addition of street furniture.

"Overall, the feedback from the public was pretty positive," Pierce said. "They liked the brick sidewalks, street trees, landscaping and improvements to cityowned parking lots. Some residents provided positive feedback regarding the recent transition to all-way stop conditions at the former traffic signals on South Walnut Street."

Other recommendations from the public included burying overhead electric and communication lines within the streetscape plan limits. There were concerns that the changes would be able to accommodate delivery trucks. In addition, the public did not want any modifications to reduce parking spaces that already existed in the downtown area. Bicycle lanes were not included in the streetscape proposals. The full **presentation** can be seen on the city of Milford website. Anyone with comments can call Pierce at 302-424-8395 or send an email to rpierce@milford-de.gov.



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11 MILFORDLIVE

FUR

"Before enrolling in PACE Your LIFE I was depressed. Now I love to mingle with the participants and help them enjoy themselves." ~ Ed Darling





A Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly





BY TERRY ROGERS

12 MILFORDLÉVE

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council reviewed proposed Transportation Improvement District (TID) plans provided by the Delaware Department of Transportation. The plan reviewed intersections in an area of Milford that was less than nine miles square, but included 35 total intersections and 26 committed developments. The plan looks at road changes to accommodate growth through the year 2045. It includes changes to intersections on South Rehoboth Boulevard, Cedar Creek Road, Wilkins Road, Cedar Neck Road and more, as well as the addition of bicycle and pedestrian paths.

"We aimed for basically less than 80 seconds of delay for the overall average intersection delay," Sarah Coakley, DelDOT principal planner, said. "And so that's basically the time it takes for a driver to slow down from going the posted speed limit on the approach to the intersection, the length of time that they're stopped, and then the length of time speeding up to the posted speed

COUNCIL REVIEWS SE TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PLAN

limit. That is typically during the worst 30 minutes of traffic, but delays could get that long. The rest of the time it would be nowhere near that in terms of delayed intersections."

The plan included eight new single-lane roundabouts, two new signalized intersections, new turn and through lanes as well as incorporation of the city's Bicycle Master Plan. One of the new signals would be at the intersection of Johnson Road and Route 30 and another at the northbound Rt. 1 off ramp on Cedar Neck Road. The plan also followed DelDOT's Corridor Capacity Preservation Program with the addition of service roads parallel to northbound Rt. 1 along with an acceleration lane from Johnson Road onto southbound Rt. 1.

"Your bike plan is excellent, as it calls for pursuing a complete network of bike facilities for your residents and visitors and prioritizes which side of the road for shared use paths to be on," Coakley said. "Optimistically, we've agreed to follow that in terms of prioritizing projects within the TID."

Rob Pierce, city planner, explained that the TID included a fee structure that must be adopted by council which would have developers cover the cost of the improvements, including intersection changes and the addition of bike lanes. The total cost should all improvements be implemented would be just under \$85.7 million. DelDOT recommended a fee structure of between 30 and 35 percent for developers. Coakley explained that collecting higher fees could result in road

projects receiving approval from DelDOT more quickly as there would be a higher municipal match. "I think in terms of planning, we have a lot of land that's slated for development in the southeast. And what this does is allow some of those projects to move forward without doing a transportation impact study because it's already been done for them," Mark Whitfield, city manager, said. "So, projects can move faster. Developers like it because projects can move more quickly. But we also have a plan in place to put improvements to address the traffic concerns and demands that would have seen. I'd like to say I think I believe we're ahead of the game on this project by looking ahead and planning ahead. Knowing what those transportation improvements are going to need to be made in order to address the additional traffic that we're going to see due to these developments."

Councilman Dan Marabello asked how much the addition of roundabouts would impact surrounding land. Coakley stated that, in some cases, a roundabout may take less land than an intersection, pointing to one on South Rehoboth Boulevard. In other areas, DelDOT would need to purchase additional land, but Coakley explained that they try to minimize how much private land they need to use. Councilman Todd Culotta asked if it was possible to hold a public hearing on the proposed fee scale and intersection changes.

See TID on page 13



TID from page 12

13 MILFORDLIVE

"I would be happy to come down again and do a public hearing or public workshop," Coakley said. "I agree that we only want to do this once, so we don't want people complaining after we have made the changes."

Pierce stated that the fees would be reviewed annually to be sure that cost was keeping up with construction which was similar to how the city handled impact fees. Councilman Brian Baer asked if Sussex County would contribute any funds and Pierce stated that the county had not signed off on the TID agreement which meant only roads within city limits would be impacted.

A public hearing will be held on April 10 and council will vote on the proposed plan as well as the fee structure at that time.

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STATE TO GET ADVICE ON IMPROVING SCHOOL FUNDING IN FALL

BY JAREK RUTZ

Delaware will have recommendations on how to improve their public school funding formula sometime this fall. Drew Atchison, senior researcher at the American Institutes for Research, shared the project timeline during an equity in education seminar Friday hosted by the Vision Coalition of Delaware, a public-private partnership composed of a broad range of Delawareans who work together to improve the state's public education.

"In the report, you'll be able to see comparisons of Delaware's current system to what other states do," Atchison said. "We'll be examining the strengths and weaknesses of Delaware's funding system according to those big questions of adequacy and equity."

The state announced in August that it paid American Institutes for Research \$698,438 to analyze current policy and make recommendations for improvements, with a focus on equity for all students.

The report will also include if there's substantive evidence of unequal opportunity in schools and if the current funding system is equitable for not only students, but the taxpayers that pay for public schools to operate.

"We'll also be looking at issues of transparency and flexibility," he said, "We'll be developing some alternative approaches to funding that we think would result in an equitable and adequate education."

The institute recently finished a study on New Hampshire and Vermont's funding system for similar reasons.

Concerns around school funding came to a head after a far-reaching lawsuit resulted in more state funding for poor and special needs children and also triggered a statewide property reassessment. To learn more about how Delaware funds its schools, click **HERE**.





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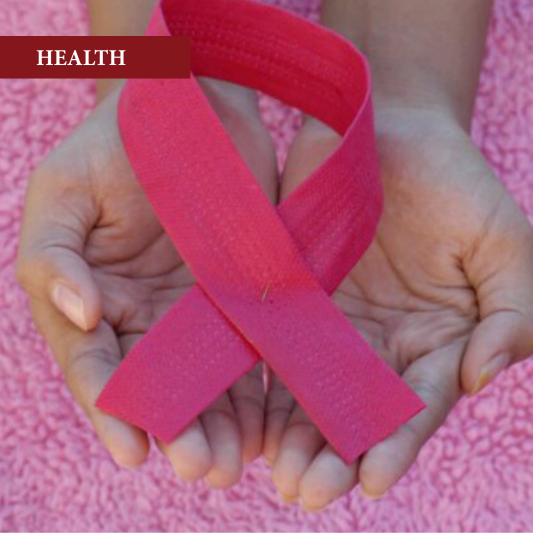
HEALTH



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BY TERRY ROGERS

18 MILFORDLIVE

Delaware Breast Cancer Coalition is preparing for the 25th Annual Breast Cancer Update which will be held virtually on April 19, from 7:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. The event is free to attend and open to anyone who wishes to learn more about advances as well as the latest trends in breast cancer diagnosis and treatment.

"As someone who has seen firsthand the impact of medical care disparities on breast cancer patients, I am passionate about the need to address access and equity issues in healthcare," Karen Louie, M.D. of Christiana Care said. "No one should be denied access to life-saving treatment because of their race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status or any other factor beyond their control.

25TH ANNUAL BREAST CANCER UPDATE PLANNED FOR APRIL 19

It's time for us to come together and work towards a more just and equitable healthcare system that ensures that all patients receive the care they deserve."

The Annual Breast Cancer Update, which this year will focus on Access & Advances in Breast Cancer Care & Therapies, began as a small scientific meeting designed to provide physicians with the latest trends in breast cancer treatments and diagnosis. Over the years, it has grown to an annual educational conference that is free to the public. Because it is held virtually, the conference is available to anyone anywhere who wants to attend.

"Each year, we offer this at no cost," Katelyn Bender, communications director for DBCC, said. "The Breast Cancer Update features leading medical breast cancer panel experts and informational resources who provide details on the latest developments in treatment as well as care for breast cancer survivors and their families. The conference also provides valuable information to physicians, nurses, students and allied health professionals."

According to DBCC, healthcare professionals and students seize the opportunity to not only earn CEUs and Contact Hours at no cost, but they are also provided the most up-to-date tools available for diagnosing and treating breast cancer. Some of the topics that will be covered at this year's update include Access, Equity and Barriers to Care, Oncoplastic Surgery, Immunotherapy and Breast Cancer, Research on Fear of Re-occurrence in Partners as well as Reoccurrence of Breast Cancer.

"Our goal is to have programming that empowers our community in the fight against breast cancer," Bender said. "The Annual Breast Cancer Update allows us to bring nationally renowned speakers in the breast cancer field and gives us the opportunity to educate the community about innovative research, treatment and programs that are available in Delaware."

The update is open to anyone who wishes to attend, and the free registration is available at https://dbcc. ejoinme.org/BCU2023. There is also information on the website regarding how to support the program through sponsorships. MILFORD LIVE











STAFF REPORT

As a regional healthcare leader, Bayhealth is proud to bring new specialty care to meet the growing needs in central and southern Delaware. Urologist/Urogynecologist Ray Bologna, MD, MBA, is the newest addition to the Bayhealth Urology, Sussex Campus team. He joins Antoinette Ptak, MD; Wendy Surguy, NP-C; Jessica Bradley, NP-C; and Sarah B. Neely-Collins, FNP-BC, in the practice. Dr. Bologna specializes in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive pelvic surgery and is currently taking new patients.

"We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Bologna. He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience from the Cleveland

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Clinic, one of the most respected health systems worldwide," said Bayhealth Vice President, Physician Services and Clinical Integration Lawrence Ward, MD, MPH, FACP. "As a urogynecology expert, he's helped thousands of women with pelvic health disorders find relief and a better quality of life. It's estimated that about one third of women will experience this type of disorder in their lifetime, and we're very glad Dr. Bologna is here to provide specialized, compassionate care close to home for our community members."

Prior to joining Bayhealth, Dr. Bologna was employed by the Glickman Urologic and Kidney Institute of the Cleveland Clinic Foundation. He was the chairman of the Department of Urology and program director for the Urology Residency Program at Cleveland Clinic Akron General. He also was chairman and clinical professor for the Department of Urology at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Dr. Bologna is a graduate of Northeast Ohio Medical University, where he also completed his urology residency. He went on to complete a fellowship in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive pelvic surgery at Summa Health System in Akron, Ohio, and completed an additional fellowship in female urology and voiding dysfunction at Graduate Hospital in Philadelphia.

NEW PROGRAMS

- - Technology





19 MILFORDLÉVE



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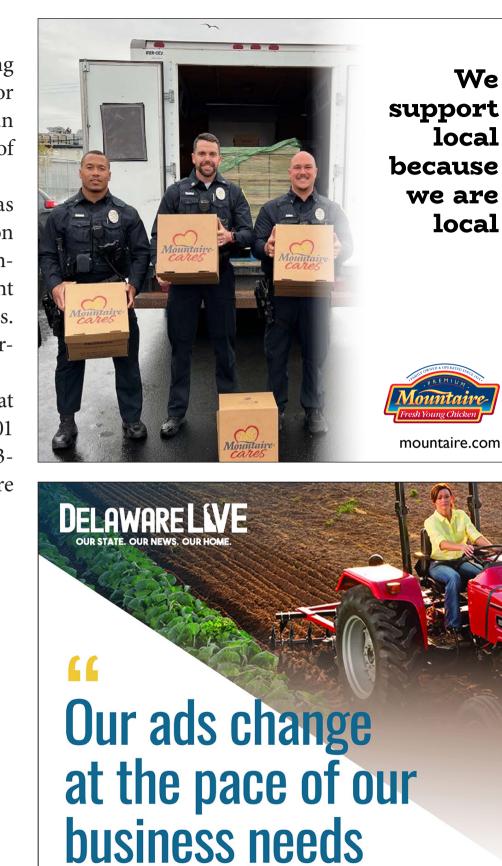
MEDICINE from page 19

He has numerous professional accolades, including membership in the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society, the Elite Patient Service Physician Award from Summa Health System, and two Teacher of the Year honors from the Department of Urology.

In his more than 20-year career, Dr. Bologna has advanced the education and treatment of common pelvic floor conditions, such as urinary and fecal incontinence, and pelvic floor prolapse, sometimes brought on by pregnancy and childbirth, among other causes. He co-authored a book titled "The Accidental Sisterhood: Take Control of Your Bladder and Your Life."

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Bologna at Bayhealth Urology, Sussex Campus, located at 101 Wellness Way, Suite 300 in Milford, please call 302-503-2460. Visit Bayhealth.org/Medical-Group for more information on the practice.





- SOUTHERN STATES





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