

# MILFORD LIVE

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**July 4, 2023**  
**Vol. 13 • Issue 27**

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photo link: Marcia Reed



July 4 Fireworks in Delaware



Vision Zero Program



Fairness in Girls' Sports Act

# HEADLINES



photo link: [Milford Police Department](#)



BY KEN MAMMARELLA

Most Delaware places known for Fourth of July fireworks and other Independence Day activities have announced their plans. Organizers consistently ask for people to arrive early and leave late, and the Delaware Department of Transportation warns that many events close roads, too. In other words, traffic could be bad. Dusk is about 9:05 p.m. on the Tuesday, the Fourth, but fireworks could start as late as 9:30. Here's a lineup:

### Fireworks on (or near) the Fourth

**Bethany Beach** says its holiday celebration is “our biggest party of the year.” The fun started with a 5K run/walk on Sunday, July 2. On the Fourth, there's a parade at noon featuring floats (the theme is “Sand & Sea in '23”), bands, motor vehicles, bicyclists and pedestrians. Parade awards will be announced at the bandstand at 7:15 p.m., followed by a concert at 7:30

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and the fireworks at dusk.

**Dewey Beach** gets fireworks on the Fourth, thanks to businessman Alex Pires.

The **Dover Fourth of July Celebration** this year began on Saturday, July 1, when First State Heritage Park presented the holiday as celebrated in the late 1800s, with lawn games, live music and other activities. There were walking tours and the Declaration of Independence was read out from the steps of the Old State House, just as it was in July 1776. The events on July 4 start at 10 a.m. with working tours of park and the declaration read again at 2 p.m. Artisans and food vendors will be operating by 4 p.m. A parade starts at 6 p.m. on Park Drive, it heads west on Lookerman Street, turns left on State Street and terminates at Water Street. A DJ starts spinning at 6:30 p.m., with fireworks at 9:15 p.m.

The **Hockessin Fourth of July Festival and Fireworks** includes neighborhood relays and a field day in the morning, a parade in the afternoon and the fireworks at dusk on July 4. The fireworks can be seen all over Hockessin, the website says, with the main viewing from Swift Park, Piedmont Baseball Fields, Hockessin Library and Artesian Soccer Fields. The 5K for Fireworks kicked off the festivities on Thursday, June

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29, at the Hockessin Athletic Club with all proceeds going to the Hockessin 4th of July fireworks, according to Rep. Mike Smith, who's organizing sponsors at Michael.F.Smith@delaware.gov.

**Laurel's** 29th annual 4th of July Celebration begins at 3 p.m. July 4, at Janosik Park on Front Street. Events includes a cornhole tournament, live bands, a car show, a parade starting at 7 p.m and fireworks at dusk.

**Lewes' Go Fourth** fireworks starts at dusk on July 4. The **Lewes Chamber of Commerce** said children's activities start at 9 a.m., and there will also be a boat parade and a "quirky" Doo-Dah Parade at "approximately" 5 p.m., starting near Lloyd's Market on Savannah Road.

**Newark's** Liberty Day and Fourth of July Fireworks runs 6-10 p.m. July 4 at the University of Delaware athletic complex on South College Avenue.

The **Smyrna/Clayton July 4th Foundation** is the host of Delaware's oldest-running fireworks, at dusk on July 4, across from Smyrna High, with a parade at 9:30 that morning.

**Wilmington** hosts fireworks at 9:15 p.m. on July 4, synchronized to music, with the good viewing locations in Tubman-Garrett Park and other Riverfront locations. Free activities begin that afternoon at the park, including tours of the Kalmar Nyckel, an art-making tent, pony rides, a petting zoo, live music, mini train rides, sports and games, gardening and flowerpot-making, and balloon art and face painting. Food and merchandise vendors will be onsite. Rain date is July 5 for fireworks only.

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### Fireworks at other times

The **Wilmington Blue Rocks** will sponsor fireworks after Friday home games on June 16, June 23, July 7, July 21, Aug. 4 and Aug. 31, plus Sunday, Sept. 3.

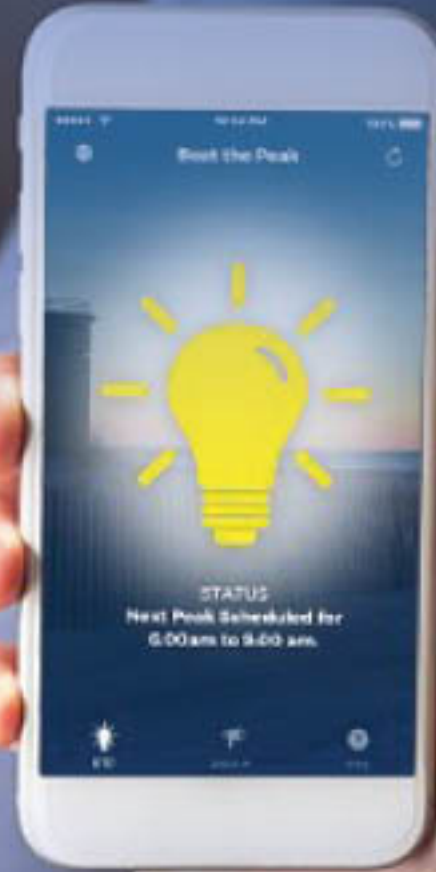
### Very limited fireworks at home

Consumer fireworks—such as firecrackers, bottle rockets, aerial mortars and anything that leaves the ground—is prohibited to possess or use in Delaware.

“Novelty items such as sparklers and ground-based fountains are only permitted to be used on July 4,” Michael G. Chionchio, assistant state fire marshal, said in a release. “Consumer fireworks are frequently advertised by mail, radio, television and billboards for retail sale to Delaware residents to purchase and use. These advertised consumer aerial fireworks are prohibited to possess or discharge. The pop-up tents frequently seen 30 days prior the July 4 holiday are not permitted to sell anything but sparklers and ground-based items like fountains.”



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# CULTURE



photo link: [Second Street Players](#)

## SCHURMAN HOME CHOSEN AS GARDEN OF THE MONTH FOR JUNE

BY TERRY ROGERS

As all gardeners know, the weather really affects all of our plants and much to our dismay their beauty can be short lived. When the Beautification Committee of the Milford Garden Club chose our Garden of the Month for June, it was at its peak and very pretty. Both Danny and Harriet Schurman take pride in their beautiful yard at 5 N. Horseshoe Drive and it shows.

The Schurman's yard and landscaping is a neat, crisp one with well-placed-displays of color. They have white azaleas, red knock-out roses and yellow day lilies for color and contrast. These are all enhanced by variegated liriope, a green hydrangea bush, barberry bushes and other greenery. Many in Milford probably know Danny

and Harriet since both were born and raised in Milford. Both of them also worked at the family business, Courtland Manor Nursing and Convalescent Home in Dover which his mom owned.

The Garden of the Month program is designed to promote gardening throughout the city of Milford.

"This is a way to recognize the hard work people in our community put into their gardens," Sue Fischer said. "It is our goal to inspire others to enhance their property with gardens filled with plants, flowers and even natural habitats."

The Milford Garden Club was established in 1966. In 1983, the became a member of the Delaware Federation

of Garden Clubs and National Garden Clubs Inc. Although the club enjoys the benefits of gardening, they are also focused on protecting natural habitats. On the Eastern Shore, many habitats are vanishing, leading to the loss of native species. The Bethany firefly, which used to be plentiful on the Eastern Shore, is now down to only seven habitats.

"We hope that recognizing outstanding gardens in Milford will encourage others to plant beautiful gardens themselves," Fischer said. "We also hope they will research information about how the flowers and plants they grow can preserve the environment as well."

Fischer explained that any garden in Milford may be recognized for its beauty. Each Garden of the Month honoree receives a sign that is placed on the property for a month. The club asks that all honorees share the award on social media as well as with friends and family to get more information out about the program.

Recommendations for beautiful gardens can be submitted to the Milford Garden Club through email at [milfordgardenclubdelaware@gmail.com](mailto:milfordgardenclubdelaware@gmail.com). Anyone interested in joining the Milford Garden Club can email the same address and the club will reach out. The Milford Garden Club also has a brochure that can be mailed out to explain the benefits of joining.

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# WAREHOUSE INCUBATOR SPACE APPROVED IN BUSINESS PARK

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council recently approved a warehouse flex project that will be located in the business park off of Airport Road. The buildings are designed as incubator spaces for new business with as many as 16 office and warehouse spaces.

“This is a two-acre lot on the nose of Vickers Drive and Mullett Run. We oriented the site kind of in a north/south orientation to make use of the longer sections of land there on the east side of the site and in addition to going into the west side as best available. Also orientating into north/south provides a means of doing a flow through drive access,” Steven LeMasters of EAA Engineering Science and Technology, said. “So, for the flex use tenants, they require deliveries for storage, and it gives them an opportunity to pull in, stop at their overhead doors and man doors, unload and then pull straight through without having to worry about any sort of odd negotiations. With vehicular traffic, internally as described by Mr. [Rob] Pierce (Milford city planner), there are three buildings located on the site. Two of the

larger ones are broken into seven units each and then one smaller one down in the southeast corner broken into two units.”

The request before council was for a conditional use since there would be multiple tenants in the units rather than just one. LeMasters explained that the entire project was designed as startup incubation or space for small businesses which was something needed in the city of Milford.

“So, the thought was of somebody essentially being in a 10-by-10 office space in there to manage the business was desired. So, there was a portion of that buildings kind of allocated to offices. As far as parking goes, it is in surplus with what’s required, complete zoning, compliant,” LeMasters said. “Being located in the business park itself, all the utilities we are looking at are out there, water, sewer, gas, electric, which we fully intend on hooking up to and utilizing. In addition, there’s regional stormwater management facilities within the business

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park The start of that is on the bottom right hand side itself, in the east corner of the site starts a finger conveyance channel of a regional stormwater management fund as a part of the stormwater management requirements, up to 75% of the site, the entire two acres can be utilized as impervious coverage, and we're not coming close to that 75% We're well under and compliant."

LeMasters explained that the only stipulation placed on the project by the Planning Commission was that additional exterior treatments be added on the rear and side of the buildings since it will be visible from three sides.

"There was a condition placed on the application as far as dressing up the building, breaking up the long runs of the buildings with some architectural features, whether it be windows or gables or something like that to break it up," Lemasters said. "The applicant is absolutely on board with providing some additional features to pretty up those three sides."

Council approved the request unanimously. Councilman Dan Marabello felt the project was a good use of the land and Councilman Mike Boyle stated that this was an asset that was needed as well as a good use for a lot that had been empty for some time. Councilman Andy Fulton felt that this project would also create jobs.

"I vote yes for the same reasons," Councilman Todd Culotta said. "You know, the smaller units are great for small businesses, which of course create jobs. And this is a great use of land because I believe this was originally slated for Touch of Italy, but unfortunately, that didn't work out but this is a great, great solution."

Councilwoman Nirmal Samaroo also felt that it was a great mixture for the industrial park and Councilwoman Katrina Wilson was thankful for the enhancements in the business park. Councilman Jason James also felt it was the best use of land in the park.

"It fits within our comprehensive plan and the requirements of conditional use," Councilwoman Wilson said.




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# UPDATES TO FIRST STATE SELF STORAGE PLAN APPROVED



**BY TERRY ROGERS**

A third update to First State Self Storage’s project, located near Walgreens on Dupont Highway just south of the railroad tracks near Silver Lake, was approved by City Council at a recent meeting. A preliminary conditional use site plan was approved in November 2022 with a 90,000 square-foot self-storage project that included one two-story building and several smaller buildings on the site.

“It was determined after meeting with DeDOT that the proposed entrance location for the project would need to be shifted to the complete opposite end of the property,” Rob Pierce, city planner, said. “So, it went from the southern side to the northern side which required kind of a shifting around of some of the site components significant enough that we wanted to bring

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it back to the Planning Commission and council, because the final site plans are reviewed administratively.”

Pierce stated that when the project was approved in November 2022, the Planning Commission and council set a handful of conditions, including unobtrusive lighting on neighboring properties, a continuous security border around the entire perimeter and a 15-foot landscape buffer between the project property and the residential parcel to the east of the planned self-storage project. Those conditions remained with the new plan with the change to the entrance.

“I would say that we’re not here of our own volition, not that we’re not happy to be here. But when the project was initially approved, back in 2022 and I say initially that’s the most recent approval, as Mr. Pierce indicated in his opening comments, there have been a number of iterations of this plan, most recently in 2020 and then in 2022,” David Hutt of Marsh and James, said. “In 2022, prior to coming to this body, there was a preliminary meeting with DelDOT, and the entrance was to be located on the south side. And that was reviewed and thought to have been approved by DelDOT. But as the plan that this body approved in November of 2022 moved forward, through further meetings with DelDOT, they changed their mind and said they wanted the entrance to be on the north side of the site. Certainly, that’s sort of a significant change with respect to an entrance although when you look at the plans, they probably look very familiar or similar to you because it is very similar to what was approved in November of 2022.”

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The major difference, according to Hutt, was the new entrance on the north side of the site as opposed to the south side.

“There was going to be on the south side when you pulled in, an office for individuals who were going to lease space in there to be able to meet with somebody prior to going back into the locked portion of the site. Of course, all of those features and facilities now move to the north side of the building,” Hutt said. “Due to the topography of the property, we are able to have what amounts to a two-story building that looks like a one or one-and-a-half story because it is actually sunk into the ground.”

Hutt explained that using the topographical layout of the site allowed the design to be adjusted so that instead of the eight buildings originally planned, there could now be 10. Because the property is close to the Mispillion River as well as Haven and Silver Lake, the new design also provides more distance from wetlands on the property. It also allows for the elimination of a retaining wall to keep the self-storage separate from the wetlands. Councilman Andy Fulton asked for additional information on how wetlands would be protected. He believed there had been a pump planned near the retaining wall which did not appear in the new plan.

“In the old version, I do not recall that there was any pumps in the old plan where the retaining wall is, who’s controlling the retaining wall was in the upper right-hand corner. Essentially, the retaining wall went from almost the corner of the wetland and sort of wrapped around the other way towards the east,” Hutt said. “And sort of came across there to the site, and with respect that with the reconfiguration of the buildings, that was

no longer necessary, and I’m not an engineer, Mr. Flathers could probably answer these questions better than I could.”

Chris Flathers of Morris Ritchie Associates, explained that the buffers would remain the same and that grading would be used to protect the wetlands. Because the buildings were a little deeper than the plan presented in 2022, the engineers felt there would be less runoff. The final site plan would meet DNREC standards, Flathers stated. Councilman Dan Marabello asked if part of the units would be climate controlled and whether there would be landscaping added to beautify the project.

“The answer to the first question is that yes, the larger buildings and 90,000 square foot, two story, control storage, is going to have climate control units,” Hutt said. “The single-story buildings that are that those 10 buildings will not have a climate control. And the answer to your second question is that yes, there will be landscaping to certainly make this an attractive business and have an attractive streetscape for the city.”

Council approved the request unanimously. Councilman Mike Boyle stated that the plan meets the standards set forth in city code while Councilman Marabello was happy that the plans were changed to meet the requirements. Councilman Fulton also felt the designers had met the requirements under code and had changed the project to meet the needs of DelDOT. Councilman Jason James also felt this was an added amenity for the city.

“Self-storage is always a necessity,” Councilman Todd Culotta said. “It seems to me that it is a growing industry, and the proposed drawings are what the buildings will look like which I think are pretty attractive. I’m looking

forward to this and I think it is a good use of land.”

Councilwoman Nirmala Samaroo also felt it would be a great addition to the community and Councilman Brian Baer commented that citizens were in need of good storage facilities.

“This is awesome. Yes, I vote yes,” Councilwoman Katrina Wilson said. “Really good to have control climate storage. People are really excited about that. And sorry that you had to go through all of changing directions of your plan. I know that caused a time delay in everything. But we are happy that you stayed true to the course and we’re going to have storage buildings.”



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photo link: City of Milford

# COUNCIL APPROVES VISION ZERO PROGRAM

BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford City Council recently approved a resolution that would include the city in a national Vision Zero program. The main goal of the program is to focus on safety, especially for pedestrians and cyclists, on roadways. The resolution established a goal of Jan. 1, 2030, to meet zero injuries and deaths in the city.

“The main aspects of the Vision Zero plan are to promote safety, equity, sustainability, some economic benefits and promote public health. It’s still in draft form, so there’s still some things that needs to happen there. We’re looking at applying for a grant in July and this would just give us some extra points on the grant but also establish that council is willing to proceed forward with increasing the safety on our public roadways, improving access, ADA, pedestrian access, lightweight vehicle access,” James Puddicombe, city engineer, said. “We have a plan to report back to council on our progress with the plan and how we’re improving

safety wise. Basically, a look back at accidents over the last period since we began this and looking to see how we’re improving and where we can continue to improve. One of the other big items in there is the establishment of a task force which would help guide staff on basically public input on our plan. And we would adjust our plan going forward based on that feedback from the task force.”

Councilman Andy Fulton felt that using the word “zero” was not accurate, as there would always be accidents. “One time the state tried to do a zero plan and they changed that name to reduction with goal statements because of grants and everything else. Because when you say zero, that means zero,” Councilman Fulton said. “And I’m just going to pop the bubble, I mean I wish it could happen. It’s not gonna because somebody’s gonna get hurt. They will fall off a bike,

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they will run into a car, into something, they will fall asleep, they'll be texting, something will occur. Have you thought about the name of reduction to zero or toward zero? Instead of saying zero? That's a really big statement."

Puddicombe explained that the name Vision Zero was more of a long-term goal. He stated that the name could be adjusted, but most of the grants the city would apply for require "lofty goals." The overall goal was to reduce injuries and fatalities year by year with the ultimate goal being none by 2030. Councilman Katrina Wilson was confused as to why this program was necessary, wondering if it was simply checking off a box.

"It's a great question. So basically, we already are doing this to some extent. So somewhat, it's checking the box. But the big thing that we're trying to do here is we're trying to kind of combine everything that's in the capital plan that fits this Vision Zero goal and kind of lay it out for council in a clear pathway," Puddicombe said. "So council can see how a bike path on South Marshall connects to a bike path down through the Rookery and how all of these things can come together to make the city better. So, I don't know if that quite answers your question, councilman, but I can elaborate a little more if you'd like or if there's a particular area you have a question on."

Councilwoman Wilson stated that she simply didn't have a visual for what this program would do for the city.

"James has put a lot of effort into basically taking existing programs that we have and either fine tuning specifics on those or adding small details where there might be gaps and suddenly, he's been able to structure this thing in such that we can fit the requirements of a grant that will have a substantial impact for us," Mike Svaby, director of Public Works, said. "And the cost of basically doing that as structuring what are mostly existing programs in the capital effort on the city's part. And, with adding a little bit of oversight and structure to that submitting for the grant will end up getting a large contribution toward the capital effort back and I mean, we can adjust it however we want to in terms of the visual thing you might be looking for. There is an effort underway by James and I'll turn it back to him to describe that in detail. It's in a beta phase right now. So, we didn't feel comfortable bringing it to council because it would have to be made public. And it's still very rudimentary, but it will ultimately be part of this so that you'll be able to see all these efforts coming together toward that common goal."

Councilwoman Wilson stated that Svaby's explanation helped her see the bigger picture but wanted to know if statistics were coming from the police department as part of the process.

"Yes, we did. Chief (Cecilia Ashe) was able to identify some resources from public outreach that she did for PD. And then we also looked at statistics gathered," Puddicombe said "PD provided me their traffic statis-

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tics and then we're told the grant we're looking at actually requires us to pull from Department of Transportation. So, we pulled those as well and kind of shared information back and forth with chief."

Councilman Fulton was still concerned that the goal of zero injuries or death was too ambitious.

"I just did a quick lookup of the of the state of Delaware, the DelDOT Safety Plan and they use the terminology 'towards zero.' Something like that would work really well for you," Councilman Fulton said. "If you said something like 'the city of Milford Vision Towards Zero Plan' or something, it just doesn't make that a finality. It just makes it a goal statement to reach it. Doesn't make it the final number you have to reach."

Councilman Jason James thanked Councilwoman Wilson for her question as he also was not understanding the need for this program.

"So this ticked the box to satisfy what's needed to meet the needs for a grant so it's really important. I guess it could be material, but I would like to work with Vision Zero vision in itself," Councilman James said. "In the case of the aspirational, this is aspiring to zero if you want to. I think it was fine as long as, as you mentioned, James, as the body speaks to a reduction here and a reduction there. I think Vision Zero is aspirational. I think it speaks to the proper language and aspirational goal."

Police Chief Cecilia Ashe explained that Vision Zero was actually a branded trademark.

"But I think also just for clarification, just because I sit on Highway Safety, Vision Zero is a trademark. It's a national initiative. It's a world-driven initiative of doing

exactly what Councilman James is saying which is to reduce and have the vision of zero," Chief Ashe said. "Just as a police chief, I always have the vision of having zero crime. Is it likely? I don't know. Hopefully. Right. But I think just clarifying that the actual term 'Vision Zero' is its trademark. It's a national initiative that's taken on New York City, has taken this in other areas to reduce injuries and death, exactly to Councilman Fulton's point."

Councilman Dan Marabello agreed with Councilman James, believing that Vision Zero was aspirational.

"Anytime you have a vision, whatever it might be, it's the reaching toward the ultimate goal," Councilman Marabello said. "And you have to continually aspire to reach that goal even though you might not get there, so I think just Vision Zero is sufficient and adequate."

Councilman Mike Boyle was concerned that the wording of the resolution left out council. Puddicombe explained that the language came directly from the city of Salisbury who had adopted the program, noting that they received a \$14 million grant last year after adopting Vision Zero. He explained he tried to keep the language close because they had received an award, but that it could be adjusted. Puddicombe also explained that most of the people listed in the resolution were already part of the Bicycle Advisory Committee so there may be some overlap. Councilman Boyle was also concerned that there were too many people listed which could result in a lack of progress.

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“I agree with Councilman Boyle. Where it says city of Milford and administration, it should say city of Milford and council because that’s technically the body and then if you want a separate line for administration, that’s fine,” Councilman James said. “Because then you start getting down into when you start naming all departments or you’re getting into the city managers group. Administration, it should just say city of Milford mayor and council if it was going to read properly.”

Earlier in the evening, council voted to move forward with recommended downtown streetscapes. Councilman Brian Baer asked if those changes were incorporated into Vision Zero. Puddicombe assured him they would be included.

“May I just ask a question before we get in the resolution? Do we need to clarify this a little more? You had question about the whole idea of the task force. And then Councilman James also has some questions. I’m concerned about either not having us involved or having too many people involved in achieving a reachable goal,” Councilman Boyle said. “I guess my question to council is do we do need to work on this a little more, this resolution, a little bit further. It’s a great idea. And the idea that we’re actually pulling everything together that we already have in the works in one way or working towards a goal probably achieved a lot more than other towns on this journey. We don’t want to just check the box. They’re just doing it because it’s a good thing to do, but with no real intention of achieving anything. meaning the vision plan is only gonna make an impact if we pull it off.

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# EDUCATION



photo link: [Milford School District](#)

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BY TERRY ROGERS

Milford High School will begin offering a new Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) pathway in an effort to address a lack of qualified individuals in the area. The new program was implemented at the request of the city of Milford and the Delaware Fire School.

“We were approached by the city of Milford and the Delaware Fire School,” Seth Buford, Milford High School principal, said. “There is a huge need in the medical field right now, especially in our area of first responders. This is an opportunity for our students and our community. Any time we can provide our students the opportunity to leave high school with a full certification and employment opportunities, I am fully prepared to invest in that program.”

At several meetings, Carlisle Fire Company President Tor Hazzard and Chief Shawn Hinton advised City Council that the company, along with many through-

## MHS TO OFFER NEW EMT PROGRAM

out the state, was suffering from a lack of volunteers. In 2022, the fire company responded to 781 fire calls and 3,964 EMS calls, indicating that the area where they needed the most help was on the ambulance side of the company. At one meeting, Chief Hinton commented that the station had run 21 ambulance calls in 24 hours, the equivalent of one call per hour.

“When we have a third, fourth, fifth or sixth emergency in our district, Kent Center knows and can dispatch the next company,” Chief Hinton said in response to comments from the public about other stations having to cover Milford. “So, that’s why companies are coming into the district. When it comes to response times, it is not just volunteer needs. Every incident, every form of traffic or construction jeopardizes our response. It’s hard right now to get the inner city people to volunteer, to accept an application and then go forth with training. I will say in the city of Milford, we have some of the best firemen in the state. People want to come in and ride with us and come and work with us.”

The new pathway at MHS will include 157 hours of classroom instruction along with 10 patient contacts through collaboration with Carlisle and other neighboring companies.

“In this year-long course offered during school hours, students will gain knowledge and hands-on experience treating patients in addition to local fire company ‘patient contact rides,’” Buford said. “They will need to

take a certification examination at the end of the course. Successfully completing the course and the exam will give them full certification status in Delaware.”

Students who are interested in entering the pathway should talk to their guidance counselor or Kate Lynch, career counselor. Anyone interested in volunteering for Carlisle Fire Company can visit its website at <https://www.carlisle42.com>, click on Contact Us and click on Recruitment or call 302-422-8001.



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## STAFF REPORT

The Milford School District is excited to announce the appointment of Laura Manges as the new director of Human Resources, effective July 1, 2023. With an illustrious career spanning 30 years in the field of education, Manges brings a wealth of experience and a proven track record of dedicated service to students, staff, and the district-community.

Ms. Manges attended Edinboro University of Pennsylvania, earning her undergraduate degree in education. She continued her education earning her masters degree in special education and certification in school leadership. Ms. Manges began her career at Laurel Middle School, where she taught students with special needs across various settings. Her commitment to inclusivity and individualized care for every student paved the way for her to join the Lake Forest School District as the PBS/Inclusion Facilitator, a role she held for seven years. Throughout her career, she has been at

# MSD ANNOUNCES LAURA MANGES AS DIRECTOR OF HUMAN RESOURCES

the forefront of advocating for students' needs and forging partnerships throughout Delaware.

Notable highlights of Ms. Manges's career include her role in the development of partnerships that have enabled Milford to better serve our students within our own district-community. She has been a driving force in transitioning from funding specific special education classifications to a needs-based funding mechanism, ensuring a more equitable approach to addressing students' diverse needs. Her expertise was invaluable as a member of the team responsible for creating and updating Delaware's current IEP document, in addition to her involvement in various state and professional work groups.

Under the leadership of Ms. Manges, the Milford School District has witnessed significant strides in supporting students with autism spectrum disorder through the establishment of a robust in-district Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA) Autism Support Program. Furthermore, she has spearheaded the implementation of emotional support programs, starting as early as kindergarten and extending up to age 21. These initiatives have been made possible by her exceptional team, which includes esteemed professionals such as Rosa DiPiazza, recipient of the first-ever Delaware Behavioral Health Professional of the Year award, and Elyssa Deeb, honored as the 2022-2023 Delaware School Psychologist of the Year.

Ms. Manges shares "I am thrilled to have the privilege and opportunity to utilize my experiences in recruitment, and the relationships that I have built, to serve the Milford School District community as we continue to prioritize uniting our students with the very best instructional and support staff in Delaware."

In her new role as director of Human Resources, Ms. Manges will bring her passion, experience, and insights to lead and support the district's personnel, ensuring a nurturing and inclusive environment for all staff members. She will succeed Dr. Jason Peel, whose contributions have been invaluable to the district during his tenure.

We look forward to the positive impact that Ms. Manges will make as the director of Human Resources, fostering a supportive and thriving educational community for all stakeholders.



# HEALTH



photo link: Bayhealth Medical Center

# AQUATIC THERAPY OFFERS MANY BENEFITS



BY TERRY ROGERS

Dealing with pain makes life extremely difficult, whether it is pain from an injury years ago or a recent surgery. In some cases, mobility is an issue due to lack of weight-bearing ability or balance problems. Aquacare Physical Therapy, located in the Milford Wellness Village, offers a solution to these problems with their aquatic and gym-based physical therapy program.

“One of the unique things we offer here is aquatic therapy which helps reduce the stress on your joints thanks to the buoyancy of the water. You’re able to move a lot easier in the water,” Amanda Pender, PT, DPT, physical therapist and clinical director in Milford, said. “The water supports your arms and allows you to move better. You can do a lot of things in water that you can’t do on land, but also on the flip side of that you have resistance no matter how you move, so it’s actually a really hard workout because you’re using muscles you don’t always use on land.”

Pender explained that aquatic therapy is an excellent option for anyone dealing

with chronic pain. “We find people dealing with pain, whether back, hip, knee, shoulder, or even people with fibromyalgia, benefit greatly from aquatic therapy,” Pender said. “It’s also good for patients who are not able to do weight-bearing activities because of physical restrictions or after a surgery, because they can do a lot more in the pool.”

“It just really helps the joints and helps people get moving a lot quicker without the stress and the wear and tear on their joints,” she said.

Aquacare’s physical therapy team works with patients of all ages and all abilities. A major benefit of the Milford location is it provides both aquatic and gym-based physical therapy. And, once you complete your personalized treatment program, you can become a member of the Lifestyles Fitness Center, located in the same office, where you can continue to work out under the watchful eye of the physical therapy team.

“Often, we find people complete their program and go home where they don’t feel confident enough to do the exercises on their own. This can lead them to boomerang back into needing treatment,” Pender said. “By offering the fitness center right here at our office, we can continue to work with our past patients and help them continue to move and regain strength.”

Aquacare has helped people in their 70s who have had back pain since they were young, sometimes stemming from injuries in their teens or early 20s, Pender stated. Many of them have tried all sorts of treatments and are now using physical therapy to try to address loss of strength or mobility.

“We’re trying to get it back for them without really flaring up their pain. Fibromyalgia is another one, any type of chronic pain syndrome, like fibromyalgia, is very good for the water because they can move, they get that buoyancy from the water pushing on their joints that helps kind of calm down everything,” Pender said. “We see a lot of chronic pain where people are continuing to suffer. Some have had multiple surgeries to address back pain, or they are three surgeries in for knee pain, and they are still having issues. We’ll see a lot of failed surgeries or surgeries where the pain comes back, and we find physical therapy works really well.”

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# SPORTS



photo by Winston Chen / Unsplash



BY SAM HAUT

Two weeks ago, a Seaford Republican planned to introduce a bill that would only allow trans athletes to participate in sports against players who match their biological sex.

Sen. Bryant Richardson said he filed Senate Bill 191, which he dubbed the Fairness in Girls' Sports Act, because it is unfair to allow transgender women—biological males who transition into women—to play women's sports.

“With this new transgender, men, boys identifying as women and calling themselves girls, entering in the sports arena,” he said, “it’s really set back the opportunities for girls, for women.”

Sen. Eric Buckson, R-Dover, who is a wrestling referee and a sponsor of the bill, said in a news release that he’s

# FAIRNESS IN GIRLS' SPORTS ACT INTRODUCED

seen firsthand the physical differences between male and female student-athletes.

“There are certainly exceptions,” he said, “but on average, a boy is physically stronger and faster than a girl. We need to do all we can to protect girls and not place female athletes at a competitive disadvantage.”

When it comes to the actual data, though, one **study** has shown a decrease in muscle mass for trans women as they go through the gender transition, while another **study** showed that lowering testosterone levels didn't bring trans women down to the level of cisgender women. Sarah Warbelow, vice president of legal policy at the Human Rights Campaign, said that most of the data that people point to is between performance of cis men and cis women.

“There has been an overall lack of research on trans athletes,” Warbelow said. “Most of the research that exists is comparing men who are not transgender to women who are not transgender, who are adults. And so it really is comparing apples and oranges. ...A trans woman is a woman. She’s not a cisgender man and it’s really not an appropriate comparison.”

Richardson said he doesn't know how many transgender athletes there are in Delaware or how many trans people there are in the state in general, but that his bill would stop them from competing before it becomes a problem.

“It’s not a problem,” he said. “I don’t think it’s a problem yet, but I don’t want it to be a problem in Delaware.”

Warbelow said that there is also a lack of data on the number of trans athletes, but pointed to Utah, which only has four transgender students participating in high school sports. The legislature last March **passed** a trans sports ban by overriding the governor's veto. The ban was **overturned** last August by a judge in the state.

The focus of his bill, Richardson said, is to stop trans women from competing with cis women in high school, but the bill also bans trans men from competing with cis men in high school. Richardson said he doesn't think there are as many trans women in sports as trans men, but the bill bans both for simplicity.

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# POLICE & FIRE



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[POLICE & FIRE](#)

photo link: Vincent J. Deskiewicz Sr.

# TRAFFIC ALERT: RAMP CLOSURE

## STAFF REPORT

Milford Ramp Closure: Route 1 Northbound Ramp to Business Route 1, South Side of Milford

The Delaware Department of Transportation announces the closure of the northbound ramp from Route 1 (Coastal Highway) to Business Route 1 on the south side of Milford, that ties into South Rehoboth Boulevard, starting on Wednesday, July 5, for bridge maintenance and repairs. This closure is expected to last through mid-August (weather permitting).

Detour: Motorists will continue on Route 1 to exit at Route 36 (Cedar Beach Road), then turn left onto Route 36 (Cedar Beach Road), returning to Business Route 1 (South Rehoboth Boulevard).



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