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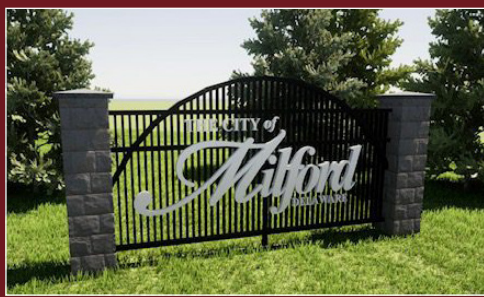
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photo link: Milford Police Department



Seven Eagle Scouts Graduate



Gateway and City Hall Upgrades Discussed



Familiar Faces in Downstate Football

HEADLINES



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BY TERRY ROGERS

For several months, the former Kent and Sussex Tire location on the corner of Rehoboth Boulevard and Northwest Tenth Street has been undergoing renovations. These renovations were to prepare the building for a new Meineke location. David Repass, who also owns the Meineke in Lewes, which opened July 2011, explained that this has been a long process.

“Deciding on our second location has been a long process that has evolved over the years,” Repass said. “Actually, we looked at the current Milford Meineke location years ago as a possible location. However, we could not get the deal done at that time with the owners. So, we held off. We looked at other locations over the years as possible second location, but nothing ever seemed right. We wanted Milford! Finally, we were able to put the deal together with the owners in Milford and we are so excited to finally become part of the

MEINEKE TO OPEN IN MILFORD

Milford community. Milford has everything we have been looking for in a close-knit community.”

Repass explained that people will not recognize the building when they visit.

“It is a complete renovation from the old Kent & Sussex Tire Center,” Repass said. “I welcome everyone to come inside, have a cup of coffee or soda and visit with us to hear more of our story and get to know us while you check out our state of the art Complete Car Care Center with the best equipment available on the market today. From diagnostic equipment to tire equipment that will not scratch your wheel, to an alignment machine that meets your vehicle’s manufacturer safety standards. All of our staff consists of trained certified technicians.”

The new location will offer full service car maintenance and repair, Repass stated. The Milford Meneke will offer oil changes, brake repairs, exhaust and diagnosing, as well as repairs of engine components. They also offer air conditioning recharge and repairs along with heating and cooling.

“Of course, we will offer our tires and alignments,” Repass said. “We will also be the first complete car care center in the area offering totally digital inspection reports of your vehicle with multiple pictures and videos of your vehicle throughout the inspection process, estimating and repair stage, giving our

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customers true transparency of the entire process throughout the work that is being performed.”

Tim Dale has been named the general manager of the Milford location and will be in the store 80 percent of the time for the next 90 days or so, while Casey will be the manager. Repass calls Casey a “fantastic young man” who has been training for the past nine months, learning systems and the Meineke culture. Jerry Jerman, a master technician and manager, will work between Milford and Lewes as well.

“We are planning a soft opening on July 5,” Repass said. “Our official opening is planned for July 10.”

The Milford Meineke is hiring and anyone interested should call Dale at 302-421-7000 or visit <https://meineke.com>, click on Careers and search for Milford. The new Meineke will be located at 914 N. Walnut Street in Milford.



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SEVEN EAGLE SCOUTS IN 2023 GRADUATING CLASS

BY TERRY ROGERS

The 2023 graduating class saw a record number of Eagle Scout participants with seven Boy Scouts earning the top honor. The seven included Jackson Caldwell, Matt Fox, Paul Huot, Nicholas Schimmel, Brendan Slonacher, Adam Sobiech and Justin Swain. Six of the scouts graduated from Milford High School while Schimmel graduated from Sussex Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Fox completed his Eagle Scout requirements first, building a gaga pit at Avenue United Methodist Church. Huot was next, building picnic tables and planter boxes for Banneker Elementary. Caldwell's project was to clean up at Postles Cemetery while Slonacher created a reading and lending library at Lake Forest East Elemen-

tary. Sobiech constructed a kiosk at the Milford Community Gardens, Schimmel completed a project at the Junction Breakwater Trail in Lewes while Jackson rounded out the group, building flag boxes for used and worn flags.

"I believe the key to having a higher number of Eagles is to have a core group of scouts that motivate and challenge each other," Connie Huot, Troop 186 assistant scoutmaster and mother of Paul Huot, said. "If they were not such a close group of scouts, the outcome may have been different. While seven does seem like a lot, when they first joined the troop at age 11, there were 25 of them and these seven stayed until their last year."

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Paul Huot stated that scouting taught him things about himself and others he may never have learned.

“I had amazing adventures and grew from leadership positions I held,” he stated. “I learned respect for the outdoors and other scouters. Becoming an Eagle taught me perseverance is key and is something I can carry my whole life.”

Swain felt that becoming an Eagle Scout helped him grow as a leader. “To be an Eagle Scout is to be a leader within your troop and the community,” he explained. It’s about being prepared for anything life can throw at you and rising to any occasion.”

Slonacher not only achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, he was also the Class of 2023 valedictorian at Milford.

“To be an Eagle Scout, one must embrace the Scout Oath and the Scout Law to the fullest,” Slonacher said. “One must make a lifelong commitment to leadership, service and excellence. It means persevering when the path gets rough. And it means embodying the values of honor, loyalty and selflessness.”

Calling scouting an incredible experience that taught him a lot about leadership, Sobiech also gained an understanding of teamwork and perseverance.

“Scouting also taught me to be self-sufficient and how to work well with others,” Sobiech stated. “I think that prepared me well for adulthood, especially in my professional life.”

Schimmel agreed, believing that scouting had taught him skills that he would carry with him into adulthood.

“Scouting helps build a solid moral compass,” Schimmel said. “Scouting is an opportunity that I believe anyone that is able to take should.”

Echoing the sentiments of his fellow scouts, Caldwell believes scouting “fundamentally shaped” who he was today and taught him things he, too will carry forever.

Troop 186 has been meeting in the Milford area for over 65 years and is currently chartered by the Mason Lodge in town. When school is in session, they meet on Monday nights at Avenue United Methodist Church. Anyone interested in having a male youth join the troop can email [Troop186MilfordDE@gmail](mailto:Troop186MilfordDE@gmail.com) or visit www.BeAScout.scouting.org to find a unit in the area.



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MILFORD HISTORICAL SOCIETY SEEKS TRUSTEES, VOLUNTEERS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford Historical Society, the organization that maintains and manages the Parson Thorne Mansion, one of the oldest structures in Milford, is looking for trustees and volunteers. Assistance is needed to support the historical society with operations, event planning and fundraising, as well as historical research and preservation work.

“Since our inception in 1961, our goal has been to preserve our local history and historic properties throughout Milford, not just the Parson Thorne Mansion,” said F. Brooke Clendaniel, assistant treasurer and a Trustee of the Society for 47 years. “I think we sometimes get confused with the museum, but we are completely separate organizations.”

The project of the preservation of the Parson Thorne

Mansion on Silver Hill in Milford began in 1961. The founding of Milford Historical Society was the result of the offer of the gift of the mansion to the Captain Jonathan Caldwell Chapter of the DAR by James Richard Draper.

Miss M. Catherine Downing (later Mrs. T. Moore Holcombe, IV), Honorary State Regent and Past Vice President General, National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, was the local regent. She felt the project was too much for the local DAR members and asked if the offer would extend to a local historical society, if one was formed. Mr. Draper and his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Draper, Jr., agreed to extend that offer.

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The Milford Historical Society was incorporated on Dec. 12, 1961, by the original trustees: Miss Downing, the Rev. Dr. Edward John Dyer, then Rector of Christ Church, and Mr. Edward Millis Hurley.

“Now the mansion stands preserved on Silver Hill as a tribute to the generosity and labors of these people. Milfordians must always be grateful that this landmark has been saved,” Clendaniel said. “It is known both as the Silver Hill Mansion and as the Parson Thorne Mansion. Over the years the historic accounts in the 19th century just assumed it was built by the Rev. Thorne. It was the home of one of Milford’s founders, the Rev. Sydenham Thorne, known colloquially as Parson Thorne; however, he was not the original owner. He was an ordained Church of England priest, who was sent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts in 1774 to be the first resident rector of the local parish, now Christ Episcopal Church in Milford.”

The files show the first meeting of the Milford Historical Society on Feb. 12, 1962, and it was established that it would preserve, restore and maintain the mansion, protect other historic buildings in Milford, collect written records reflecting Milford history, operate a museum of Milfordiana as well as to promote and encourage interest in local history.

However, when the city of Milford decided to establish a museum in 1982, Downing felt it was better to have, in her words, “two separate and distinct” organizations, creating a city of Milford Landmarks and Museum Commission and leaving the Society just

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with the control of the mansion.

“We would like to become more involved in preserving other buildings throughout the city,” Clendaniel said. “There are so many that are at risk of being lost right now, for example the Vinyard Shipyard and the Mulholland Spoon Mill. It has always been my vision to create a living museum in Milford with the promotion of our history throughout the town. Some properties, like the Parson Thorne Mansion and the historic churches, are being preserved by organizations, but the majority of the properties are in private ownership. Our work needs to also encourage private restoration and rehabilitation of the buildings.

In addition to preserving the mansion, the historical society helped to create the National Register Historic Districts and with that listing a property may be eligible for federal tax credits for income producing properties.

“The city of Milford did designate city historic districts, but that was it,” Clendaniel explained. “The Society lobbied for actual historic district zoning classification and design review. The chair of the planning and zoning commission at the time scoffed at the idea, exclaiming, ‘We are not Williamsburg.’ Actually, the zoning classification and design review ordinance was based on the ordinances used in New Castle and Lewes. I regret that much has been lost in the subsequent years and I certainly know we are not Williamsburg. We are Milford and the rich fabric of our built environment reflects our history and what remains needs to be protected and preserved.”

Currently, the Society is raising funds to replace the roofs on various portions of the Parson Thorne

Mansion. They also need funds to do continuously needed projects, some are classed as maintenance, but some are classed as capital improvements. Clendaniel would like to restore the interior of the small frame house, which was moved from near Greenwood to the property in 2007. It is a prime example of a small residential building from the late 18th/early 19th century period.

“We were fortunate to obtain the donation of that building, which was to be demolished. The exterior of the building has been restored, but the interior still needs work,” Clendaniel explained.

In addition, HVAC expansions are needed in order to renovate the plantation office and the kitchen in the main house, so they can be open to the public.

“We were criticized when the project of HVAC upgrades was done. We had to explain that climate control of temperature and humidity was not done for our personal comfort, but is vital to the preservation of the building and especially the historic artifacts on display,” Clendaniel said. “Until we expand the HVAC system into the wings, those rooms cannot have period furnishings and artifacts on display, including the east wing, which was the kitchen, and the west wing, which was the plantation office, would allow visitors the experience of visiting the entire home.”

Clendaniel explained that although all of these are relatively minor in a modern residence, to properly preserve the mansion requires both knowledge and expertise of artisans, who understand the construction of historic buildings, making the process a bit more difficult and somewhat more costly. Explaining the

need for continuous work on the brick exterior walls, Clendaniel continued that the mortar mix should match the original with the proper proportion of crushed oyster shells.

“And that mix is not available off the shelf at your local big box home improvement store,” he stated. “We cannot use modern mortar as the modern version contains cement and the old bricks are soft. Old bricks need a soft mortar, so as not to crumble. That also requires constant mortar repointing.”

Another project Clendaniel would like to see on the property is the construction of a barn-style visitor’s center that would include public restrooms, exhibit space and a meeting room, as well as office space for staff and volunteers.

“This needed building would also allow rooms in the mansion to be used for exhibition and not storage space,” Clendaniel said. “Our goals are ambitious, which is why we need help. This rich history must be preserved. We could create a thriving historical destination for visitors to Milford. That economic boost of tourism can all begin with this old mansion.”

Anyone interested in assisting the Milford Historical Society can contact parsonthorne@gmail.com or direct contributions for the preservation of local history can be made through a tax-deductible donation to the Milford Historical Society, P.O. Box 352 Milford DE 19963-0352. Online donations can be made by visiting www.degives.org/orgs/milford-historical-society.



THE STORY OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

STAFF REPORT

On Saturday, July 1, 2023, at 1 p.m., the Milford Museum will begin its American History Series at the Milford Public Library, with a program about one of America's most treasured documents, The Declaration of Independence. Local historian Dan Pritchett will present the background of how and why this famous document was created during a critical time of the American Revolution. Included in this program will be information about the men who gathered in Philadelphia to discuss America's move to independence and how, in signing this document, they risked "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor." While its role in the American Revolution is well known, The Declaration of Independence document itself has a fascinating history which will be included in the program.

Daniel Pritchett has been teaching American history in Delaware since 1969: 34 years in the Capital School District, six years at Delaware State University and numerous years at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute.

Sponsored by the Milford Museum, these monthly programs will focus on a variety of topics concerning local, state and national history. These presentations will be held on Saturdays, at 1 p.m., at the Milford Public Library. For more information, please contact the Museum at 302-424-1080, info@milforddemuseum.org. These programs are offered through a generous grant from The Delaware Heritage Commission.

The Milford Public Library is located at 11 SE Front Street in Milford, DE.



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RENTAL PERMIT WAIVER DISCUSSED AT COUNCIL MEETING

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council discussed changes to the rental permit code at a recent meeting, considering a waiver of the rental permit fee if the property was rented to a relative. City Planner Rob Pierce stated that there were residents who did not feel they should pay a fee if they were renting to a relative as it also opened them up to rental unit inspections.

“There’s a little back history. I believe, ever since the inception of this program, we’ve had people register, even if there’s family members in the particular rental unit,” Pierce said. “But there has been a handful of people that have not wanted to comply with getting a license because they had an elderly parent staying in the home or a child and they felt like there wasn’t monthly compensation being made between the tenant which was a family member and the household. And so, it really didn’t, I think, become a major issue until we

started doing a more proactive rental inspection program. Because at that point, I think people were generally okay with registering.”

Having inspectors go in and inspect a unit caused some discomfort with property owners, Pierce explained, which is why he added the amendment to the code for council’s review. The code would waive the rental permit fee when there is a spouse, parent, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, uncle, aunt, niece or nephew living in the property. The code allowed for the relationship to be by blood, adoption or marriage.

“I agree with this, in general, however, the point of the rental inspection program was to improve some of the rentals that we’ve seen that most people would think were not up to par,” Councilman Todd Culotta said.

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“We kind of have gotten into that groove where the inspection program is not real difficult, but it’s pointed out things to make rentals more livable. We allow this wording and anybody that owns two houses can say, ‘Well, my cousin lives there, my son lives here or whatever.’”

Councilman Mike Boyle pointed out that the city could require proof that the person living there was a relative. Councilman Culotta explained that a parent, child or grandparent would be easy to prove, but a cousin could be more difficult.

“Having a blanket waiver just because you are related, why would you apply. Well. Why? Well, I think back to what you have noticed in the rental program, it is almost unfair to the renter and the landlord because if my house has a window that won’t stay up, it fails the rental inspection, but I own my house, who’s gonna tell me to fix it,” Councilman Culotta said. “But if I have a rental, I really want that to stay up for safety reasons. They’ll fail me on that, and they won’t pass it until I fix it. So, I don’t want to make it any more complicated than it is, and I understand this because I know there’s some situations where we’ve run into where somebody owns a house, their sister lives there, their son lives there, and they don’t support themselves for physical and medical reasons. I would agree because of that, but just in general, if our rental fee was \$500 that would be one thing but it’s not.”

Councilman Jason James agreed with Councilman Culotta, stating that he did not think the rental process was cumbersome.

“I don’t think we’re relieving a burden on someone. When a landlord or family, I don’t want to introduce gamesmanship into the system,” Councilman James said. “That is where I’m at, and especially when we get down to aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews. I mean, you may be able to, but I think in essence there’s a benefit received. You still could argue there’s a rental landlord relationship, even if they charge him \$1. Still, because I tell you, Uncle Sam says nothing is for free. If you’re not charging them, you’re still going to pay taxes as you did because you could have and should have, that’s a different story. I get it. But I’m just not comfortable with making mass exemptions like this.”

Pierce stated that the language was very similar to what Smyrna adopted in their code. He stated that he is not comfortable with the way the current code is written as it was not clear enough, but he would go with whatever council desired. He just felt that the changes would make the ordinance clearer while also addressing the needs of property owners in the town. Councilman Boyle asked if this applied when the property owner also resided in the home and Pierce stated that if the property owner lived there, it was not considered a rental. An auxiliary dwelling, however, with a family member living in it could be considered a rental.

“If it’s an accessory apartment with a separate address, separate entrance, separate utility, separate firewall, separate kitchen, separate living areas, it could be in the same structure, but it’s a separate part of that house, it’s a rental,” Pierce said. “But, if I live in a house and I rent

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from page 14

a bedroom out of my house, we're living in a communal setting. They use my kitchen, they can eat my Cheerios. We don't make folks like that register a rental property."

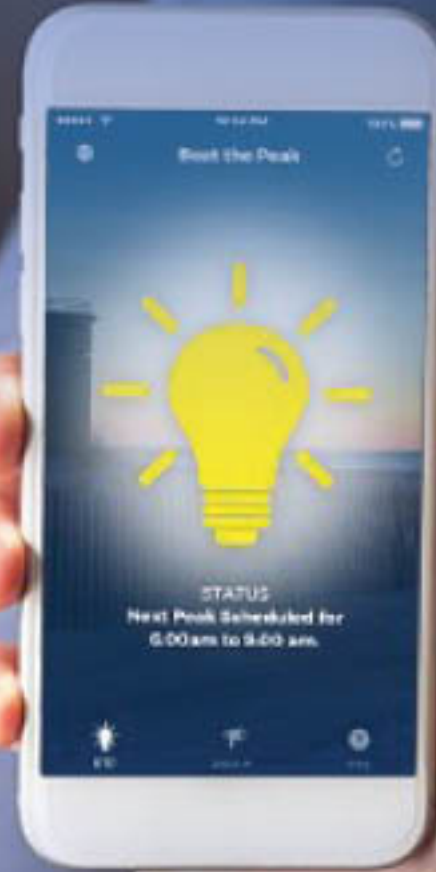
Councilman Boyle asked what kind of liability the city would be under if there were exceptions granted that prevented inspections of rentals. He questioned if something happened, could the city be liable because the property had not been inspected.

"It's simple. Fundamentally, an individual or a company if you're Incorporated, if you have rentals, can't live in two places at once. It's true," Councilman Culotta said. "So because of that, either this is your primary residence or this one is, but if this one is, and that one's around, under our definition, that's the case to get all registration fees subject to inspection. But I have a bigger question. Mike just brought up as far as liability, because we have a rental inspection program. Because I would argue we don't have a defined checklist of things you need to meet other than the codebook. Are we liable? This is just an example, one thing that our rental inspection program pays attention to are faceplates on your outlets. If they miss that and somebody gets shocked, injured or possibly dies, or we missed that in the rental inspection, are we liable?"

City Solicitor David Rutt explained that there would have to be proof of when the outlet cover was removed as it could have been taken off after the inspection.

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CITY APPROVES 2023-24 BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council approved a Capital Improvement Plan that will guide the city over the next five years. If all projects are completed, the city will spend just under \$23 million in 2024, just under \$26 million in 2025, just over \$22 million in 2026, just under \$15 million in 2027 and just under \$5 million in 2028. Grant funding will be sought for many of the projects which may lower the amount the city must spend. In addition, council approved the 2023-24 budget in the amount of \$52,858,538.

“Just for some recaps and corrections of final numbers that you’ll see in the budget, the only thing that has changed is the \$49,000 driven mostly by the staffing study, totals and rate recommendations,” Lou Vitola, finance director, said. “One minor change is that we’ll be back with a resolution on June 26, such as the one dollar solid waste increase, everything is already in place.”

Vitola explained that the CIP informs the capital part of the budget. He explained that if there were no grant

funds identified for some of the capital improvements, the city could delay implementation if the budget did not allow them to move forward. In addition, even with the increase in utility rates, Vitola stated that the city had the second lowest rate in the state but adding in taxes, the city dropped to the third lowest in the state. If a one dollar increase in sewer rates passes on June 26, it could drop the city to fourth place, but that would mean no other city raises their rates.

“How many budget workshops have we had this year?” Councilman Jason James said. “We had four. And with that said, I can say that this council has thoroughly vetted this budget, from the capital budget through the operating budget. There was from the initial presentation and the questions that council asked on behalf of the constituents concerning the capital budget and how that would affect the operating budget along with the push back and clarification that was requested for the elements of the operating budget. I can from my time

on City Council, that this was the most thoroughly vetted budget that I participated in.”

Councilman James felt that council really worked hard to make sure they understood what was being presented and what they looking to adopt. Councilman James applauded City Manager Mark Whitfield and Vitola for their hard work. He also thanked council for the work they did and their participation on behalf of all the constituents of the city.

“I want to thank Lou and his team,” Councilman Andy Fulton said. “I think they did an outstanding job. They’re giving us a better and better product every year, something that we can actually discern what is being asked of us to spend money on. It is not our money, it is all of you all’s money and I just want to thank Lou for giving us a good product to start working with.”

During public comment, John Cabrera pointed out that the budget was a little daunting to review. He suggested that council put information in the city newsletter to inform the public about some of the projects.

“Nobody really knows about these because you don’t really see it on the outside,” Cabrera said. “You guys see it all the time, but we don’t see it. We just see increases. I just think it would be wise to publicize some of this in the newsletter.”

Council passed the budget and CIP unanimously.

MILFORD
LIVE



BY TERRY ROGERS

At a recent meeting, Milford City Council reviewed plans for gateway improvements as well as redevelopment in front of City Hall. The gateway improvements would include new signage that reflected the branding of the town along with native, drought resistant plants. The redevelopment at City Hall, which is being called City Hall Plaza, would include a brick wall and pedestrian pathway that would make the building more visible.

“Over the last few months at a direction from council we have been working with the designer to create an approved plan for our beautification efforts into our gateways into the city,” Brad Dennehy, director of Parks and Recreation, said. “So we’ve picked four key areas at Rehoboth Boulevard and Walnut Street. That’s kind of that No Man’s Land section there. There’s a flagpole, a

GATEWAY AND CITY HALL UPGRADES DISCUSSED

little lighthouse. It’s just open grass way so we’ve taken this plan before the Parks and Rec Advisory Board and also at the Tree Commission. And the Tree Commission has given us some really good input because they’re all professional designers or they come from the the industry, so they could really critique the plantings and the types of trees and shrubs and flowers that are out there.”

Dennehy explained that all plants suggested were drought tolerant, but each of the gateway designs would be consistent, making them uniform throughout the city. Other areas besides Rehoboth Boulevard and Walnut Street include Kings Highway and Old Shawnee Road as well as one on Route 1 where Route 113 splits. A fourth was considered at the intersection of Route 14 and Route 113, but construction in that area has put a gateway beautification there on hold.

“What our initial idea was to get a plan together and then then go to DelDOT to seek approval, which will be the next step,” Dennehy said. “We didn’t want to go to DelDOT with just a loose idea or say ‘hey, we want to make some improvements.’ Because the first question they would say, ‘Well, what improvements do you want to take on?’ What would occur here is that we would pay to have these things installed and we would maintain them. So that’s really important that we’re planning

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species which aren't requiring huge amount of watering. They're going to require watering, obviously to establish, but we certainly don't want someone out there on a water truck on Route 1 and 113 on a daily basis, which we do with a lot of our other plantings in town with all our flowers, they get watered daily, but we're trying to plant stuff which looks really good and is for the most part has lower water needs but sort of ties hand in hand with our horticultural position."

Councilman Andy Fulton had concerns about placing a sign at Kings Highway and Old Shawnee Road as it was not at the city limits. He felt that a sign there would leave out newer developments south of the intersection like Milford Ponds and Cypress Hall.

"The city of Milford has really grown far down that road and now we're kind of ignoring it," Councilman Fulton said. "It is like we are saying 'Oh, you are part of the city but you are not really part in the city.' There is a city limit sign but it is really tiny."

Dennehy explained that the signs were not meant to exclude neighborhoods, but that getting DelDOT to approve signs could be cumbersome. Councilman Fulton stated that the signage proposed was in Kent County, other than the one at Kings Highway. Mark Whitfield, city manager, stated that some of that was due to differences between the Sussex and Kent County offices of DelDOT. Councilman Dan Marabello asked if there was a way to add irrigation that would keep the plants watered.

"So, an irrigation system is contingent upon having a water source. So, we just put in a trial system with the

same design and the same plants which was kind of like our pilot program out at the Seabury pump station out on 113," Dennehy said. "We put that in and then we quickly realized that we needed water out there. Luckily, we have all types of water because it's a water plant. So, we put on a yard hydrant, that was an easy one. I think there is no water out on Route 1 and 113 other than boring underneath Route 1 which I think is going to be cost prohibitive."

Councilman Marabello explained that he was thinking long term to manage plantings while Councilman Fulton pointed out there was water in Lighthouse Estates. Denny explained that the water for the development was on the other side of the highway. He stated that the cost of the current plan was \$50,000 and had been included in the Capital Improvement Project budget. Councilman Marabello asked if there was funding available from local legislators that may allow for irrigation.

"If you would have had the opportunity to go back and actually watch the Tree Commission when they met on this," Whitfield said. "They were really advocating the use of native plants and plants that were drought resistant. So, they they're looking at low maintenance, they want something that's beautiful, provides a lot of color. But it's also low maintenance that you should not have to extend water."

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EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)



MILFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT ANNOUNCES CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

wealth of experience as an accomplished finance professional, complemented by a robust educational background. Her expertise lies in budget development, financial management, school district operations and an unwavering commitment to the educational success of the Milford School District. Dr. Hale holds a Doctor of Business Administration, a Master of Business Administration and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Wilmington University.

Serving as the chief financial officer of the Milford School District since 2014, Dr. Hale has diligently overseen all financial operations within the district, including finance, payroll, and benefits. In addition, she has successfully directed program operations for the Buildings and Grounds and Child Nutrition departments. As the new Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Hale will now add the Technology and Transportation departments, providing complete oversight of the day-to-day operational departments of the district.

Before her tenure as the chief financial officer, Dr. Hale served as the Deputy Director of Budget Development, Planning, and Administration for the state of Delaware's Office of Management and Budget.

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STAFF REPORT

As Milford School District concludes another successful school year, we eagerly embrace our path forward guided by our latest strategic plan. This plan centers around four key priorities: Academic Excellence, Student Support, Recruitment and Retention, and Facilities and Systems. With this path forward and under the new leadership of Dr. Bridget Amory, there are exciting changes to our organizational chart, including modifications to existing roles and the emergence of new opportunities.

As such, we are pleased to announce Dr. Sara Hale as our chief operating officer. Dr. Hale brings with her a


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In this capacity, she supervised a team of fiscal and policy analysts, reviewed their work products and performance, and played an instrumental role in the development and production of the Governor's Recommended Budget for the state of Delaware.

In response to this opportunity, Dr. Hale shares, "I am truly honored and humbled to take on the role of chief operating officer, for the past nine years I have remained deeply committed to the success and well-being of our students. I look forward to continuing to work closely with the dedicated staff, families and community members to further enhance the Milford School District's mission and vision and support the leadership of Dr. Amory."

As we look ahead, we are confident that Dr. Hale's leadership and expertise will contribute to the continued growth as we "Chart the Course to Excellence" throughout the Milford School District.



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HEALTH



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DELAWARE DIABETES COALITION HOSTS 21ST ANNUAL DIABETES WELLNESS EXPO

STAFF REPORT

The 21st Annual Diabetes Wellness Expo hosted by the Delaware Diabetes Coalition is set for Tuesday, June 20 from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. at Delaware Technical Community College, Terry Campus, Del-One Conference Center located at 100 Campus Dr., Dover, DE. This event is free for the public to attend and includes a box lunch on a first come, first served basis.

The Expo brings together healthcare providers, businesses, diabetes-related organizations and others to promote diabetes self-management and a healthier lifestyle for people with diabetes. With 30+ exhibitors and health screeners, plus an educationally packed program presented by health leaders in our community, attendees will be well-equipped to better manage their diabetes.

Highlights of the day will include free COVID-19 vaccines, flu shots, HIV testing, and dental, hearing, blood glucose, cholesterol, lead and BP screenings; a keynote presentation from Beebe Healthcare bariatric surgeon Christopher M. Manieri, DO; and a patient panel. Lt. Gov. Bethany Hall Long will also present on Diabetes in Delaware.

A complete agenda, speaker biographies and exhibitor lineup can be found online at www.dediabetescoalition.org under the Diabetes Expo menu. This event is

free of charge thanks in part to our sponsors: Diabetes & Heart Disease Prevention & Control Program, Physical Activity, Nutrition, and Obesity Prevention (PANO) Program, AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware, Anodyne Pain & Wellness Solution, Beebe Healthcare, Delaware First Health and TidalHealth.

Pre-registration is encouraged to beat the check-in line. Attendees can register at bit.ly/3N4ZH65. Visit www.dediabetescoalition.org or for more info.

The Delaware Diabetes Coalition, Inc. (DDC) is a statewide nonprofit organization comprised of a network of healthcare organizations working together to improve the lives of all people in Delaware affected by diabetes through awareness, prevention, identification, dissemination of services and advocacy.



SPORTS



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FAMILIAR FACES END UP IN NEW PLACES IN DOWNSTATE FOOTBALL

BY BENNY MITCHELL

Two new faces will roam the sidelines when high school football kicks off in September. Well, maybe two not so new faces, but familiar faces in new places.

After eight seasons Sean Strickland will leave Milford High School and take over at his alma mater Caesar Rodney. Strickland led Milford to the 2017 Division II state finals. The Riders had 65 athletes participating in their Delaware Interscholastic Football Coaches Association (DIFCA) spring team camp. Strickland said he was pleased with the turnout since the athletes he shares with baseball, lacrosse and track were still competing in their respective state tournaments.

“Being back as CR is absolutely surreal. The first day just standing at midfield and blowing the whistle realizing I am back home, it was truly a dream come true,” Strickland said.

The move to Caesar Rodney will take Strickland from Class AA to Class AAA competition this fall. He said the spring camp is very important to help his approach to get back to basics.

“These kids are hungry and the coaches are eager, so getting the basics down and focusing on discipline and the little things will make the new offense and new defense much easier to grasp,” Strickland said.

The alumni theme continued when Milford selected Jed Bell as their new head football coach this spring.

Bell left his position at the DIAA last winter and took over as the Milford athletic director just prior to the beginning of the spring sports season. It has been a two-year coaching hiatus for Bell who last coached at Woodbridge High School leading the Blue Raiders to the state finals in 2019 and a state tournament appearance in 2020.

“It’s exciting. Coming home you walk on the first day and it feels like you never left. You are connected to the community because you grew up here.” Bell said.

The Bucs have welcomed 54 athletes out for their DIFCA spring team camp.

The landscape of Delaware high school football has changed in the two years Bell was absent from the sideline. The DIAA moved to a three-tier system to replace the former two division system, but Bell was well aware of what took place as he served as the assistant director of the DIAA and played a part in the restructuring. Milford moved from Division I to the new Class AA, which is the largest of the three classes.

“What I like about the new system is that our district will be just like the old Henlopen South. We will see Delmar and Woodbridge again. Plus the Lake Forest game will go back to week 10 like it always should have been,” Bell said.

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POLICE & FIRE



photo link: Downtown Milford Inc.

MILFORD POLICE DETECTIVES INVESTIGATING SHOOTING

STAFF REPORT

On June 8, 2023, at approximately 6:10 p.m., officers from the Milford Police Department's Patrol Division were in the area of Brightway Commons when they reported hearing gun fire. Upon arrival officers were unable to locate a victim, however property was struck. A short time later a 20-year-old male victim arrived at Bayhealth Sussex Campus via private vehicle, with non-life threatening injuries, listed in stable condition. This investigation is ongoing and anyone with any informa-

tion in reference to this incident can contact Det. Richard DaFonte at Milford Police at 302-422-8081 ext. 126 or Delaware Crime Stoppers at 1-800-TIP-3333. Tips can also be submitted online at www.MilfordPoliceDE.org/leave-a-tip.htm. Be reminded anyone can follow the Milford Police Department on Facebook, Nextdoor, Twitter, Ring Neighbors and Instagram.



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